

# READING and District TABLE TENNIS Association NEWSLETTER

Editor: Derek Wavell



## Ringing the Changes!

November 2024

### Welcome from our New Chairman, Martin Adams

I'd like to welcome you to another season in our beloved Reading & District Table Tennis League. I've already two committee meetings behind me as the newly elected chairman and I'd like to thank everyone for the warm welcome and words of encouragement I have received from both the entire committee and playing colleagues alike. Special thanks too to the exiting chairman Derek Harrison and General Secretary Nigel Maltby for setting such shining examples of what it means to volunteer over such a long period and helping to forge such huge benefits and memories in our table tennis lives.

In terms of the competition in season 101 it looks like the Division 1 title will be fiercely contested in what is the highest overall standard for many-a-year and likely to be decided between three Kingfisher squads and Sonning

[see more](#)

### Welcome from a New General Secretary, Alistair Richardson

Welcome to the new RDTTA season. Eric Van Looy and I are sharing the league secretary work this year after Nigel relinquished the role following many many diligent years of service. Thank you for all your efforts Nigel, and we hope we won't disappoint !!

We lost a club in Reading FC and 3 teams over the summer, with Sonning Sports able to put an additional team together. This gives us 11 teams in divisions 1 and 3 and Divisions 2 and 4 with 10. Thankyou to all clubs

for their work over the summer to prepare to come back for another year.

It is an interesting start to the season with the Kingfisher teams in an unusual order in Division 1 and Division 3 looking close at the top of the table.

The calendar on the website is set up for the season, so please check out the news and calendar for upcoming and future

[see more](#)



These 'mighty molecules' from Kingfisher 'F' have just returned in triumph from proudly representing Berkshire in the County Championships Junior 2B Division held in Gwent during the weekend of Oct 26-27. In the photo are Chloe Kniep, Sahil Tekurkar, Prayrit Ahluwalia, Theo Kniep and Heilam Tse. [see more](#)

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It's not just Britain and the USA that have new leaders - our own league is in there too, and two of them are here to meet usnnnn on this page!

News from the 4 Divisions is good, and our younger generation never ceases to startle. All credit to the coaches - and parents!

Have a good season!

Derek Wavell





Chairman (continued)

Common and Peppard 'A', with other positions almost impossible to predict at this stage.

It's also encouraging to see that in all of the divisions, no single team is either 'walking away with it' or 'struggling to compete', testament to the efforts of our league formation sub-committee who gave up pre-season weekends to organise all the fixtures on our behalf.

Could I also draw your

attention to our new R&DTTA facebook page which can potentially add to your enjoyment, keep you informed and open up feedback channels. We've opted for an official page rather than a free-for-all, although you can interact with our posts and suggest content by using the direct messaging. We encourage you to message in with team photos, stories, suggestions etc, that you would like us to include that may not necessarily make it to the press reports.

We'd love to get more than the handful of early followers (Thank you!) in order to make it a worthwhile initiative in the knowledge that there's an audience out there. The link to our facebook page is [HERE](#) or go to facebook.com and search for Reading & District Table Tennis Association.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the season.

Martin Adams

Secretary (continued)

events including the annual handicap and closed competitions.

Have a great season !!

Alistair Richardson & Eric Van Looy

Juniors (continued - report and photos by Winnie Wang.)

Five players from Kingfisher 'F' represented Berkshire in the County Championships in Gwent. Prayrit Ahluwalia, Theo Kniep, Sahil Tekurkar, Heilam Tse, and Chloe Kniep competed against teams from six other counties, showcasing outstanding skill and determination. Together, they won all six rounds, dropping only three out of 60 matches. Notably, Prayrit and Heilam remained unbeaten throughout the weekend. Congratulations to the entire team for winning the division title for Berkshire!





# DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

Welcome to another season in division 1 - Our 101st! The immediate thing that strikes me (and no doubt all of you) is how the standard has elevated to such a high level this time around. I could quote you many illustrative comparisons and statistics between this and previous seasons but for now I'll leave it as the thing of beauty that it is, a testament to the success of the coaching programme centred around Kingfisher (so congratulations to all involved) and partly down to the persistence of Julian Telford and others for encouraging more of the local top-talent to join in on the fun!

in the process. Mircea 'Mitch' Neagu, a top 50 national player that many Kingfisher members will be familiar with, was also drafted in to face champions Kingfisher 'A' and another first appearance that did not disappoint to gain a 7 - 3 victory. Yet another debutante that will strengthen the league is Mitch's table tennis match-made-in-heaven, Ewelina Sychta, who will no doubt clean up with most under the 80%-or-so level. As if that's not enough they have three further players boasting 100% averages to date including Julian himself, Jordan Huang and Jacek Piechocki. Surprisingly Graham Mendick seems to be down the pecking order (something I never thought I'd say) having struggled in the opening



JULIAN TELFORD



GRAHAM MENDICK

And speak of the devil, it's Julian's Kingfisher 'B' who have started the strongest in first, having already expertly negotiated victories over two of their main rivals. Vince Nemes brings a different class to the league and he was quick to

couple of matches. Cath Venning has also played a couple and is still to get off the mark, although she almost got the better of Wayne Alleyne 10-12 in the fifth. If you were to push me at this stage, I'd suggest the fate of the title rests in Julian's hands.

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher B	6	6	0	0	45	15	45
2	Kingfisher F	6	5	1	0	39	21	39
3	SC&P A	5	3	1	1	38	12	38
4	Kingfisher A	5	3	0	2	33	17	33
5	Kingfisher E	4	3	0	1	24	16	24
6	SC&P B	5	1	1	3	19	31	19
6	Tidmarsh A	5	1	1	3	19	31	19
8	Sonning Sports A	5	0	0	5	16	34	16
9	Tilehurst RBL A	5	2	0	3	15	35	15
10	Kingfisher C	4	1	0	3	13	27	13
11	Kingfisher D	4	0	0	4	9	31	9

Second are the young talents of Kingfisher 'F'. Don't be deceived by their alphabetical position! On the league's opening night the talented trio of Theo Kniep, Prayrit Ahluwalia and Ryan Chung trampled all over Kingfisher 'A' 6-4, Theo starring with an excellent maximum on this occasion. They stuck with the same lineup to face Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' and earned a 5 - 5 draw. Although Dan Moses proved too strong for them on this occasion, they gained five of the remaining six singles with Ryan getting his money's worth winning 11-9 in the fifth over both Gary Morgan and Ian Cole. They have also used a host of other players in their other encounters, all currently at 50% or more to ensure the squad remains unbeaten. These include Theo's sister Chloe, HeilamTse, Aarav Pahwa, Sam Kwok and Soumyajit Dasgupta.



