

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL



Listen to music all made (allegedly) by table tennis balls!
This orchestral realization is from Animusic. Colours from DBW.

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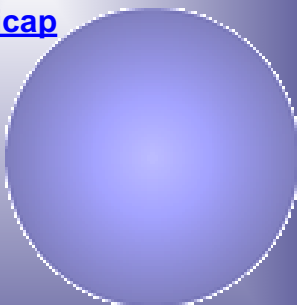
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The winning post is in sight, and in each Division the leading team is from a different club. But it's not all over yet, and interesting matches lie ahead.

For Division Three, Barry Carter has added a new twist by weaving personal profiles of volunteers into the story. Have a look - and see how you like it.

Mark Banks does have a Div 1 report this time - but never has it been more impressionistic. Only 8 teams, and no First Division Cup, have left plenty of time for reflection.

We have reports on two tournaments - the 2018 Inter Town and the Reading Closed - both of which went with a bang. And Melvyn Lovegrove contributed some of his best pictures, of moments at the Reading Closed. You'll find his photographs distributed throughout this Newsletter.

Good luck!

Derek



Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone.

I start by asking the players who won **trophies** last season if they can arrange to get them to our trophy secretary Paul Treadgold whose details our on page 2 of the handbook by the 16th March at the latest. Thank you. Also to remind you the **presentation evening will be on the 1st**



May at the Curzon Club and the Association A G M will be at O.L.O.P on the 6th June. Regarding the latter please try and make it because last year besides the committee there were only about 12 members present.

Finally I would like to wish you good luck on the run in and enjoy the game win or lose.

All the best

Derek

because playing the game is what it is all about.

Secretary's Notes

by Nigel Maltby

1. Hopefully you are all enjoying your table tennis this season. As we head towards the sprint finish the majority of our teams still have a lot to play for at one end or the other.

Kingfisher A are looking hot favourites for the division 1 title with Kingfisher B and Our Lady of Peace A still in the race.

In division 2 Curzon Club A lead the way with either SC&P B or SC&P D likely to finish 2nd.

Milestone B have taken division 3 by storm, with Springfield A looking likely runners up.

In division 4 our new club Saiyan Brothers have won every match to date with Our Lady of Peace D in 2nd place. Finally it's neck and neck between Our Lady of Peace F and Sonning Sports B in division 5 with SC&P G in 3rd awaiting any slip ups.

2. Some discussion / thought is underway on a **possible restructure of the divisions next season**, partly to get over the fact we only have 8 teams in division 1. It is possible we may recommend **going from 12 teams per division to 14**, or possibly **down to 8 or 10**. I put an article in a previous newsletter and have had a handful of responses. **If anyone has any thoughts then e-mail them to me at n.maltby587@btinternet.com**



3. Dates for your diary -

Reading Junior & Senior Masters Tournament (Sunday 8th April),

Awards Presentation Evening (Tuesday 1st May),

AGM (Wednesday 6th June).

Nigel



Lest we become too self-obsessed... Table tennis continues to thrive beyond our realms - here is the Over 55's Club, which meets every Monday and Friday morning at Rivermead Leisure Centre, in Caversham. Habitues well know the green shirt of Derek Maltby (and the faces of David Pearson and John Taylor are there too).

THE READING CLOSED (seniors)

THE WINNERS

Men's Singles	Winner	Daniel Moses	Runner up: Hari Gehlot
Ladies Singles	Winner	Wendy Porter	Runner up: Gwynne Penny
Veterans Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up: Andy Wang
Men's Doubles	Winners	Daniel Moses & Danny Ricks	
	Runners up	Ian Cole and Hari Gehlot	
Mixed Doubles	Winners	Wendy Porter & Daniel Moses	
	Runners up	Gwynne Penny & Hari Gehlot	
Senior Vets Singles	Winner	Hari Gehlot	Runner up: David Joyce
Ping Pong	Winner	Daniel Moses	Runner up: Andy Wang
Over 60s Singles	Winner	John Willcocks	Runner up: Eric Holmes
	Div 1	Winner	Daniel Moses
	Div 2	Winner	Andy Wang
	Div 3	Winner	Zoltan Kelemen
	Div 4	Winner	Alex Horscroft
			Runner up: Vidhu Ravinath



HARI GEHLOT

The Senior half of the Reading Closed tournament took place on Sunday 11th February, in the spacious hall of Cippenham Table-Tennis Club on the edge of Slough.

Reading's top players were among the winners - and so were some newcomers. By clicking on the correct web page, I was able to keep up with progress through the rounds from my own home in Caversham, thanks to up-to-the-minute tournament software that has now become standard for this event.

Daniel Moses won the men's singles, during a day in which

he had to play 63 games in 5 events, four of which he won including Ping Pong - played with old-fashioned hard bats - in which he was the defending champion. The Ping Pong attracted 28 entrants and was more popular than any event except the Men's Singles, with 31.

In the final of the Men's Singles, Daniel beat long-time rival Hari Gehlot 11-2 11-6 11-7. Hari was to be the winner of the Veteran's Singles and Senior Veterans Singles; and Hari himself, one of the most eminent players in Reading, played as many as 86 games during the course of the day, in 8 events. I hope he slept well after that lot!



DANIEL MOSES

Another familiar face among the winners was that of Wendy Porter, who emerged from the whirling complexities of organizing this mighty tournament, to beat Gwynne Penny in the final of the Ladies Singles. It didn't go all Wendy's way, as she lost the second game 4-11 - but then went on powerfully to win 11-7 4-11 11-4 11-9.

One newcomer to the tournament was Alex Horscroft of the Saiyan



ALEX
HORSCROFT

Brothers. He entered the Men's Doubles with clubmate Vidhu Ravinath, and they disposed of one opposing couple before being strongly squished by Hari Gehlot and Ian Cole: 11-9 0-11 11-9 6-11 7-11.

However, in the Fourth Division championship Alex did better, beating two opponents in the group stage and one in the semi final before finally meeting Vidhu again in an exciting four-game final. The score was 7-11 12-10 11-9 11-8.

Another newcomer was Andy Wang. By the end of the day he had played 57 games, won the Division Two championship and achieved the status of runner-up in two finals - Veterans Singles and Ping Pong.

But the real champion of the day was Wendy Porter. She was the one who put in the initial effort to get the show on the road and keep it there all day. She was the one who chased up missing players, made sure that the tournament as presented by the software matched what was really happening. And she managed to win the Ladies Singles as well!

Derek Wavell



ANDY
WANG

2018 INTER-TOWN TOURNAMENT *(by Duncan Groves)*

This year's Berkshire inter town tournament was held across three consecutive Sundays in January at Kingfisher. Representative Reading League players lined up for Senior and Veteran challenges against **opposition from Bracknell, Maidenhead and Newbury.**

The tournament is more of a marathon than a sprint as points are awarded (4 for first and 1 for last) in each of the six mini-leagues and the team collecting most points across all six ultimately lifts the **Barbara Peisley trophy.**

Reading's attempt to retain the trophy got off to a tricky start when a number of the originally selected Division 1 team advised of their unavailability. With absences including Daniel Moses and Harry Munro in the Senior team, **it was brave of Andy Wang and Julian Telford to step up to the plate. As it happened, they excelled in their Division 1 Senior roles.** A 5 - 1 victory over Bracknell included a double for Andy, defeating Joe Barraclough and Daniel Buckle in the process. Julian also defeated Daniel in straight sets before a narrow fifth set defeat to Phil Mead. Meanwhile, Ed Caliman chalked off two straightforward victories to seal the first win.

The second match for the top Seniors looked on paper extremely tough with Newbury fielding Steve Murgatroyd, Dom Cutter and Adam Pachyna. However, **Reading swept them aside with a 6 - 0 win.** Undoubtedly the highlight was a five game victory by Julian over Murgy. Another pair of straight set wins for Andy Wang suggests that he is a force to be reckoned with when he, hopefully, makes it into Div 1 of Reading League.

As Maidenhead were unable to field teams at the first and second events, **these two victories were enough for Reading to take full points with Newbury second.**

On the same Sunday, the three towns fought out an even veterans contest. Reading's team of Neil Hurford, Alan Cummings and Peter Bradley faced their first opponents: Bracknell. Neil got the better of Jeff Huggins and John Willcocks while Alan defeated both John and Nigel Bliss. Pete overcame Jeff in a close fought match but missed the clean sweep when losing to Nigel. Nonetheless a solid start.

Next up was Newbury and their experienced trio of Nat Richardson, Ian Langley and Antony Baker. Neil got Reading off to a perfect start with a 3 - 1 victory over Nat. Ian then levelled with a win over Peter. Alan Cummings, in brilliant form, then overcame Antony in straight sets to close in on all four Peisley points. However, Newbury came storming back with wins for Nat over Peter and, surprisingly for Antony over Neil. That left Alan needing to win his final singles against Ian to draw the match. This was one of the matches of the tournament with Alan coming through 13-11 in a fifth set tiebreak.

Unfortunately for the Reading Div 1 Vets, Newbury managed a 6 - 0 win over Bracknell and pipped the additional point as a consequence. So it was neck and neck heading into the second Sunday.

With many of our top players sidelined because of British League commitments, Reading were forced to bring in some more lower division players to help out. Alongside Andy Parker in the Seniors were Arun Rojagopal from Division 3 and young Vidhu Ravinath who currently plays his table tennis in Division 4.

In their first match, Reading managed a 4 - 2 victory over

Bracknell thanks to doubles from Andy and Vidhu. Against much harder Newbury opposition, remarkably Reading pulled off the same scoreline. The impressive Vidhu remained unbeaten thanks to a straight games win over Joseph Commell and a 3 - 1 victory against Patrick Garlick. With another double from the ever-reliable Andy Parker, the team secured all four Peisley points. **Young Vidhu is someone to keep a close eye on as he rises, very quickly I hope, through the Reading divisions.**

Joining the excellent **Gary Morgan** in Reading's Div 2 Vets team were late call ups, **Melvyn Lovegrove** and **David Joyce.** A 5 - 1 win over Bracknell got the team off to a great start, the only defeat being Melvyn's to Mick Mitcham.

Following the theme of this report, Newbury were to prove sterner opposition. It was a magnificent win for David over Tony Brown that saw Reading through to a 3 - 3 draw. Gary was in typically great form holding off Richard Fettes and Andy Barnes, the latter in straight sets. As with the Vets in the previous week, it was ultimately a disappointment for Reading, after their commendable efforts, to be relegated into second when Newbury beat Bracknell 6 - 0. But at least this had set up a nail biting third Sunday....

Problems with player availability continued into week three with two more enforced drop-outs. But **last minute phone calls resulted in call ups for Hari Gehlot, joining the Vets team with Jez Willis and Paul Savage, and Matt Stone joining Dmitry Khakhamov and Igor Sremac to complete the Senior team.**

The third Sunday involved teams from Maidenhead for the first time. However, Maidenhead were no match for **our Seniors who trounced them 6 - 0.** The Bracknell team, including Ian Cole no less, were much stronger and our Seniors did really well to come out 5 - 1 victors. Dmitry beat Ian in five sets to start the ball rolling and Igor picked up a double with Matt chipping in the final win.

That left the match against Newbury who were fielding a super strong team headed up by Sam Ricks. As expected, Newbury proved too strong for our Seniors ending the match 5 - 1. Dmitry won the consolation singles against Lee Calcutt.

Although it appeared that Newbury were now leading the overall points, in fact their Division 2 Seniors had lost to Bracknell the previous week meaning that Reading would remain on top after week three with a win in the Div 3 Vets mini-league.

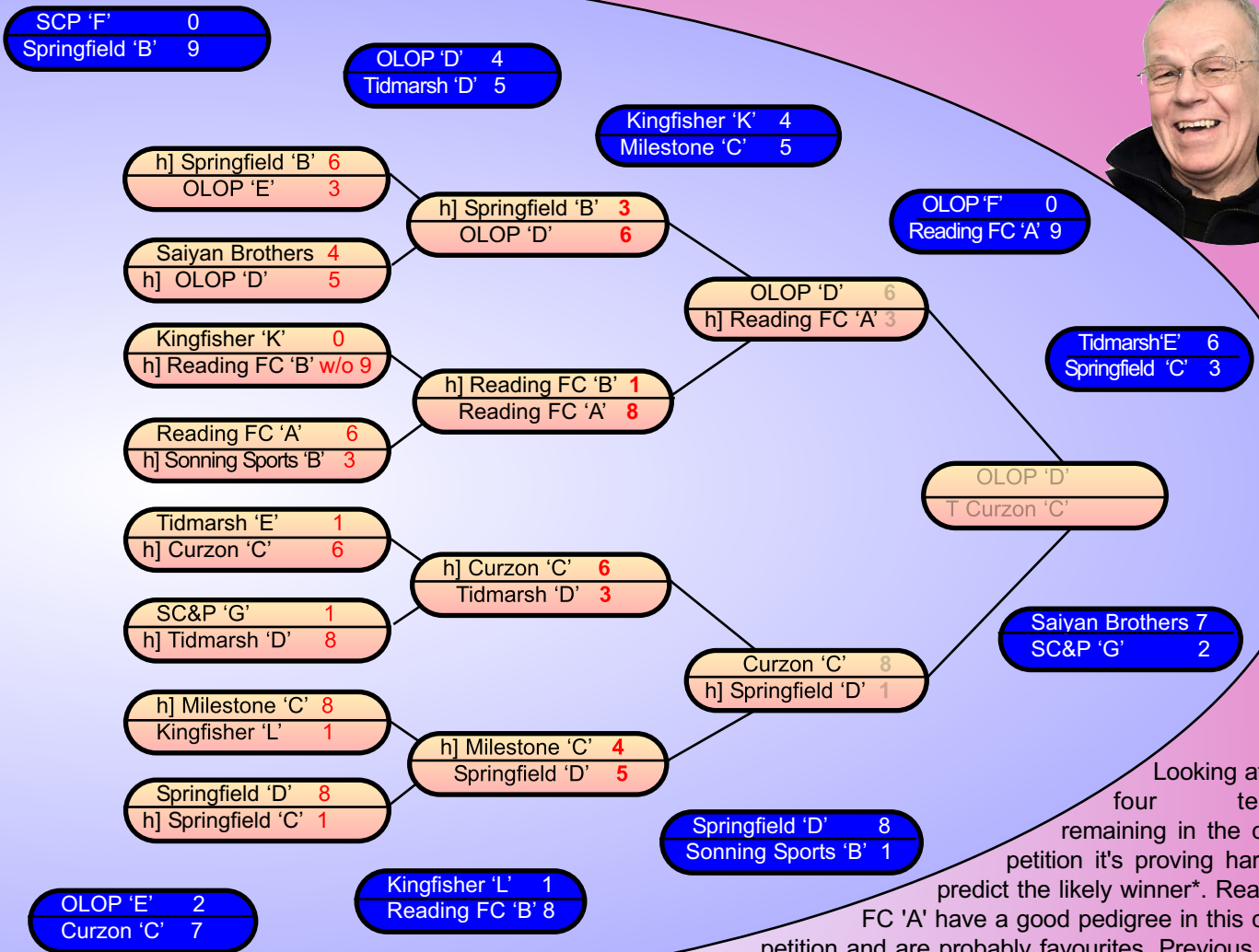
A hard fought singles win for Jez Willis over Elroy Hull was the highlight of another 6 - 0 team victory over Maidenhead. Bracknell were also swept away 6 - 0 in the next match, leaving Newbury as the final barrier to the trophy.

