



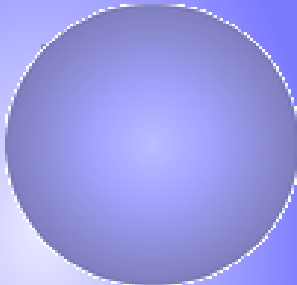
**READING  
& DISTRICT  
TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER**  
Editor: **DEREK WAVELL**

A Trophy Secretary in action -  
Paul Treadgold

**November 2016**

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*The new season is going full blast, and our cover photo is a reminder of glittering rewards that are available. I like to include as many photos of players as possible, and last May's awards ceremony produced a good crop for this edition. See particularly pages 5-7.*

*On the Divisional tables I notice five Kingfisher and OLOP teams locked at the top of Div 1, and three teams from Sonning C&P in mid Div 2. Reading FC are running second in both 4 and 5. What do these signs mean? Perhaps the reports that follow will tell! And we have some new DFS's to put a new spin on events.*

*Finally an unusual subject. Weary of the stress and frustrations of our League, some players have heard tell of a better and calmer place to go. For all our sakes Derek Maltby investigated - he succeeded in gaining entrance - he participated through the summer, and came back a changed man. You can see his report on page 4.*

*Good luck, and have a good year,  
Derek*



## Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello everybody and welcome to a new season. I hope it has started well for you and you are enjoying our great game.

I would like to also welcome the new members of our committee namely Bob Woodmansee, Martin Wetherell, Emma Barraclough, Ray Webb and our



RCBTTA reps Melvyn Lovegrove and Ian Cole. Thank you all for joining us.

A request please. Can all team captains try to include some match comments which will help the divisional secretaries when they do their newsletter article.

Finally do not forget to look at our website which keeps us all informed about what is going on.

## Coming Tournaments

- 1. Individual Handicap Competition** is scheduled for **Saturday 21st January 2017** at the Kingfisher Club.
- 2. Reading Closed Championships - Seniors 11th February at Bluecoat school**, to be played on 8 tables and hopefully finished by 5pm. **Juniors 12th February at Cippenham TTC**, full layout to be confirmed

The entries this year will be online and the link will be sent out to all members by email in January. Please make sure your email addresses are up to date with Reading TTA and Table Tennis England.

**This will be a new system and we will trial it at the Individual Handicap in January.**

The Handicap Entries will be via a doodle poll (online entry) which we send out late November/early December (again to all players emails - please make sure your emails are up to date). closing date will be 30th December, then we will transfer the entries onto the new system, ready for the competition on Saturday 21st January at Kingfisher.

*Wendy Porter*

## Team Handicap and Lower Divisions Knockout Competitions

by Ray Webb



RAY WEBB, RICHARD WITT AND JOE BARRACLOUGH

**R**ichard Witt, captain of Reading FC 'A', the previous season's winners of the Lower Divisions Knockout cup, and Joe Barraclough, winner of the previous season's Handicap cup final had the honour of making the first round draws at the Kingfisher club.

In total 170 players representing 30 teams entered the Handicap competition. 18 teams will compete in the Lower Divisions competition. Tilehurst Methodist 'E' have very commendably entered both competitions despite only having three players to select from. There have been some interesting match-ups.

### Lower Divisions knockout

The two SC&P sides both travel to meet the two

Springfield sides, and it could be an interesting night at Reading FC where the 'B' and 'C' teams will play each other. Champions Reading FC 'A' have struggled in the league so far having only won one doubles out of six and will need to find some form if they are to retain the trophy. Early form favourites must be Tidmarsh 'D' and OLOP 'F'. Tidmarsh have won four of five in the league, only losing to Curzon 'B' 11-13 in the fifth. Curzon surprisingly have not entered this competition. OLOP 'F' have won five from six.

### FIRST ROUND DRAW

Tilehurst Meths 'E' <b>6</b>	Kingfisher 'L' <b>3</b>
Springfield 'D'	SC&P 'H'
Milestone 'C'	Sonning Sports 'B'
Reading FC 'A'	OLOP 'E'
OLOP 'F'	Curzon 'C'
Springfield 'C'	SC&P 'F'
Milestone 'B' <b>2</b>	Tidmarsh 'D' <b>7</b>
Tidmarsh 'E'	Kingfisher 'K'
Reading FC 'C'	Reading FC 'B'

In Round Two the nine winning teams will be joined by the seven losing teams with the 'best' result.

Two matches have been played prior to Newsletter submission, results as follows:

Tilehurst Meths 'E' defeated Kingfisher 'L' 6 - 3 in a close match, winning four of the five sets that needed a decider. Tidmarsh 'D' were impressive 7 - 2 winners over Milestone 'B', even taking a game in both of the two sets they lost.

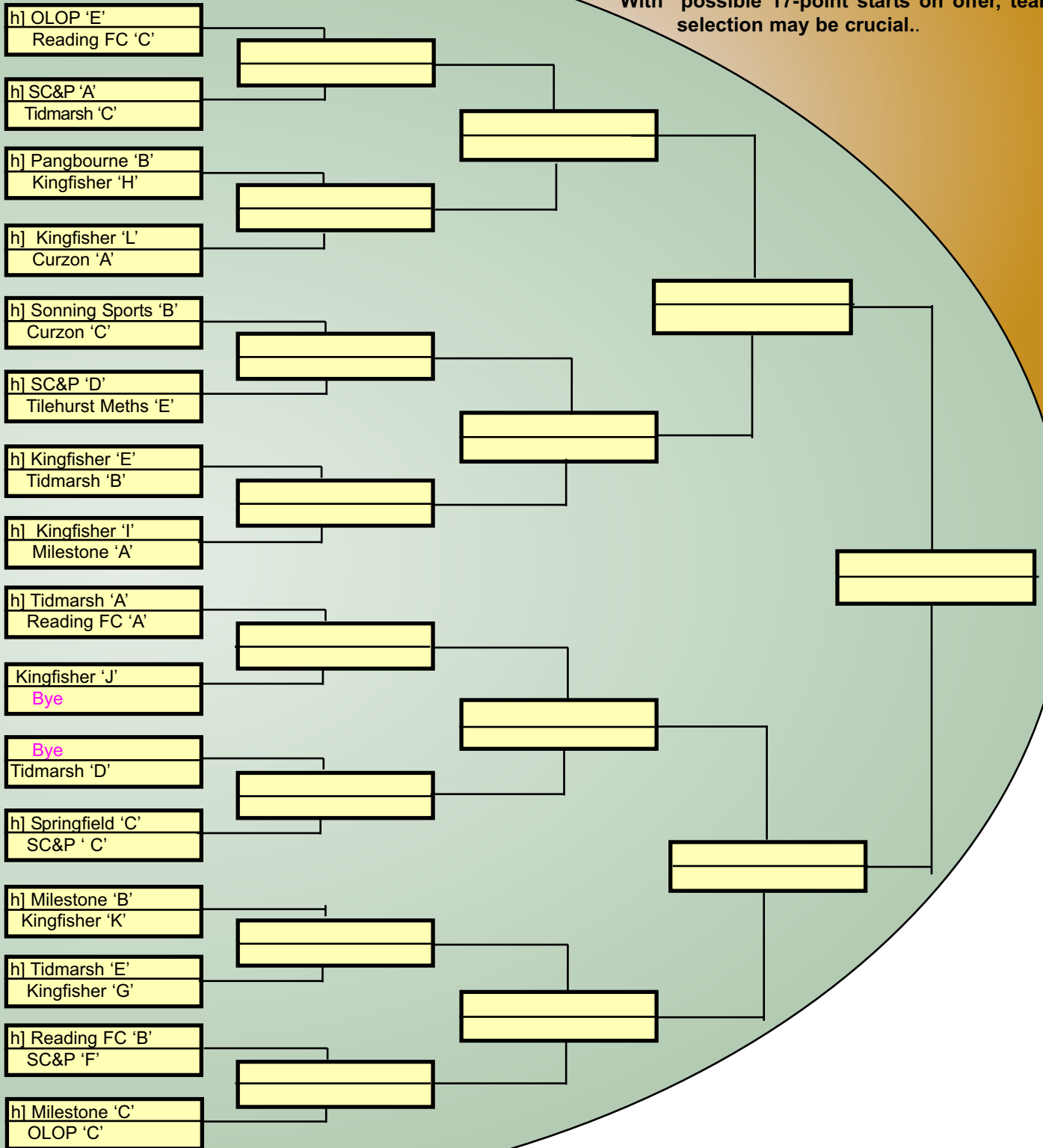
# Team Handicap Competition 2016-17

organised by Ray Webb

Division 5 has the most team entries, three times those from Division 1. All the SC&P teams are made up from two of their league sides, with the 'C' team a Division Two and Five collaboration thereby benefiting from a wide range of handicaps, suggesting team selection could be vital. OLOP 'E' is also a mix, this time from teams in divisions 3 and 4. There are four 'same division' ties and it will be interesting to see how the Handicap differs from the League result.

Most intriguing tie is Tidmarsh 'A' vs Reading FC 'A'.

With possible 17-point starts on offer, team selection may be crucial..





# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



## “Playing into one’s 80s” - part two

Last year we printed a long letter from a reader, Derek Maltby, who took issue with the view that table tennis is an excellent way to keep fit into one’s 80s. 82-year-old Derek wrote:

“Table tennis for me is all about competition, and having not won a game even in division 5 this season I am thinking of giving up after over 60 years of competitive play.”

Following some discussion with all of us, Derek decided to find out whether there is life beyond the League, by trying out the Over-50s Club at the Rivermead Leisure Centre in Caversham - and it soon became a regular part of his week. Here is his report back...

I have not been idle in an attempt to keep fit. I have met a bunch of friendly ladies and gents at the Rivermead Leisure Centre which has a table tennis hall with four tables available for over 50’s on Monday and Friday mornings.

We mostly play a sort a round robin doubles on each table. I guess most of our members are in their 70’s but in spite of aches and pains and the odd recent hip replacement all are very agile and certainly give me the run around. Thank goodness for my tricky serves with yet another new bat. The morning sessions last for three hours starting from nine a.m. although that’s a little early for me. The tables are already put up for us so all we have to do is

play. We have a welcome coffee break at mid-term when we can solve the problems of the world.

I attach a photo of our Rivermead friends taken over a month ago.

When you first arrive you are given a club card. Then the cost per session is £4.20 but for that you can also play short tennis, badminton and have the use of the gymnasium if you wish. You can also register your car and get free parking.

So that’s it and now let the new League season begin. I have agreed to be captain after about a ten year break. Should be a bit easier now nearly everyone is on the email. I might even pick myself to play very occasionally, but beware -

I want to win the odd game this time round.

*Derek Maltby*

The photo on the right is of Derek receiving this year’s Harold Larcombe award for his “excellent sporting demeanour, in victory and defeat, both off and on the table.”



JOHN SETTLE, DAVID PEARSON, TOM ROSS, CAROLE TAYLOR, DEREK MALTBY, MALCOLM TAYLOR, JACKIE SETTLE, GORDON PURDY



## R&DTTA Awards For 2015-2016

On Tuesday 3rd May, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the premises of the Curzon Club.. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Paul Treadgold, our Trophy Secretary, announced the prize-winners, and John Freeman our President presented the prizes.

NB - [blue links](#) show page N° of photo.