DANIEL MOSES



PRAYRIT AHLUWALIA





GARY MORGAN

In **third** position but a game in hand over the top two is **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'**. Alongside talisman Dan Moses, the regulars of Ian Cole, Gary Morgan, Ed Lush and Jason Roberts have supported admirably. Ian scored a great victory over Theo in the aforementioned 5 - 5. Jason contributed a fine maximum in their drubbing of Tilehurst RBL 10 - 0 and both he and Ed are currently unbeaten in their two appearances. They have also been more clinical against the lower-placed sides and could be at the top before long if this trend continues.

Next in **fourth** is **Kingfisher 'A'** who have met with strong opposition and, with SC&P 'A' still to face, have already lost some ground on those above, spurning 17 points and two losses in the first five matches, compared to a total of 24 and all victories across last season (I promised no comparative stats - my bad!). The regular trio so far has been Martin Adams, Hari Gehlot and Dmitry Khakhamov with Rishaan



MARTIN ADAMS AND HARI GEHLOT (WITH PETER BRADLEY)

Sawant adding a useful maximum against Tilehurst RBL. We'll be plodding on as per usual in an attempt to climb the table and challenge for our defence.

Currently **fifth** is **Kingfisher E**. This squad largely consists of former division two players but they are certainly holding their own as they enjoyed an opening set of three victories. Shashwat Somani is unbeaten after outstanding maximums against both Tilehurst RBL and Sonning Common & Peppard 'B', a feat almost matched by Adrian Cretu (but for Danny Dockree) who sits on an impressive 78% so far. Their other consistently turned-out players have been Wayne Alleyne and captain Clive Gold, both with identical match stats (4/9) and contributed two to their 6-4 victory over Sonning Sports 'A' but will have sterner opposition to follow. Gordon Cho also looks dangerous as on his Reading division 1 debut he took ends off both Julian Telford and Jordan Huang.



CLIVE GOLD

Next in **sixth** is **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'**. Danny Dockree and Jon Abbott have helped to secure their mid-table status with Danny taking three against second place Kingfisher 'F' (something only Dan Moses has managed thus far) and Jon following up a maximum against Sonning Sports 'A' with a double against Dale Ballard and Antony Baker of Tidmarsh. Tim Raby and Angus Jones have already contributed. Tom Astle has only played the one match but made his appearance felt as his consistency was too much for Dmitry Khakhamov and he ran out a 3-0 winner.



TIM RABY

**Seventh** (but only I believe by way of S coming before T or possibly a worse ends average than SC&P 'B') sees **Tidmarsh 'A'**. They have endured several close encounters scoring 5,4,6,4 (and we'll forgive them the 0 against KFB). Robert McMillan is a welcome addition to this division and has started well with five out of nine. Antony Baker has contributed in four of his five appearances but never with more than one win. Lee Calcutt on the other hand gained a nice maximum in his sole appearance against SC&P 'B'. Captain Duncan Groves and Dale Ballard have each made two appearances chalking up five singles points between them.

**Sonning Sports 'A'** are **eighth**. But at full strength they are



not the eighth best team and will undoubtedly have a say in the final outcome. We welcome Robert Hansell to the Reading League, yet another Top 100 National player making his debut. He eased past Hari in his sole appearance thus far and when the stars align and he teams up with Dave Croucher (it hasn't happened yet) they will be a severe test for the very best teams and will ease above the lower positions. They are yet to record an overall match win despite Paul Savage, Nick Sears and Graham Diplock all contributing to the tally. Bob Woodmansee is such a nice bloke.

In **ninth** position is **Tilehurst RBL 'A'**. I feel a transfer is on the cards as Kate Maksimenko, who is registered for their division two B team, has already played up three times and comfortably outscored her division one colleagues helping them to two match wins against Tidmarsh and Sonning Sports, where she scored scintillating maximums. Despite a 3-0 victory for Keith Winter over Dmitry, he has struggled to convert, losing no less than five five-gamers! It has also been a frustrating one for Jon Willis thus far, spurning several match points on the same evening over Dmitry and just the single victory to date. Marc Brent also has a sole singles point and may not be available for too many more matches as I understand it, which will no doubt expedite Kate's transfer.

Consistently in the top half in previous seasons (there I go comparing again!) **Kingfisher 'C'** find themselves in **tenth** position. On the plus side they have games in hand and have negotiated three of the big four. They managed to notch up a useful win over Tidmarsh where both Nigel

Keedy and new signing Pallavi Urankar managed impressive triples, the latter all requiring a fifth game. I expect Phil Mead and his other colleagues Harry Yeates (another new



SIMON ROWLAND

signing) and Alan Cummings to improve their averages and climb up to mid-table in the run-up to Christmas.

Propping up the table in **eleventh**, yet brimming with talent, is **Kingfisher 'D'**. To date, Mike Childs is their only player to score more than one in an evening as he masterfully negotiated a Tidmarsh trio. Along with Simon Rowland they have been unlucky to lose several fifth gamers, including Simon pushing KFB players Julian Telford and Jordan Huang to deuce in the fifth. However he recovered impressively to ease past Graham Mendick on the same night. Like KFC they have already faced three of the top 4 teams and have played fewer matches. So I expect a significant recovery from Mike, Simon, Georgi Ivanov, Tak Chan and Jazz Dhillon.

### LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Julian Telford	Kingfisher B	9	9	100.00%
Jordan Huang	Kingfisher B	9	9	100.00%
Vince Nemes	Kingfisher B	9	9	100.00%
Jason Roberts	SC&P A	6	6	100.00%
Shashwat Somani	Kingfisher E	6	6	100.00%
Ed Lush	SC&P A	5	5	100.00%
Daniel Moses	SC&P A	11	10	90.91%
Theo Kniep	Kingfisher F	12	10	83.33%
Aarav Pahwa	Kingfisher F	6	5	83.33%
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher C	6	5	83.33%
Prayrit Ahluwalia	Kingfisher F	9	7	77.78%
Adrian Cretu	Kingfisher E	9	7	77.78%
Kate Maksimenko (S)	Tilehurst RBL A	9	7	77.78%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	12	9	75.00%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	15	10	66.67%
Jon Abbott	SC&P B	9	6	66.67%
Ewelina Sychta	Kingfisher B	9	6	66.67%
Mike Childs	Kingfisher D	6	4	66.67%
Ian Cole	SC&P A	11	7	63.64%
Danny Dockree	SC&P B	12	7	58.33%



JAZZ DHILLON AND SIMON ROWLAND



## R&DTTA Awards for 2023-2024

On 5th June this year, the Reading Association's annual awards were presented at the premises of the Royal British Legion, Tilehurst. Most of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Huzeyfe Borazan announced the prize-winners, and our President, Peter Bradley presented the prizes. After the presentations, our AGM was held



RDTTA COMMITTEE MEMBERS NIGEL MALTBY, BARRY CARTER, NICK LEAN AND PETER BRADLEY

Many of the prizes went to winners in this season's Reading Closed tournament, which was covered in our April Newsletter, and their photos shown on other pages of this one. Look, too, on the Roll of Honour page of our web site (under "History"). But there were other notable prizes too -

### CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions: **Kingfisher 'A'**

Runners-up: **SC&P 'A'**

Division 2 Champions: **Reading FC**

Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'F'**

Division 3 Champions: **OLOP 'C'**

Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'I'**

Division 4 Champions: **Sonning Sports 'D'**

Runners-up: **SC&P 'D'**

John Freeman Trophy Winner:

Team Handicap Winners

Runners-up:

Lower Divisions Cup winners:

Runners-up:

Individual Handicap Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner:

Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior:

Edelstone Cup for Best Junior Performance:

Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award:

**James Miller**

**Kingfisher 'F'**

**SC&P 'B'**

**OLOP 'B'**

**OLOP 'C'**

**James Smith**

**Akeel Nazir Mir**

**Brett Hastings**

**Rishaan Sawant**

**Prayrit Ahluwalia**

**Eyup Odemis**



LOWER DIVISIONS CUP WINNERS OLOP 'B'  
with JACEK PIECHOCKI



MIXED DOUBLES WINNERS ANDREW ADAIR AND LOUISE FORSTER



LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR DEREK WAVELL



DIVISION 3 CHAMPIONS - OLOP C



GOPI PONNAPALLI - DIV 4 CHAMPION



JAMES SMITH, WINNER OF THE INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP TOURNAMENT



KINGFISHER I - LAST YEAR'S DIVISION 3 RUNNERS-UP: MUHARREM AIDIN, EYUP ODEMIS, RUBEN HERNANDEZ, HUZEYFE BORAZAN



# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

All of the teams have now played between four and six matches but, to date, it is not all that clear who will be the promotion and relegation candidates.

**SC&P 'C'** have had a good start to the season and look like they have an excellent chance of finishing in the top two, especially if Simon Berry plays regularly. The other promotion place looks to be wide open with newly pro-



Rob Wilkie and Peter Gurney have also been winning regularly so the team's good results should continue and a top four place looks likely

**Prediction – 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Jason King with a maximum against Tidmarsh 'B' which included recovering from a losing position to beat Barry Carter 11-9 in the fifth**

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Springfield A	6	4	0	2	37	23	37
2	Tilehurst RBL B	6	4	1	1	32	28	32
3	Kingfisher I	4	3	1	0	27	13	27
3	SC&P C	4	3	1	0	27	13	27
5	OLOP A	4	2	1	1	24	16	24
6	OLOP B	5	1	2	2	22	28	22
7	Tidmarsh B	5	1	1	3	20	30	20
8	Tidmarsh C	4	1	1	2	19	21	19
9	Kingfisher H	5	0	1	4	18	32	18
10	Kingfisher G	5	0	1	4	14	36	14

**Tilehurst RBL 'B'** have already played six times and they have had some solid results with their one blip being a surprisingly heavy 9 – 1 defeat at Tidmarsh 'C'. Kate Maksimenko is unbeaten and playing very well and your DFS has had a decent start to the season as well. Nick Lean has had a bit of a slow start but is showing signs of turning things around and new signing CJ Choong is still adjusting to his first experience of local league table tennis, but it looks as if he will keep improving. They should finish mid-table as long as player availability issues do not impact them too much.

moted Kingfisher 'I' also having some very good early results. At the bottom Kingfisher 'G' and Kingfisher 'H' have had difficult starts and may find it hard to recover. I always predict the final league placings but it is particularly difficult this year so I would not be surprised if my predictions end up being pretty wide of the mark.

Thanks to all of the team captains for emailing the match cards to me so quickly which is greatly appreciated

Could everyone please remember there are two clubs in Tilehurst, Tilehurst Methodists and Tilehurst Royal British Legion, please make sure you know which one you are playing and where their venue is. There has already been one occasion when an entire team has gone to the wrong venue!

**Springfield 'A'** have started with four wins and a couple of close defeats. They have got the same squad as last season when they finished seventh but judging by their performances they should do better this time around although it's probably doubtful if they will finish in one of the promotion places. Jason King has had a great start to the season and is on 87% and Mat Hickman is not far behind him.



ANDREW ADAIR

**Prediction – 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Kate Maksimenko with an excellent maximum in the win against Tidmarsh 'B'**





EYUP ODEMIS

**Kingfisher 'I'** - newly promoted Kingfisher 'I' have been the surprise package so far and have had three wins and a draw and have the equal best points difference in the league table. They have three players averaging around 60% and over with Akeel Mir having a top average of 89%. They are possibly in a slightly false position as they have played teams in the bottom half and a Springfield 'A' team that did not have its strongest team out but having said that it looks like they will have a good season and they could easily contest the promotion places.