Hari comfortably won the opener against Nick Langley. Then Paul Savage overcame a Keith Langley in four sets. Jez then made it 3 - 0 with a superb win over Mark Wheeler. Although Nick managed a five game win over Jez to prevent the white-wash, Hari and Paul won their final matches to make it 5 - 1 to Reading.

As a result of all Reading team efforts, we retained the trophy by a single point from Newbury. All competitors should be proud of this, particularly as only seven of the league's top 30 ranked players were able to participate.

Lower Divisions KO Cup 2017-2018

organised by Ray Webb



Looking at the four teams remaining in the competition it's proving hard to predict the likely winner*. Reading FC 'A' have a good pedigree in this competition and are probably favourites. Previous winners and beaten finalists last season, they currently have the

best sets for / against record, with only four sets in three matches dropped to date.

A comprehensive 8 - 1 defeat of their 'B' team club mates sets up a Semi-final against OLOP 'D'.

OLOP 'D's route to the Semi-final has been a lot tougher. After squeezing through round one as a 'best' losing team [albeit 5 - 4 to the previous seasons winners], they then required a set nine 9-11, 11-1, 9-11 win to impose an unexpected 5 - 4 defeat on Saiyan Brothers, before a very tight 6 - 3 victory against Springfield 'B'. Seven of the sets required a deciding third game, with OLOP picking up five of them. Patrick Daniels appearing for the first time featured in five of the six sets won, three with Binit Bhaskar and two with Abhay Gore.

Curzon 'C' have produced three solid performances to date culminating in a 6 - 3 victory over current holders Tidmarsh 'D', which on paper looked comfortable. Tracy Maynard / John Walker unbeaten on the night, backed up with two wins from Linda King / John Walker, John now having only dropped one set in all matches played. Tidmarsh replied with a single from each pairing. Curzon will now play Springfield 'D'.

Springfield 'D' triumphed in the battle of the division five sides, beating Milestone 'C' 5 - 4. In the process the Colin Jones / Adrian Wegrzynowski pairing maintained their 100% record - but only just. In a thrilling climax to the match Tony Hayden / John Evans, unbeaten themselves going into set nine, pushed them all the way before succumbing 3-11, 11-4, 10-12. No payback for Tony and John who had also just lost to Colin and Adrian in five sets in the league. Colin / Adrian are now nine from nine.

* Please note currently emergent results in grey.



Team Handicap Competition 2017-18

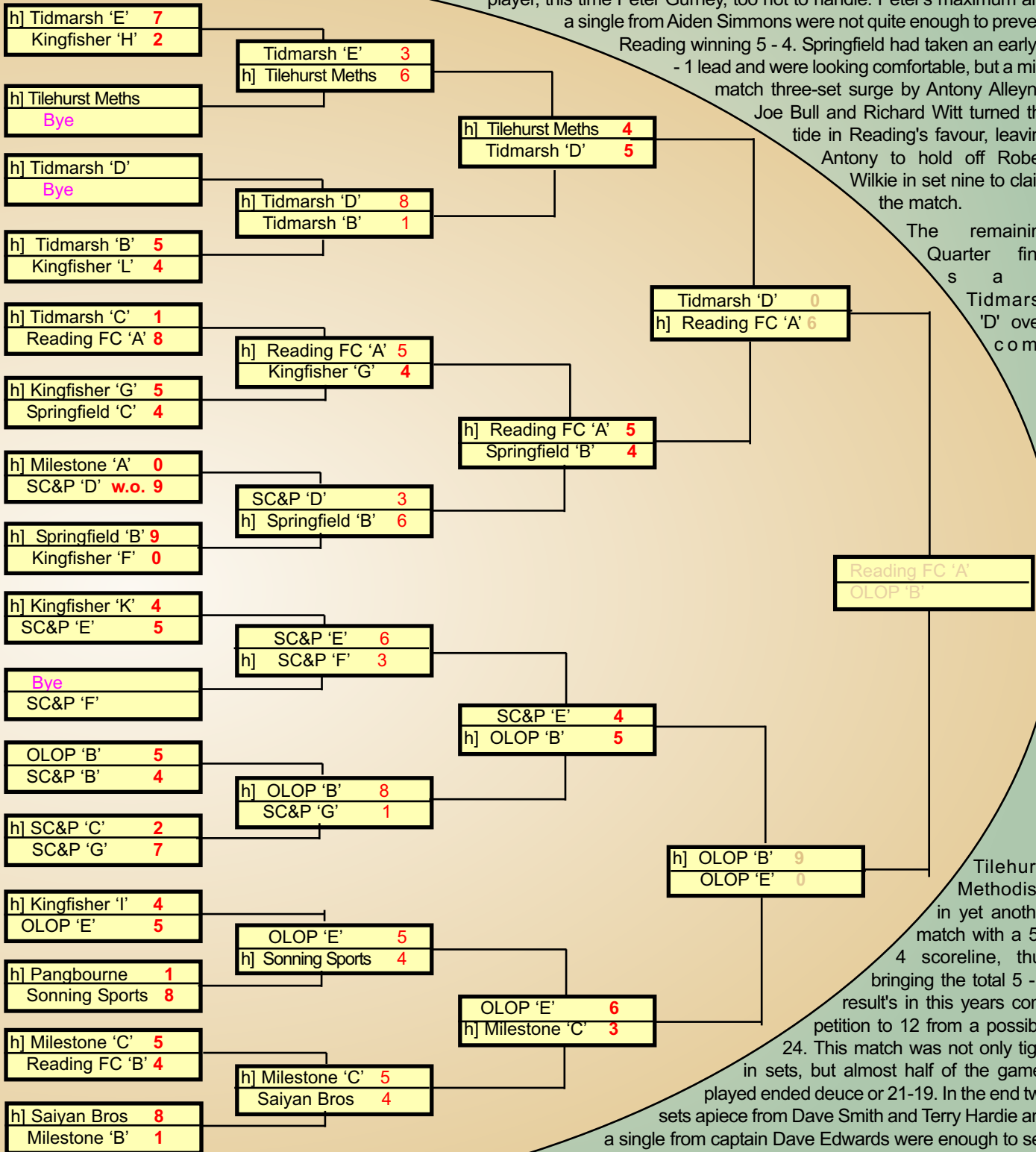
organised by Ray Webb

OLOP 'B' are now* only two victories away from retaining the trophy following a close 5 - 4 win over SC&P 'E', Sonning having led the match twice, at 0 - 2 and 3 - 4. Harikrishna Laddunuri had a fine maximum for OLOP, although it was left to captain Binit Bhaskar to secure the match with a 24-22, 20-22, 21-13 ninth set win over Alan Mollett. OLOP, having seen off a side from SC&P in each round to date, will now meet their 'E' team club mates in the Semi-final.

OLOP 'E', with two sets apiece from Simon Brookes, Dan Bright and Andrew Adair collectively overcame Milestone 'C', but not John Evans who won all of Milestone's three sets.

Reading FC 'A' similarly overcame Springfield 'B', having also found an opposition player, this time Peter Gurney, too hot to handle. Peter's maximum and a single from Aiden Simmons were not quite enough to prevent Reading winning 5 - 4. Springfield had taken an early 3 - 1 lead and were looking comfortable, but a mid-match three-set surge by Antony Alleyne, Joe Bull and Richard Witt turned the tide in Reading's favour, leaving Antony to hold off Robert Wilkie in set nine to claim the match.

The remaining Quarter final saw Tidmarsh 'D' overcome



The remaining Quarter final saw Tidmarsh 'D' overcome

Tilehurst Methodists in yet another match with a 5 - 4 scoreline, thus bringing the total 5 - 4 result's in this years competition to 12 from a possible 24. This match was not only tight in sets, but almost half of the games played ended deuce or 21-19. In the end two sets apiece from Dave Smith and Terry Hardie and a single from captain Dave Edwards were enough to see Tidmarsh through.

* But please note curently emergent results in pale brown





DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Hi everybody. How are we all? I ask the question because I guarantee that none of you have seen me this year and therefore I have no idea. We're almost into March and I haven't hit a ball in Reading for love nor money. And I'm not the only one. All a bit disjointed isn't it sadly. But we are where we are and we plough on regardless. I'll keep this one short and sweet – mainly because I've not been involved and because hardly any matches have been played since Xmas.

Later, love & peace x

Banksy



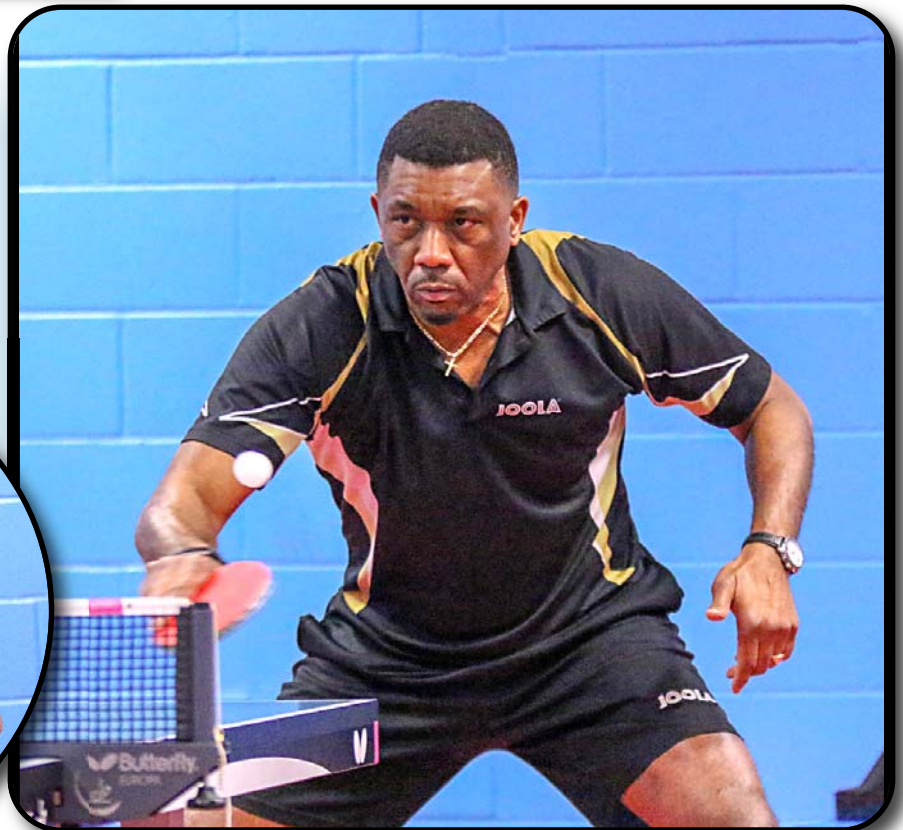
HARI GEHLOT OF KINGFISHER 'B'

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	10	10	0	0	85	15	20
2	Kingfisher B	8	7	0	1	63	17	14
3	OLOP A	9	7	0	2	55	35	14
4	Kingfisher C	9	4	1	4	42	48	9
5	SC&P A	11	4	0	7	48	62	8
6	Tidmarsh A	8	2	2	4	31	49	6
7	Kingfisher D	12	1	2	9	34	86	4
8	Kingfisher E	9	0	1	8	22	68	1

Kingfisher 'A' - maybe somebody can fill me in on how we're doing because 3 months into 2018 and I still haven't seen my team mates :(We have Moses and Adams though and they were both pretty good last time I saw them, so I presume they are still doing well and we're top of the league and the title is coming back to its rightful home blah blahblah etc. etc. etc.



NIGEL KEEDY

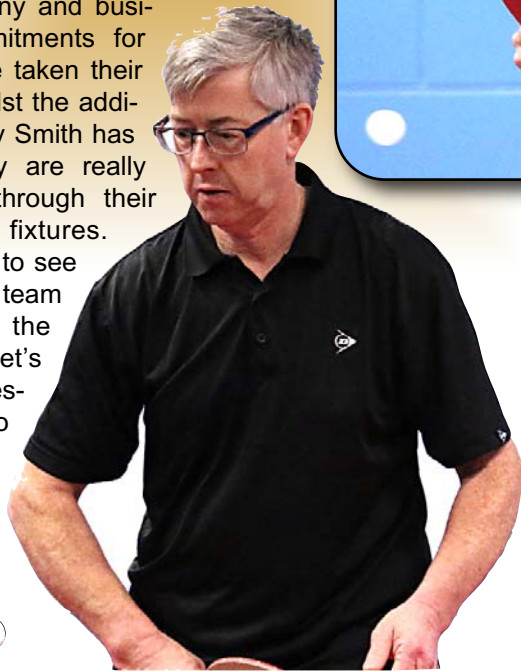


IAN COLE

Kingfisher 'B' I'm guessing are still 2nd but if they aren't then if you could let me know that would be great and I will update for next time. Obviously a great team full of big hitters but not quite going to get there this time around and have it all to do following the defeat to their bitter rivals Kingfisher 'A' earlier in the season.