### LIST OF AWARDS:

#### READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles **Daniel Moses** [P5](#)  
 Ladies Singles: **Wendy Porter** [P18](#)  
 Mens Doubles: **Daniel Moses & Krasi Ivanov**  
 Ladies Doubles: **(Not run)**  
 Mixed Doubles **Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter** [P5](#)



TROPHY SECRETARY PAUL TREADGOLD WITH  
CHAIRMAN DEREK HARRISON



DANIEL MOSES AND WENDY PORTER

U21 Singles **Harry Munro** [P10](#)  
 U18 Boys Singles **Harry Munro** [P10](#)  
 U15 Boys Singles **Thomas Perkins** [P11](#)  
 U13 Boys Singles **Felix Thomis** [P10](#)  
 U11 Boys Singles **Felix Thomis** [P10](#)  
 Boys Doubles **Harry Munro & Jim McAllister**  
 U15 Girls Singles **Shreeya Gupta** [P5](#)  
 Runner-up **Rishika Desai** [P5](#)  
 Youth Division: **Nathan Munns** [P7](#)  
 Veteran Singles: **Steve Miller**  
 Senior Vet Singles: **Henryk Ciechanowicz**  
 Over 60s Singles: **Allen Pack**  
 Div 1 restricted: **Daniel Moses** [P8](#)  
 Division 2 **Harry Munro** [P10](#)  
 Division 3 **David Joyce** [P7](#)  
 Division 4 **Felix Thomis** [P10](#)  
 Division 5 **Andrew Adair** [P22](#)  
 Porter's Ping Pong Pot **Daniel Moses** [P10](#)



SHREEYA GUPTA

#### CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions: **OLOP 'A'**  
 Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'A'**  
 Division 2 Champions: **SC&P 'B'** [P11](#)  
 Runners-up: **OLOP 'C'**  
 Division 3 Champions: **Kingfisher 'J'** [P12](#)  
 Runners-up: **Tilehurst Meths 'A'**  
 Division 4 Champions: **Tidmarsh 'E'** [P17](#)  
 Runners-up: **Sonning Sports 'A'** [P18](#)



RISHIKA DESAI





TROJANS - JAMIE BARLOW,  
ARRAN REEVE AND ALEX REEVE

Division 5 Champions: **Reading FC / Community Trust**  
 Runners-up: **Tilehurst Meths 'D'** [P21](#)  
 Youth Div 1 winners: **Jaguars** [P24](#)  
 Runners-up: **Strikers**  
 Youth Div 2 Winners: **Trojans** [P6](#)  
 Runners-up: **Spartans**  
 Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner: **Felix Thomis** [P16](#)  
 Evening Post Trophy Winner: **Jim McAllister**  
 John Freeman Trophy Winner: **David Joyce** [P14](#)



NIGEL MALTBY OF SC&P 'B' RECEIVES DIV 2  
CHAMPION'S PRIZE FROM JOHN FREEMAN



READING MASTERS WINNER ETC ETC - DANIEL MOSES



READING CHRONICLE TROPHY  
WINNER FELIX THOMIS



THE PRESENTATION WAS HELD IN THE CURZON CLUB





SC&P 'E' - ANGUS JONES, JOE BARRACLOUGH, THOMAS PERKINS AND ERIC WALKER



JOHN FREEMAN TROPHY WINNER  
DAVID JOYCE

- Team Handicap Winners **SC&P 'E' [P7](#)**
- Runners-up: **SC&P 'D' [P7](#)**
- Lower Divisions Cup winners: **Reading FC / Community Trust**
- Runners-up: **Springfield 'B'**
- Individual Handicap Winner **Joe Barraclough [P11](#)**
- Runner-up: **Luca Bianchi**
- Reading Senior Masters Winner: **Daniel Moses [P8](#)**
- Runner-up: **Martin Gunn**
- Reading Junior Masters Winner: **Yonatan Slobodskoy [P10](#)**
- Runner-up: **Joe Barraclough [P11](#)**
- Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior: **Felix Thomis [P10](#)**
- Best Junior Performance: **Joe Barraclough [P11](#)**
- Alan Dines Memorial Trophy: **Mal Collis [P7](#)**
- Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award: **Derek Maltby [P4](#)**



ALAN DINES MEMORIAL TROPHY WINNER  
MAL COLLIS - WITH KEVIN DINES



SC&P 'D' - MARK JONES, DEREK WAVELL, ANTHONY REEVE AND ALAN MOLLET



NATHAN MUNNS



# DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

**B**onjour. Did you have a good summer? So welcome to yet another season of Top Class Table Tennis in one of the Country's strongest and most competitive Local Leagues. All your old favourites are back. The Banksy predictions that I got so horribly wrong last season – Ouch! and each team's Most Valuable Player (MVP). I know we're getting old now but any League where the

we took 3 from the 4 points that were on offer. Would have been 4/4 if Martin Adams had converted a match point or 2 against Daniel Moses or I had bothered to turn up for the match but wasn't to be and it sets it up nicely for early in the New Year (see rant above). Martin Gunn what can I say. He tried out about 4 different bats over the summer, decided that none of them were a patch on his £5.99 Sports Direct Special and promptly goes 15/15 to top the averages taking out the likes of Moses, Zeng, Hari, Krasi & Organ in the process. Super stuff from the hard hitting, Big Friendly (please feel free to replace "friendly" with any adjective of your choice) Giant from Slough and long may it continue. Martin Adams, so often the main man in this Division, has been in great form this year too especially at National Level – British League & County for example. If you turn up to play us and see both of their names on the scorecard you know they are going to be hard to stop and it will be pivotal to our success to keep them both firing. Oh and did I mention I beat Hari?? Life in the old dog yet hey! 😊 It's a team effort though. Richard has still got the weapons to get results at this level. A well fought maximum from him the other night against tricky opponents proved that and Justin has had commitments elsewhere that have prevented us seeing him as



		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
2	OLOP A	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
3	Kingfisher C	5	3	0	2	33	17	6
4	Kingfisher B	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
5	OLOP B	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
6	SC&P A	5	3	0	2	22	28	6
7	Kingfisher D	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
8	Tidmarsh A	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
9	YMCA	5	0	0	5	13	37	0
10	SC&P B	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

(incredibly) highly rated Mark Banks & Hari Gehlot can lose all 3 singles in a match has to be proper strong right? Trust me on this. So if you've started the season with a few duck eggs to your name then don't worry too much. You're in good company - OK. A few new faces we welcome to D1 this season and a few old faces too. Always good to have fresh blood to test the skills of the Reading stalwarts and some of them have started really well too – more of that later. Other than that we're still down to just 10 teams with 2 teams sitting out each week in order that all Reading Divisions finish at the same time in April – it would have been even less than that had Sonning 'B' not filled the 10th position at the last minute so well done to them for stepping up and giving it another go this season. Oh and by the way, as you know I love a bit of a moan (No way Mark, do you?) And here's my starter for 10.....Why Oh Why did the fixture computer give us KF 'A' vs OLOP 'A' pretty much first game of the season? Agggghhhhhh. It means that in just 10 weeks and when we've hardly had time to let our Christmas Dinners go down we will already know the winners and runners up in a season that finishes not until April. That can't be right can it? Er, can it? Pah! Anyway, don't worry folks, I'll write to the committee on your (my) behalf and see if they can't change that for next season. Sigh. Enjoy the Ping.

Love & Peace x

Top of the shop so far then for much changed (and much improved 😊) **Kingfisher 'A'**. Myself and Martin Gunn have welcomed Messrs Adams, Rosinski and Mead to Kingfisher 'A' with open arms and it's so far so good in our quest to finally wrestle that Div 1 Trophy from OLOP 'A's grasp. Two big games already so early in the season and



DANIEL MOSES



much as we would have liked so far. Look guys, I made the mistake of tipping us to win it last year and look what happened so you won't be getting any such bold predictions off me this time. We're just gonna quietly go about our business and see what happens OK!

**MVP: Martin Gunn - £5.99 bat and he's beating you all and not one of you has asked me the secret of how to beat him!**

**Shame on you!** 🙄

**Banksy Prediction: Nope, I'm not gonna say it. Nope!**

No surprise to see defending Champions **OLOP 'A'** there or thereabouts at the top of the table. It's not all been plain sailing for them though and they've already had more than a scare or two even at this early stage in the season. KFC are probably still wondering even now how they didn't manage to get the win – let alone a point and ended up coming away with nothing from the OLOP Club. Just goes to show the resilience of this team though and that's what Champions are made of. So when he's not phoning me up at 6 am on a Saturday morning asking for Directions to Birmingham 'cos his Sat Nav is broken! Daniel Moses has been once again in great form and a bit like Martin Adams has really been showing it on the National stage too. So much so that he's even had an invite from Table Tennis England to qualify for the World Championships so lofty is his Men's National Ranking these days. Super stuff. Krasi has had a tough run of games at the start of the season

that's a big loss for OLOP 'A'. They'll already probably think that they've been fortunate to have the total points that they have and it will be probably their greatest achievement out of all of their title successes if they manage to win it again this season.

**MVP: Daniel Moses – Hi Mark, How do you get to Birmingham? Er, Daniel, it's 6 a.m. dude !!!**

**Banksy Prediction: Nope, I'm not gonna predict this lot either !Hah !**

Another new look side then is **Kingfisher 'B'** who are obviously going to have a big say also in which way the title is going to go. Leading from the front is Phil Zeng who, despite taking most of the summer off through vacations and injury has started this season bang in form with a career best performance against KFA where only a £5.99 bat and a BFG stopped him contributing the big 4 towards his team's total. Hari bless him is now the official number 2 in the car whenever I give him a lift anywhere. Again, even at the ripe old age of about almost 60 he is still mixing it up with the very best that this and any other League has to offer. Another who has been superb in British League recently. There's definitely a theme here. Newcomer Dmitry has had a tough introduction to D1 picking up 1 from his 6 matches. Trust me he's a handful though so expect him to be climbing the averages in the coming weeks. And nice to see Richard Fifield playing well again at this level with a number of good wins under his belt. So they've already lost to KFA which has probably already dented any faint hopes they had of taking the title but a big match with OLOP 'A' is just around the corner so will be watching with great interest how that one pans out.

**MVP: Phil Zeng– Playing very well is Phil even without his nets**  
**Banksy Prediction: 3rd**

Great to see that **KFC** have reclaimed their KFC name (if you remember we were all flabbergasted when they were given KFD last season) and also great to see former International Player Marco Essomba back playing in Reading after a long break from the game. Understandably it's going to take him a while to get back to anywhere near his best form but there have already been glimpses of the class that he possesses and he'll be an even bigger force than he is already come the 2nd half of the season for sure. Elsewhere Tony, when he can drag himself away from his superb looking retro video games machines is also a player in good form – definitely benefitting from playing through the summer in the Kingfisher Grand Prix Series. Murgy too. Definitely seems up for it this season with a great couple of wins against OLOP 'A' for starters and Parks has done well when coming in to play against a couple of the lower placed sides. Sooooo close then to making a very big statement against OLOP as I say and this side are tough to beat especially with Marco improving with every leg that he plays. Not going to be able to trouble the big 3 in the league standings but I'm predicting they'll get the 4th Champions League spot with relative ease.