**Prediction – 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Akeel Mir with an impressive three straight maximum against Springfield 'A'**

**SC&P 'C'** are looking to bounce straight back after their relegation from Division 1. They have lost Brain Meheux but have signed Holly Ranson who has returned to playing after quite a long period out of the game. They are a strong team and its likely that their four players will all average over 50% and the unbeaten Simon Berry is unlikely to lose many matches at all. So, they are favourites for the title but whether they win it may depend on how often Simon plays.

**Prediction – 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance - Malcolm Gregory recovering from two games down to beat CJ Choong 11-8 in the fifth despite being hampered by a muscle injury**

**OLOP 'A'** finished fourth in Division 2 last year and have the same squad this time around. They started the season with two good wins and a

draw but then lost to SC&P 'C'. Darek Kaminski and Chris West are both averaging 78% and Dave Godfrey and Alistair Richardson will give them good support so they should finish in the top four and could easily challenge for one of the promotion places.

**Prediction – 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Chris West with a fine maximum against Tidmarsh 'C' in which he only lost one game**

**OLOP 'B'** who were promoted from Division 3 have only won one of their first five matches but apart from a heavy defeat at Tilehurst RBL 'B' in week 1 their results have all been very close, so they find themselves in a mid-table position. Last time they were in Division 2 their players all won reasonably regularly but they only had one player, Pradeep Desh, with an average of over 50, and they ended up being relegated with sixty seven points. This time around Sanket Dave is showing the sort of form needed by a number one and is on 78%. If he can keep that sort of form up and their other players continue to win on a regular basis they could do enough to maintain their Division 2 status.

**Prediction – 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Binit Bhaskar recovering from two games down to beat Darek Kaminski 13-11 in the fifth.**

### DIVISION 2 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	14	14	100.00%
Simon Berry	SC&P C	9	9	100.00%
Akeel Mir	Kingfisher I	9	8	88.89%
Jason King	Springfield A	15	13	86.67%
Bill Stamatiou	Tidmarsh B	6	5	83.33%
Glen Armashula	Kingfisher H	9	7	77.78%
Dave Sanket	OLOP B	9	7	77.78%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP	9	7	77.78%
Chris West	OLOP	9	7	77.78%
Eyup Odemis	Kingfisher I	12	9	75.00%
Mat Hickman	Springfield A	15	11	73.33%
Simon Barter	Tidmarsh B	9	6	66.67%
Sayali Bendkhale	Tidmarsh C	6	4	66.67%
Malcolm Gregory	SC&P C	8	5	62.50%
Muharrem Aydin	Kingfisher I	12	7	58.33%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield A	9	5	55.56%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	9	5	55.56%
Nikhil Kulkarni	Kingfisher H	9	5	55.56%
Holly Ranson	SC&P C	9	5	55.56%



**Tidmarsh 'B'** have lost their best player from last season, something which also happened the year before. Consequently, they may find things a bit difficult this year but with a team of experienced players at this level they should end up in a mid-table position. Bill Stamatiou, on 83%, and Simon Barter have both had good starts to the season but the rest of their squad have had slow starts. All but one of their matches have been very close with the one exception being a 9 – 1 defeat against OLOP 'A'

**Prediction – 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Bill Stamatiou recovering from two games down to beat Glen Armashula 12-10 in the fifth**

**Tidmarsh 'C'** had lots of injury and other player availability issues last year and hopefully the same will not occur this time around. They have had a mixed start to the season with a big win and a couple of defeats but



JACEK PIECHOCKI

if their players perform to a similar level to the second half of last season they should do OK. Sayali Bendkhale has their best average of 67% but everyone else has chipped in with wins so I would expect their results to improve.

**Prediction – 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Simon Craig recovering from two games down to beat your DFS 11-8 in the fifth**

**Kingfisher 'H'** have had a surprisingly difficult start to the season and they find themselves in the bottom two with a minus 14 points difference. However, apart from a heavy defeat against SC&P 'C' all of their matches have been close which suggests they have a chance of moving up the table. Glen Armashula is a good player at this level and is on 78% and Nikhil Kulkarni has had a good start to the season but the rest of their squad have struggled a bit. With six players how well they will do may depend on team selection and in particular how often Glen plays.



GLEN ARMASHULA

**Prediction – 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Glen Armashula with a hard fought maximum against Kingfisher 'I'.**