OLOP 'A' I'm sure are going quite nicely in 3rd. Lost Steve really early doors but they have been juggling the team availability and playing well with some great individual performances from esp. Harry & Yonatan. Solid effort so far. 2nd place is probably a stretch too far but won't be far away next season if this team can stay together.

KFC have really been struggling for availability. A long term injury to Tony and business commitments for Marco have taken their toll and whilst the addition of Mully Smith has helped they are really struggling through their remaining fixtures. Will be sad to see yet another team lost from the league – let's hope it doesn't come to that and they can find a team for next



DAVID JOYCE



Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	Kingfisher A	22	22	100.00
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	12	12	100.00
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	9	9	100.00
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher B	9	9	100.00
Andrew Smith	Kingfisher C	12	11	91.67
Krasimir Ivanov	Kingfisher B	18	16	88.89
Mark Banks	Kingfisher A	17	13	76.47
Harry Munro	OLOP A	24	18	75.00
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	15	11	73.33
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher B	18	13	72.22
Yonatan Slobodskoy	OLOP A	18	12	66.67
Eduard Caliman	Kingfisher B	12	8	66.67

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' are I'm sure maintaining their 5th place comfortably with their combination of experience and youth plus Jason 😊. Gary and Neil leading from the front and passing on their words of wisdom to Joe Joes. Nice team and it's good to have them around.

Tidmarsh a bit like KFC have been hit with injuries and availability and are rather limping through to the end of the season with a number of special guest appearances from D2 helping them along. Still doing OK though. Daniel in particular playing well and Squirrel not without his moments too. Hope they stick around next season!

Kingfisher 'D' have put daylight between themselves and E and have actually done alright in patches without ever being able to trouble the sides above them. Nigel has had a very respectable season to date and Phil too. Not sure what the relegation situation is but I predict that if they want to remain in 1 then they will be allowed to do so.



DANNY RICKS

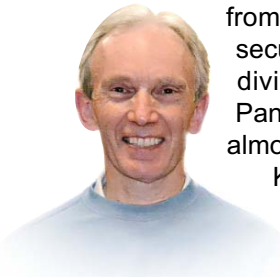
Kingfisher 'E' are in the same place they have been all season but there's no shame in that. Sagar – a bit like Nigel in D - has had a very good debut season and is improving all the time. Bit of a struggle for everybody else at this level but even with reduced teams it's still incredibly strong at the top and the gulf between 1 and 2 is huge.



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

The promotion and relegation issues have become much clearer in recent weeks. Curzon 'A' have consolidated their position at the top and now only need four points from their last four matches to secure both promotion and the division title. At the bottom Pangbourne WMC appear to be almost certain to be relegated with Kingfisher 'F' and OLOP 'B' fighting it out to avoid joining them in Division 3 next season.



The most dramatic match in the last few weeks has been the top of the table, and likely title, decider - between Curzon 'A' and Sonning C&P 'B'. After some very close early sets which could have gone either way Sonning C&P 'B' found themselves 4-0 up, the fifth set was also very close but Peter Bradley



ANDY WANG OF SC&P 'D'

Best Recent Performance – Marc Brent with a fine defensive display in a three straight win against Julian Telford

Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' have had three convincing wins but dropped a point in the local derby against Sonning C&P 'C'. That draw, plus their defeat to Curzon 'A', has probably put paid to their chances of overhauling Curzon 'A' at the top of the division. Brian Meheux has been in great form and had a sequence of seventeen wins in a row before finally losing to Jon Willis. He is getting very good support from the rest of the team with Nigel Maltby in particular playing very well at the moment. Their likely runners up decider against Sonning C&P 'D' is too close to call and team selection by both captains could be vital in deciding the outcome.

Prediction – Runners Up

Best Recent Performance – Brian Meheux with a three straight win over John Willcocks and a recovery from 10-7 down in the fifth to beat Pete Bradley

Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' have not lost since

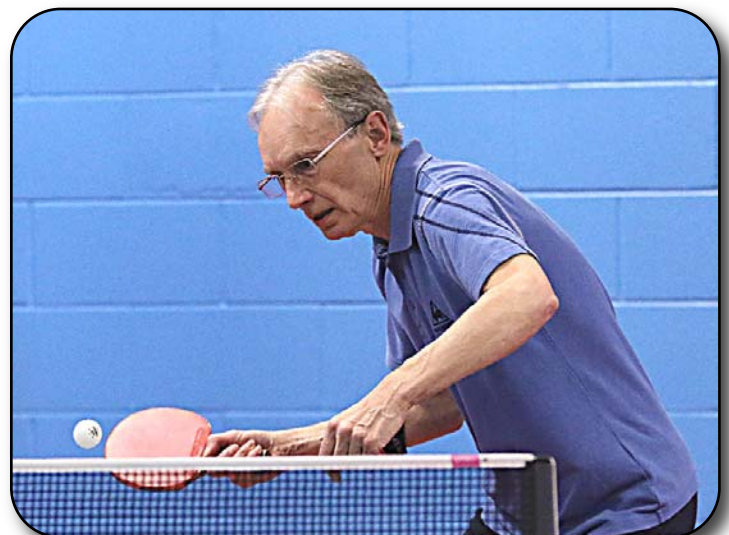


MARC BRENT

just managed to win it for Curzon. This seemed to change the momentum of the match as Curzon started to win the close sets, with the nets and edges that had earlier benefited Sonning C&P 'B' now going Curzon's way. After further hard fought sets Curzon 'A' ran out 6 – 4 winners.

Curzon 'A' have not been quite at their best recently but they have still managed to pick up seven points in their last four matches. Maybe that is why they are likely to end up being champions as they can keep picking up points even when their performances dip slightly. They could easily have dropped more than the one point they have which came in a draw at Sonning C&P 'D', where they were fortunate that Andy Wang had gone to China so was unavailable. They also made fairly heavy weather in beating Tilehurst Methodists 'A' and Kingfisher 'F' before the epic comeback against Sonning C & P 'B'

Prediction – Champions



JOHN WILLCOCKS

2nd October and their recent form of four wins plus a draw against Curzon 'A' means they are challenging for the run-



JULIAN TELFORD OF TILEHURST METHS

ners up spot. Their upcoming local derby clash against Sonning C&P 'B' may decide which one of the two teams finishes second and it is possible that sets difference might come into play at the end of the season. Andy Wang continues to lead the way but he has missed a couple of matches recently. However the rest of the team have all been playing well showing they are a very difficult team to beat even without their star player

Prediction - 3rd (Is that OK Malcolm?)

Best Recent Performance – Malcolm Gregory with very good wins against Pete Bradley and John Willcocks in the draw against Curzon 'A'

Tidmarsh 'B' are on a good run and have won four matches in a row. They still have to play the three teams at the top so they could well have a big impact on the promotion situation. Dom Cutter continues to lead the way and his only defeat since late October has been against Lee Calcutt. John Golding has also been showing excellent form with his only recent defeats being to players who are at the top of the averages. In addition the rest of their squad have shown improved form with lots of two's so on current form they are a very hard team to beat.

Prediction – 4th

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curzon Club A	14	12	2	0	99	41	26
SC&P B	14	10	1	3	94	46	21
SC&P D	13	8	3	2	84	46	19
Tilehurst Meths A15	6	3	6	79	71	15	
Tidmarsh B	13	7	1	5	74	56	15
SC&P C	14	3	6	5	69	71	12
Tidmarsh C	13	4	3	6	52	78	11
OLOP B	14	3	1	10	44	96	7
Kingfisher F	13	3	0	10	43	87	6
Pangbourne WMC13	1	2	10	42	88	4	

Best Recent Performance – Dom Cutter with a very close win in five against Julian Telford

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' had an impressive win against Tidmarsh 'C' which featured an excellent maximum from Nigel Rowland but they then had a post Christmas blip with fairly heavy defeats to Curzon 'A' and Tidmarsh 'B'. Since



LEE CALCUTT OF TIDMARSH 'C'

then they have recovered their form and have managed to beat Kingfisher 'F' and get a draw at Sonning C&P 'C' where Nigel Rowland had to concede the last set due to a knee injury. This was followed by a defeat in a close match against Sonning C&P 'D' where Nigel again had to concede a set due to injury and he is now likely to miss the rest of the season. Julian Telford suffered a loss of form after Christmas but has recovered since to post his customary maximums. The rest of the team have given him solid support and have had some really good wins. The highlight was Cath Venning winning two and almost getting a maximum at Curzon 'A'.

Prediction - 5th

Best Recent Performance – Actually two performances, Cath Venning coming from two sets down to beat Jon Willis in five and then the same thing against Malcolm Gregory

Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' went five matches without a win in December and January but they broke that sequence in emphatic style with a 10 – 0 win against OLOP 'B'. This win puts them on 12 points which should be enough to secure their Division 2 status for next season. Even when they were going on their winless run they still managed three draws and their defeats were only 6 – 4 so they are proving to be a very difficult team to beat. Their

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh C	27	25	92.59
Andy Wang	SC&P D	20	18	90.00
Dom Cutter	Tidmarsh B	27	23	85.19
Brian Meheux	SC&P B	39	32	82.05
Jon Willis	Curzon Club A	36	29	80.56
Julian Telford	Tilehurst Meths A	35	28	80.00
Niall McGrane	SC&P D	28	22	78.57
John Willcocks	Curzon Club A	36	27	75.00
Nigel Maltby	SC&P B	36	25	69.44
Jeremy Willis	SC&P B	21	14	66.67
Matt Stone	SC&P C	35	23	65.71
Peter Bradley	Curzon Club A	36	23	63.89

players rarely get ducks and they all have averages of



ZIKO JERZANSKI OF OLOP 'B'

between 42% and 65%. If they could have turned a few of their many draws into wins they would have been further up the table. Matt Stone has been their star player in recent matches with a couple of very good maximums and some other notable performances.

Prediction – 7th

Best Recent Performance – Matt Stone with a very good maximum at Tidmarsh ' B '

Tidmarsh ' C ' had a run of five defeats in a row which put them on the edge of the relegation zone. However they have since picked up five points in their last four matches which makes them all but safe. Their best recent result being a close win at the difficult to beat Sonning C & P ' C '. Their improved results have coincided with the return of Lee Calcutt from a trip to the USA plus some vital wins by Ray Webb and Simon Barter. They have got matches in hand on the three teams above them and could move up the table, especially if Lee plays in most of the remaining matches.

Prediction - 6th

Best Recent Performance – Ray Webb with a very good win against Tim Raby in set 10 in the 6 – 4 win at Sonning C&P ' C '.

OLOP ' B ' are on an alarming run of seven defeats in a row which has resulted in them being dragged into the relegation battle. They need to turn things around quickly to avoid dropping into the bottom two and the results of their matches against Pangbourne WMC and Kingfisher ' F ' could well decide their fate. Their best recent performance was their 6 – 4 defeat by Tidmarsh ' C ' where all their players won at least once and they could have easily got a draw. Dave Godfrey is still their most consistent player and everyone else is getting some good wins but not often enough to pick up some points.

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Wendy Porter with a fine win in five against Malcolm Gregory

Kingfisher ' F ' beat Pangbourne WMC in their first match after Christmas but they have lost their four matches since which leaves them in the relegation zone. However they are only a point behind OLOP ' B ' with a match in hand

so all is not lost. Their injury and unavailability problems have if anything got worse with Allan Bruton and Roger Woolven-Allen likely to miss most, or possibly all, of their remaining matches. In addition John Morris will also be out for a few weeks and Rick Leachman also has availability problems. So they are going to have to rely on reserves playing regularly in the remaining matches. Their one win was a convincing one against OLOP ' B ' where Allan Bruton had a very good maximum. Grant Wheatley has been playing well and has beaten Pete Bradley, John Willcocks, Niall McGrane and Malcolm Gregory recently

Prediction - 9th

Best Recent Performance – Roger Woolven-Allen beating John Simmonds in the win against Pangbourne WMC

Pangbourne WMC's hall was unavailable in January so they have only played three matches recently. They suffered two fairly heavy defeats but then managed a good draw against Tidmarsh ' C '. They are three points behind OLOP ' B ' and although they still have to play them their other remaining fixtures are against teams in the top half of the division so it's hard to see how they can pick up enough points to drag themselves out of the bottom two. Even when they lose, their matches feature a number of close hard fought sets so they are not being outclassed, they just cannot quite turn good individual performances into enough wins. John Simmonds has had some notable recent wins including victories over Jeremy Willis, Nigel Maltby and Lee



JEREMY WILLIS OF SC&P 'B'

Calcutt. Clive Taylor has also recorded some good victories which include a vital set 10 win against Simon Barter to secure the team a point against Tidmarsh ' C '.

Prediction - 10th

Best Recent Performance – John Simmonds in a high class encounter with Lee Calcutt



DIVISION THREE

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the third newsletter of the season... Milestone 'B' are on the brink of promotion as they now only need two points from their last five matches to be mathematical-ly top; the race for the second promotion spot is still up for grabs but Springfield 'A' are currently in pole position as they are two points ahead of third and with two games in hand. It's tight at the bottom with only six points separating the bottom five with Tilehurst Meths 'B' and Kingfisher 'I' occupying the relegation places and the trapdoor slightly ajar...

Many thanks to the five teams, particularly Bob Woodmansee of Sonning Sports, who sent in or nominated players for my profile article and humbug to the rest of you, there is always the last newsletter to send one in for 😊.