**MVP: Marco Essomba – Class Player in his day and not bad now either**

**Banksy Prediction: 4th**

Flying out of the blocks at the start of the season came new look **OLOP 'B'**. A great balance of youth and experi-

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Gunn	Kingfisher A	15	15	100.00
Simon Vine	Kingfisher D	6	6	100.00
Daniel Moses	OLOP A	12	11	91.67
Yonatan Slobodskoy	OLOP B	9	8	88.89
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	12	10	83.33
Philip Zeng	Kingfisher B	12	10	83.33
Andrew Parker	Kingfisher C	6	5	83.33
Richard Rosinski	Kingfisher A	6	5	83.33
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher B	12	9	75.00
Harry Munro	OLOP B	12	9	75.00
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	14	10	71.43
Marco Essomba	Kingfisher C	14	10	71.43
Tony Reynolds	Kingfisher C	10	7	70.00
Ian Cole	OLOP A	12	8	66.67

even so will probably feel that he could have played a bit better by his high standards. It's a tough league as I keep saying but I fully expect him to come good especially with all the practice that he's getting up at the KF Club these days. No Daniel McTiernan this season so it's been up to Ian Cole to step up a level and become a regular fixture in the side. And step up he has. Full of confidence, not missing too many serves for once, it's all coming together for Ian and he's playing really well. Probably the best he ever has. Again, a good British League performance from him too. Nice to see. Ed makes up the quartet and will definitely do a good job with that quirky style of his and dastardly pimples. I think if Daniel Mc is not available this season then



YONATAN SLOBODSKOY

ence in this team with the classy Steve Miller mentoring equally classy looking Harry and Yonatan who have made the transition from youth to senior with a bang. Yonatan in particular with a great maximum vs a strong Tidmarsh. As I say they started off the first 3 or 4 with a 100% record but then a bad injury coupled with unfortunate personal circumstances has sadly put the brakes on their charge for a



HARRY MUNRO

bit and lack of back up resource is a shame. Definitely going to be a handful this lot though when they're back up and running again. I like the look of them and they'll be definitely claiming one or two more big scalps along the way for sure.

**MVP: Yonatan Slobodskoy– Not just one for the future – one for the present!**

**Banksy Prediction: 5th**

Going rather well too have been **Kingfisher 'D'** who have the services of a new (old) face you may not be familiar with - superb veteran Simon Vine to call on. It's hard to work out just what Simon's role is going to be for KFD. At time of going to press he's turned out twice against I guess at what you would call KFD's rivals for relegation and his 2 comfortable maximums have been the difference on the night to already even at this early stage probably put KFD safe. Is his job done? Or will he want to test himself against the very best this Division has to offer? Time will tell but at the moment as I say it's job done thank you very much! Rob has already proved that he will win games at this level and will play a good supporting role for Simon if required. Calin has already taken out the likes of Murgy so can obviously be a handful too on his day and Phil steps into this team from Curzon and I like that move to guarantee him D1 TT. And what about my good friend Trevor Organ? Still loves to punch the air and celebrate winning a point in the knock up. Go On Trev!! Haha. Anyway, safe already as I say so they can just go out and enjoy themselves. They have a freeroll at it.

**MVP: Simon Vine. Job done Simon or are you gonna mix it with the big boys?**

**Banksy Prediction: 7th**



ALSO ON THE BOOKS OF OLOP 'B' - FELIX THOMIS



Bit like KFD you can pretty much say already that it's job done for **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'**. They've already won the derby match and beaten YMCA too and the word on the street is that 4 points will be enough to survive this season so again er, job done go enjoy your freeroll fellas. Looks like they've swapped a couple of very old ones (Keith & Malcolm) for a couple of very young ones (Joe & Thomas) and like OLOP 'B' it's just



THOMAS PERKINS

brilliant to see youth given a chance. And they've done OK too in the couple of matches that they've been involved in. In particular I received very good reports about Thomas from YMCA for his performance and composure in that particular match and Joe is a good friend of mine so I know all about his rise to the top and pleasingly he's improving all



JOE BARRACLOUGH

the time. The 2 stars of this side continue to be a couple of old veterans in Gary and Jason. Gary in particular has had another strong start to the season – remember those match points against Moses last year? No? Well you do now 😊 Jason seems to have been playing in this literally for ever. I can't remember a season without him. Still wins the odd one too haha. So rather like Steve over at OLOP the two juniors will definitely benefit from the experience that Jason and Gary bring to the party. And I like that.

**MVP: Gary Morgan. OK, that's the last time I'll mention it – Promise 😊**

**Banksy Prediction: 8th**

OK so a rather lowly position as I write but the fixture computer hasn't been kind to **Tidmarsh 'A'** and they are just way too good to be down there for long and I fully expect them to recover to mid-table by Xmas. Great to see the Ricks Bruvvas back and fit. Sam missed much of last season with a shoulder injury and has taken a while to recover but he's back now and will only get better as the season goes on. Danny has been thrown into some

tough matches so is also sitting on a false average and will be up around the 40%-50% mark if he plays a few of the not so tough teams. Csaba finished last season as probably the most improved player on the circuit. Hasn't quite hit those dizzy heights as yet this season but there are signs that he's on his way back and is obviously a proper player on his day. Duncan and Squirrel haven't been that active as yet but it's early days and these boys are a good team mark my words. There may be a week when I don't have to chase the scorecard too. Maybe. 😊

**MVP: Csaba Pall – Slow start but now starting to look like the player we remember**

**Banksy Prediction: 6th**

All too familiar territory then for everybody's favourite 2nd team **YMCA**. Fortunate to retain their D1 place after relegation last year they are once again in the lower reaches having played 5 and lost 5 without really looking like troubling the League Table compiler. That said individually there is a story to tell. Neil Hurford. In brilliant form once again and almost singlehandedly doing his best to win them a point. Great stuff Neil. Nice to see. To date Peter and Dave G haven't been able to find that elusive first victory – not for want of trying though and both have gone close. Peter especially just missing out in a titanic battle against Sonning. My old sparring partner Dave Halfpenny has chipped in with a couple but this side has really missed a fully fit David Streak for a few seasons now and it's beginning to tell. Still enjoying themselves these guys though. Still giving it their all and I hope that first point comes for them soon. When are they playing Sonning 'B'?

**MVP: Neil Hurford – Still got it has our Neil**

**Banksy Prediction: 9th**

And not unexpectedly bringing up the rear we have Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' who as I said before were last minute inclusions and fair play to them for taking up the challenge and giving it a go this season. Actually I have to say the fixture computer hasn't been very kind to Sonning 'B' either with both KFA and OLOP 'A' in their first 4 matches and they will find it slightly easier than the start that they have had as the season progresses. Jeremy Willis was a very good junior and is a proven winner in D1 and is already off the mark and running this season good for him. Unfortunately he's the only one so far however and Nigel, Brian, Danny and new recruit Niall will be doing their best to make sure he's not the only one when I come to write this piece again for the Xmas edition. Good luck guys!

**MVP: Jeremy Willis – Classy Junior was this one**

**Banksy Prediction: 10th**



NIGEL MALTBY & JEREMY WILLIS



# DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

**H**ere we go again, welcome to the 2016/2017 season. Since I'm writing this report it already means we're a quarter of the way through. At the moment last season's division three champions, Kingfisher 'G' lead the way, closely followed by the only team with a 100% record, Kingfisher 'F'. Then come Curzon Club 'A' and OLOP 'C' who were both relegated last season but after that only one point separates the bottom seven teams. The tightness of the division is underlined by the stat that there aren't any 100% playing averages other than those who have only played one match and I'm sure I haven't come across that before in the years of being a DFS. Enjoy the second quarter of the season...

**Kingfisher 'G'** have taken the division by storm since promotion last season, they have only dropped one point in their first five matches and they lead the way at the moment. The four wins have come against Sonning C & P 'D' as Melvyn Lovegrove led the way with a maximum in the 7 – 3 win, the next match was an 8 – 2 victory over Tilehurst Meths 'A' where this time both David Joyce and Sagar Sawant were the maximum makers. The third match was the only blot on the landscape where it took a Steve Ng treble to rescue a point against Curzon Club 'A', the best win was the 11–1, 11–8, 12–10 one over Jon Willis. They got back to winning ways in week 4 with a 6 – 4 win over OLOP 'C' and then the last match of the quarter was the 7 – 3 defeat of Pangbourne WMC 'A'.

**Team stat: have the most man of the match awards (4)**

**Player stat: Sagar Sawant has the most 3-1 wins (6), David Joyce has been involved in the second most five-gamers (7), Melvyn Lovegrove has won**

**four of his five sets 3 - 1 and Steve Ng: none of his seven wins have been 3 - 2. Doubles: 3/5 60%**

**Kingfisher 'F'** should be there or thereabouts come the reckoning next Spring (something I hope from the mighty Wolves too 😊) as their squad looks to be one of the best. Kingfisher 'F' are the only team still to have a 100% win record after the first six rounds, having won four out of four so far. In their first match of the season they entertained Kingfisher 'E' and thanks to three from Allan Bruton, two from Nigel Keedy and one from Rick Leachman they got the bragging rights with a 7 – 3 win. The dependable Ivor Hardman played his first set in the comprehensive 8 – 2 defeat of OLOP 'C', other victors on the night were Allan and Rick with two each. In week 4 they travelled to Tidmarsh and three from Nigel and two each from Ivor and Rick saw them home by the 8 – 2 scoreline. Sonning C & P 'E' proved to be their toughest challenge to date, in what could be a potential championship decider in the return fixture next year. Nigel returned with his second successive maximum with wins over Niall McGrane 11–7, 11–5, 12–10 then Malcolm Gregory 12–10, 11–8, 8–11, 14–12 and finally Lisa Williams 11–6, 11–7, 11–13, 11–7. Ivor won two as they finally ran out narrow 6 – 4 victors.

**Team stat: have won 8 - 2 on the most occasions (2)**

**Player stat: Allan Bruton has won all of his sets**



KINGFISHER 'G' - JOHN UPHAM, DAVID JOYCE, MELVYN LOVEGROVE, LUCA BIANCHI AND KRYS SZCZYGIEL



at home (3/3), Nigel Keedy has won seven of his eight sets by the 3 - 0 or 3 - 1 scoreline, Rick Leachman has won the joint most braces (3) and Ivor Hardman has won six of his seven sets by the 3 - 0 scoreline.

**Doubles: 3/4 75%**

**Curzon Club 'A'** lie third, will they bounce back at the first time of asking, that all depends on squad availability and form. In week 1 they hosted newly promoted Tilehurst Meths 'A' where Jon Willis and John Willcocks both won three each, and Nick Lean supported with a good win over Nigel Rowland. I couldn't quite believe the result of the week 2 encounter with OLOP 'C' as John Willcocks lost all three (not sure if that's a first in recent division 2 seasons for him), the only winner on the night was Jon Willis as he won two, one of which was a 12-14, 11-7, 12-10, 11-9 win over Chris West. Nick was unlucky to lose all three, especially the one to Chris as he lost 8-11 in the fifth. They became the first team to halt the winning streak of Kingfisher 'G' as braces for John & Jon plus the doubles got them back on the points winning way. It was good to see Richard Woolven-Allen (a fellow Wolves fan) back playing table tennis after a spell away but unfortunately he appeared to be a bit rusty. Jon won three and Nick two in the tight 6 - 4 win over Pangbourne WMC 'A', this match also saw Carine Bey play her first match in division two, not quite the dream debut but some excellent performances against Simon Hopkins and George White. Jon made it three maximums for the season in the 6 - 4 victory over Sonning C & P 'C'.

