

# READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor:  
Derek Wavell

February 2024



Finalists in the Individual Handicap tournament in January - Akeel Mir and James Smith. You can find a full video of this spirited final on [page 11](#).

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As always the Individual Handicap Tournament brought together masses of talent and energy in January, in the blue open spaces of Cippenham table tennis hall.

Many different styles and approaches to glimpse. But all culminating in one battle, between two special players who had fought on solidly for hours for the honour of facing each other - James Smith and Akeel Mir. Attack and repulse.

See the video! And play well!

Derek Wavell





### Notes from our Chairman

Hello Everybody

How time flies - we are on the run in with still a lot to play for at the top of a division and indeed at the bottom so continue to enjoy your matches whatever the result is.



On the 17TH MARCH the Reading Closed is being

held at Cippenham so get your entry to Eric now. From what I gather there are still a lot of errors on the score cards that go to the DFS.

Mainly the doubles pairings are not included so please check all is OK before sending.

All the best

Derek

### Notes from the RDTTA General Secretary

The 2023/24 season is entering its closing stages so it is now time for all those teams vying for the championship or promotion to hold their nerve and for those just behind the dotted line or perhaps struggling to avoid relegation it is probably time to make your move! In Division 1 we look all set for a title-deciding match between Kingfisher 'A' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'.

In Division 2, Reading FC are now looking very strong candidates for the title and promotion with Kingfisher 'F' looking set to join them. Kingfisher 'I' and OLOP 'C' are out in front in Division 3 with only OLOP 'B' realistically in with

a chance of catching them while in Division 4 Sonning Sports 'D' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' have occupied the top two places virtually all season and don't show any signs of faltering.

A reminder that the Reading Closed Championships will be held at Cippenham on Sunday 17th March and the AGM and Awards presentation evening is set for Wednesday 5th June 2024.

Nigel Maltby

RDTTA Secretary



### Team Handicap report – February 2024

Both semi-finals for the Team Handicap tournament have taken place this month, two tightly fought matches leading us up to what should be an exciting final.

The first of the semi-finals was a local derby match between Kingfisher 'F' and Kingfisher 'I'. This proved to be a very close match going right up to the final game with Kingfisher 'F' winning 5 – 4, thanks to three wins from Adrian Cretu.

The second semi-final saw reigning champions



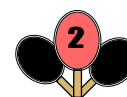
Pangbourne take on Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'. This was again, another close match with SC&P 'B' taking the win 6 – 3 with Tim Raby, Tom Astle and Matt Stone winning two apiece.

The final will take place in early April between Kingfisher 'F' and SC&P 'B'.

Louise Forster

Tournament Organizer

See the latest [tournament chart](#) below.





# DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

Firstly, I trust you have all marked Wednesday 5th June at Tilehurst Royal British Legion in your calendars to join us for the centenary celebrations and presentation evening. I'm looking forward to reminiscing with you of seasons gone-by as well as congratulating this year's winners.

What a potentially exciting end to the season we have in store! The three 'mini-leagues' are still alive and well - and while it's easy to make predictions (so just for fun I have done just that) a lot can still change in the final few weeks. The top three are still to face each other and as more clashes between the bottom four ensue we will learn the fate of the teams occupying the two official relegation spots.

*Fun Fact: So far this season there has only been one unexpected team victory outside of the mini-leagues (where Kingfisher 'C' impressively beat SC&P 'A' 6 - 4 back in September) - will this trend continue to the end?*

I'll save the MVPs for the finale and so in this edition they are replaced with my predictions for final placings for our hundredth season.

**1st: Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** - At the time of writing the Commoners lead by two, having played an extra match. They have succeeded in more-or-less matching

Dimitry Khakhamov have dropped only one further point since the New Year whilst Darren Jones has been unavailable.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 1st**

**3rd: Kingfisher 'B'** Similarly to last season, they seem to have settled for third in the commendable spirit of squad rotation. Rajan Waterman has made just one appearance in 2024. There promise to be some great battles in the years ahead between Prayrit Ahluwalia (with just one further appearance) and Theo - and it was Prayrit who dominated on this occasion. Despite the odd slip up, Graham Mendick and Julian Telford have been their main points contributors in 2024 - Cath Venning has also contributed to competently oversee Tim Raby 3 - 1 and performing well to take Theo to a deciding leg.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 3rd**

**4th: Tilehurst RBL 'A'** - It's extremely difficult to predict who will finish fourth. The main trio of Keith Winter, Jon Willis and Marc Brent have some challenging fixtures remaining including KFA and KFB (and KFC, whose outstanding fixture list looks more favourable) and thus will do well to stay in their current position, not helped by spurning some valuable points over lower placed opposition. As in the last newsletter Jon and Keith remain locked together with identical player stats - 23 out of 45. Marc's average is higher but he has not been available for some of the crunch matches where reserves were needed, including Kate Maksimenko, who stepped up against Tidmarsh and delivered a cracking contribution to get the better of both Antony Baker and Simon Barter in a 5 - 5 nail biter.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 5th**