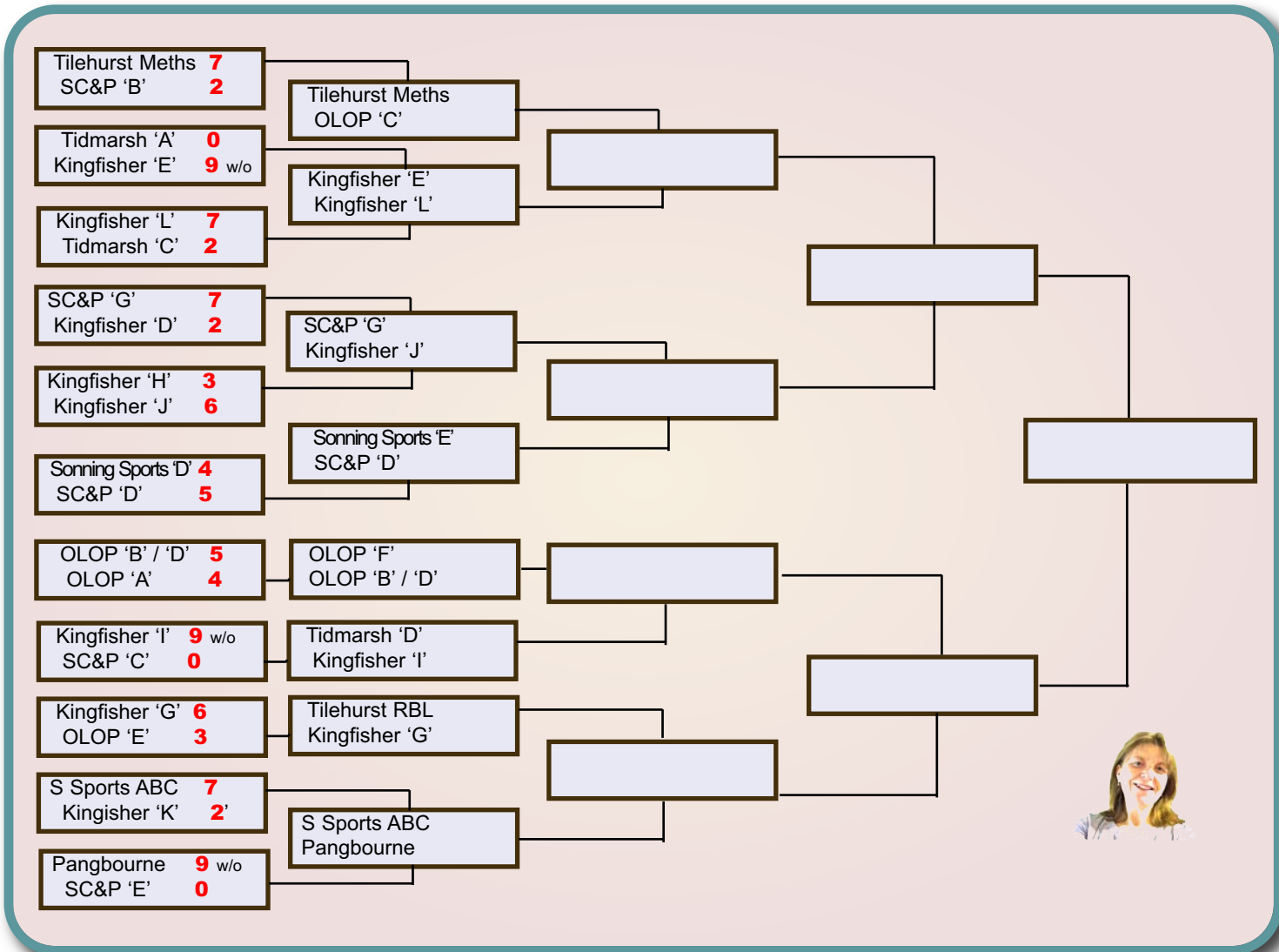
**Kingfisher 'G'** were tipped by me as being promotion candidates (sorry Andrew) but they have had a very difficult start to the season, partly due to player availability issues. They started with two very heavy defeats and although their results have improved since then their record of four defeats and a draw has left them in a difficult position with a minus twenty two points record. Ian Clothier looks like a useful signing but with their highest player average only being 44% they will need to show some improved form to claw back the points they have lost

**Prediction – 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Ian Clothier with a fine maximum against Tidmarsh 'C' which included two marathon sets which went to five**



# TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT



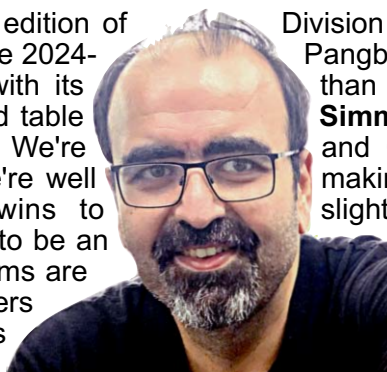
*by Louise Forster*

This year 27 teams entered the Team Handicap competition. Five teams received a bye and eleven matches were scheduled. Matches were completed during cup week and the results are shown in the draw above. Many of the matches were closely fought but particular mention to OLOP B/D for their 5 - 4 defeat of OLOP A, and SC&P D with their equally close 5 - 4 win over Sonning Sports D. Second round matches will be scheduled for the next cup week in late November.



# DIVISION THREE *by Huzeefe Borazan*

Welcome everyone to the first edition of the Division 3 newsletter of the 2024-25 season, a battleground with its fair share of upsets, near-misses, and table tennis drama to rival any soap opera. We're only a handful of matches in, but we're well into the season. From surprise wins to heartbreaking losses, it's shaping up to be an absolute thriller! As always, some teams are contending for promotion, while others are just trying to keep their heads above water.



Division 3 this year. Nipping at OLOP 'C' s heels, Pangbourne WMC have shown they're more than capable of mixing it with the best. **John Simmonds** maintains a perfect 100% win rate, and **Clive Taylor** isn't far behind with 80%, making this a formidable duo. They took a slight knock after losing to OLOP 'C', but they've got the firepower to stay in the top spots. The question is whether they can maintain their momentum or if they'll fall behind under pressure from the rest. Their biggest disadvantage was they did only have 3 players with the result that they had to forfeit some of the games. However, this year they have **Aleksey Mokhov** which can make a difference.

As is our tradition, let's take a closer look at how the teams are performing and try to predict where they might end up when the dust settles. So grab a cup of tea, and with the competition heating up faster than a forehand smash, let's dive into the action so far! We will analyse each team based on their ranking after Week 7.

**Prediction:** With their current form, Pangbourne should be pushing for promotion. If Aleksey and Leroy contribute more, they can pursue the title like they did two years ago. **2nd place finish.**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 OLOP C	6	6	0	0	39	21	39
2 Pangbourne	5	4	0	1	35	15	35
3 SC&P D	5	3	0	2	35	15	35
4 Sonning Sports B	5	3	0	2	33	17	33
5 OLOP D	5	3	1	1	29	21	29
6 Kingfisher J	6	2	1	3	24	36	24
7 Tilehurst Meths A	5	0	2	3	19	31	19
8 Sonning Sports C	5	1	0	4	18	32	18
9 Tidmarsh D	4	2	0	2	17	23	17
10 Tilehurst Meths B	5	1	1	3	16	34	16
11 SC&P E	5	0	1	4	15	35	15

### 3. Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' – Strong Starters

Sonning Common and Peppard 'D' have shown flashes of brilliance this season. With **Jeremy Willis** in top form and **Ian Davenport** delivering solid performances, they've climbed into third place. Their victory against Kingfisher 'J' showed they are serious, though they've had some inconsistent performances, which could cost them dearly if not addressed. A top-three finish is achievable, and if they stay consistent and avoid losing points to lower-ranked teams, they can push for promotion.