Milestone 'B', as I've already mentioned, stand on the cusp of both promotion and the championship with two and five needed respectively. They have been the outstanding team in the division as they have won fourteen of which eleven were in succession, and drawn the other one of their fifteen matches to date. The last two have been 6 – 4 in really tight encounters with Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' and Kingfisher 'G'. Sanket Dave won all three in the match with SCP 'E' with the crucial tenth set win over

Milestone 'B' player profile – Sachin Mundra



"Table tennis was and still is a loved sport for me, ever since I was in school, about 11 or 12 years old. I learned and played the district champion ships when I was a kid and loved every bit of it. Back then I wouldn't have thought of giving up the game ever, but that's exactly happened. Stopped playing when I was around 15, completely. Just didn't find the time for various reasons or didn't have anyone to play with. Cricket took the center stage for everyone, TT just got neglected I suppose. 22 years later, when I had moved on from India to travel for work to a few countries before settling in the UK, a burning desire to get back to

the game struck me. Coincidentally, there was a club minutes away from the place I lived in Caversham! It was a bit odd to hold the bat after so long but this time there was no stopping. 3 seasons have passed and have loved every bit of my TT journey in the Reading league. It's been an honor to play with some great players here in Reading and in 2016 I also got an opportunity to lead my team "Milestone B" and it's been brilliant fun ever since. Our team has always been a bunch of very passionate players who have not only progressed well in the league but also had a lot of fun together. Learning with every passing match night I hope to play for several years to come".



SACHIN MUNDRA

Springfield 'A' look a good bet for the runners up spot, I don't think they'll catch Milestone 'B' for the championship but they do still need nine more points from their ten games to be sure of promotion. The trio of Phil Burke, Adam Sheen and Ludo Couillard have done really well to get into this position for a final push. Their last four matches have seen them return with seven points out of eight but they too have had two tight 6 – 4 wins against Kingfisher 'J' and a resurgent OLOP 'C'. Phil managed a last set 11–9, 9–11, 11–5, 11–7 win over Clive Perry to clinch the two points after there had been some close contests earlier in the evening. The other point came courtesy of a 5 – 5 draw with Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' as two each from Phil and Ludo and the doubles maintained their lead over SCP in the table. Adam won two sets against Masoud Ghabachi and Mike Williams in the 9 – 1 win over Tilehurst Meths. *Doubles* : 10 / 14 71%

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' are third on the back of three wins and a draw since Christmas. Mark Jones has been their star player as he has returned to the form of a



ZOLTAN KELEMEN

Eric Walker and it was team effort by Sachin Mundra, Zoltan Kelemen and Sanket, where they all contributed to two crucial points against Kingfisher 'G'. Those three players have become the rocks of the team, having now played together in five of the last six matches. *Doubles* : 7 / 15 - 47%

few seasons back. Angus Jones and Eric Walker have also played very well to win crucial matches. If they hadn't lost Anthony Reeve and Alan Mollett to injury over the season they could well be mounting an even bigger challenge for promotion. Eric recorded his first maximum of the season with good wins over Didier Garçon, Joaquin Sabater and David Wells in the 8 – 2 victory against Kingfisher 'J'. It needed an Angus Jones win over Jes Eassom to put them 5 – 4 up and then Mark Jones to defeat Steve Dopson 11–9, 11–3, 11–8 to finally see off Tilehurst Meths 'B' after six of the ten sets had gone to five. As mentioned above they did pick up a point against Springfield 'A' with the most impressive win coming from Angus as he won 11–7, 5–11, 11–4, 12–10 against Phil Burke. *Doubles 10 / 16 63%*

Sonning C & P 'E' player profile - Alan Mollett



"I picked up a bat at school in the lunch break aged 16. I've never had a day's coaching but did get a book on how to play from the local library. I joined a local club in Fetcham and played two or three seasons in the Leatherhead and Epsom League concurrently with one in the Dorking League. In those days it was commonplace for companies to

have a table somewhere. Shame that is all gone, mostly in the pursuit of extra profit. Anyway I became too busy chasing other goals and stopped playing completely.

It was summer, I contacted a very nice man called Gerard Thorp at the Milestone Club who welcomed me back. But I also met Derek Wavell at an OLOP practice session and he persuaded me to join his SC&P team. Derek, Anthony Reeve and myself won the 4th division that season. I reached the dizzy heights of the second division and lasted a couple of seasons but was relegated. Now I can't play a season without getting some nasty injury that takes months to recover from. Probably need to call 'time' on my competitive play soon".

Kingfisher 'G' have only lost one of their last seven matches to find themselves in fourth place, I feel their best finish is likely to be third as second is potentially a long way off but who can tell. The squad of Eric Holmes, Luca Bianchi, Clive Gold, Guy De La Vilesbrunne and John Liddle is very solid with most of them achieving two or three sets each week, the problem has been aligning them so that two or three of them do it at the same time. The turn of the year saw them travel the short distance to their 'H' team rivals and come away with a 7 – 3 win. Luca and Eric won all three with Luca coming back from 0 – 2 down to defeat Willis Ma 8–11, 5–11, 11–4, 11–9, 11–5. Guy won two but was narrowly beaten by Igor Sremac to prevent a maximum. They had few troubles in the 7 – 3 win over Milestone 'B' which meant the next match was against the champions-elect, Milestone 'B'. Eric had yet another fantastic night as he won all three against Sachin, Zoltan and Sanket, Clive got the only other victory but they certainly gave them a battle as six of the ten sets went the distance. *Doubles : 3 / 14 21%*.



ERIC HOLMES

Sonning Sports 'A' have won three out of four since the turn of the year and still have an outside chance of promotion; a lot depends on whether Bob Woodmansee, Dave Chard and Keith Machin can find that early season consistency to support Paul Savage to win the last six and put pressure on Springfield and Sonning C & P 'E'. *Doubles : 12 / 13 86% (best doubles average in the division).*

I'll leave the rest of the Sonning Sports 'A' section to Bob Woodmansee who has done a great article on their team profile, over to you Bob...

The Three 'Must Get Beers' – aka Bob, Dave & Nigel from Sonning Sports 'A'

On a cold and wet October evening in 1987 Bob Woodmansee, Dave Chard & Nigel Goodman were thrown together in a League match by the committee of Berks County Sports TT Club (now Sonning Sports) for the first time.

The result? A 10-0 win, of course (sorry, Birch Copse!!).

The consequence? A team line-up and a friendship which continues until this day – a total of 30 consecutive seasons together (or 31 if Nigel makes at least one trip from his new home in Devon to play this season!!).

We all came to 'Berks Sports' TT Club (as it was then commonly known) by rather different routes. Bob, by virtue of his connection to BCS CC as a cricketer, was the first to join as a 21-year old in the late 1970's – and remaining a one-club man to this day, some 40 seasons later. Dave came via Bristol, Norfolk and Milestone TT Club and Nigel via London, the Home Counties and Thames Conservancy TT Club in Reading – initially playing for the 'B' Team for seven years from 1980.



BOB, NIGEL & DAVE

As highlighted in the heading to this article, we have

always valued the importance of the social side of table-tennis whilst being 100% committed to giving a 'performance' on the table ("socially competitive" as we often say). We always try to have a beer after the match (win or lose) and this is always so much nicer when the opposition join us – but, sadly, this is becoming a much rarer event these days.

We began our journey in the Reading League in Division 4B in the 1987/88 season – Terry Lewis being the 4th member of our squad. We eventually finished 2nd and earned promotion to Division 3 – amongst our opponents that season were Nick Lean, Jeremy Willis, Ted Stagg, Steve Ricks, Ray Webb and Paul Scrivener (later to become a teammate of ours).

During the following season we came across the squad of Derek Harrison, Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson for the first time – the first of many enjoyable and 'socially competitive' encounters with the only squad to better our longevity together.

Over the years our collective and individual form has been a real roller-coaster ride ("consistently inconsistent"!)- three relegations back to Division 4 followed by almost immediate re-promotions. Then a couple of promotions to Division 2 where (unbelievably) we survived for 11 seasons in total – albeit struggling in most of them! And, strangely, despite a total of seven promotions, we only ever achieved one Divisional Championship – Division 3 in 2002/3 season.

Our ability to survive in Division 2 had much to do with the quality of the 4th member of our squad – in particular Frank Wiegand (who achieved 100% in Division 2 in 2010/11) and Trevor Little from 1992 to 1998. In addition to these two superb players, we have enjoyed the support and friendship of a number of other '4th members' - notably Paul Scrivener, Bob Snellgrove, Terry Lewis, Keith Machin and, this season, Paul Savage (who, almost single-handedly, is managing to keep us afloat in Division 3!).

We also genuinely value both the camaraderie and rivalry we have enjoyed with you, our many opponents, over the years – without you there would be no 'competitive' to add to the 'social' side of table-tennis and, therefore, no reason to have a post-match beer! We thank you all for the past 30-plus years and pray that our legs and minds will allow us to share many more.

For the record, Bob has played a total of 1,967 sets for Sonning/Berks Sports – winning 809 for an average of 41%. Dave has won 813 out of 1,438 for an average of 56% and Nigel 754 out of 1,306 for an average of 57% (excluding his 'B' Team matches).

Kingfisher 'H' have suffered a slump in form since Christmas as they have only won one and drawn two of the five matches. Willis Ma and Igor Sremac are the mainstays of the team who win games most weeks but the three that play each week need to gel all together at the same time to pick up those extra points they deserve. The only win came against Tilehurst Methodists 'B' last week as two from Rumen Rangelov, Igor and Willis saw them to a 7 – 3 win, they also lost two further sets in five. The draw came

against Kingfisher 'I' where they were helped by their opponents only having two players, Willis and Ruben won the two extra sets needed to get the point. Peter Bennett won two in the draw just before the break as he overcame Maksym Schipka and John Crosfield in the match against Milestone 'A'. Doubles 6 / 15 40%

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone B	15	14	1	0	100	50	29
Springfield A	14	10	2	2	93	47	22
SC&P E	16	9	2	5	91	69	20
Kingfisher G	14	8	2	4	76	64	18
Sonning Sports A	14	8	2	4	76	64	18
Kingfisher H	15	5	2	8	73	77	12
OLOP C	13	5	1	7	59	71	11
Kingfisher J	16	3	3	10	63	97	9
Milestone A	14	3	3	8	57	83	9
Tilehurst Meths B	15	3	1	11	58	92	7
Kingfisher I	14	1	3	10	54	86	5

Our Lady of Peace 'C' have won two in a row, which is their best run of the season to move away from the relegation zone. Any team with Chris West and Clive Perry in should be challenging the top two for promotion but lack of availability, injuries and departures have scuppered any chance they had. The first win came at Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Availability issues meant they had to call on Hari Laddunuri from division four or five and he responded well to win two sets against Steve Dopson and Mike Williams, Chris chipped in with three and teamed up with Hari to win the doubles. The second win was against Kingfisher 'J'. Chris won his second maximum in a row, but this time Clive added the support with a brace and a winning doubles pairing. They also came close to parity with Springfield 'A' but fell short at 4 – 6 despite two each from Clive & Chris. *Doubles 7 / 13 54%*

OLOP 'C' player profile – Chris West

"I started playing it when I was 8 years old at Altwood School in Maidenhead. My two older brothers, Daniel & Lindsay West, played so I used to go along after cubs on a Wednesday evening. The main coach was Stan Roper. As I improved more and more we ended up playing Wednesdays and Fridays with further coaching. I entered my first Maidenhead youth league at the age of 11 and I played in the School team too with Sukhdeep Gill and Dalvir Rana. I played for many years and entered lots of competitions, not always winning but enjoying them none the less. In the early days, I had the amazing privilege of playing alongside the likes of Terry Young and Mark Banks (But nowhere near as good). My earliest claim to fame was when all three of us West brothers played for Maidenhead town and got our picture in the advertiser with our badges! However, I stopped playing in the 90's and had a long gap. When I moved to Reading a group of mates back then all wanted to play



again so we started in division 6, 13 years ago. I've played in all divisions since. Winning some divisions and not winning a single game in others! I still enjoy playing and hope for many more years of enjoyment in the sport! (Even though my mates now won't acknowledge it as a sport, they see it more as a craft activity!)"

Kingfisher 'J' have only managed one win since week four and are hovering dangerously above the relegation zone. Nils Wedi, Joaquin Sabetar and David Wells are the axis of the team as they have played the majority of the matches. Gabor Radnoti and Didier Garçon are also in the squad although they don't play that often. Their first win in eleven matches came courtesy of a 7 – 3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'B' as Joaquin won all three, Nils and David two each. This result came a week after the narrow 4 – 6 defeat to Springfield, with the outstanding performance on the night coming from David Wells (profile below) as he was victorious over Phil Burke 11–8, 11–3, 6–11, 11–8, although Nils was so close to giving them a draw but he eventually lost 14–16 in the fifth to Ludo. Just to look ahead there is a key match against Milestone 'A' coming up in the next few weeks and the outcome of that could determine whether they slide into the bottom two. *Doubles 7 / 16 44%*

Kingfisher 'J' player profile – David Wells

"I joined Kingfisher in 2012 after my workplace got an outside table and I enjoyed playing with my workmates.

I started in Bracknell division 2 that year starting along with Gwynne Penny who has been a great training partner and we have always been able to push each other further as we developed from starters (this is the first season I've not played in a team with Gwynne).

I started out as an offensive player but as I improved I realized I preferred to play further from the table slowing and controlling the game as a defensive player (although I'm fairly aggressive, closer to the "modern defensive game"). As my chopping improved I tried out some long pips and fell in love with how they chopped, so switched over in 2015. My short game certainly suffered that first year with pips but over time I've gotten used to them.

I've been steadily improving since I joined and made it to Reading division 3 this year with you guys where the challenge is really good and I'm enjoying myself immensely".