Martin Adams

	DIV 1	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	SC&P A	16	14	0	2	136	24	136
2	Kingfisher A	15	15	0	0	134	16	134
3	Kingfisher B	14	12	0	2	110	30	110
4	Tilehurst RBL A	15	9	1	5	76	74	76
5	Kingfisher C	14	5	3	6	72	68	72
6	Tidmarsh A	13	5	5	3	71	59	71
7	Sonning Sports A	14	6	3	5	65	75	65
8	SC&P C	15	2	2	11	41	109	41
9	Kingfisher D	15	1	3	11	39	111	39
10	SC&P B	15	1	1	13	34	116	34
11	SC&P D	16	0	4	12	32	128	32

Kingfisher 'A's recent string of results to keep the pressure on but will need to make up several more points as the matches run out. Needless to say, Daniel Moses is now the sole unbeaten player in our division. Ed Lush managed to avenge his first-half defeat by Theo Kniep while Gary Morgan has only dropped two ends in 2024 including a clinical straight sets victory over Dave Croucher. Ian Cole has also enjoyed a couple of outings against lower opposition while captain Jason Roberts has done his best to keep his team in the hunt with several creditable wins.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 2nd**

**2nd: Kingfisher 'A'** - There are still tough matches to negotiate for the current champions but neutral-to-positive results in those encounters should result in a successful defence - but stranger things have happened! Hari Gehlot remained resolute where his colleagues faltered in an 8 - 2 victory against KFC (a little more on that later) and a combination of Rishaan Sawant, Martin Adams, Ross Saxby and



DMITRY KHAKHAMOV OF KINGFISHER A





## DIV 1 LEADING AVERAGES

Daniel Moses	SC&P A	20	20	100.00%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	35	34	97.14%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	38	36	94.74%
Rajan Waterman	Kingfisher B	15	14	93.33%
Prayrit Ahluwalia	Kingfisher B	27	25	92.59%
David Croucher	Sonning Sports A	24	22	91.67%
Ian Cole	SC&P A	20	18	90.00%
Ed Lush	SC&P A	38	34	89.47%
Julian Telford	Kingfisher B	26	23	88.46%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	30	26	86.67%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	18	15	83.33%
Rishaan Sawant	Kingfisher A	18	15	83.33%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	12	10	83.33%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher B	35	28	80.00%

**5th Kingfisher 'C'** – Theo Kniep continues his impressive upwards trajectory with myself included as a small factor - he turned me over in straight sets - as well as emerging victorious in a close five gamer over Dmitry on the same night. Graham Mendick has also been added to his victims. Nigel Keedy has also impressed with a recent maximum versus Tidmarsh. Phil Mead, Alan Cummings and Matt Isherwood have all contributed and having negotiated the top three already with a favourable outstanding fixture list and a history of being clinical against the lower teams I expect to see them complete a successful sprint to end up in fourth position.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 4th**

**6th Tidmarsh 'A'** also have a tough final run-in, but with games in hand may just hold on for sixth. I reckon we will see more of Rob McMillan next season as he played up to beat Alan Cummings and Matt Isherwood in an excellent Division 1 debut. Lee Calcutt has emerged with the leading average with impressive victories over Keith Winter, Jon Willis and Danny Dockree to name a few. Antony Baker and Dale Ballard have done what captain Duncan Groves, who has only made a single appearance in 2024, has asked of them.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 6th**

**7th Sonning Sports 'A'** – BREAKING NEWS: Finally, after a stretch of six seasons, Paul Savage has missed a match! On other news, boosted by further recent appearances by Dave Croucher, they enjoyed a mid-season stretch of seven unbeaten matches and briefly held on to fourth position. The impressive run came to an end as they hosted SC&P 'A' where Dave also lost his unbeaten record, yet still managed a satisfying win over Ed Lush. Graham Diplock improved his stats as he gained his first Reading Division 1 maximum, albeit against the bottom side, and Nick Sears has had few unpleasant defeats. Having shared a pint with Bob Woodmansee I can confirm he is still smiling. They could possibly still climb back up again if Dave is available for their outstanding fixtures, some of which are very winnable.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 7th**

**8th Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** finally broke free from the bottom three with a fine 8 - 2 victory over their B team, simultaneously improving their chances of survival and putting the fortune of the lower-placed Commoners fur-

ther into doubt. Jon Abbott has really stepped up when it mattered with a maximum in that match as well as the previous week against a full-strength Tidmarsh squad. Danny Dockree has also improved as the season has progressed, Graham Mendick being the pick of several impressive wins. Mark Jones has made a further contribution and there may yet be a chance for Angus to get on the scoreboard before the season is out. I believe they, like KFD who they are yet to face, will avoid relegation by a handful of points.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 8th**

**9th Kingfisher 'D'** need to remain focused since they still have opportunities to gain further points and confirm their place in Division 1 for next season, especially if Mike Douglas remains fit. In 2024 he has already chalked off wins against Marc Brent, Jon Willis, Paul Savage, Nick Sears, Simon Berry and more. He's also had some decent support from Ajai Kamath (victorious over Keith Winter) and Georgi Ivanov (also took out Paul Savage).