**Team stat: have the best doubles record 4/5 80%**

**Player stat: Nick Lean has yet to win any of his four sets 3 - 0, Jon Willis has won all six of the sets that have gone to four games and John Willcocks' only maximum so far has come at home.**

**Doubles: 4/5 80%**

**OLOP 'C'** have had a mixed start with two wins, two draws and two losses from their six matches, they too should be in the mix for promotion. The two wins have come against Curzon Club 'A' (8 - 2) and Pangbourne WMC 'A' (6 - 4), the two draws were against Kingfisher 'E' and Tidmarsh 'B' whilst the defeats were against the top two teams thus far. Clive Perry leads their team averages with 75% having won two maximums against Curzon & Pangbourne. Dan West has had a good season so far as he has picked up games in all of the five matches he has played in, his only maximum came in the 4 - 6 defeat to Kingfisher 'G' where he had three really tough sets with Steve Ng (6-11, 11-6, 6-11, 13-11, 11-3) and David Joyce (3-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-9, 11-5). Ziko Jerzmanski started the season well with braces in his two opening matches but against the two top teams he wasn't quite so successful.

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher F	6	6	0	0	42	18	12
2	Kingfisher G	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
3	Curzon A	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
4	OLOP C	6	2	2	2	30	30	6
5	SC&P E	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
6	SC&P C	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
7	SC&P D	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
8	Pangbourne A	6	1	1	4	29	31	3
9	Kingfisher E	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
10	Tidmarsh B	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
11	Tilehurst Meths A	5	1	1	3	20	30	3

**Team stat: have the most draws (2)**

**Player stat: Dan West has won the most sets by the 3 - 2 scoreline (5), Ziko Jerzmanski has had results in pairs, two braces followed by two ducks, Chris West has yet to be involved in a three-gamer and Clive Perry has recorded maximums in both OLOP's wins.**

**Doubles: 4/6 67%**

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** are fifth and looking a safe bet for a mid table finish, they have the capability of beating the fancied teams if things go their way. They opened the campaign with a trip to Tidmarsh 'B' and although Matt Stone won two which included the prize scalp of yours truly 12-10 in the fifth they fell to a 6 - 4 defeat. Danny Dockree and Jon Abbott won one each, although Danny did lose 17-19 in the fifth to Dave Wise. In week 3 they came up against a depleted Sonning C & P 'E' team whereby thanks to two from Danny, one was an 11-7, 11-8, 6-11, 11-9 win over Niall McGrane and one each from Matt and Jon they ran out 7 - 3 winners. Tim Raby made his season debut in the 3 - 7 defeat to Sonning C & P 'D' and he won one against Alan Mollett, Danny was the only other winner on the night with two. A trio of braces from Tim, Matt and Danny saw them to a 6 - 4 win over Tilehurst Meths 'A' with Matt being man of the match as two of his were in straight games.

**Team stat: have used the joint fewest players (4)**

**Player stat: Matt Stone has won over half his sets 3 - 0, Jon Abbott has yet to win more than one match 3 - 0, 3 - 1 or 3 - 2. Danny Dockree has won five of his seven sets 3 - 2 and Tim Raby has a 100% better home average than away.**

**Doubles: 0/5 0%**

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** should be a lot higher than sixth and they were my tip for promotion when the squads were revealed but things haven't started well for them, probably as a result of the now "annual Barry curse" whereby my tip always seem to go awry. It all started so well as both Niall McGrane and Lisa Williams won three each in the 7 - 3 win over Pangbourne WMC 'A' but then squad availability seemed to be difficult as they only fielded two in the 3 - 7 defeat to their clubmates in the 'C' team.

Week 5 saw them return to their old stomping ground to take on the leaders Kingfisher 'F', Lisa was the star with two good wins over Ivor Hardman 11-6, 11-5, 7-11, 11-8 and Rick Leachman 14-12, 11-3, 5-11, 12-10 plus there was one each for Niall and Malcolm Gregory. Malcolm got his first treble and Niall his second of the season in the 7 - 3 win over Tidmarsh 'B' but Carole despite taking Simon to four is still searching for her first.

**Team stat: have the won the joint most matches 7 - 3 (2)**

**Player stat: Niall McGrane has achieved both his maximums at home, Lisa Williams has yet to have a five-gamer, Malcolm Gregory has been involved in six four-gamers and Carol Chard has yet to play in a five-gamer.**

**Doubles: 3/4 75%**

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'** have started

well, the availability of Andrew Grant-Robertson could be important in their survival hopes but it's so far, so good for them at the moment. In their first match of the season they took on promoted Kingfisher 'G' and although Alan Mollett overcame David Joyce 11-9, 8-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8 in the first set of the evening they soon found themselves 1 - 4 down. Andrew then beat Sagar Sawant 8-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 16-14 to make it 2 - 4 and then in set ten he also beat David Joyce 7-11, 12-10, 11-9, 11-9 to end the evening with two but on the losing side 3 - 7. The first win of the season came at the third time of asking as a treble from Andrew, two from Mark

Jones and one from Alan saw them to a 7 - 3 win over Sonning C & P 'C'. They did make it two wins in a row with a good and surprising 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'E' as once again Andrew won three and also his third MoM award, Anthony Reeve two and Mark Jones one, which saw them to maximum points.

**Team stat: have won both their matches by the 7 - 3 scoreline**

**Player stat: Alan Mollett has won both his sets 3 - 2, Andy Grant-Robertson has the most man of the match awards (3), Anthony Reeve has yet to win a set 3 - 0 and Mark Jones has won two of his three sets 3 - 1.**

**Doubles: 2/4 50%**

**Pangbourne WMC 'A'** find themselves level bottom on three points but have played a match more than their fellow three-pointers. It could be a tricky season for them and the threat of relegation could be real this time around. Their only win to date, is also the only 10 - 0 win recorded this season, it came in week 2 against Sonning C & P 'D' whereby the trio of John Simmonds, Denise Weller and George White all went home rather pleased. They all had to work hard in at least one set as one went to five. The only other point gained so far came in the draw with Tilehurst Meths 'A' as it needed a John Simmonds 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 4-11, 11-7 set ten win over Phil Jones to bring it to 5 - 5. Earlier Simon Hopkins had won two against Nigel Rowland and Phil to make it 2 - 2. George won the other one as he overcame Phil 4-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-8. The four defeats have come in the form of 2 x 3 - 7 and

2 x 4 - 6. In the 3 - 7 variety they lost to Sonning C & P 'E' where John, Simon & Denise all won one and to Kingfisher 'G' where the winners were John and Denise as they both beat David Joyce. The 4 - 6 defeats came against Curzon Club 'A' as John defeated Nick Lean and Carine Bey whilst there were singles for George and Simon. It was Denise's turn to win two in the 4 - 6 loss to OLOP 'C' with John and Simon adding one.

**Team stat: only team to have won a match 10 - 0**

**Player stat: John Simmonds has played in all six matches, Simon Hopkins has won all four of his sets 3 - 1, Denise**

**Weller has won four of her five sets 3-0 and George White's maximum came away from home.**

**Doubles: 3/6 50%**

**Kingfisher 'E'** are suffering an injury crisis with both seasoned pros Roger Woolven-Allen and Colin Dyke unavailable but John Morris has returned and has played well, the attacking contrast between Grant Wheatley and Luca Bianchi might be enough to keep them in touch with the other teams around them whilst they await the return of Roger and Colin. The season opener against OLOP 'C' ended in a 5 - 5 draw as Grant Wheatley won all three and Luca Bianchi and Roger Woolven-Allen one each. In their second match against Kingfisher 'F', Grant had a very good win over Nigel Keedy 11-7, 11-6,



DAVID JOYCE



11-9 and Luca out-fought Rick Leachman 5-11, 11-5, 11-3, 11-5, they then teamed up to win the doubles but lost 3 - 7 in the end. The best result of the season came against Tidmarsh 'B' as they steamrolled us in the first six sets to lead 6 - 0 as John Morris beat Mike Aistrop and John Golding, Grant beat me and Mike and finally Luca beat me and John, however they did lose the next four to only win 6 - 4 and they haven't won a point since. The two losses were both 3 - 7 to Sonning C & P 'D' with Grant winning two and Tilehurst Meths 'A' where John won three.

**Team stat: have won all their points at home**

**Player stat: Luca Bianchi has won three of his four sets 3 - 11, Grant Wheatley**

**Player stat: Barry Carter has yet to win a match 3 - 2, Mike Aistrop has won all four of his seats at home and John Golding has yet to win a set 3-1.**

**Doubles: 2/5 40%**

**Tilehurst Meths 'A'** are also only in a relegation spot on alphabetical order; having been promoted last season they acquired the services of Peter Galea for an undisclosed fee from Tidmarsh. I think they will do well to avoid the drop but these words could come back to haunt me as we travel there on Monday week for the first four-pointer of the season. I'm hoping the contract signed with Peter means he is unavailable for Tidmarsh matches .

Their only win came in week 6 with a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'E', Nigel Rowland won his second brace of the season with wins over Gwynne Penny and Grant. Phil Jones made it four wins from six with victories over Gwynne and Grant. Cath Venning picked up two with the same combination of wins. The other point they have gained was in week 3 against Pangbourne WMC 'A' as Peter Galea became man of the match with a maximum, although John Simmonds ran him very close before Peter won 3-11, 11-7, 11-4, 6-11, 14-12. Nigel had good wins over John (also in five) and George White 11-7, 11-9, 11-7.

**Team stat: haven't lost when Nigel Rowland has won two.**

**Player stat: Nigel Rowland has a 50% five-game win rate, Cath Venning has won at least a set in all the matches she has played, Peter Galea has yet to lose a set 0-3 and Phil Jones has been involved in the most five-gamers (8).**

**Doubles: 2/5 40%**

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Dom Cutter (S)	Tidmarsh B	3	3	100.00
Dave Wise	Tidmarsh B	3	3	100.00
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher F	12	11	91.67
Jon Willis	Curzon Club A	15	13	86.67
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher F	12	10	83.33
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher G	12	10	83.33
Steve Ng	Kingfisher G	9	7	77.78
Lisa Williams	SC&P E	9	7	77.78
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher F	12	9	75.00
Clive Perry	OLOP C	12	9	75.00
Andrew G Robertson	SC&P D	12	9	75.00

**Tidmarsh 'B'** find ourselves in a relegation place albeit on alphabetical order as we have only won one of our first five matches. I don't think we will match our third placed finish of last season but I also don't think, hope, we'll finish tenth or below. We started the season at home with a 6 - 4 win over Sonning C & P 'C', Dave Wise won all three and I chipped in with two and my usual loss to Matt Stone although this time I did take him to five. I've mentioned our next match against Kingfisher 'E' above, but we did well to rescue a 4 - 6 fingernail-biter after being 0 - 6 down. John enjoyed his win over Grant 4-11, 11-4, 11-5, 7-11, 11-4 and then Mike defeated Luca 11-6, 11-9, 8-11, 13-15, 11-8 and at the same time I overcame a tired John Morris 6-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-8 to bring some respectability to the score. John was the only winner in the 2 - 8 defeat to Kingfisher 'F' as he beat both Ivor and Rick. François came close to beating Rick but lost 6-11 in the fourth whilst Mike took both Rick and Nigel to five but succumbed 8-11 and 11-13 respectively. Our only other point was a well earned draw at OLOP 'C' thanks to three from Dom Cutter (back with us after a season at university) and two from Mike, although John was mighty unlucky as he lost all three in five.