Milestone 'A' ended a run of five matches without a win to boost their chances of avoiding the drop into division four, it does seem bizarre that the 'B' team are at the top of the league and the 'A' team are near the bottom 😊. Arun Rajagopal won his first maximum in four games to help them to a 6 - 4 win over nearest rivals, Kingfisher 'I'. Apart

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	35	33	94.29
Philip Burke	Springfield A	36	32	88.89
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	36	29	80.56
Sanket Dave	Milestone B	36	29	80.56
Zoltan Kelemen	Milestone B	42	32	76.19
Chris West	OLOP C	33	25	75.76
Igor Sremac	Kingfisher H	26	19	73.08
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher G	33	24	72.73
Alan Mollett	SC&P E	24	17	70.83
Mark Jones	SC&P E	45	30	66.67
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield A	42	28	66.67
Luca Bianchi	Kingfisher G	33	22	66.67
Oliver Bonser	Milestone B	15	10	66.67
Clive Perry	OLOP C	27	17	62.96
Carol Byers	Kingfisher I	20	12	60.00
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	27	16	59.26

from one match, Milestone 'A' have remained unbeaten whenever Arun gets a maximum so you know what to do now gents! John Crosfield always seem to follow up singles, braces or maximums with a duck in the game after. Prior to that win, they had suffered three straight defeats, Sonning Sports 'A' (4 – 6), Kingfisher 'G' (3 – 7), Milestone 'B' (1 – 9). I think they will survive and a victory over Kingfisher 'J' will go a long way towards that. *Doubles 7 / 15 47%*

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' have dropped back into the bottom two for the first time in six weeks, this is on the back of six successive defeats (I'm sure there is a parallel to the Royals there somewhere). Jes Eassom has led from the front with a playing average of 60%, Steve Dopson, Masoud Ghabachi and Mike Williams always contribute to the night but once again not all at the same time. I've already mentioned the upcoming match against Milestone 'A' but they also have what could be a good old-fashioned four-pointer against bottom team, Kingfisher 'I' in the last week of the season. If they win both, survival should be assured, but defeat could spell relegation. They really have had a series of close results since they last claimed a point as they have had to suffer three 4 – 6 defeats by OLOP 'C', Sonning C & P 'E' and Milestone 'B', the latter was an excellent result in every other circumstance. Jes led by example with three impressive wins over Zoltan Kelemen 4–11, 9–11, 11–8, 13–11, 11–9 and followed it up with wins over Olly Bonser and Sanket Dave. Steve was the only other winner on the night but Masoud came so close as he lost 5–11, 6–11, 15–13, 11–9, 15–17 to Sanket. *Doubles 7 / 15 47%*

Kingfisher 'I' are in a spot of bother as they are four points from safety with only six matches to play. All but one of their remaining fixtures are against teams in the top half of the division with only Tilehurst Meths 'B' to play in the bottom half in the last week, which could be too late for them anyway. They did pick up their only win of the season to date in the 7 – 3 derby win over Kingfisher 'J', in the first week after Christmas where Carol Byers got her first maximum of the season with wins over David Wells, Didier Garçon and Joaquin Sabetar. Gwynne Penny and Steve Woolnough chipped in with two apiece to give themselves



some hope and they reinforced that with a good point against Kingfisher 'H' a couple of weeks later, despite only having two players, as Gwynne won all three to achieve her first maximum of the season and Steve one and then they teamed to win the doubles too. In the other two matches they have had narrow 4 – 6 defeats from Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' - as Mick Mitcham joined Steve in winning a brace - and then Milestone 'A' in their last match. *Doubles 3 / 14 21%*

That's all from me for this quarter and not one mention of the mighty Wolves, but then again, 13 points clear at the top of the championship does deserve some recognition 😊.

I hope you liked the player/team profiles that a few players have written, if anyone else fancies doing the same then email me "the story" and a photo and I'll put it in my last newsletter.

Enjoy the last few weeks of the season and good luck to all teams whether in a quest for survival, mid-table safety or the glory of promotion!



GWYNNE PENNY

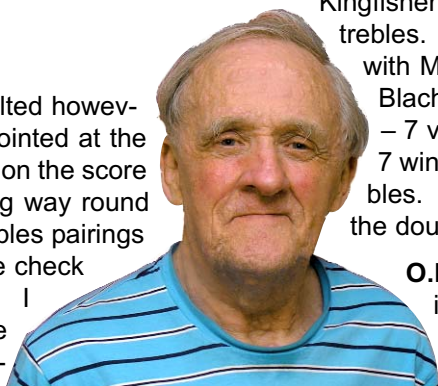


DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone.

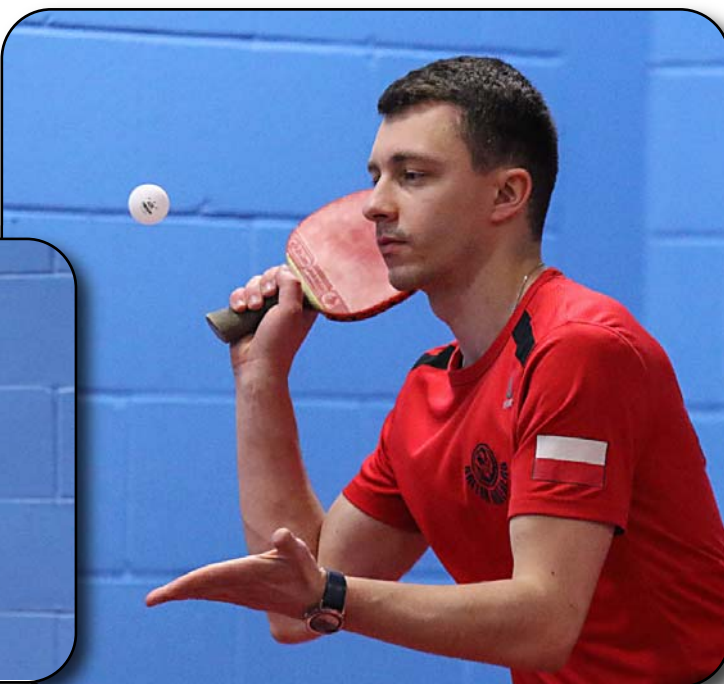
I really think that the horse has bolted however I have to say I am a little disappointed at the number of errors that are appearing on the score cards. They have scores the wrong way round but more often do not have the doubles pairings on them; so can I ask you to double check that they are correct from now on? I cannot enter the results onto the website unless everything is complete on the card.



Kingfisher 'K' 10 – 0 with Vidhu, Kaan and Alex all hitting trebles. Alex was p.o.m. while Vidhu won the doubles with Michal. At Tilehurst Meths hat tricks from Emma Blachford and Vidhu plus the doubles gave them a 3 – 7 victory. At Springfield they came away with a 3 – 7 win with Emma and Vidhu gaining three straight trebles. The skipper Michal teamed up with Vidhu to win the doubles.

O.L.O.P. 'D' after beating Reading FC went clear into second place. Pradeep Desh did very well by winning all three. Binit Bhaskar hit a double

In their first match of 2018 the **Saiyan Brothers** romped to a 1 – 9 win at Tidmarsh 'D' with Vidhu Ravinath and Alex Horscroft both gaining trebles. For Vidhu they were all three straight. Kaan Kitay managed a double while Michal Pszczolka won the doubles with Vidhu. Next they beat



ALEX HORSCROFT (LEFT) AND MICHAL PSZCZOLKA OF THE SAIYAN BROTHERS



PAT DANIELS AND ABHAY GORE OF OLOP 'D'

while Hari Laddunri managed a single which helped them to a 3 – 7 victory. At Sonning C&P 'F' they came away with two points by winning 2 – 8 with Binit winning all three and Abhay Gore and Hari gaining doubles. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' they hit top form by winning 9 – 1 with Binit, Hari and Abhay all obtaining trebles. For Hari it was his first



ANDREW ADAIR OF OLOP 'E'

of the season and I gather from Binit he played very well and was consistent with his chops and his fast smashes had everyone impressed.

Reading FC went down 3 – 7 to O.L.O.P. 'D' with Richard Witt, Jazz Dhillon and Anthony Alleyne all gaining singles. They then whitewashed Tilehurst Meths 'C' with Richard, Jazz and Anthony all getting maximums. For Richard they were all three-straight. They then lost the chance to close the gap for second place when they lost 3 – 7 to Springfield 'B'. Jazz did his best by winning two and Anthony picked up a single. At Curzon 'C' they came away with both points by winning 2 – 8 with Jazz and Anthony both gaining trebles. Paul Brown did well by winning two. At home to Curzon 'B' they came from 3 - 4 down to win 6 – 4 with Jazz hitting a hat trick. Anthony won two and Paul gained a single. They then played O.L.O.P. 'E' without Jazz and dropped a vital point by only drawing. Anthony and Paul

won two each and Richard gained a single.

Despite a great hat trick from Nick Lean, **Curzon 'B'** lost 6 – 4 at Curzon 'C'. Geoff Johnson won the other set. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' we lost 4 – 6 with Nick winning two and Geoff picking up a single besides the two of them winning the doubles. I was no help by losing my sets in straight games. At Reading FC we went down 6 – 4. Geoff managed a double and was unlucky against Jazz when he was

leading in game five 7-10 only to lose 12-10. Despite his injury Jim Brent did well to gain a single. Geoff and Derek had a nice doubles win against Jazz and Anthony. After losing three matches in a row 6 – 4 we bounced back by beating Kingfisher 'K' 8 – 2 with Nick and Geoff both gaining hat tricks - for Nick they were all three straight. I managed a rare win by beating Ania. Geoff and Nick also won the doubles.

O.L.O.P 'E' started the second half by sharing the spoils with Kingfisher 'K' after being 3 – 5 down. The birds led 4 – 5 into the final set when Paul Treadgold met Ken Robb with Paul just getting home 7-11, 9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-5. To give them that point. Paul got a double as did Andrew Adair. The two of them also won the doubles. It was a truly epic match which did not finish until midnight! Thank you Andrew for your great report. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' they lost 4 – 6 despite a treble from Johnson Xu. Paul won the other set by beating Roy Hull. Next came Springfield away and they came away with a point. Simon Brookes won two and Paul and Andrew both picked up singles. Paul and Andrew also won the doubles. At home to Curzon 'C' they went down 4 – 6 with Simon winning two and Tamir and Andrew winning one each. It has to be said they have lost 6 matches by a 6 – 4 margin. At Reading F C Adam was in great form and managed a treble. Andrew obtained a single and teamed up with Adam to win the doubles.

Curzon 'C' went down 4 – 6 against Tilehurst Meths 'C' after beating them 8 – 2 first time round. John Walker hit a



NICK LEAN OF CURZON 'B'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saiyan Brothers	14	14	0	0	107	33	28
OLOP D	14	11	1	2	92	48	23
Reading FC A	16	9	3	4	87	73	21
Curzon Club C	15	8	1	6	82	68	17
Curzon Club B	14	7	1	6	80	60	15
OLOP E	16	5	3	8	78	82	13
Springfield B	14	6	1	7	73	67	13
Tidmarsh D	15	6	1	8	70	80	13
Tilehurst Meths C	15	5	1	9	62	88	11
Kingfisher K	15	3	4	8	52	98	10
SC&P F	16	0	0	16	37	123	0

double and Linda King and Terry Spice both obtained singles. A good team performance saw them beat Curzon 'B' 6 – 4 with Tracy Maynard and John both hitting doubles while Linda beat me with that vital single. Linda and Tracy also teamed up to win the doubles. At home to Reading F C they lost 2 – 8. Tracy and John both beat aul Brown. At O.L.O.P 'E' they came away with a 4 – 6 win thanks to doubles from Tracy and Linda and a vital single from John. Linda and Tracy also won the doubles. In Tracy's set against Tamir she was 7-3 down to fight back to 11-11 only to then lose it 13-11 while Linda was 6-10 up in the second game against Andrew but lost it 12-10 but then found her form to win 3-11 in the 5th end. In the match against Sonning, Charlotte Binley made her debut and gained a good hat trick. Welcome to the club Charlotte. Linda and John won two each to give the side a 7 – 3 victory. Derek the Sonning skipper was full of praise for Charlotte and said he was pleased to be able to see her play.

Springfield 'B' played their first match since the 6th December and beat Reading F C 7 – 3 with Peter Gurney gaining a brilliant treble. Giving him good support was Rob Wilkie who won two and Stephen Leggett who picked up a single. At home to O.L.O.P. 'E' Stephen was the star by hitting a three straight maximum: beating Simon Brookes 11-4, 11-6, 11-7 Paul Treadgold 11-8, 11-9, 11-7 and Andrew Adair 11-6, 11-7, 11-7. Chris Taylor played



SIMON BROOKES OF OLOP 'E'

his part by gaining a double which helped them to secure a draw. At bottom side Sonning they won 1 – 9 with Peter winning two and trebles from Rob and Stephen. At home to the Saiyan Brothers Stephen, Chris and Peter all beat Michal in a 3 – 7 defeat.

Tidmarsh 'D' lost at home to the Saiyan Brothers 1 – 9 with Dave Edwards beating Kaan in set ten. At Curzon 'B' they bounced back by winning 4 – 6 with Dave E hitting a great hat trick. Giving him good support was Terry Hardie who won two and Theresa Watson who picked up a single. At home to Kingfisher Dave E continued his good form by gaining another treble as did Theresa and with Terry winning two this helped them to a 9 – 1 win. The next day Terry goes into hospital for a hip op so on behalf of you all I wish him all the best for a swift recovery. Despite then losing 9 – 1 at



VIDHU RAVINATH OF THE SAIYAN BROTHERS

O.L.O.P. 'D' I have to say they put up a great fight with many sets being close. Dave E and Dave Smith did have a good doubles win over Binit and Abhay.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' had a fine 4 – 6 win at Curzon 'C' with Patrick O'Sullivan and Martin Wetherell winning two each with Roy Hull picking up a vital single besides teaming up to win the doubles with Martin. Then in a brought forward match they beat Sonning C&P 'F' 8 – 2 with Martin and Patrick both getting maximums. For Patrick it was his first for over two seasons. Roy managed a double. At one time they were five up only to be pegged back to five-two however they then won the last three sets. At home to Reading FC they crashed to a 0 – 10 defeat. In the doubles Patrick and Martin were 9-2 up in the 5th end and lost 9-11. They then gained a great 4 – 6 win at O.L.O.P. 'E'. Thanks to doubles obtained from Martin and Patrick and a good single from Roy Hull. Martin and Patrick also won the doubles set. Next singles from Roy, Martin and Patrick were all they got in a 7 – 3 defeat at the Saiyan Brothers.