**Prediction:** They've got the talent to stick around the top, but keeping consistency is key. Look for SC&P 'D' to round out the top three by season's end. **3rd place finish.**

### 1. Our Lady Of Peace 'C' – Leading the Pack!

**OLOP 'C'** is last year's OLOP 'B' and they have been playing with the same core team for a long time. They hit the ground running with an unbeaten record and are making quite a name for themselves as the ones to beat this season. With a rock-solid roster, including new addition, their top players like Daniel Dzieciol, who's smashing his way through opponents with an impressive 86.67% win rate, OLOP 'C' are proving they've got the depth to last. Their consistency has been the secret to their success, and every other team will need to bring their A-game to knock these guys off the top spot.

**Prediction:** OLOP 'C' are heavy favourites for the title if they keep up their form. A top finish and possible promotion are very much on the cards. **1st place finish...**

### 2. Pangbourne WMC – Close Contenders

After a brief period at Division 2 they are back to

### 4. Sonning Sports 'B' – Aiming High

**Sonning Sports 'B'** has a solid all-round team with a deep player pool as reserves. They have been providing a good exhibition with some close wins and strong individual performances, especially from **Tim Challender** and **Brett Hastings**. They're comfortably in fourth right now, but they'll need to keep up the wins against mid-table teams to hold their spot. They could even push for third place with the right mix of grit and determination, especially when **Grant Baartman** chips in more.

**Prediction:** Sonning Sports 'B' have the potential to secure a top-four finish, but consistency against mid-level teams will be key. **4th place finish.**



## 5. Our Lady Of Peace 'D' – Mid-Table Marvels

**OLOP 'D'** has been the most consistent team in recent years. It's always enjoyable to play against them. They have had a solid, if not spectacular, start



LAST YEAR'S LADIES SINGLES RUNNER-UP - LOUISE FORSTER

to the season. **James Smith** has been the team's backbone, with **Louise Forster** offering steady support. Though they've managed to avoid any heavy defeats, they'll need to step things up if they want to break into the top four. For now, they seem set for a comfortable mid-table finish, neither challenging for promotion nor facing relegation concerns.

**Prediction:** *Mid-table security seems likely, with potential to rise if they secure some key wins.* **5th place finish.**

## 6. Kingfisher 'J' – A Mixed Bag

**Kingfisher 'J'** is a newly formed team with new players who are experiencing their first season. This explains why the journey and the results so far have been a bit of a rollercoaster for Kingfisher 'J'. **Neil Abbott's** excellent form has given the team some much-needed wins, but overall consistency is lacking. They've got the talent to stick in the middle of the table, but whether they move up or down might just come down to the form of a couple of key players. Right now, they look set to hover around mid-table.

**Prediction:** *With some grit and a little luck, they could climb a place or two, but for now, they seem likely to hold steady.* **8th place finish.**

## 7. Tilehurst Methodists 'A' – Looking to Climb

**Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** are struggling to find their feet after dropping down from Division 2. Last year they lost their best player and captain and this season **Phil Jones** and **Jes Eassom** have been doing their best to keep the team floating, but a lack of support from the squad is holding them back. If they can rally and get the full team firing, they've got a chance to push up the table, but right now, they're looking at a mid-to-lower table finish.

**Prediction:** A mid-table spot is likely unless they can squeeze out a few wins in tougher matches. **7th place finish.**

## 8. Sonning Sports 'C' – Battling the Odds

It's been a tough run so far for Sonning Sports 'C', but there are signs of hope. Last season's flash player **James Miller** has been a beacon of consistency, but the rest of the squad needs to step up if they want to avoid relegation. **Cris Reynold's** contribution in doubles is important, and it's also required in individual sets. Their upcoming matches are crucial, and any points they can scrape together could make all the difference.

**Prediction:** Unless they find their form, they're in for a long season near the bottom of the table. **9th place finish.**

## 9. Tidmarsh 'D' – Fighting to Climb Up

Tidmarsh 'D' has been one of the most consistent and formidable teams in Division 3 in recent years. However, this season, despite their best efforts, they appear vulnerable. **Ray Webb** and **Terry Hardie** have shown glimmers of promise, but a few unfortunate losses have left them further from their expected performance. To climb the ranks, they will need strong results against teams lower in the standings. With a match in hand, they are certainly capable of achieving this.



SONNING SPORTS D WERE DIVISION FOUR CHAMPIONS LAST YEAR



**Prediction: With a combination of a bit of luck and better individual performances, they will climb up to the mid-table. 6th place finish.**

### 10. Tilehurst Methodists 'B' – Battling to Stay Up

**Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** have had a challenging start, and they're yet to find their rhythm. **Steve Christelow** has been solid, but the team needs more from the rest of the squad to avoid falling into the relegation pit. They've got some crucial matches coming up, but the odds are against them.

**Prediction: Unless they can pull off some surprises, relegation is a real possibility. 10th place finish.**

### 11. Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' – Struggling for Points

**SC&P 'E'** has had a rocky start to life in Division 3. **Gerry Bacon** has been the standout performer, but it's not been enough to keep them from sinking towards the bottom. If the rest of the squad doesn't find their form soon, they'll be facing the relegation.

**Prediction: SC&P 'E' are likely to end up in the bottom two unless they can turn things around. 11th place finish.**

\*\*\*

So, there you have it! **Our Lady Of Peace 'C'** look set to be the team to beat, but **Pangbourne WMC** and **Sonning Common and Peppard 'D'** aren't about to let

them sail to victory without a fight. Meanwhile, teams like **Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** and **Sonning Common and Peppard 'E'** are in a race against time to avoid the dreaded drop, clinging to every point they can get in a fight for survival.