**Team stat: have used the most players (7)**

I think that's about all from me for this episode apart from to say remember to add the doubles pairings on the scorecard and check the accuracy of the results. I've had cards with it ending 2 - 2 rather than 1 - 3 or 3 - 1. I'll try and put them up on the website as soon as I receive them but please don't badger me as there will be a reason why I haven't. I'm trying to come up with different ways of reporting the results in the newsletter so feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions and I'll give it a go.

**Stop Press:**

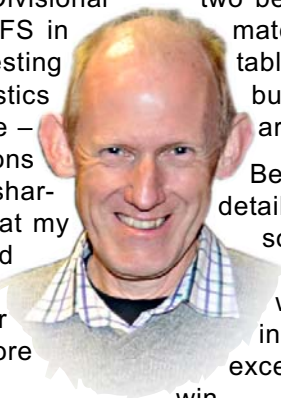
**Kingfisher 'F' beat Sonning C & P 'D' to go top of the table with five wins out of five.**



# DIVISION THREE

by Bob Woodmansee

Welcome to the first newsletter report of a new season – and to my first report as a Divisional Secretary since a brief stint as a DFS in the 1980's. I will try to make my reports interesting and not just a re-hash of the scores and statistics which you can all read on the League website – but, in order to do this, I need your contributions please – any angle you feel might be worth sharing with the wider readership. Just to add that my complete summary of each week's action and results in Division 3 usually appears on the League website each Sunday evening (under 'News' – 'Press Reports') and is obviously more current than the newsletter.



And so to the action – and, wow, what an interesting and competitive Division we have! To date, of the 29 matches played, 15 have finished either 5 - 5 or 6 - 4. And it must be extremely rare in League history for every team in a Division to lose at least one match during just the first five weeks of the season – plus only one of the eleven teams is yet to register a win. Of course, it is fashionable for each DFS to predict the likely promotion and relegation places at this stage of the season – but, after six weeks of twists and turns, it

the way – but a whole clutch of teams are just a point or two behind them and most of these have played a match less than the leaders. At the bottom of the table Tilehurst Methodists 'C' are still winless – but, as I saw at first hand a few weeks ago, they are definitely not a team to be taken lightly!

Before looking at the individual teams in more detail, I thought I'd start with a few nominations for some awards and sundry 'bests' – do feel free to respond with suggestions of your own, where appropriate (naturally I am not nominating Sonning Sports for awards in any category except the last one – but if you feel that we should win..... well, I'll leave that up to you!). I've only played in 4 matches this season so my personal range of potential candidates is limited – so please let me have some more nominations – then I'll adjudicate!!

**Best win (team):** OLOP 'D' - 8 – 2 v Tidmarsh 'C'

**Best win (individual):** Ludovic Couillard v Dave Sheppard 11-5, 9-11, 11-4, 11-5

**Best win by a reserve playing-up:** Pradeep Desh v Chris Webb 11-4, 14-12, 11-4

**Biggest deuce (singles):** 17-15 - Eric Holmes v Joaquin Munoz Sabater; Masoud Ghabachi v Adam Sheen; Alistair Richardson v Chris Dexter

**Best comeback wins (singles)** (i.e. from 2 games down): Adam Sheen (twice), Dave Chard, Paul Treadgold, Eddie Cripps, Phil Burke, Jarek Chmeiloweic, Steve Woolnough, Dave Duncan, Alistair Richardson (once each)

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

**Best doubles record** (3 or more sets to qualify): 100% - J Sabater & N Wedi (4/4); J Chmeiloweic & W Ma (3/3)

**Most sporting opponent:** Mike Williams (Tilehurst Meths 'C')

**Best venue:** Tidmarsh (the hall, not the pub!)

**Best 'half-time' refreshments:** Tilehurst Methodists 'C' – plenty of milk in the tea - plus chocolate Hobnobs!

**Worst net:** Now, come on Martin – you didn't really think I would, did you?!

**Cheapest team:** 4 shillings (20 pence) - Sonning Sports at Tidmarsh (The team consisted of 2 Bobs and a Florin!). There's a further explanation of this later – and if you're too young to know what a 'Florin' is (or a 'Bob', for that matter) ask your Dad!!

**Pangbourne WMC 'B'** sit at the top of the table – their only defeat at Tilehurst Meths 'B' came when Ray Webb missed his only match so far. Ray has won 11 out of 15 but, surprisingly, lost two in their exciting drawn match with Milestone to leave Clive Taylor as clearly their number 1 ranked player with 10 wins out of 12 after a great treble against Milestone. As for Leroy Wilson it's a case

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Pangbourne B	6	3	2	1	33	27	8
2 Tidmarsh C	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
3 Springfield A	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
4 Kingfisher H	6	3	0	3	30	30	6
5 Milestone A	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
6 Kingfisher J	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
7 Kingfisher I	6	2	1	3	32	28	5
8 Sonning Sports A	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
9 Tilehurst Meths B	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
10 OLOP D	5	1	1	3	24	26	3
11 TilehurstMeths C	6	0	1	5	15	45	1

would take a braver man than me to do this – yes, I confess – “I haven't got a Scooby!”

As ever - with a number of large squads and, consequently, plenty of 'rotation policies' in place, team selection is proving to be a huge factor in many of the results. Now, I might be talking out of turn here but there was a time when tactical team selections meant playing your strongest team in the toughest matches – but I can definitely see an opposite trend developing here – is it a case of some teams not wanting to go up, I wonder!?

And I have a question – “Where have all the ladies gone?” Of the 51 players registered in Division 3 this season, only 3 are female! ‘Well done’ to Carol Byers, Theresa Watson & Wendy Porter for flying the female flag – but where are the rest of you!?

Anyway – Pangbourne WMC 'B' are currently leading



of “Which Leroy will turn up tonight!?” Leroy has had two maximums and one duck to date. Eddie Cripps looks to be struggling for his best form but a great comeback win against Eric Holmes proved the old adage that ‘form is

Peter Bennet’s great win against Ian Cockling 2-11, 13-11, 9-11, 11-8, 11-4 and Jarek’s nice double against Kingfisher ‘I’.



TIDMARSH ‘C’ - DAVID SHEPPARD AND THERESA WATSON

temporary, class is permanent! I just hope you’re not saving your best form for us, Eddie!

**Tidmarsh ‘C’** were unbeaten Division 4 Champions last season – and have started this season where they left off last year with wins over Kingfisher ‘H’, Sonning Sports and Tilehurst Meths ‘C’ and a draw against Springfield – Dave Sheppard leading the way with 11 wins out of 12 then Simon Barter with 7 out of 9. Chris Webb also started well but then had a most unexpected duck at OLOP – a match which cost Tidmarsh their unbeaten record – both teams playing a reserve – Tidmarsh’s John Little earning his corn with a single win. Captain Theresa has also played her part with a single win in each of her three matches to date.

**Springfield ‘A’** will, as usual look to Phil Burke for inspiration and probably for three sets in most matches. In the two matches Phil missed, two points were dropped against Sonning Sports and one against Tidmarsh. Since then three straight wins have elevated them to 3rd spot – but all the matches have been close and the contribution of the rest of the squad will be key. Fortunately both Adam and Ludovic are playing well and are averaging near the 50% mark whilst Seth has also had a couple of single wins. Ludo’s record is probably the most confusing – a number of really notable scalps including Dave Sheppard, Dave Chard and Simon Barter – but losing at least three encounters I would have expected him to win.

**Kingfisher ‘H’** have had mixed fortunes in their six matches with 3 wins and 3 defeats. Willis Ma is the key to their fortunes with 10 wins out of 11 – losing only to Ian Cockling. Two of the team’s 3 defeats have come when Willis has been ‘rested’ and with no other squad member topping 50% in the averages, plus Willis and Jarek still boasting a 100% doubles record, it is clear what the team has to do in order to remain serious promotion contenders. Worthy of a special mention are

**Milestone ‘A’** have two very good players in Arun (83%) and Chris (73%) – but have not been able to find a consistent regular number 3 player – having used six players in total so far already. Zoltan Kelemen (playing up from Division 4) looks a very useful player and contributed a good double against Kingfisher ‘J’ – but it was all in vain as the team fell to their first defeat (4 – 6), having previously beaten both the Tilehurst sides and picked up a point against Kingfisher ‘I’. Newcomer Viliam Andrascik certainly impressed the Tilehurst Meths’ players with the speed of his shots – many passing them before they could react – apparently subsequent reports that he had broken the sound barrier were dispelled when the accompanying noise was identified as thunder! Most recently an exciting draw at Pangbourne in which Arun and Chris both got doubles kept Milestone very much in the hunt for the two promotion places.

**Kingfisher ‘J’** (aka ‘The Weathermen’) started with three straight wins against Kingfisher ‘I’, Tilehurst ‘B’ and Milestone and were the surprise early season leaders before coming unstuck against Pangbourne. Then they could only field two players against their ‘H’ team

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Philip Burke	Springfield A	9	9	100.00
Lee Calcutt (S)	Tidmarsh C	3	3	100.00
David Sheppard	Tidmarsh C	12	11	91.67
Willis Ma	Kingfisher H	11	10	90.91
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne B	12	10	83.33
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone A	12	10	83.33
Ian Cockling	Tilehurst Meths B	6	5	83.33
Keith Machin	Sonning Sports A	6	5	83.33
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh C	9	7	77.78
Ray Webb	Pangbourne B	15	11	73.33
Christopher Collins	Milestone A	15	11	73.33
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher I	15	10	66.67
Steven Woolnough	Kingfisher I	15	10	66.67
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher J	12	8	66.67

and, despite a good double from Joaquin, fell to a 2 – 8 defeat. Nils leads the team averages and includes Chris Collins amongst his scalps but Nils, Joaquin and Gabor are all averaging in the 44% to 66% range which, subject to availability, should be good enough for mid-table but probably not quite enough for a top two finish. “Prove me wrong, guys!”

**Kingfisher ‘I’** – like Tilehurst Methodists ‘C’ the week before, chose Sonning Sports to deliver their best performance of the season (“Was it something I said, guys!?”) and came away with a 9 – 1 win – Eric Holmes and Steve Woolnough hitting maximums and ‘Dastardly’ Dave Duncan a good double. Prior to this, 3 defeats and a draw in their opening 5 matches had, surprisingly, seen the team falsely occupying one of the relegation places. Eric, Steve and Carol are all averaging 66.67%

which suggests an upper mid-table season although, in such a tight division, they could yet mount a promotion challenge. Eric played as well as I've seen him play during our meeting at Sonning but had a rare duck in an earlier match at Pangbourne – which he said featured his first ever career loss to Clive, his first ever career loss to Ray and his first loss to Eddie since he was a Division 1/2 player some years ago! Mind you, there were extenuating circumstances - he blamed his wife for causing him to bash his head on the stairs earlier in the day, causing him mild concussion!