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Vidhu Ravinath	Saiyan Brothers	42	42	100.00
Alex Horscroft	Saiyan Brothers	12	12	100.00
Johnson Xu	OLOP E	21	20	95.24
Emma Blachford	Saiyan Brothers	15	14	93.33
Nick Lean	Curzon Club B	30	27	90.00
Marc Brent	Curzon Club B	12	10	83.33
Pradeep Desh	OLOP D	29	24	82.76
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	36	28	77.78
Adam Lawes	OLOP E	17	13	76.47
Nikesh Karki	Saiyan Brothers	24	18	75.00

Kingfisher 'K's good form continued by gaining a point at O.L.O.P. 'E'. This gave them 5 points out of their last 8. Ken Robb and Tariq Ramjuan both picked up doubles with Lyazid Wirkhani winning one. They then went 5 matches undefeated by beating Sonning C&P 'F' 6 – 4 thanks mainly to a great hat trick from Lee Wirkhani with Tarik Ramjaun winning two and the two of them winning the doubles. That run came to an end when they lost 10 – 0 at the Saiyan Brothers. Sadly for them they then lost 9 – 1 at Tidmarsh with Tarik beating Terry. At Curzon 'B' they lost 8 – 2 with Ken and Tarik both beating me. But then, nearly everyone beats me.

Sonning C&P 'F' continue to struggle and at Tilehurst Meths 'C' they lost 8 – 2 with Derek Wavell beating Roy Hull. Derek and young Jamie Legg had a nice doubles win beating Martin and Patrick 8-11, 12-10, 11-13, 11-7, 5-11. Oh dear they then came very close to gaining their first point of the season when losing at Kingfisher 'K' 6 – 4. Oli Sayer managed a double while Marko Madzar and Jamie won one each however Jamie only just lost to Lee going down 11-5, 5-11, 11-7, 11-13, 11-9. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' they lost 2 – 8 with Derek beating Hari and Oli beating Abhay. Next they lost 1 – 9 against Springfield with Jamie beating Peter 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 9-11 11-8. This is his best win at the moment. At Curzon 'C' Derek did very well by beating John Walker and Linda King. His set against John was interesting. He beat him 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11, 9-11. I wonder if that scoreline has ever happened before, Oli and Jamie teamed up to have a nice doubles win.

Before finishing my report I will list the leaders in the Player of the Match:

Vidhu 11, Nick 6, Johnson 5, Jazz 5, Tracy 4, Binit 4, Lee 4, Martin 4 & Pradeep 4.

Cheers,

Derek



DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

I expect that the battle for the Division 5 title, between Our Lady of Peace 'F' and Sonning Sports 'B' will go to the wire. However, since the last Newsletter, Our Lady of Peace have won all their matches, taking over the number one spot from Sonning Sports and consequently improving their set difference, which means that the Division 5 Cup will probably be returning to OLOP's trophy cupboard, if they win all their remaining matches.

At the bottom of the table, Tilehurst Methodists 'D' have opened up a slight gap over Kingfisher 'L', and Kingfisher are now favourites for the wooden spoon, with only four fixtures remaining to escape their plight.

Florin Dimofte remains the only player still undefeated, from those currently eligible, although Reading FC's Mark Edwards could become eligible if he plays sufficient matches. This means that Derek Anderson is currently second, in the Divisional Averages, with Mike Casserley in third, Cris Reynolds in fourth and Chris Bunn in fifth, with plenty of players on their coat-tails, just waiting for a little slip-up.

A few more players have now tasted their first victory and Reading FC's Tony Edwards is now the only player who is still looking for his first win. Although time is running out, I fully expect to see Tony get a win, assuming he is selected, since he has recently had a number of close sets which, on

another day, could so easily have gone in his favour.

Starting at the lower end of the table, Kingfisher 'L' have remained rooted to the bottom and are still looking for their first win of the season. They have played 5 matches this quarter, with Derek Crombie playing in all but one match, while Gill Bennett has only played twice. Dmitry Merzlyakov, Meriel Low and Tom Allen have each played three times, ensuring that everyone is involved in the fight. Although no-one has recorded any doubles or trebles this quarter, Meriel still leads the averages, with 47.62%, followed

by Dmitry, on 26.67%.

Their first match was a close 4 - 6 defeat, at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', when Derek, Tom and Gill each won once, Gill & Tom also combining, for their debut pairing, to win the Doubles. Tom's 15-13 11-6 10-12 11-8 win, over Derek Maltby, was his first of the Season, while Gill's set against Julian James proved to be one of the most consistent of the quarter, Gill losing 8-11 8-11 8-11. Julian was also involved in one of the longest game rallies, eventually beating Derek 13-11 11-6 17-15.

Next up was an away visit to Springfield 'C', which was lost 8 - 2, Dmitry and Meriel picking up one win each, Meriel's win an extremely tight 11-7 11-9 9-11 9-11 12-10



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP F	14	11	2	1	104	36	24
S Sports B	13	10	2	1	89	41	22
SC&P G	14	9	1	4	85	55	19
Springfield C	14	7	1	6	75	65	15
Reading FC B	14	6	2	6	78	62	14
Springfield D	14	6	2	6	69	71	14
Milestone C	13	6	2	5	67	63	14
Tidmarsh E	14	4	3	7	62	78	11
Tilehurst Meths D	14	2	0	12	30	110	4
Kingfisher L	14	0	1	13	31	109	1

victory over Alan Goold, while Dmitry beat Chris Speight 11-6 13-11 13-11. This was followed by another 8 - 2 loss, this time at home to Milestone 'C', Derek and Dmitry winning one set each, as they both overcame Colin Phillips.

Their next match was also away, this time at leaders Our Lady of Peace 'F', where they lost 9 - 1, Meriel beating Mariusz Paluszkiwicz 11-8 11-4 11-7, to avoid the white-wash. In fact, 5 out of Meriel's 10 singles games were won by only 2 points, Meriel losing to Jan Polnik 11-9 4-11 10-12 13-15 and Graham Stark 9-11 5-11 10-12.

Their final match was at home to 9th placed Tilehurst Methodists 'D', which Methodists won 7 - 3, having fielded possibly their strongest team this season. Dmitry and Meriel won one set each, Dmitry beating Rob James 11-8 2-11 4-11 11-7 11-9 and Meriel beating Ryan Arch 11-5 12-10 11-3, and then partnered each other, for the fourth time, winning their first Doubles.

On the intrateam Doubles front, Dmitry & Meriel are now in 4th place, behind Gill & Meriel in third, with Derek &



JOHN EVANS OF MILESTONE 'C'

Dmitry now tying with Gill & Tom, in first place, with 100%, each pair having played together once.

Milestone 'C' started the quarter in 7th place and after 5 matches, which included 3 wins and 1 draw, still find themselves in 7th place! At one point, they did climb to 4th, but dropped back down after their first defeat of the quarter. However, they have closed the gap on the teams above them and if they win their match in hand, would again climb to 4th.

Carl Edlind and John Evans have been the stalwarts during this period, both playing in 4 matches, with Tony Hayden playing three times, while Colin Phillips and Maksym Schipka have both played twice.

Milestone 'C' started with a 6 - 4 win, at home to Springfield 'C', John recording a maximum, beating Chris Speight 12-10 12-10 11-8 in the 9th set, and Carl a double, Carl & John also combining to win the Doubles 12-10 9-11 7-11 11-5 11-9.

They then went to Tidmarsh 'E', winning again by the same 6 - 4 scoreline, Carl, Maksym and John each winning two to take both points. This match was a real battle, with the 1st set going to 4 games, Peter Sinclair losing to Carl 11-9 11-13 9-11 9-11, and the next three sets each going to 5 games, these first four sets taking two hours to complete.

Milestone 'C' then travelled to Kingfisher 'L', winning 8 - 2, Tony returning to form with a maximum and PoM, Maksym also recording a maximum, Colin picking up a single, with Tony & Maksym also winning the Doubles.

They then entertained Springfield 'D', who beat them 7 - 3, Tony, Carl and John picking up one win each. Colin Jones set the tone when he beat Tony 12-10 4-11 11-9 9-11 11-7 in the 1st Set, and, although John beat Julian Lancaster in the 3rd set, it was an uphill struggle after that, Milestone only taking 2 of the night's 9 games that were won by the minimum 2 points.

Their final match was against Reading FC 'B', which was drawn 5 - 5, Carl and John each winning two, with Colin recording another single, Carl almost getting the better of Mark Edwards, in the 1st Set, finally losing 12-14 11-7 11-5 4-11 7-11, Mark going on to win all three after another tough match against John.

On the intrateam Doubles front, two wins from the most recent five matches mean that both these winning pairs (Carl & John and Tony & Maksym) now have a 50% win rate, along with two other partnerships (Carl & Tony and Carl & Maksym). However, the partnerships of John & Maksym and Carl & Colin are joint top, with 100% from the one match played.

Jumping now to the top of the table, **Our Lady of Peace 'F'** played 5 matches this quarter, taking on all their closest

rivals, and being victorious in each match. This winning sequence saw them take over at the top of the table, from Sonning Sports 'B'. Jan Polnik, Graham Stark and Chris Bunn played in almost all of these matches, with Mariusz Paluszkiwicz making an appearance against Kingfisher 'L', which meant that neither Alona Slobodskoy nor Tony Barnett were selected.

From being an unknown at the start of this season, Graham has now won 3 PoMs and has been OLOP's most consistent player, not dropping more than one set since the beginning of November. However Chris is still slightly ahead in the win ratings, with 81.82%, compared to Graham's 77.78% and Jan's 76.67%. Highlighting the squad depth, Alona also has 77.78%, although she hasn't played a match since November.

In December, OLOP beat Reading FC 'B' 8 - 2, Chris returning a maximum, having taken the scalp of Derek Anderson 11-5 10-12 6-11 11-4 13-11, abetted by doubles from Graham and Jan. After the Christmas/New Year break, they travelled to closest rivals Sonning Sports 'B' and although Chris had an off day, winning just one set, Jan put in a captain's performance to record a maximum and with Graham also winning two, they ended the evening as 7 - 3 victors. As expected, this was one of the most closely contested matches of the season, with 41 games being played and 14 of these games being won by the minimum 2 points. However, not content with playing 14 singles games, beating Cris Reynolds 7-11 12-10 12-10 12-10 11-8 and John Scott 9-11 11-7 11-5 8-11 11-9 along the way, Jan also partnered

Chris to an 11-5 11-5 11-13 12-10 Doubles victory.

A home match against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' then beckoned, which ended 6 - 4 to OLOP, Jan having an off day, by his standards, losing all three sets, these sets including 6 games won by the minimum 2 points, Jan losing all 6. This time it was Chris's turn to be the hero and having partnered Jan to another Doubles win, Chris held his nerve to beat Gerry Bacon 10-12 11-9 12-10 8-11 11-4, in the 8th set, to guarantee at least one point, Graham then beat Julian James 12-10 10-12 11-7 4-11 11-9 to record his double and ensure the match was won.

This was followed by an away match at Springfield 'C', which OLOP won 9 - 1, Chris and Graham both recording maximums and Jan a double. However, this wasn't the simple victory as might be inferred by the scoreline, with 39 games being played over the evening, Jan himself playing in 18 of these games. However Chris's win over Alan Goold 13-11 11-1 5-11 19-17 is also worthy of special mention, as it includes the highest scoring game of this quarter.

For the home match against Kingfisher 'L', there was the first change in personnel for over 2 months, with Chris making way for Mariusz. However, this didn't change the result, which was another 9 - 1 win for OLOP, Jan and Graham both bagging maximums, with Mariusz recording his first double.

On the Doubles front, Chris and Jan continue to put their reputation, as well as their 100% record, on the line, having now played together seven times. However, what is not so



JAN POLNIK

apparent, from inspection of the Doubles Averages, is that OLOP have played six different Doubles partnerships and none of them has lost. So far, this season, this winning mentality has helped the team win an additional 5 points.

Reading FC 'B' have dropped from 4th place to 5th, since the last Newsletter, with just one win and two draws. Harry Edwards has been ever constant, playing in all 5 matches, with Derek Anderson and Tony Edwards playing in 4 matches, Keith Greene making his sole appearance against Tilehurst Methodists 'D' and Mark Edwards making his triumphant seasonal debut against Milestone 'C'.

The first match was an 8 - 2 defeat, at the hands of Our Lady of Peace 'F', Derek Anderson recording just two wins as he lost for only the second time this season, this time to Chris Bunn. However, they then had a resounding 10 - 0 victory over Tilehurst Methodists 'D', with Harry, Derek and Keith all recording maximums, Methodists only winning 4 games all evening, 10 games being won by the minimum 2 points, with Methodists losing 9 of these games. Keith & Harry joined forces to win the Doubles, just beating Lala Stryjak & Steve Christelow 15-13 8-11 11-9 11-9.

This was followed by another defeat, a 7 - 3 loss away to Springfield 'D', Derek's aura of invulnerability slipping slightly as he suffered a further defeat, Paul Martin fighting back from two games down to win 11-13 10-12 12-10 11-6 11-3. Derek also had a tremendous battle with Marcello Caramma, eventually winning 11-9 11-9 14-12, to record his double, with Harry beating Colin Jones in another close set 6-11 7-11 11-7 11-9 13-11, to record his single. Tony almost had his first win of the season, taking a 2 - 1 lead over Marcello Caramma, before losing 11-9 8-11 11-8 5-11 6-11.