**Centenary Season Prediction: 9th**

**10th Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** also have a hitman in Tom Aistle whose average is now almost 50%. He managed to stun the Tilehurst trio but his frequency of appearances, like Matt Stone (who recently overturned Antony Baker), has tailed off of late. They still have KFD and SC&P 'D' to play but lag five points behind the safety zone. With Denise Weller still injured can they and colleagues Tim Raby and Daniel Artene find something special from somewhere?

**Centenary Season Prediction: 10th**



TIM RABY

**11th Sonning Common & Peppard 'D'** remain bottom and with chances running out look set for the drop despite forging recent creditable 5 - 5 and 4 - 6 score-lines against KFD and Tilehurst respectively. Simon Berry is responsible for the majority of their points with 16 wins from 30 (plus a couple of doubles) and can add Julian Telford to his list of wins 11-3, 8-11, 8-11, 11-6, 12-10. Brian Meheux also played admirably to outwit Jon Willis' defence and both he and Malcolm Gregory ensured that KFC youngster Ayush Swaminathan's season remains winless. Nigel Maltby pushed Rishaan Sawant to five close legs but just failed to close it out, losing 6-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-7, 7-11.

**Centenary Season Prediction: 11th**



# BERKSHIRE INTER-TOWN TOURNAMENT 2024

by *Duncan Groves*

The Reading league representative team was once again victorious in the County competition played out between the four leagues in Berkshire.

Unfortunately, Bracknell league was unable to field a side, though Basingstoke filled in for two divisions to ensure some teams had a full playing schedule.

The event is played across six divisions, three for Senior players and three Veteran. Reading fielded a strong team, led by Daniel Moses and Ross Saxby in **Division 1 Seniors**. Their first clash ended with a 5 - 0



HARI GEHLOT AND GARY MORGAN REPRESENTING READING VETERANS

the Newbury team of Sue Purton and Jonathan Hopson battled hard, the result ended the same.

**Reading Division 1 Veterans** comprised Hari Gehlot and Gary Morgan, the latter stepping in for Martin Adams as a late replacement. The Maidenhead pair of Elroy Hull and Mark Kirton were no match for our vets, with only one set dropped in a 5 - 0 whitewash.

In their second match against the Basingstoke pair of Tony Palaczky and Praneet Moongrey, Hari won both singles and shared in a tight 3 - 2 doubles win. Gary lost out to Tony, and the match ended 4 - 1 to Reading.



ROSS SAXBY

win, Daniel and Ross proving too strong for opponents Tom Lewis and Phil Adkins from Maidenhead. The second and final set against Newbury players Jamie Cole and James Ellicott ended in the same 5 - 0 scoreline, with only one game dropped across the five sets.

**Division 2 Seniors**, Prayrit Ahluwalia and Dmitry Khakhamov also made light work of their opposition, posting



PRAYRIT AHLUWALIA AND DMITRI KHAKHAMOV

two comprehensive 5 - 0 wins. In their first set, Dmitry had to recover from 2 - 0 down against Keith Langley from Newbury. In the Maidenhead match, there were singles wins over Parminder Singh and Parvin Baishkiyar.

To round off Reading league's Senior success, Duncan Groves and Barry Carter defeated both Maidenhead and Newbury teams 5 - 0. Louise Forster took the first game from Duncan but it was one way traffic thereafter. Although



DAVE BARR

Without doubt the tournament's headline encounter was **Reading versus Newbury** with top ranked County player, Dave Barr, representing Newbury, alongside Antony Baker. In a thrilling opening encounter Hari won the two opening games 12-10, 11-6 and a surprise win was on the cards. But Dave turned the set around with his brilliant defence and counter attack,





winning the final three games 11-6, 11-5, 11-5.

Dave also defeated Gary, but the Reading pair each won their singles against Antony setting up a conclusive doubles contest. With Hari and Gary working well as a team, the doubles was won 11-4, 13-11, 11-9 and Reading had secured a 3 - 2 victory and maximum points.

The solid **Division 2** Reading vets team of Graham Mendick and Julian Telford eased to a 5 - 0 win over



GRAHAM MENDICK AND JULIAN TELFORD



NICK SEARS AND PAUL SAVAGE

In the final division, stalwarts of this tournament, Paul Savage and Nick Sears picked up maximum points thanks to two 5 - 0 wins over Maidenhead and Newbury. Nick was pushed all the way by Newbury's Simon Barter, the set ending 11-9 in the fifth game. Paul survived a similar scare in the friendly match up with Basingstoke, coming through against Celia Hooker 11-9 in the fifth.

Maidenhead and, despite losing a doubles contest to Phil Davenport and Fallon Rust, a 4 - 1 success versus Newbury.