**Sonning Sports 'A'** are, as usual, the model of incon-



SONNING SPORTS 'A' - KEITH MACHIN, BOB SNELLGROVE AND BOB WOODMANSEE

sistency – as befitting a team which has shared the past 8 seasons almost equally between Divisions 2, 3 & 4!! Further evidence of our inconsistency was Bob Snellgrove's start to the season – two ducks followed by a fine maximum which earned us a barely deserved point at Tilehurst Meths 'C' and then another duck! Keith Machin has been in great form in his two matches – 5 wins out of 6 – including a hat-trick against his former club – Springfield (minus Phil Burke) in our 6 – 4 win. At Tidmarsh, we had to call on the services of reserve Florin Dimofte (see 'Cheapest Team' above) – and he didn't let us down – winning one and combining with me to win the doubles – but we still lost 4 - 6. Our best win was against OLOP – when we welcomed Chris Dexter to the fold – and he had a nice double on his debut in our 7-3 win. Most recently a 1 – 9 thumping against Kingfisher 'I' has left us on the fringe of the relegation battle, yet only 3 points off top spot! And, finally, a little landmark for us – this will be the 30th consecutive season in which Dave Chard, Nigel Goodman and I have played together in the Reading League – we just have to get Nigel up from his new home in Devon for at least one match to complete the sequence!

**Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** are currently 9th – but, with 2 matches in hand on the leaders, they could actually go joint top if they win them both! With only 4 matches played, it's even harder to predict this team's fate – defeats by Kingfisher 'J' and Milestone were followed by wins over Pangbourne and



WENDY PORTER OF OLOP 'D'

Kingfisher 'H' - and they've yet to play any of the teams currently in the bottom half of the table. Happily, Ian was given a clean bill of health following a recent scare – and he will be very important in the rest of the season – to date he has won 5 out of 6 including Willis Ma and Clive Taylor. With Nick Barnes still not fit, Jes Eassom (58%) and John Virgo (50%) are the other regulars in a squad which will give every opposing team a tough match – in fact, Jes's recent 'transfer' from Birch Copse seems to have rejuvenated him as a player – he's been in great form – his wins including Arun Rajagopal. Having played John many times over the years, I know that he's another 'which John will turn up on the night!?' - some really good wins including Chris Collins but, John, you and I both know that the next unexpected loss is never too far away!

**OLOP 'D'** are another team who I wouldn't have expected to be relegation candidates. Whilst it is only fair to note that the opening five weeks of the season have included meetings with all of the current top four teams, a return of just one point from their opening four matches was a very disappointing one. Then a great 8 – 2 win over Tidmarsh 'C' gave them their first win – a match in which both teams played a reserve – and, of these, Pradeep Desh stole the show with a win over Chris Webb. Captain and ever-present Ali Richardson seems to be finding his form after a slow start and has 7 wins from his last 9 outings - and ran Phil Burke very close (only losing 8-11 in the fifth). He also had an epic battle with Willis Ma – he was leading 2 games to 1 and 10-4 in the fourth game but allowed Willis to save seven match points in a row – before losing 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-13, 9-11. And whilst Dave Godfrey leads the way in the averages with 66%, he has only played in 3 matches. Wendy started her season in great style with a win over Ray Webb – but, since then, her form has dipped somewhat although she has just been on the wrong end of some very tight matches – losing in the fifth to Clive Taylor (12-14), me (11-13) and Chris Dexter (8-11).

**Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** prop up the table with just a solitary point from their six matches ("Why us, Martin!?" – but, again, it's important to add that they have played all of the current top five and, in their only encounter with a team in the bottom half (Sonning Sports), they played really well and might feel a little disappointed not to have come away with both points. Mike Williams was desperately unlucky not to record a maximum in this match – he defeated Dave Chard and myself and only lost 7-11 in the fifth to Bob Snellgrove. Mike is another player with health problems – which we hope will be sorted soon, Mike. Masoud Ghabachi has had some great wins including Adam Sheen, Dave Chard and Simon Barter – but, slightly surprisingly, is only on 33%. Paul Treadgold & Martin Wetherell complete the squad – just a handful of wins between them – but, as usual, Martin beat me!





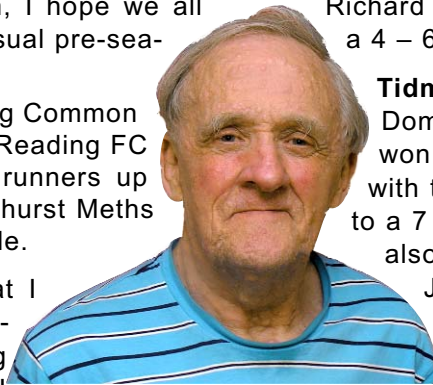
# DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Welcome to a new season, I hope we all enjoy it. I start with my usual pre-season predictions.

At the top I first expected Sonning Common & Peppard to win the league with Reading FC and Tidmarsh 'D' contesting the runners up spot. At the bottom I felt that Tilehurst Meths 'D' and Kingfisher 'K' could struggle.

After about 3 weeks I feel that I have the right to change my forecast. It would seem that Sonning Common are not as strong as I thought and to be honest have no chance of being involved in the promotion race. I now feel that it will



Richard and Mark both came away with hat tricks in a 4 – 6 victory.

Tidmarsh 'D' have found a star. His name is Dom Cutter who played up from Division 5 and won all three in straight games. John Little with two and Dave Smith with one helped them to a 7 – 3 victory over Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Dom also helped in the doubles by teaming up with John. At Sonning Common C&P 'F' they strolled to a 1 – 9 victory with John and Terry Hardie both gaining trebles. Dave Edwards did well in picking up a double.

After winning their first two matches they then went down 4 – 6 to a good Kingfisher side. John managed a double and Terry a single however they maintained their 100% doubles record when John and Dave E beat Gwynne and David. By the way Terry I noted that all of your sets went to only 3 games - I wonder if you were hoping to get home to listen to the Brentford versus Reading match. They then at the time of writing went top by beating OLOP 'E' 3 – 7 with Terry obtaining a very good treble and he was ably backed by John winning two and a Dave S single. Without Terry, who was watching Reading, they lost 3 – 7 to Curzon 'B'. Dave E did well to win two and only lost to Nick Lean 9-11 in the 5th end. Dave S won one by beating Geoff.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone B	6	4	2	0	41	19	10
Reading FC A	6	5	0	1	37	23	10
Springfield B	5	3	2	0	31	19	8
Tidmarsh D	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Curzon B	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Tilehurst Meths E	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Kingfisher K	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Sonning C&P F	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
OLOP E	4	1	0	3	16	24	2
Tilehurst Meths D	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Curzon C	6	0	0	6	18	42	0

be between Tidmarsh 'D' with Milestone 'B' and Springfield 'B' also going well. With regard to Reading FC it will depend on how many matches Jazz misses. At the bottom I still feel that Tilehurst Meths 'D' will be in danger and perhaps their 'E' team who as I understand it will be without Sam Will.

Reading FC started the season as they mean to go by beating a full strength Curzon 'C' 6 - 4 with Jazz Dhillon showing his class by winning all three with a bit to spare besides teaming up with Tony Alleyne who gained a single to win the doubles. Mark Edwards completed their scoring by also gaining a single. They then came down to earth when going down 7 – 3 at Milestone. Mark, Richard Witt and Tony all won one each by beating reserve Tony Hayden. They then bounced back by beating Tilehurst Meths 'D' 8 – 2 with Jazz and Richard both gaining maximums. Mark played his part by winning two. At Sonning Common they just got home 4 – 6 thanks to doubles from Richard, Tony and Mark. Both Richard and Jazz hit trebles against Kingfisher 'K' which helped to an 8 – 2 victory. Tony won the other two sets. At OLOP



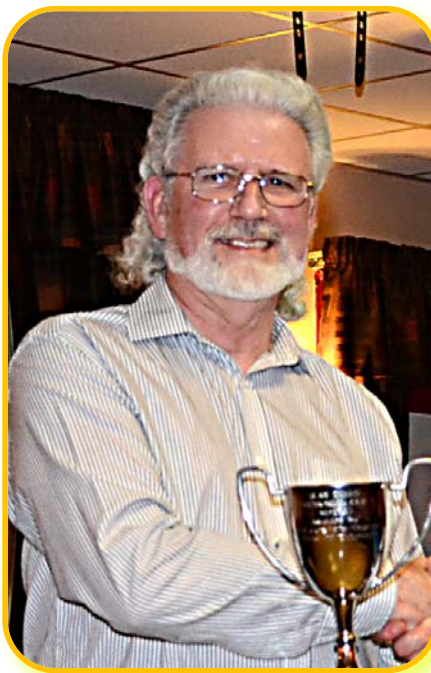
GWYNNE PENNY OF KINGFISHER 'K'

**Milestone 'B'** recorded the best win of the opening week by beating Tilehurst Meths 'E' 1 – 9 with Sachin Mundra and Oliver Bonser both hitting trebles. Zoltan Keleman did well to win two. Despite playing a reserve they then made it two wins out of two by beating Reading FC 7 – 3 with Sachin and Zoltan both gaining trebles. At this stage they look to be very hard to beat. They then shared the spoils with Springfield 'B'. Zoltan came up trumps by gaining a three straight maximum. Oliver and Gareth Aldridge both obtained singles. At home to Curzon 'C' they strolled to a 9 – 1 victory with Oliver and Sachin both getting comfortable maximums. Gareth managed a double.

At **Curzon 'B'** Sachin maintained his 100% record by gaining a three straight maximum. Oliver and Zoltan both won one each to help them to a draw. Against Tilehurst Meths 'D' Sachin lost his 100% record but still managed a double as did Oliver and Zoltan in a 4 – 6 win.

**Springfield 'B'** included two newcomers to the Reading league namely Rob Wilkie and Peter Gurney who both picked up doubles as did our old mate John Burke and as a result they beat Curzon 'B' 6 – 4. Against Curzon 'C' they came away with both points in a 2 – 8 win. Rob Wilkie won all three and John and Aidan Simmons managed doubles. At home to Milestone Peter and Aidan both hit doubles and John

and Peter had a fine doubles win over Zoltan and Oliver. Despite a hat trick from Rob they could only draw with Sonning Common C&P. John won one and Rob and Peter won the doubles. In the set between Rob and Derek Wavell the scores were 12-10, 12-10, 12-10. I wonder if that score line has ever happened before? At Kingfisher they came away with a 3 – 7 win. Rob as ever was the player of the match by winning all three and was ably backed up by John winning two and Peter picking up a single. With a very good all round side they could very well gain promotion.



MAL COLLIS OF TILEHURST METHS 'D'

**Sonning Common C & P 'F'** had a nightmare by going down 1 – 9 to Tidmarsh 'D' with Eric Walker beating Dave Edwards. I feel that this result was due to a lack of practice because of building work at their clubhouse. The following match saw them go down 8 – 2 at Tilehurst Meths 'E' with Derek Wavell and Eric both gaining singles. Without Derek who

was at an R.D.T.T.A. committee meeting they only just lost to Reading FC. Angus Jones was the star, hitting a great hat trick by beating Richard Witt 13-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-6, then Tony Alleyne 6-11, 11-3, 11-5, 11-5 and Mark Edwards 11-9, 13-11, 11-7. Very well done Angus. They then obtained their first point of the season by gaining a draw at Springfield with Eric and Derek winning two each. Simon Blake won his first set of the season by beating Peter Gurney. They then recorded their first win of the season by beating Curzon 'C' 7 – 3 with Angus recording a treble and Derek and Eric both picking up doubles.