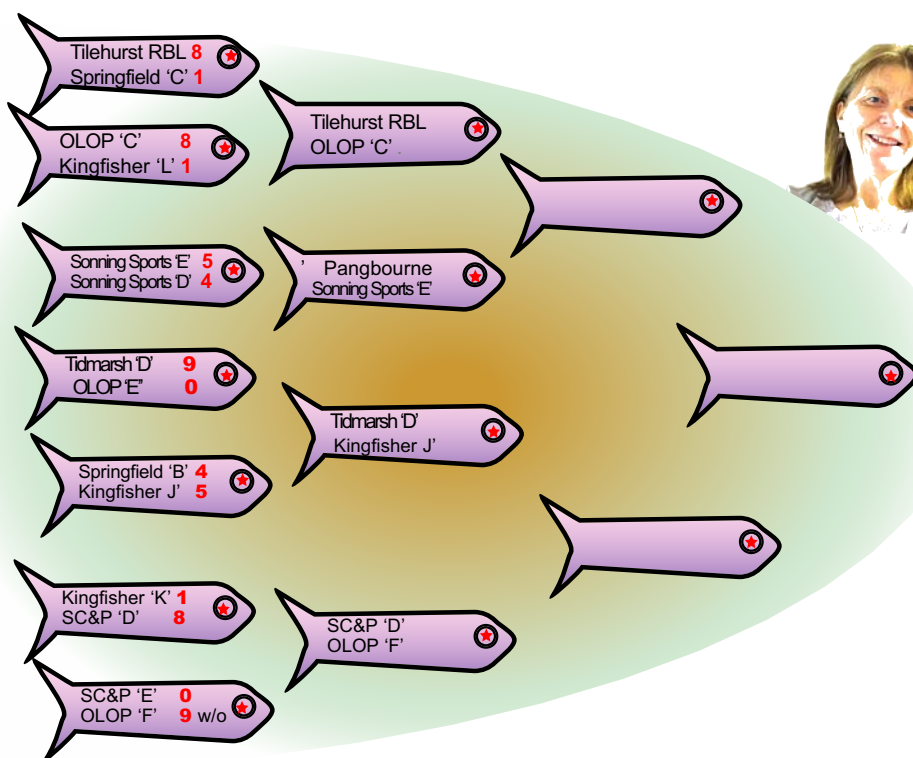
With every match bringing excitement, surprise results, and standout performances, it's anyone's guess who will emerge victorious or escape relegation. One thing's sure: Division 3 promises plenty more twists and turns before the season ends. Thanks for reading this episode so far, and we'll see you in the next episode in December – just in time to spice up your Christmas season with a fresh dose of table tennis action!

LEADING AVERAGES 3				
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	9	9	100.00%
Ian Davenport	SC&P D	9	9	100.00%
Tim Challender	Sonning Sports B	6	6	100.00%
Jeremy Willis	SC&P D	12	11	91.67%
Daniel Dzieciol	OLOP C	15	13	86.67%
Neil Abbott	Kingfisher J	12	10	83.33%
Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	5	4	80.00%
Graham Stark	OLOP C	9	7	77.78%
Brett Hastings	Sonning Sports B	9	7	77.78%
Jim Warren	SC&P D	9	7	77.78%
James Miller	Sonning Sports C	12	9	75.00%
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne WMC	14	10	71.43%
James Smith	OLOP D	9	6	66.67%
Louise Forster	OLOP D	9	6	66.67%
Patrick McIntosh	OLOP D	9	6	66.67%
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths A	9	6	66.67%
Simon Brookes	OLOP C	9	6	66.67%

## 3 AND 4 DIVS TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

Fifteen teams entered this year's event and first round matches took place last week. Results are shown in the draw on the right. The local derby of Sonning Sports. 'E' vs Sonning Sports 'D' was one of the closest matches with the 'E' team winning 5 - 4. Kingfisher 'J' also had a tight match, finally winning 5 - 4 against Springfield B. Quarter finals are now all lined up and will be played last week in November.





# DIVISION FOUR

by Mick Mitcham

## Yes

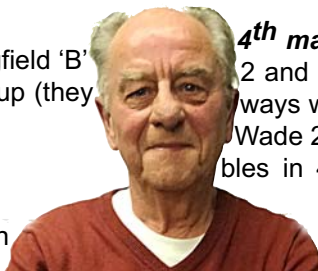
**they're off and running** OH sorry wrong sport how do you start a table tennis match?

My early prediction for this season was Springfield 'B' to win (on target) and Tilehurst RBL C runners up (they need to do a lot more hard work).

### Kingfisher 'K'

**1st match** lost to Springfield B 7 - 3. Houron 2 Emrah 1 Curtis 0.

**2nd match:** another loss, this time to Springfield C: 6 - 4. Mick picking up a maximum; Moto & Mick winning the doubles. Moto had a great match with Paul Martin just losing 13 - 11 in the fifth..



**3rd match** yet another win 7 - 3 at Tilehurst RBL 'C' with Pat getting a maximum, Filz 2 and Sue 1.

**4th match** their first loss to Springfield B 4 - 6; Pat 2 and Fitz 1 and the doubles. Then back to winning ways with a 7 - 3 win at Springfield C Fitz maximum Wade 2 and Susan 1 Wade and Fitz winning the doubles in 4. **6th match** home to a 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher K where no one gained a maximum. Fitz and Pat 2 wins and doubles and Susan 1 win.

### Our Lady of Peace 'F'

Good start by the newcomers with a 6 - 4 win over experienced SC&P 'F' with Abhishek maximum.

**2nd match** away to their E team and lost 7 - 3, Anish picking up 2 and just losing in the fifth 13-11 to Fitz. **3rd Match** away to Kingfisher L a creditable draw Abhishek 2 Krishiv and Anish 1 each. **4th match** a 7 - 3 home lose to Sonning Sports D Adi 2 and Isaac 1. What a **5th match** - a 10 - 0 win over Sonning Sports E, Abhishek, Krishiv and Anish all getting maximums.

### Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'

**1st match** they lost to OLOP 'F' 6 - 4 - Alistair 2 and Derek and Graham 1 each. **2nd match** home to Tilehurst RBL C they went down 7-3 with a maximum from David Riddle. Then for their 3rd match they came up against a very good team Springfield 'B' and lost 9 - 1 with David getting the 1. What a turn round - for their next game they beat Springfield C 9 - 1; David and Alistair maximum and Derek 2 wins. Then away to Kingfisher 'K' with a 7 - 3 loss; David getting good maximum and Derek being very unlucky to lose to Mick Mitcham 12 - 10, 11 - 13, 13 - 11, 7 - 11 and 11 - 9 in the 5th.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 OLOP E	6	5	0	1	41	19	41
2 Springfield B	5	5	0	0	38	12	38
3 Kingfisher L	5	3	1	1	32	18	32
4 OLOP F	5	2	1	2	27	23	27
5 Kingfisher K	5	2	0	3	25	25	25
6 Tilehurst RBL C	4	2	0	2	21	19	21
7 SC&P F	5	1	0	4	20	30	20
8 Springfield C	4	1	1	2	15	25	15
9 Sonning Sports E	5	0	1	4	11	39	11
10 Sonning Sports D	4	1	0	3	10	30	10

**3rd match** a 7 - 3 win at Sonning Sport E. Emrah, Walter and Houron 2 each. The following week another 7 - 3 win: Mick, Walter and Houron 2 each plus the doubles. Their 5th match was away to OLOP E and a 6 - 4 loss, with Emrah and Walter picking up 2 wins.

### Kingfisher 'L'

**1st away match of the season** at Sonning Sports 'E' with a great win 8 - 2. Noah and Pehej both hit maximums and the doubles with Sue winning 1..

**What a second match away to Sonning Sports D** with a 9 - 1 win! Sue, Atinc with maximum and Ian 2 wins and the doubles with Atinc. **Their third match a draw** with OLOP F. Pehej maximum and Atinc 2. **4th match away** to my prediction for runners up - Tilehurst RBL C and - coming away with a 7 - 3 win Pehej and Atinc maximum and doubles. **Their next match was a big one** v Springfield B, Both sides unbeaten but Springfield were too good, winning 7 - 3 but Pehej did get his 4th maximum of the season.

### Our Lady of Peace 'E'

**What a start!** - 10 - 0 winners at Sonning Sports 'D'. Pat, Wade and Fitz all picking up maximum, next match home to their 'F' team with another win 7 - 3 - Fitz getting his 2nd maximum.



DEREK BROOKE-WAVELL, ALISTAIR SCOTT AND DAVID RIDDLE OF SC&P 'F'



## Sonning Sports 'D'

**1st match crash** against on form OLOP 'E' who came away with 10 - 0 win. **Second match** home to another crash with a 9 - 1 loss to Kingfisher 'L' with Michael picking up the win. **3rd match** they get off the mark with a 7 - 3 win over OLOP 'F', John getting a maximum Peter collecting 2 and Mike 1, and the doubles with John. **4th match** another loss 8 - 2 to Tilehurst RBL 'C', Michael collecting 1 and Mike and John with the doubles.

## Sonning Sports 'E'

Creditable draw in their first match away to Springfield 'C' with Kc making 2 wins and the doubles with Mo - David and Mo 1 each. **2nd match** home to Kingfisher 'L' with an 8 - 2 loss and Kc and David 1 each. **Next match** another loss, this time to Kingfisher 'K' 7 - 3 - with Kc collecting a maximum. **Next away match** to Springfield 'B' with another 9 - 1 loss. Kc collected the 1 win. It gets harder as time goes on with a 10 - 0 beating from OLOP 'F'.

## Springfield 'B'

Great start to the season with a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'K' with Ludovic winning all 3, Robert 2 and Benson 1 and teaming up with Ludovic to win the doubles. **Match 2** at home to SC&P 'F' with a 9 - 1 win; Marcello & Steve with maximums and Robert with 2 wins. **3rd Match** away to OLOP 'E' and their 3rd win 6 - 4; Steve maximum Marcello 2 and Benson 1. **4th match** another 9 - 1 win; Robert and Ludovic with maximum and Steve 2. **5th match** and 5th win Away to Kingfisher 'L' Robert, Benson and Marcello each picked up 2.



SPRINGFIELD C - ADELE IRELAND, JAMES McGEOUGH AND AKSHATHA UDUPA

## DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Pehej Vig	Kingfisher L	12	12	100.00%
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield B	6	6	100.00%
Noah Reid	Kingfisher L	3	3	100.00%
Abhishek Saraf	OLOP F	9	8	88.89%
Steve O'Connor	Springfield B	9	8	88.89%
Atinc Erguven	Kingfisher L	9	8	88.89%
David Riddle	SC&P F	12	10	83.33%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	6	5	83.33%
Mick Mitcham	Kingfisher K	6	5	83.33%
Patrick Daniels	OLOP E	15	12	80.00%
Fitz Licorish	OLOP E	18	14	77.78%
Marcello Caramma	Springfield B	9	7	77.78%
Robert Atack	Springfield B	12	9	75.00%
Houon Tsun	Kingfisher K	9	6	66.67%
Anish Shukul	OLOP F	9	6	66.67%
Walter Aldridge	Kingfisher K	9	6	66.67%

## Springfield 'C'

Draw for their 1st match with Sonning Sports 'E', Richard and Shas picking up 2 wins each and Adele 1, **second match** a win over Kingfisher 'K' with all 3 players Richard, Shas and Paul winning 2 games each. **3rd match** a big loss to SC&P 'F' 9 - 1 with Adele getting the 1. Followed by another loss 7 - 3 to OLOP 'E' Paul 2 and Shas 1.



LINDA KING OF TILEHURST RBL C

## Tilehurst RBL 'C'

Good win away for their first match with a 7-3 win over SC &P 'F' with

Paul, John and Geoff winning 2 each and Paul and John winning the doubles 11-7 in the fifth. **2nd match** home to OLOP 'E' and a 3 - 7 loss - Linda 2 and Jim 1. **3rd match** a loss this time to Kingfisher 'L', Linda Jim and John all getting 1. **4th match** back to winning ways with 8 - 2 at Sonning Sports 'D'. Jim and Geoff maximums and John 2 and Jim and John picking up the doubles.