Let me summarise the results of the various inter-town groupings:

### Summary of Inter Town Results for Reading league:

#### Senior Division 1

Reading 5 Maidenhead 0  
Reading 5 Newbury 0

#### Senior Division 2

Reading 5 Newbury 0  
Reading 5 Maidenhead 0

#### Senior Division 3

Reading 5 Maidenhead 0  
Reading 5 Newbury 0

#### Veterans Division 1

Reading 5 Maidenhead 0  
Reading 4 Basingstoke 1  
Reading 3 Newbury 2

#### Veterans Division 2

Reading 4 Newbury 1  
Reading 5 Maidenhead 0

#### Veterans Division 3

Reading 5 Basingstoke 0  
Reading 5 Newbury 0  
Reading 5 Maidenhead 0

With every division won by our league, the Barbara Peisley trophy remains with Reading for another season. The final table is shown below:



HARI GEHLOT AND GARY MORGAN

<b>Reading 24 points</b>
<b>Newbury 17 points</b>
<b>Maidenhead 13 points</b>
<b>Bracknell 0 points</b>



# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Reading FC Community Trust and Kingfisher 'F' are now certainties to finish in the top two with Reading FC clear favourites to take the title. Very few points separate the next seven teams and almost any of them could finish as high as third. At the bottom of the table Kingfisher 'H' are certain to be relegated and Pangbourne WMC are a long way behind the teams above them and are unlikely to catch any of them despite having matches in hand.



A number of postponed matches have been re-arranged for the two weeks after the season finishes and a reminder that any matches that take place in that period have to be played by 5th April.

their highest average of 78% closely followed by Clive Gold on 76%; Clive has done very well get back to playing in fairly short time following knee surgery.

**Prediction – 2nd**

**Best Recent Performance – Akeel Mir recovering from two games down to beat Satej Jaywant in five**

**OLOP 'A'** had been on a run of close defeats but they followed that with a 10 - 0 win over the bottom team. Despite the defeats they are third in the table and are probably in a three-way fight for that position. Chris West is having an excellent season and is on 79% with Darek Kaminski not far behind on 67%. They have played the top two twice so they should finish the season strongly and there is a good chance they could be unbeaten in the rest of their matches.

**Prediction – 3rd**

**Best Recent Performance – Darek Kaminski with two good wins against Reading FC Community Trust**

**Kingfisher 'E'** have had some mixed results since Christmas, losing twice and beating two of the teams in the lower half. They were also unfortunate to have a win amended to a draw due to a player playing up infringing the play up rules. Their four regular players all have averages of between 48% and 65% so they are a hard team to beat but they are unlikely to pick up many big wins.

**Prediction – 4th**

**Best Recent Performance – Satej Jaywant with a three straight maximum against Kingfisher 'E'**

**Tidmarsh 'B'** are unbeaten since mid-November and have moved up to fifth place and they could finish even higher. All of their players have been playing well and in particular

Rob McMillan has been on fine form and is now on 73%. They have got a run of matches against the top teams coming up and their results in those will determine where they finish.

**Prediction – 5th**

**Best Recent Performance – Rob McMillan with a fine maximum against OLOP 'A'**

**Springfield 'A'** have had three wins, a draw and just one



AKEEL MIR OF KINGFISHER 'F' WITH HIS HEXAGONAL BAT

	DIV 2	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Reading FC	15	13	1	1	119	31	119
2	Kingfisher F	15	12	2	1	104	46	104
3	OLOP A	14	8	1	5	80	60	80
4	Kingfisher E	14	7	2	5	79	61	79
5	Tilehurst RBL B	15	4	4	7	76	74	76
6	Tidmarsh B	13	7	2	4	72	58	72
7	Springfield A	14	7	2	5	71	69	71
8	Kingfisher G	14	6	2	6	71	69	71
9	Tidmarsh C	16	4	3	9	70	90	70
10	Pangbourne WMC	13	0	3	10	36	94	36
11	Kingfisher H	15	0	0	15	12	138	12

Reading FC Community Trust have won all of their matches since Christmas, only dropping six sets in the process. This consistent form has consolidated their position at the top of the division and they now have a fifteen point lead and are very clear favourites for the title. Although Mike Childs has finally lost his 100% record, I am sure it was a minor blip and he may well not lose again this season. After taking a few matches to get back into the swing of things Simon Rowland has really hit form and he has recorded five maximums in a row. Anthony Alleyne has been playing consistently and it is good to see Jazz Dhillon back playing, and getting a maximum, having missed almost three months with a knee injury; knee injuries are a bit of a recurring theme in this division.

**Prediction – 1st**

**Best Recent Performance - Simon Rowland with a three straight maximum in the win at OLOP 'A'**

**Kingfisher 'F'** have won the five matches they have played recently and they have opened up a large gap between themselves and the teams below them. They have been keeping up the pressure on the leaders but are likely to have to settle for the runners up spot. Although they have a large squad, injuries and unavailability issues mean they have been reliant on four players for most of the season. Despite these problems the team has been very consistent, winning twelve of their fifteen matches. Adrian Cretu has





close defeat since Christmas. This good run of form has seen them move up the division into a comfortable mid table position. All of their players have been picking up games consistently with Jason King and Matt Hickman both playing especially well. They could finish as high as fifth but will probably end up slightly below that.