**OLOP 'E'** just got the better of Kingfisher 'K' by beating them 6 – 4. Jan Polnik and Pradeep Desh both managed doubles while Binit Bhaskar picked that important single with Jan and Binit winning the doubles. In their second match they lost to an in-form Tidmarsh 3 – 7. Jan had a fine double while Binit won one by beating Dave Smith. At Tilehurst Meths 'E' Alona and Tamir Slobodskoy made their debuts but failed to win a set, however looking at the scorecard I noticed that they gave their opponents some good games. Binit managed to win two and teamed up with Tamir to win the doubles in a 7 – 3 defeat. At home to Reading FC they went down 4 – 6 with Binit, Pradeep and Abhay Gore all beating Tony. Also I have just heard that Jan Polnik is in hospital so on behalf of you all I wish you Jan a quick recovery.

**Curzon Club 'C'** welcomed back Terry Spice after his long layoff after getting injured at the beginning of last season. Sadly his side lost at Reading FC 6 – 4 with Linda King and John Walker both obtaining dou-

### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jazz Dhillon	Reading FC A	9	9	100.0
Angus Jones	Sonning C&P F	6	6	100.0
Mick Maynard	Curzon B	3	3	100.0
Sachin Mundra	Milestone B	15	14	93.3
Robert Wilkie	Springfield B	12	11	91.7
Nick Lean	Curzon B	6	5	83.3
Richard Witt	Reading FC A	15	12	80.0
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh D	9	7	77.8
John Liddle	Tidmarsh D	12	9	75.0
Steven Dopson	Tilehurst Meths E	12	9	75.0
Zoltan Keleman	Milestone B	15	11	73.3
Gwynne Penny	Kingfisher K	15	10	66.7
Olly Bonser	Milestone B	15	10	66.7
Aidan Simmons	Springfield B	6	4	66.7
Jan Polnik	OLOP E	6	4	66.7
Mark Edwards	Reading FC A	15	9	60.0



bles. At home to Springfield they played new signing Carine Bey and on behalf of the club a BIG WELCOME CARINE. On the playing front she did well without winning but I am sure it will get better. John and Linda both gained a single in a 2 – 8 defeat. Away at Curzon 'B' Carline won her first set by beating Jim Brent 10 - 12 in the 5th end after being 5-1 down, John also beat Jim and Linda managed a double in a 6 – 4 defeat. At Milestone 'B' they went 0 – 1 up when Linda beat Gareth Aldridge but finally lost 9 – 1. They were very unlucky in the doubles when Linda and Mick Gillard lost 11-8, 8-11, 10-12, 11-9, 12-10. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'D' they lost 4 – 6 with Terry doing well to win two while Linda picked up a single besides teaming up with Terry to record their first doubles win of the season. In this match there were 19 games that were settled by just two points. At Sonning Common they slipped to a 7 – 3 defeat with John winning two and he also teamed up with Carine to win the doubles.

**Curzon Club 'B'** face a long hard season and even with Mike Maynard in our side I am afraid he cannot do it by himself. At Springfield 'B' he won all three and also teamed up with Jim Brent to win the doubles but this could not prevent us going down 6 – 4. Against our 'C' team I hit my first maximum since the 7th December last year which helped us to a rare win. The last time that happened was on the 14th December. Geoff Johnson had to play with a new bat after leaving his old one on the roof of his car and driving off. However he still gained a double. Jim helped me to win that vital doubles which gave us a 6 – 4 victory. Against the leaders, Milestone 'B', Nick Lean and Jim won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles to give them a very good point. At Tidmarsh 'D' Nick came up trumps by obtaining a very good maximum with Jim winning two and again teaming up with Nick to keep the team's 100% doubles record. Geoff won the other set. I would also like to mention that Mike Maynard had a big operation on the 11th October at the R.B.H and on behalf of his Curzon club mates and also the association players I wish him a speedy recovery and hope you are back playing soon. All the best mate.

**Kingfisher 'K'** just went down 6 – 4 at OLOP 'E' with Gwynne Penny and Ania Pytka both picking up good doubles. Against Tidmarsh 'D' David Wells came in and promptly hit a great treble and with Gwynne gaining a double and Ania picking up an important single they won 4 – 6. David's win over John Liddle was a bit tight 12-10, 11-13, 10-12, 10-12. They then had a nice 7 – 3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'E' with Gwynne getting a good treble which included a 8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8 win over Steve Dopson. David and Ania played their part by obtaining doubles. At Reading FC Gwynne was the only singles scorer by beating Tony 11-8, 10-12, 10-12, 12-14. What a tight set. In the doubles Gwynne and David beat Richard and Tony. In their match against Springfield, Gwynne had a good night by



TILEHURST METHS 'D' - SAM WILL, STEVE WOOD AND STEVE DOPSON

beating Peter Gurney and John Burke, while Ania also beat Peter. John Simpson put in a great performance against Rob Wilkie only going down 11-9, 11-8, 3-11, 9-11, 9-11.

**Tilehurst Meths 'E'** who were last season's Division 5 runners up crashed to a 1 – 9 defeat against Milestone 'B'. Steve Dopson won the set. In this match there were 8 games with a 12-10 scoreline. At home to Sonning Common C&P, hat tricks from Steve and Steve Wood and a single from Rob James helped them to a 8 – 2 win. At Kingfisher 'K' Steve D did well to win two and also teamed up with Rob to win the doubles, however that was as far as it got because they went down 7 – 3. At home to OLOP 'E' a hat trick from Steve D and doubles from Steve W and Rob gave them a 7 – 3 win.

**Tilehurst Meths 'D'** as I mentioned earlier came up against a classy player in Dom Cutter and as a result lost 7 – 3 to Tidmarsh 'D'. Chris Taylor did well to win two while Patrick O'Sullivan picked up a single. At Reading FC Chris was the only single scorer by beating Mark Edwards 7-11, 4-11, 5-11. He also teamed up with Roy Hull to win the doubles in their 8 – 2 defeat. At Curzon 'C' Chris was the star by hitting a great maximum and with Patrick gaining a double and Roy that important single; this gave them their first win of the season 4 – 6. The last time Chris won all three was in November 2015 against Curzon 'C'. Against Milestone Chris had a great win over Sachin by beating him 8-11, 15-17, 11-1, 11-5, 11-6. Roy beat Zoltan and Patrick beat Oliver in a 4 – 6 defeat.

Finally I have to say I am a little disappointed at the errors on some scorecards. They have scores the wrong way round, in the wrong place and do not include the doubles pairings. Please can you check that the card is OK before sending it. Also I am sorry that I have not been able to give more details of the matches but I have to say that I do not get many match comments which would help me with my newsletter article rather than having to rely on what I see on the card.

Cheers,

Derek



# DIVISION FIVE

by Martin Wetherell

Well, the waiting is over and this newsletter, containing my first report as DFS, has finally arrived. So, a warm welcome to all Division 5 players, whether you are young or old, veterans to the league or starting your first season. Secondly, my apologies, in advance, if you are returning to the league, after a period of absence, and I have inadvertently labelled you as a newbie.

Riding high in the table, **Reading FC 'B'** are currently in second place. The core of this season's team - Keith Greene, Joe Bull and Paul Brown - were members of the Reading FC team which won the Division 5 title last year. They have been joined, in this season's endeavours, by Dave Evans, who has yet to win his first set, although he was close to getting his first win, before finally losing 7-11 11-8 7-11 11-7 7-11, to Springfield 'D's Paul Martin.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Springfield D	6	5	1	0	35	25	11
2 Reading FC B	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
3 OLOP F	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
4 Kingfisher L	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
5 Springfield C	5	2	3	0	27	23	7
6 BBC Club	6	1	3	2	30	30	5
7 Sonning Sports B	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
8 Tidmarsh E	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
9 SC&P G	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
10 Reading FC C	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
11 SC&P H	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
12 Milestone C	5	0	1	4	13	37	1

When Reading FC 'B' have fielded their strongest team, they have emerged triumphant, so Dave finding his mojo will be important in their push for the title. No pressure then Dave !

Paul Brown is their leading player, with 83%, but Keith and Joe have been the stalwarts of the team, playing in every match so far, both contributing valuable wins. Paul has won two maximums and PoMs, whilst Keith has one of each.

Currently in third place is **OLOP 'F'**, who have a strong squad and I anticipate their results improving as the season progresses. This team's biggest defeat was at the hands of Reading FC 'B', when they lost 7 - 3, and their biggest win was over Kingfisher 'L', whom they beat 9 - 1.

Six weeks into the season, there are still a few players with a 100% record, as well as a few who are still looking for their first win. Like many other sports, everyone wants to beat the former, with fame and fortune beckoning for the first player to achieve it. Conversely, the tension is sometimes palpable as players in the latter group try to win their first game. Hopefully, everyone in this latter group is still enjoying their table tennis and I look forward to reporting your first win soon.

All of the squad has contributed, with both Laurence de Ste Croix and Simon Brookes winning

The newly formed **Springfield 'D'** team is still top of Division 5, even though they recently lost their 100% record, when they could only draw in their intra-club match against Springfield 'C'. However, the 'D' team has had to battle for their points, winning all five of their matches 6 - 4, prior to this draw. Their most notable victory was when the team fought back from 3 - 4 down, against Reading FC 'B', before winning 6 - 4.

D's captain Colin Jones has been joined by newcomers Paul Martin, Richard Cartland and Stephen Leggett. Stephen has grabbed most headlines, with 3 maximums and 4 PoMs, but his teammates have been consistently supplying the additional singles and doubles, which have been needed to win the matches.

However, their doubles partnerships have not been as successful, with only two wins from the six matches played, so far.



ANDREW ADAIR OF OLOP 'F'



multiple maximums, and Andrew Adair winning a brace in every match in which he has played. In his first set of the season, Mariusz Paluszkiwicz beat Reading FC 'B's Paul Brown 11-5 11-9 4-11 9-11 11-7, but has found subsequent wins thin on the ground, although his latest victory, against Tidmarsh 'E's Steve Andrews, was needed to enable OLOP 'F' to go home with both points. After a slow start, Hari Laddunuri has also started chipping in with vital wins.

Their various doubles pairings have also been contributing valuable wins and I therefore believe that OLOP 'F' will be in the top four, when the season has finished.

**Kingfisher 'L'** are currently in fourth place, but only on game difference. Kingfisher's squad comprises Meriel Low, Clive Gold, Ken Robb, Gill Bennett, Derek Crombie and David O'Keeffe.

Ken was a regular in the 'L' team last season, with an impressive 87% average and 10 PoMs, and he appears to have continued in the same vein this season. New additions are Meriel, who has joined from Sonning Sports, and Clive, who appears to be new to our league but has obviously played elsewhere, since he has achieved a maximum in every game in which he has played. The only reason that he doesn't have four PoMs, is that he was beaten to one award by his teammate Ken !

Kingfisher have also tried various doubles pairings, even including a special appearance by David, but to little avail, since they have only won once, which was in a 10 - 0 victory over Tidmarsh 'E'.

**Springfield 'C'**, like their 'D' team, are currently undefeated, although they have played one less match than their nearest rivals. For this season, Spike Speight and Alan Goold, from last season's 'B' team, have joined forces with Rob Attack and Tom Berryman.

Spike has hit the ground running, with consistent braces in each of his matches, and both Tom and Rob have carried on from where they left off, last season. In their 6 - 4 victory over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', Rob won his first maximum, Tom won another brace and then they combined to win the doubles. Alan has yet to find his groove but his single win, against OLOP 'F', was instrumental in the 'C' team leaving with a point.