A 5 - 5 draw at home to Tidmarsh 'E' then followed, Tony building on his performance from last week with close sets against both Steve Andrews, just losing 11-9 6-11 8-11 11-4 9-11, and Bob Sunerton (3-11 11-13 16-14 7-11). This match saw Harry record a further maximum, but Derek could only manage two wins after he was beaten in the 1st set, by Steve Andrews, 8-11 11-13 11-4 14-16.

Their latest match, away to Milestone 'C', ended in another 5 - 5 draw, thanks to a treble from Mark Edwards, making his first appearance this season, a single from Harry and the Doubles, when Tony partnered Mark to victory over Carl Edlind & John Evans. This is also the first time that Reading FC 'B' have fielded a team solely comprised of Edwards !

Despite losing a few sets, Derek is still the most consistent winner in the team, with 88.89%, followed by Keith on 79.17%, although Mark is obviously on 100%, following his treble in his only outing.

On the intrateam Doubles front, three new combinations have been trialled this Quarter, with Tony & Mark the one success. However, one previous pairing (Harry & Keith) has also recorded their first win, to take them off the bottom of the Doubles Averages. Harry & Derek haven't played together recently but are still the most used combo, with a 50% win ratio, although Derek & Keith are joint first, along with Tony & Mark, both partnerships having played together once.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' have managed to retain their 3rd place, a position which they have held continuously since November. This is despite losing possibly their best player, Marko Madzar, to their F team, since Marko had been on fire, with just one defeat in the first half of the season. However, the team still had the following five players to call upon - Mike Casserley, Gerry Bacon, Julian James, Derek Maltby and Steve Knott.

Their first outing was an away trip to Kingfisher 'L', which they won 6 - 4, Mike and Julian both recording maximums, while Derek could almost taste his first win, being 2 - 0 up, before eventually losing 11-8 12-10 8-11 7-11 5-11, to Derek Crombie.

Early in the New Year, SC&P travelled to Our Lady of Peace 'F', where they narrowly lost 6 - 4, with everyone beating Jan Polnik (Julian 15-13 8-11 11-3 5-11 11-4, Gerry 14-12 11-9 7-11 11-9 and Mike 15-13 11-7 11-9) and Gerry getting his second win in beating Graham Stark. The closeness of this match is evidenced by the fact that 15 of the 37 games played, were won by the minimum 2 points, the final outcome being 6 in favour for OLOP and 9 for SC&P.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' returned to winning ways with a 6 - 4 win over Tilehurst Methodists 'D', Mike

LEADING AVERAGES					
Player	Team	P	W	%	
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	21	21	100.00	
Marko Madzar	SC&P G	15	14	93.33	
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	36	32	88.89	
Mike Casserley	SC&P G	27	23	85.19	
Cris Reynolds	Sonning Sports B	23	19	82.61	
Christopher Bunn	OLOP F	33	27	81.82	
Gerry Bacon	SC&P G	24	19	79.17	
Keith Greene	Reading FC B	24	19	79.17	
Adrian Wegrzynowski	Springfield D	24	19	79.17	
Graham Stark	OLOP F	27	21	77.78	
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP F	18	14	77.78	

recording a further treble and Steve picking up his first wins of the season with a double. However, it had been level pegging until the 9th Set, when Steve beat Ryan Arch 11-7 12-10 12-10, to claim at least one point, Mike then seeing off Lala Stryjak in a straight set victory to take both points.

Another 6 - 4 victory, this time away at Springfield 'D' then followed, thanks to another maximum from Mike, a double from Gerry and a single from Julian. Curiously, although this match included 7 games won by the minimum 2 points, 3 involving Mike alone, 2 involving Julian alone and 2 involving both Mike & Julian, only the ones in Mike's singles games went in SC&P's favour.

Their latest match was an 8 - 2 victory, at home to Tidmarsh 'E', with Mike recording his third consecutive treble, Gerry also recording his first maximum since October, while Derek recorded his first win of the season, beating Birthday boy Bob Sunerton 11-5 9-11 4-11 11-5 11-7. Interestingly (or not !), Derek's last win was also against Tidmarsh, back in October 2016, when he beat Mike Bundy.

However, this time around, Mike had his revenge, beating Derek 11-5 11-6 11-13 11-9.

With 13 singles wins in these 5 matches, Mike now heads the table with 85.19%, Gerry not far behind on 79.17%, with Julian in 3rd on 70.37%. With four matches remaining, I fully expect that SC&P will finish in 3rd place.

On the intrateam Doubles front, two new pairings have been tried and one old partnership was reformed, with no better luck than previously. Of the two new formations, Mike & Derek had one loss, but then followed this up with two wins, while Julian & Gerry played together once, losing 3 - 0, albeit against OLOP, so may merit another chance. Since they have won twice, the Mike & Derek partnership may be considered the most successful although this team does have 5 other combos on 100%, each duo having played together once.

Sonning Sports 'B' lost their top spot in early December, when they had a gap in the playing schedule. However, they have kept pace with the new leaders, Our Lady of Peace 'F', and are just waiting for them to slip up, so they can make their bid for the title. Sonning Sports' fixture schedule being rather unique, they had to wait until January before playing their next match, with all their other fixtures also scheduled in the same month.

Sonning Sports still has the largest squad and, I believe, still has one player registered who has yet to make an appearance. Currently, Cris Reynolds is leading the pack in appearances, closely followed by Florin Dimofte and Sally James. Mike Gautrey then leads the next group, closely followed by John Scott and Jude O'Halloran, with Michael Byrne in last place, having only played in three matches, so far.

First up for Sonning Sports, was a home match against fellow title contenders, Our Lady of Peace 'F'. While OLOP were able to field all their in-form players, someone had forgotten to hide Florin's passport and he was therefore flitting about Eastern Europe when this match took place. Notwithstanding, this was still a tightly fought encounter, with 41 games being played, 14 being won by the minimum 2 points. OLOP raced into an early lead and, after winning the Doubles, led 6 - 1, Sonning Sports' sole win courtesy of Sally, who beat Chris Bunn 7-11 11-9 9-11 11-9 11-7, getting revenge for her defeat by Chris in the earlier, corresponding fixture. Subsequently, John also beat Chris Bunn, before Cris Reynolds won the final set, beating Graham Stark 11-7 12-10 11-8, Sonning Sports 'B' therefore ending the evening with a 3 - 7 defeat, their first this season.

However, they bounced back with a 9 - 1 win, away at Tilehurst Methodists 'D', Cris and Jude both recording maximums, this being Jude's first, fighting back in the 10th Set, from 0 - 2 down, to beat Steve Christelow 7-11 7-11 13-11 11-5 11-4. Mike added a further double, just maintaining his record of winning 2 sets in every match he plays, by beating Lala Stryjak 11-9 9-11 11-9 12-10, in the 8th Set.

This was followed by another victory, this time an 8 - 2 home win over Springfield 'D', Florin returning from holiday to carry on where he left off, with his 6th maximum of the season, although Adrian Wegrzynowski became only the

second person, after Sonning Common & Peppard's Gerry Bacon, to take Florin to 5 games, Florin eventually winning 11-9 11-7 12-14 6-11 11-7. Sally and John both recorded doubles, both losing to Adrian Wegrzynowski but both beating Colin Jones and Julian Lancaster, although John had to work hard to beat Colin, 11-9 14-12 11-9.

Their final match, in January, was a 7 - 3 victory, away at Tidmarsh 'E', notable for Michael's first appearance in 7 weeks. This match had been level pegging, until the Doubles, with neither team gaining an advantage. However, Sonning Sports won the Doubles 11-9 7-11 14-12 9-11 11-6, courtesy of Florin & Mike, and then took the last three sets, to put a gloss on proceedings. First, Mike beat Mike Bundy, in the 8th, 8-11 11-4 12-10 11-5, to record a further double, then Florin comfortably beat Steve Andrews in the 9th, for his treble, and, finally, Michael beat Bob Sunerton 11-8 11-8 8-11 11-5, to record one win.

Florin is obviously their star player on 100%, still undefeated after 7 matches, with Cris providing great leadership on 82.61%, followed by Mike on 66.67%, Sally on 55%, John and Jude both on 50%, with Michael on 44.44%.

On the intrateam Doubles front, two new combinations have been tried, Florin & John winning 3 - 1, while Florin & Mike won 3 - 2, along with two previous pairings. However, although the Cris & Mike pairing was successful, this time around, the partnership of Cris & Sally succumbed to their 3rd defeat. As a consequence of having such a large squad, Sonning Sports have seven different pairings on 100%, each duo having played together once.

Springfield 'C' kicked off this phase of the campaign in 5th place, at one point dropped to 7th, but have fought their way back up to 4th. All of their players have made an appearance over the past five matches, Chris 'Spike' Speight having played in every match, Alan Goold and Tom Berryman both appearing three times, whilst Rob Atack and James Regan have each appeared twice.

Springfield 'C' started this quarter with a narrow 6 - 4 defeat, away to Milestone 'C', Chris only able to record a double after narrowly losing to John Evans, in the 9th Set, 10-12 10-12 8-11. This was not the only opportunity to claim at least one point, since Tom & Chris had earlier gone close to winning the Doubles, before eventually being beaten, 10-12 11-9 11-7 5-11 9-11, by Carl Edlind & John Evans. At the end of the match, James had also recorded one win, in beating Tony Hayden 12-10 9-11 11-6 11-6, Tom also beating Tony, for his single.

Springfield 'C' then entertained Kingfisher 'L', running out 8 - 2 winners, thanks to a maximum from Rob and doubles from Chris and Alan. Alan was tested all evening, playing 14 singles games in total, initially holding his nerve to beat Tom Allen 11-7 11-7 10-12 8-11 11-9, then just losing out to Meriel Low 7-11 9-11 11-9 11-9 10-12, before having to counter a fightback from Dmitry Merzlyakov, eventually winning 11-3 11-7 8-11 15-13.

Like many of their fellow competitors, Springfield 'C' were then beaten by Our Lady of Peace 'F', losing 9 - 1, Alan beating Jan Polnik 4-11 11-6 6-11 11-7 11-9, to avoid the whitewash. Chris's best chance of a win occurred in his final

set, against Jan Polnik, which he just lost 12-10 11-8 7-11 8-11 7-11, whilst Tom's came in his first set, fighting back from 0 - 2 down, before eventually losing 5-11 5-11 11-6 11-8 5-11, to Graham Stark.

An away trip to Tilehurst Methodists 'D' was next, with Alan & Chris winning the Doubles to guarantee both points, the eventual victory being 7 - 3, with a treble for Chris, a double for Alan and a single for James. However, it was not all plain sailing, with Chris twice being taken almost to the wire, firstly by Steve Christelow, before winning 11-9 8-11 8-11 12-10 11-8, and then again, by Jamie Li-Telford, before winning 9-11 11-8 11-5 11-13 11-8. Nor was this an isolated incident, James having a titanic battle with Lewis Oke, before winning 12-10 7-11 5-11 14-12 18-16, and Alan also being tested by Lewis, before winning 12-10 3-11 11-2 12-10.

Their latest match was an intra-Club match, against their 'D' team, which ended in an honourable 5 - 5 draw, Chris and Rob both recording doubles, while Tom recorded a single. As to be expected, when the opponents know each other's styles so well, it proved to be a cagey affair, with neither team getting more than a one set advantage, all night. Rob had to work hard, to beat Marcello Caramma 10-12 11-6 9-11 11-8 11-8, as did Tom in beating him 11-7 8-11 11-6 5-11 16-14, whereas Chris made heavy weather of his first two games against Marcello, before romping home 9-11 10-12 11-5 11-1 11-5. Which, from past experience, makes me think of long pimples !

Chris and Rob are pretty much joint stars, Chris on 70%, having played in 10 matches, with Rob on 70.83%, having only played in 8. The remaining members of the squad are also tightly bunched, Tom on 41.67%, Alan on 40.74% and James on 38.10%. Although they have a strong squad, Springfield 'C' have a number of tough matches ahead and I suspect that they will drop a few places, before the end of the season.

On the intrateam Doubles front, Springfield 'C' have tried three existing partnerships and two new pairings, Rob & Chris proving very successful, in their one match. Chris & Alan also had a further appearance, this time winning 3 - 0. Presently, there are three partnerships (Alan & James, Alan & Rob and Rob & Chris) which have won once, having played only once, with three further pairings on 50%, each having played in two matches.

Springfield 'D' are in 6th place, on set difference, tying on points with the 5th and 7th placed teams and are currently lying one point behind their 'C' team. When the last Newsletter was published, Springfield 'D' had only played 8 matches, so they have been catching up, with 6 further matches being played this Quarter, enabling them to climb from 8th place, despite their two defeats and one draw.

Adrian Wegrzynowski has been a revelation this season, winning at least 2 sets per match, if one excludes the opening match of the Season, against Sonning Sports 'B', when he was defeated by both Florin Dimofte and Cris Reynolds. Adrian has been ably supported by Paul Martin, who is also showing a great improvement over last year, Colin Jones, Marcello Caramma and Julian Lancaster.

They kicked off the quarter with a visit from Tidmarsh 'E', which they won 7 - 3, thanks to a maximum from Adrian, a double from Colin and a single from Paul. Adrian's toughest match was his first set, against Steve Andrews, which he eventually won 9-11 11-9 3-11 11-4 11-6, to set himself up for the treble. Paul lost to John Harland, but then had a good victory over Bob Sunerton, winning 15-13 11-8 11-9, before losing to Steve Andrews.

Over one month later, Springfield 'D' faced Reading FC 'B', which they also won by a 7 - 3 scoreline. Paul turned on the style to win his first maximum and PoM, fighting back from 2 - 0 down to beat Derek Anderson 11-13 10-12 12-10 11-6 11-3. Marcello could consider himself unlucky to only win two, since he pushed Derek Anderson all the way, before losing 9-11 9-11 12-14, but Harry Edwards might feel the same way, as he lost to Marcello 8-11 9-11 10-12. Colin helped win the Doubles, lost a closely fought contest against Harry Edwards, but grabbed a single in beating Tony Edwards.