**Prediction – 6th**

**Best Recent Performance – Jason King with a fine maximum against Pangbourne WMC**



GENNADII ARMASHULA

**Kingfisher ‘G’**

have had four close matches recently, winning two and losing two. Two of their four regular players, Parvin Baishkyar and Gennadi Armashula, have been playing consistently well and are

averaging just under 70% but their other players are on 33% and less. If Parvin and Gennadi play in most of the remaining matches they will be challenging for fifth place but if they both miss matches they could finish as low as eighth.

**Prediction – 7th**

**Best Recent Performance – Ajay Yesi recovering from two games down to beat John Simmonds 11-8 in the fifth**

**Tilehurst RBL ‘B’** have not won since early November although during this period without a win they have drawn four times and all of their defeats have been 6 – 4 or 7 – 3. Consequently, they are still in the mid table pack but with your DFS now back playing following knee surgery they should be able to field their strongest team a bit more often. Kate Maksimenko continues to play well and is on just under 90% but they will need to avoid any more injuries if they are going to improve on their current eighth position. Stop Press - Nick Lean is now out with a knee injury but hopefully he will be back playing soon.

**Prediction – 8th**

**Best Recent Performance – Your DFS recovering from losing the first two games easily to beat Parvin Baishkyar in five.**

**Tidmarsh ‘C’** have only won once recently but most of the other results have been close so they are edging towards safety. Injuries are still causing them problems but they have strengthened their squad with the signing of Sayali Bendkhale. In Sayali’s first appearance she amazingly took Mike Childs’ 100%

record beating him 11-7 in the fifth. Simon Craig has their highest average with 71% but he has been unable to play for a few weeks, but all of their other players have been picking up wins. They are well clear of the team below them so they should be safe but the only caveat to that is that they have played Kingfisher ‘H’ twice and Pangbourne WMC have not played them at all, so two big wins for Pangbourne could put them within touching distance

**Prediction – 9th**

**Best Recent Performance – It could only be Sayali Bendkhale beating Mike Childs in five**

**Pangbourne WMC** have had a bad run of results losing all five matches they have played since Christmas. Their best result was a 6 – 4 defeat at Tidmarsh ‘B’ but in the other four matches they have only picked up a total of six points. They are thirty eight points behind the team above them and are pretty certain to be relegated, but they do have four matches in hand and they have already played the top two twice and have not played the bottom team at all, so mathematically they still have a chance of avoiding relegation. However, only Clive Taylor has been winning fairly regularly so the whole team will need to improve their individual results if the team is going to have a chance.

**Prediction – 10th**

**Best Recent Performance – Clive Taylor with a three straight win over Gennadi Armashula**

**Kingfisher ‘H’** have been having a difficult time and have had five very heavy defeats since Christmas. Their cause has not been helped by continuing player availability issues and they have often had to field reserves. They are certain to finish bottom but I am sure they will keep fighting and their younger players will get some good experience which will stand them in good stead for next season.

**Prediction – 11th**

**Best Recent Performance – Rupesh Ahluwalia with a good win in four against Sayali Bendkhale**

### DIV 2 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mike Childs	Reading FC	42	41	97.62%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	41	37	90.24%
Chris West	OLOP A	24	19	79.17%
Adrian Cretu	Kingfisher F	32	25	78.13%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher F	17	13	76.47%
Robert McMillan	Tidmarsh B	15	11	73.33%
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC	36	26	72.22%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	21	15	71.43%
Simon Rowland	Reading FC	27	19	70.37%
Akeel Mir	Kingfisher F	36	25	69.44%
Parvin Baishkiyar	Kingfisher G	36	25	69.44%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP A	33	22	66.67%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	30	20	66.67%
Gennadi Armashula	Kingfisher G	18	12	66.67%





# INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP TOURNAMENT *by Eric Van Looy*

The Individual Handicap Tournament took place on the 14th of January at Cippenham TTC in Slough, with a slimmed down crowd of 33 participants after some last-minute cancellations. We got the round-robins under way just before 9am and finished around 3pm, after a great day of table tennis.

## Hcap **Group A**

- +3 **Muharrem Aydin** 5
- 4 **Clive Taylor** 3
- 2 **Tim Raby** 2
- +1 Ajay Yesi 2
- +7 Houron Tsun 2
- +2 Patrick McIntosh 1



MUHARREM AIDIN

**Muharrem** – who is currently having a great season in Division 3 – conquered all in Group A, with Clive and Tim – both players with a negative handicap rating – joining him in the KO stages, but Ajay and Houron missing out on countback.

**Highlights were:** Clive overcoming a handicap of 6 to beat Patrick McIntosh-1 (-11 21 17), Ajay Yesi closely defeated Tim Raby 2-1 (-19 18 18), Muharrem held off Patrick to win 2-1 (16 -18 18), and Houron Tsun's single win came against Ajay 2-1 (19 -18 18).