A few doubles partnerships have been tried, with a 60% success rate helping to underpin their undefeated status.

The **BBC Club** has only managed one win so far, but it was worth the wait, since they beat Milestone 'C' 9 - 1. However, they are one of the Division's draw specialists, with half of their matches finishing 5 - 5. Their biggest defeat was when they lost to OLOP 'F' 8 - 2.

Dave Pearson, John Scott and Phil Peat have all won maximums and therefore, when one of them is playing, the BBC Club have a greater chance of end-

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher L	12	12	100.00
Kenneth Robb	Kingfisher L	9	9	100.00
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh E	6	6	100.00
Bill Hayden	Milestone C	3	3	100.00
David O'Keeffe	Kingfisher L	3	3	100.00
L de Ste Croix	OLOP F	9	8	88.89
Stephen Leggett	Springfield D	15	13	86.67
Derek Anderson	Reading FC C	14	12	85.71
Mike Casserley	SC&P H	12	10	83.33
Paul Brown	Reading FC B -	12	10	83.33
Oliver Sayer	SC&P G	6	5	83.33
Florin Dimofte	Sonning Sports B	6	5	83.33
Simon Brookes	OLOP F	15	12	80.00
John Scott	BBC Club	9	7	77.78

ing the evening with points. Jack Mitchell and John Lancashire have also contributed with important wins and only Mojtaba Safavi is awaiting his first win although, in his defence, he has only played in one match.

Possibly due to the size of their squad, five different doubles combinations have been tried, with a notable 66% success rate.

**Sonning Sports 'B's** Mo Cole, Cris Reynolds and Sue Brownhill have been joined, this season, by newcomers Sally James, Florin Dimofte and Michael Byrne. Michael and Sue have each only played one match, while Sally and Mo are regulars on the team sheet, with either Cris or Florin generally the third player.

Both Cris and Florin are consistently winning two's and three's and have collected four PoMs along the way. Although she has yet to win a match double or treble, Sally is patently one of the hardest working players in Division 5, with less than 30% of her sets being completed in 3 games. In the match against Kingfisher 'L', her attacking play resulted in a narrow 9-11 14-12 9-11 14-12 13-11 victory over Gill Bennett.

Although various doubles combinations have been tried, with an impressive five wins, the Cris and Sally pairing leads the averages, with three wins from three.

**Tidmarsh 'E'** have kept their core of Bob Sunerton, John Harland, Pete Sinclair, Steve Andrews and Mike Bundy, but also added Lee Calcutt to the roster. Lee is one of the few players who still has 100% and, based on the form he is showing, he will be hard to beat, this season.

However, even with Lee in the team, Tidmarsh have succumbed to defeat, losing 4 - 6 at home to Springfield 'C'. Conversely, Tidmarsh can win without Lee, when Bob, John and Peter each won two sets, to win their match against Sonning Sports 'B' 6 - 4. Mike has also chipped in with some wins, helping his team

gain valuable points. Only Steve is still awaiting his first win, a situation which has not been helped by all his matches being played against teams in the top four.

The low point was their 10 - 0 loss to Kingfisher 'L', although it was notable for John's set against Ken Robb, which Ken won 11-8 11-8 21-23 7-11 11-6, and the high point was an 8 - 2 win over SC&P 'H', when Lee won three and Bob & Mike each won two.

So far, Tidmarsh have fielded a different doubles pairing in each match and have achieved a 50% success rate.

The **Sonning Common & Peppard 'G'** team has added newcomer Nick Palmer and returnee Mikey Legg, to their existing roster - Jamie Legg, Marko Madzar and Oliver Sayer.

Oliver has had the best start, winning a brace and a maximum, in the two matches he has played, along with a PoM for the latter performance, but Mikey, Jamie and Marko have all been winning one's and two's, to help the team gain their points. Nick is finding it tough at the moment, but has one win for his efforts, so far.

The low point would be when they lost 7 - 3, to Reading FC 'B', and the high point would be their first victory, when they beat Kingfisher 'L' 6 - 4.

Four different doubles pairs have been tried, but only one of these combinations has won. However, this one win was crucial in allowing the 'G' team to beat Kingfisher 'L' 6 - 4.

**Reading FC 'C'** are another newly formed team and their squad comprises newcomers Derek Anderson, Harry Edwards, Wayne Alleyne and Tony Edwards. However, based upon his impressive results, which includes two maximums, three braces and three PoMs, I am assuming that Derek has played league table tennis before. Wayne has scored a couple of braces and, when this occurs, it has generally meant that the 'C' team will finish the evening with at least one point.

Harry and Tony have each won a set, although Tony has only played in a single match, so has the more impressive average of the two. However, Harry has suffered some narrow defeats, most recently losing to his club mate Joe Bull, of Reading FC 'B', 9-11 11-13 11-7 5-11.

Reading FC 'C' have the most consistent doubles pairings, having fielded only two combinations. However, that hasn't helped their results and they only have a 20% win rate.

**SC&P 'H'** have only played four matches, so

their current position of eleventh in the table may well change dramatically. This team comprises Mike Casserley, Derek Maltby, Gerry Bacon, Julian James and Steve Knott, who all played together last season.

Mike has won three maximums, both Gerry and Julian have won one maximum, and both Derek and Steve have contributed singles. Steve's single, against the BBC Club, was needed to draw the match 5 - 5. The high point was the opening fixture against Milestone 'C', which SC&P 'H' won 10 - 0, and the low point was their recent 8 - 2 loss, to Tidmarsh 'E'.

Three different doubles pairings have been tried, over their four matches, with a 50% success rating.

At the bottom of the table are **Milestone 'C'**, with only a single point to show for their efforts. The 'C' team has retained Carl Edlind, John Evans, Tony Hayden and Bill Hayden, and added newcomers



JAGUARS - DANIEL KNOTT AND BILL HAYDEN

Colin Phillips and Igor Grbic to the roster.

Carl has already contributed a couple of braces and John and Tony have also won one's and two's. Unfortunately, both Colin and Igor are still seeking that elusive first win although, in some sets, the winning margin was small. In his one match, Bill won a maximum and the PoM which, added to a brace from Tony, was instrumental in gaining Milestone 'C' their only point. However, since Bill only played one match last season, their final placing may depend solely upon the remaining team members' results.

Milestone have tried four different doubles pairings, with no success, although Carl and John have come the closest to a win, losing in five games against Reading FC 'C'.

Finally, thanks for all the match comments and please keep them coming.



DEREK MALTBY





# YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

It has been a busy beginning to the season with a considerable increase in player numbers over last year. This season we have 38 players registered allowing us to have 12 teams playing which means a crowded playing schedule ahead. We have been delighted to welcome a considerable number of players new to the Division as well as to welcome back some of our most experienced players from the last few seasons. We are also glad to have Joe Barraclough along to help out with the junior players.



The season began on September 9th with a social evening to complete registrations and for some introductory play which gave a chance for new players to the league to become familiar with the arrangements. This was followed on September 16th with a parent/carer social evening. After two very successful evenings during the last season where parents were invited to play we decided to repeat this for our second week and 13 adults came along to join the young players. We played Top Table doubles with parents first partnered with their own children and then with other youngsters. This was followed by an enthusiastic session of Beat the Champion – we had great feedback from the attending adults both on the night and by email afterwards.

The 12 teams began matches in earnest on 23rd September with the 12 teams forming one division until Christmas when they will be split into two divisions. The **Jaguars** – made up of established league player Dylan Cook and two newcomers Sean Gleeson and Oliver Delas - made a strong start with a 7 - 3 victory against the **Attackers** – made up of newcomers to the league Dev Goyal, Adrian Mitchell and Prakhar Gandhi. The **Raiders** held newcomers to the league **Spartans** to a 5 - 5 draw while the **Pumas** defeated the **Strikers** 8 - 2. The **Leopards** with three of the league's most experienced players – Adam Winterbottom, Lukas Dahmann and Keyan Ghods – defeated

the **Leopards**. The **Panthers** – Alex Eaton, Ryan Griffiths and Johnson Xu – won comprehensively against the **Tigers**.

The **Panthers** brought all their strengths to bear the following week (30th September) and won 10 - 0 against the **Strikers**. New arrivals in the league the **Spartans** – Ralph Phillips, Rayaan Ashgar and Benedict Carless – showed their quality with a 10 - 0 win over the **Pumas**. One of the most experienced teams, the **Lions** - Bill Hayden, Daniel Knott and Daniel Follant – defeated the **Tigers** 8 - 2 while the **Leopards** defeated the **Trojans** and there were also wins for the **Jaguars** and **Raiders** against the **Avengers** and **Attackers** respectively.

The 7th October saw some great play with two strong teams – the **Panthers** and **Spartans** – meeting and ending with honours even at 5 - 5. The **Jaguars** continued their emphatic play with a 10 - 0 victory over the **Trojans**. Both the **Lions** and **Leopards** won again with the **Lions** defeating the **Strikers** 6 - 4 and the **Leopards** beating the **Tigers** 7 - 3. The **Raiders** – Nathan Munns, Zach Bonifacii and Joe Brooks won against the **Pumas** in a close match 6 - 4 while two teams of newcomers – the **Attackers** and **Avengers** – drew 5 - 5. The 14th October saw five matches played with a draw between **Pumas** – Alexandra and Arran Reeve and James Cunningham – and **Attackers** 5 - 5 and wins for **Panthers**, **Spartans**, **Jaguars** and **Avengers**.

The evening of October 21st saw four matches played as half term reduced numbers with **Jaguars** defeating the **Strikers** 6 - 3 and the **Raiders**, **Panthers** and **Attackers** all recording wins. The **Panthers** top the league table at the moment with 42 points, the **Jaguars** are in second with 36 points and the **Spartans** are in third with 27 points. There has been some great play in the first five weeks of matches and we have been delighted to see so many new players enjoying their games. The next league evening (28th) will see the first part of a grouping tournament which will be completed at the Christmas party.

Thanks as always to Wendy Porter.

## TEAM PLACINGS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	<b>Panthers</b>	5	4	1	0	42	8	42
2	<b>Jaguars</b>	5	4	0	1	36	13	36
3	<b>Spartans</b>	5	3	2	0	36	14	36
4	<b>Raiders</b>	5	3	1	1	25	25	25
5	<b>Attackers</b>	5	1	2	2	23	27	23
6	<b>Leopards</b>	4	3	0	1	22	17	22
7	<b>Tigers</b>	5	2	0	3	21	29	21
8	<b>Lions</b>	4	2	0	2	20	20	20
9	<b>Avengers</b>	5	1	1	3	19	31	19
10	<b>Pumas</b>	5	1	1	3	18	32	18
11	<b>Strikers</b>	4	0	0	4	9	30	9
12	<b>Trojans</b>	4	0	0	4	7	32	7

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	P	W	%
Ralph Philips	15	15	100.00 %
Bill Hayden (S)	3	3	100.00 %
Adam Winterbottom (S)	3	3	100.00 %
Nathan Munns (S)	3	3	100.00 %
Johnson Xu	14	13	92.86 %
Oliver Delas	11	10	90.91 %
Bill Hayden	10	9	90.00 %
Alex Eaton	14	12	85.71 %
Dylan Cook	12	10	83.33 %
Ryan Griffiths	14	11	78.57 %
Adam Winterbottom	9	7	77.78 %
Tamir Slobodskoy	9	7	77.78 %