On a roll, Springfield 'D' then travelled to Milestone 'C', again winning 7 - 3. This match heralded a return to form for Colin, who recorded his first maximum of the season, although he had to concede the PoM to Adrian, who also played a blinder in winning all three. Colin was taken to 5 games, by Tony Hayden in the 1st Set, before winning 12-10 4-11 11-9 9-11 11-7 and needed to retain his composure to beat John Evans 7-11 11-6 12-10 11-9. Adrian also had a tough match against John, before winning 12-10 11-5 7-11 14-12, while Julian's best performance was his defeat by Tony Hayden, losing 9-11 11-8 8-11 7-11.

Two days later, Springfield 'D' were again on the road, this time to Sonning Sports 'B'. Unluckily, Florin Dimofte had decided to return from his travels and only Adrian managed to find that elusive win, beating both John Scott and Sally James (11-6 12-10 9-11 11-2) for his double, meaning that the final score was 8 - 2 to Sonning Sports, Colin and Julian ending the evening with no wins, despite all their efforts.

A home match to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' was next on the schedule. However, Colin's mini-slump continued, as he was beaten in straight sets, Adrian could only record a double after being beaten by Mike Casserley in the 1st Set, Paul managed one win, in beating Julian James, which meant that even though Adrian & Paul won the Doubles, the match was lost 4 - 6.

Springfield 'D's final match was the highly anticipated derby match, away to their 'C' team. The match ended in a 5 - 5 draw, although the game differential was 16 - 23, the 'D' team winning 7 more games by dint of the fact that they won all four of the 3-game sets. Adrian only dropped one game all evening, on his way to his treble, but Colin only managed to beat Tom Berryman, 12-10 11-9 11-6, although he also partnered Adrian to a straight set Doubles win. Only Marcello came up short, but not for want of trying, since all three of his sets went to 5 games, his set against Tom Berryman being especially tight, Tom just edging the fifth game to win 11-7 8-11 11-6 5-11 16-14.

On the intrateam Doubles front, two new combinations were tried with differing success, Adrian & Paul playing twice, winning each time, whereas Adrian & Julian only

played together once, losing 1 - 3. The previous pairing of Adrian & Colin was also deployed twice, winning both times and thus improving their average to 75%. However, another successful partnership of Colin & Paul played together once again, winning the set and retaining their 100% record, which means they are currently second in the Doubles Averages.

Since the last Newsletter, **Tidmarsh 'E'** have dropped from 6th to 8th, following a disappointing quarter when they have only taken one point from five matches. Their star player continues to be Steve Andrews, ably supported by Pete Sinclair, Bob Sunerton, John Harland and Mike Bundy. Bob and Steve have both played in four of this quarter's matches, John and Mike in three, with Pete only playing against Milestone 'C'.

Tidmarsh opened this phase of the campaign with a trip to Springfield 'D', where they lost 3 - 7, Steve beating Colin Jones 11-5 6-11 11-5 12-10 and Paul Martin 11-9 11-7 5-11 11-7, to record a double, and John chipping in with one win, when he fought back from 2 - 0 down to defeat Paul Martin 7-11 5-11 12-10 11-1 13-11.

A home match against Milestone 'C' was next on the schedule and this was a closely contested affair, the first four sets taking two hours to complete. The final result was a 6 - 4 defeat, Steve, John and Pete winning one each as well as John & Steve also winning the Doubles. Over the evening, 40 games were played, with 15 being won by the minimum 2 points. Pete lost the 1st Set to Carl Edlind 11-9 11-13 9-11 9-11 and John lost the 2nd Set to John Evans 12-10 14-12 6-11 8-11 10-12, before Steve beat Maksym Schipka 12-10 7-11 7-11 11-8 11-7, following which John then evened the match score, at 2 - 2, by beating Carl Edlind 11-4 9-11 7-11 11-8 11-5. Pete's victory came in the 10th Set, when he beat John Evans 11-7 11-8 11-9, thus denying John his maximum.

Next Tidmarsh travelled to Reading FC 'B'. The match started perfectly, as Steve beat Derek Anderson 11-8 13-11 4-11 16-14 and Mike beat Tony Edwards 8-11 11-6 11-8 11-7. Steve then won his second set, beating Tony Edwards 9-11 11-6 11-8 4-11 11-9, before partnering Mike to a 3 - 0 Doubles win, beating Tony & Harry Edwards 17-15 12-10 11-4, following which Bob beat Tony 11-3 13-11 14-16 11-17. Harry Edwards then beat Steve, thus denying him his treble, and Derek Anderson beat Mike 11-8 11-9 11-9, to tie the match at 5 - 5.

Tidmarsh then entertained Sonning Sports 'B', losing 7 - 3, Steve recording two wins, in beating Michael Byrne and Mike Gautrey, and Mike recording one win, beating Michael Byrne 7-11 11-9 11-8 11-4. Tidmarsh's latest match was against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', which they lost 8 - 2, John and Mike both beating Derek Maltby, John 11-9 11-7 11-4 and Mike 11-5 11-6 11-13 11-9, while Bob lost to Derek in 5 games.

On the intrateam Doubles front, two new combinations (John & Steve and Mike & Steve) were tried, twice, each resulting in one win and one loss, while the partnership of John & Bob was also tried once more, but was again defeated. None of their previous pairings are undefeated,

except for John & Theresa, although these two new pairings, along with the earlier partnership of John & Mike, are all joint second, with 50% from two matches.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' have retained their 9th place, but have increased their lead, over 10th placed Kingfisher 'L', to three points. Out of the 5 matches played, there has only been the one win, albeit a crucial one, although the losing scores have improved of late. Steve Christelow is the twinkling star in this firmament, with 39.39%, although "new" signing Rob James has a 66.67% win ration, having played just the one match. The remaining squad players are Ryan Arch, Jamie Li-Telford, Lewis Oke and Lala Stryjak.

Tilehurst Methodists started the year with a trip to Reading FC 'B', where they lost 10 - 0, Steve having some



STEVE CHRISTELOW

close games, losing to Keith Greene 5-11 9-11 11-13 and Harry Edwards 9-11 9-11 4-11, Lala losing to Keith Greene 7-11 6-11 12-14 and Ryan taking a game off both Keith and Derek Anderson. Steve and Lala were also involved in a close Doubles match, against Keith & Harry, which they eventually lost 13-15 11-8 9-11 9-11.

Sonning Sports 'B' then came to visit, with dire consequences for Tilehurst Methodists as they were beaten 9 - 1, Steve's 11-6 11-6 11-8 win over Mike Gautrey avoiding the whitewash. However, the evening wasn't a walkover and Sonning Sports' Jude O'Halloran had an especially busy night, coming back from 0 - 2 down to defeat Steve 7-11 7-11 13-11 11-5 11-4, surviving a fightback from Lala to win 11-2 11-7 9-11 11-9 and keeping his cool to beat Lewis 5-11 11-6 9-11 11-8 11-4. Lala was also close to victory, in her match against Mike Gautrey, eventually losing 9-11 11-9 9-11 10-12.

An away day at Sonning Common & Peppard was next on the schedule and, as the match progressed, a draw was a distinct possibility. Lala's two wins, over Derek Maltby and Steve Knott, along with Jamie's 12-10 6-11 11-4 7-11 11-8 win over Derek and Ryan's win over Derek had put them in the hunt. However, a 2 - 3 defeat in the Doubles didn't help the cause and when Ryan lost the 9th Set to Steve Knott, 7-11 10-12 10-12, and Lala lost the 10th Set to Mike

Casserley, the final score was 6 - 4 to Sonning Common & Peppard.

Methodists then entertained Springfield 'C', losing 3 - 7, in what turned out to be a thrilling encounter, with 40 games played, 14 of these games being won by the minimum 2 points, 3 benefitting Tilehurst Methodists and 11 going Springfield's way. As it turned out, the first set determined who would record a treble, Steve losing to Chris Speight 9-11 11-8 11-8 10-12 8-11 but subsequently beating Alan Goold 7-11 11-7 9-11 11-5 13-11, to record his double. Jamie recorded Methodists' other win, beating James Regan 11-8 11-6 11-13 11-7, while Lewis was unlucky to lose to both Alan Goold (10-12 11-3 2-11 10-12) and James Regan (10-12 11-7 11-5 12-14 16-18).

Tilehurst Methodists final match was against fellow strugglers, Kingfisher 'L'. This was an away match, ruling out both Jamie and Lewis, and Lala's late withdrawal meant that Rob James' Christmas registration proved to be pre-

scient. Methodists took an early lead, Ryan beating Dmitry Merzlyakov 11-9 11-8 5-11 14-12, Steve beating Meriel Low 11-8 15-13 11-8 and Rob beating Derek Crombie. Kingfisher fought back by taking the next two sets, but Steve stopped the fightback by winning his second set. Methodists' inability to win the Doubles put them back under pressure, but they then won the three remaining sets, Rob beating Meriel in 3 games, Ryan beating Derek in 4 games and Steve just beating Dmitry in 5 games, 11-9 7-11 14-12 8-11 11-4. The end result was a 7 - 3 win, with Steve recording his first treble and Ryan recording his first double.

On the intrateam Doubles front, the new partnership of Lala & Steve was also unsuccessful. However, none of the previous pairings that were reformed fared any better, meaning that Steve & Ryan are still the only combo that has tasted victory, with one win in five outings.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

The final league evening of 2017 was held on December 15th. We ended with our usual Christmas party and the finals of the grouping tournament, begun in the October half term, were held. There were six finals altogether – three age bands in the main competition and three age bands in the consolation event. Despite a few players being unable to attend, the Division saw three great finals in the main event. In the oldest age band Rayaan Ashgar played Tamir Slobodskoy and a strong performance from Rayaan saw him win 11-7, 11-4. In the middle age band Dylan Cook played Ralph Phillips and a close match saw a victory for Ralph 6-11, 11-6, 13-11. In the youngest age band there was another close final between Yuvam Mittal and Josh Sandland which ended with an eventual win for Yuvam Mittal 11-7, 2-11, 11-9.



In the consolation event there were again three close finals. In the oldest age band a great final between Jamie Weir and Rudresh Desai ended with a victory for Rudresh 12-10 18-16. The middle age band saw a final between Joe Brooks and Ben Carless which saw a win for Ben Carless 11-7, 8-11, 11-5 while the youngest age band saw a final between Anish Deshpande and Alicia Simonova. The match was won by Anish 11-6, 8-11, 11-9.

After the Christmas break play resumed on January 5th with a social evening for players and parents and other family members. This was the best attended of these with 17 adults attending and it made for a very enjoyable evening. The registration of new players allowed the formation of a twelfth team – the Leopards. The New Year saw the division of the teams into two leagues based on the positions of the teams in December. In the new divisions

Attackers, Avengers, Lions, Panthers, Spartans and Tigers are in Division One while Jaguars, Leopards, Pumas, Raiders, Strikers and Trojans are in Division Two.

League play resumed on January 12th with wins for the Spartans, Panthers and Lions in Division One. The Spartans defeated the Avengers 9 - 1, the Panthers won against the Tigers 7 - 3 and the Lions had a strong win against the Attackers 10 - 0. Division Two saw wins for the Pumas, Raiders and Trojans. The Pumas won 7 - 3 against the Leopards while the Raiders defeated the Jaguars 9 - 1 and the Trojans beat the Strikers 8 - 2.

January 19th saw wins again for Spartans, Panthers and Lions in Division One. The Spartans defeated the Tigers comprehensively 10 - 0 and the Lions defeated the



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Avengers 8 - 2 with three wins for Mo Cook; and the Panthers defeated the Attackers 6 - 4 with three wins for Tamir Slobodskoy. In Division Two there were wins for the Raiders, Trojans and Pumas; the Raiders defeated the Strikers 7 - 3 with three wins for Joe Brooks while the Trojans defeated the Leopards 8 - 2 and the Pumas defeated the Jaguars 7 - 3.

The week following, January 26th, Division One saw wins for Spartans 10 - 0 against the Attackers, Lions against Panthers 9 - 1 and Avengers against Tigers 6 - 4 with three wins for Rudresh Desai. In Division Two there was a great win for the Jaguars against the Leopards 7 - 3 with three wins for Rishika Desai. The Pumas defeated the Strikers 7 - 2 and there was a draw between the Raiders and Trojans.

Great play continued on February 2nd with three very close matches in Division One. Spartans defeated Lions 5 - 4, Attackers and Tigers drew and Avengers defeated Panthers 6 - 4. Division Two saw victories for the Trojans, Strikers and Raiders. It has been a great series of matches since Christmas and in the half term we will be running the Alan Dines Memorial Handicap Tournament on February 16th.

Div One Team Placings							
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
1	Spartans	4	4	0	0	34	5 34
2	Lions	4	3	0	1	31	8 31
3	Panthers	4	2	0	2	18	22 18
4	Avengers	4	2	0	2	15	25 15
5	Tigers	4	0	1	3	12	28 12
6	Attackers	4	0	1	3	9	31 9

AVERAGES (Div 1)			
Player	P	W	%
Mo Cook	10	10	100.00%
Ralph Philips	8	8	100.00%
Rayaan Asghar	10	9	90.00%
Tan Saha	8	7	87.50%
Tamir Slobodskoy	12	10	83.33%
Benedict Carless	10	8	80.00%
Harry Bullock	10	6	60.00%

AVERAGES (Div 2)			
Player	P	W	%
Arran Reeve	8	8	100.00%
Joseph Brooks	10	9	90.00%
Anish Deshpande	9	8	88.89%
Jamie Weir	8	7	87.50%
San Celik	6	5	83.33%
Joshua Sandland	9	6	66.67%
James Cunningham	6	4	66.67%

Div Two Team Placings							
	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
1	Trojans	4	3	1	0	31	9 31
2	Raiders	4	3	1	0	28	12 28
3	Pumas	4	3	0	1	21	18 21
4	Strikers	4	1	0	3	16	23 16
5	Jaguars	4	1	0	3	12	28 12
6	Leopards	4	0	0	4	11	29 11