## **GROUP B**

- 5 **Gennadii Armashula** 4
- +3 **Andrew Stone** 3
- Scr **Ruben Hernandez** 2
- +8 Atinc Erguven 1
- +4 Arek Ziolkowski 0



ANDY STONE

**Despite** his rating of -5, Gennadii showed he was the man to beat in Group B, winning all his matches. Andy Stone and Ruben Hernandez followed Gennadii into the KO rounds.

**Highlights were:** Gennadii overcoming a handicap of 12 points to beat Atinc 2-1 (15 -8 16), Andy beating his team mate Arek 2-1 (-14 15 11), Glen storming over Ruben in the third game 2-1 (-18 18 11), and Atinc grinding out a win over Arek with the narrowest of margins 2-1 (-16 19 25).

## **GROUP C**

- +4 **Alona Slobodskoy** 3
- +8 **John Scott** 3
- 6 **Nick Sears** 2
- 2 Huzeyfe Borazan 1
- +7 Maksym Schipka 1



ALONA SLOBODSKOY

**In this competitive** group, Alona took first spot with 3 wins out of 4. Also John and Nick made it through to the next round.

**Highlights were:** Nick taking care of Alona's sole loss, catching up from a 10-point handicap 2-1 (20 -17 21). Maksym had enough in his tank to hold off Nick, beating him 2-1 (-14 20 17). Huzeyfe did well to make up 9 points against Maksym and winning 2-1 (12 -17 19), while John's best win was

against Nick, holding on to a 2-1 win (19 -18 19).

## Hcap **Group D**

- Scr **Akeel Mir** 4
- 1 **Graham Stark** 3
- +8 **Emrah Bulut** 1
- +2 Walter Aldridge 1
- 2 Louise Forster 1



AKEEL MIR

**New addition** to the Berkshire County Veterans roster Akeel topped the group with a flawless display. Last year's runner-up Graham came in 2nd place, while Emrah sneaked into 3rd place on countback against Walter and Louise.

**Highlights were:** Walter overcoming a handicap of 6 against Emrah, winning 2-1 (-8 18 20), Akeel keeping Louise at bay with a 2-1 win (-8 13 18), Graham managing to get past Walter with a 2-1 scoreline (-14 15 16), and Louise snatching the win from Walter in a tight 2-1 contest (-17 17 20).

## **GROUP E**

- +5 **James Smith** 4
- +7 **Pehej Singh Vig** 4
- 4 **Parvin Baishkiyar** 3
- 2 Andrew Adair 2
- +2 Simon Brookes 2
- Scr Stephen Christelow 0



JAMES SMITH

**What a difference** a year makes! After fairly unsuccessful debuts in the previous season, both James and Pehej ruled Group E, with James coming out on top after countback.

Parvin, as the top-ranked player in the group, joined James and Pahej in 3rd spot.

**Highlights were:** Pehej Singh Vig maintaining his 5-point handicap lead over Simon in the third game 2-1 (-19 6 15), Andrew Adair narrowly beating Steve 2-1 (-15 15 18). James's handicap lead of 7 proved to be a bridge too far for Andrew, losing out 2-1 (17 -18 13), and Parvin provided James's sole loss with a 2-1 victory (-16 17 15).

## **GROUP F**

- +2 **Mark Carless** 4
- 2 **Eyup Odemis** 4
- +3 **Brett Hastings** 3
- +2 Jim Warren 2
- +2 Gopi Ponnappalli 2
- 12 Eric Van Looy 0



MARK CARLESS

**Mark and** last season's winner Eyup ruled Group F, while Brett did just enough to hold off the rest and take 3rd spot. Yours truly did his best, but did not have the skill to beat 10+ handicap points.

While most matches finished with convincing 2-0 scores, some of the **highlights were:** Jim beating Gopi after a slow catch-up right to the wire 2-1 (-22 14 19), Gopi finding an extra gear in game to beat Eric 2-1 (11 -19 15), and Eyup beating Brett 2-1 (19 -20 15).



## Knock-out rounds



BRETT HASTINGS (RIGHT) FLAILS JIM WARREN

Four players played an elimination round to join others in the Last Sixteen.

Brett Hastings did enough to better Nick Sears, winning 2-0 (19 14), while Parvin Baishkiyar left Emrah behind in the second game despite a 12-point handicap deficit, and a great 2-0 win (20 13).

In the Last 16 Muharrem Aydi kept his unbeaten streak by beating



PARVIN



GRAHAM STARK

Brett Hastings 2-0 (21 12). James Smith even managed to extend his 6-point handicap lead in game 2 to bring down Graham Stark 2-0 (17 11), while Andy Stone eliminated Eyup Odemis 2-1 (16 -20 17).

Alona Slobodskoy played strongly to keep Tim Raby at bay with a 2-1 victory (-14 19 12), Akeel Mir also remained unbeaten through a narrow 2 - 0 (20 19) victory



EYUP ODEMIS

over Ruben Hernandez, and Clive Taylor played solidly to reel in Pehej Singh Vig after a 11-point handicap deficit 2-0 (17 20).

Mark Carless reigned supreme over John Scott with a convincing 2-0 win (15 18), and Parvin Baishkiyar took out Gennadii Armashula with a 2-0 scoreline (13 19).



PEHEJ SINGH VIG

In the Quarter Finals, James put a stop to Muharrem's winning streak, and closed out with a 2-1 win (-14 12 20). Andy Stone – who'd allegedly annoyed his wife by entering this tournament – played a controlled game to beat Alona 2-1 (18 -14 14).

Akeel kept playing brilliantly and had enough in the tank to beat Clive Taylor 2-1 (-16 12 18), while Parvin proved a bit too much for Mark and won 2-0 (12 16).



CLIVE TAYLOR

In the Semi Finals, James reserved his spot in the Final by getting the better of Andy with a 2-0 victory (15 20), and Akeel stayed on par with Parvin, winning 2-1 (-16 14 1).



FINALIST JAMES SMITH





# The Final - James Smith vs Akeel Mir

In front of a good crowd, James and Akeel played out a great final. James is in Division 3 with a handicap of +5; Akeel is in Div 2 with 0, so each game starts 5-love in James's favour. Akeel's retrieving skills and ball control helped him to a 22-20 win in game 1 despite the 5-point handicap deficit. Then James's continued attacking efforts started paying off and brought him game 2 with a 21-16 score. James maintained his momentum and stormed to a 21-6 win in game 3, crowning him the winner. Congratulations! Full details of the tournament can be found from the Tabs.

ERIC VAN LOOY



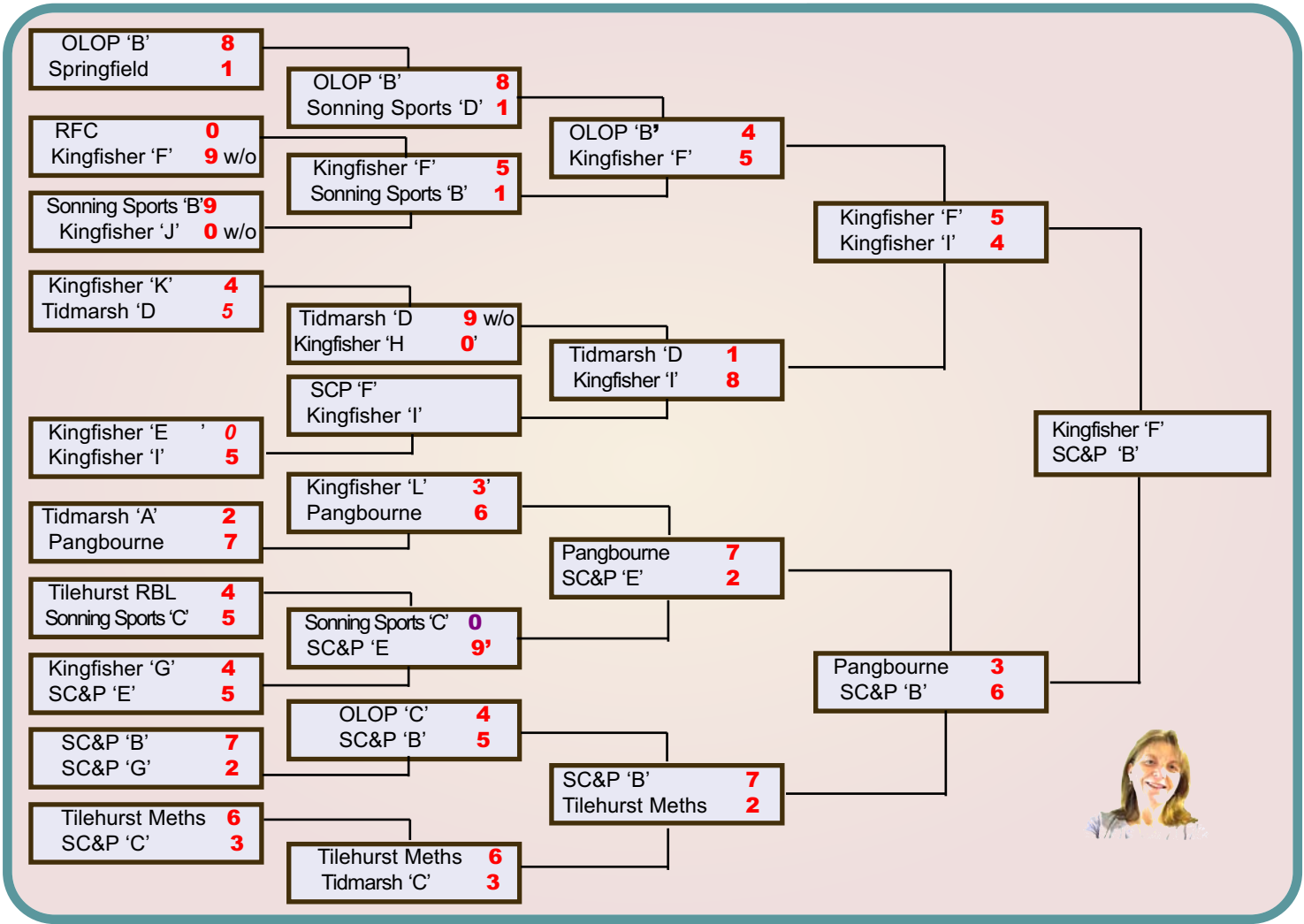
Players, Draws, Seeded Entries and More from [this link](#)  
 Thanks to all players for their great sportsmanship, thanks to those who stuck around to tidy up, and a special men-

tion to Team OLOP of Graham Stark, Mark Carless and Louise Forster (+ son Harry) for setting up the venue the day before.



**A technical note on the video** - recorded at high resolution. For practical reasons the video is in two parts. As game one's score approaches 21, an inset appears linking to part 2, or if you prefer you can use this link: [PART TWO](#).

## TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT *by Louise Forster*





# DIVISION THREE *by Huzeefe Borazan*

Welcome to the Division 3 newsletter. As we approach the last quarter of the season, the race for the title is becoming even hotter week by week. Table stands almost same as we finished in the mid-season break. Before the Christmas break OLOP 'C' had 2 matches in hand but they played their rescheduled matches so now all the matches are level and they are still trailing 1 point behind Kingfisher 'I'.

Before the last cup break of the season and this latest episode of our newsletter, maybe the most anticipated match of the season was last week's meeting between Kingfisher 'I' and OLOP 'C'. Kingfisher 'I' was cruising on the top of the table for most of the season. However they were always challenged by OLOP 'C' as they had 2 matches in hand which could close the gap easily. Despite OLOP 'C's high margin wins, Kingfisher 'I' was 3 points clear so OLOP 'C' needed a win. As expected the match was very competitive and 4 sets went to the fifth game. There were long and very entertaining rallies so the match finished in nearly 4 hours. OLOP 'C' won the game 6 - 4 and managed to close the gap and put massive pressure on the leaders. Meanwhile, OLOP 'B' also closed the gap a little bit but despite their impressive performance they still need OLOP 'C' or Kingfisher 'I' drop more points to join the promotion race.

On the other side of the table it's pretty much the same as we left in the last edition. Kingfisher 'J' have shown some impressive performances against tough teams like OLOP 'C' and Tilehurst Methodists 'A' adding 9 impressive points to their tally in 2 matches and managing to secure a draw. However, they still need much more than that to stay in the Division 3. Similarly Tilehurst Methodists 'C'

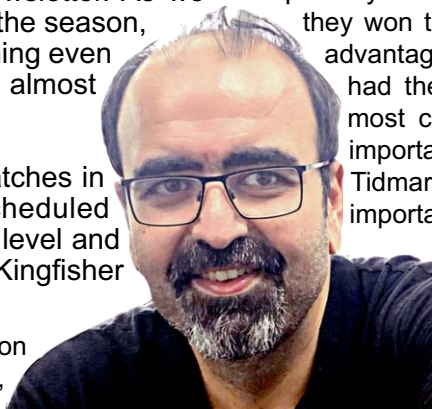
have shown some good performance but as they also had a few unlucky losses so their hope to stay in the league is getting thinner. Let's dive a little deeper into the performances of the teams:

**Kingfisher 'I'** is still leading the table but they have a pressure to win all the remaining games as OLOP 'C' had a solid winning streak and they seem impossible to

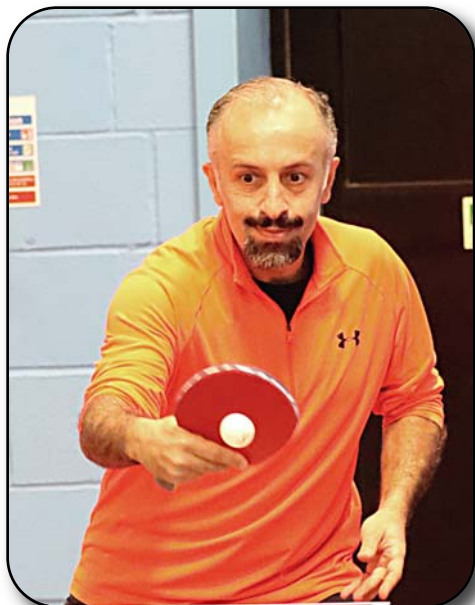
stop. They had slightly better chances earlier because they won the first game against OLOP 'C' but their advantage slipped through their hands when they had their very first defeat of the season in the most crucial game. All remaining 5 games are important for them however the away games with Tidmarsh 'D' and Tilehurst Methodists 'A' are very important for them in the title race.

**OLOP 'C'** played their rescheduled matches and also defeated Kingfisher 'I' which gave them a very good opportunity to take over the lead. They are still behind Kingfisher 'I' but their impressive winning streak with high margins makes them favorable in the title race. Captain Binit Bhashkar's high average combined with Dave Sanket's good performance gives them a good edge in most matches. Like Kingfisher 'I' they also have 5 matches remaining. They have to play with Tilehurst Methodists 'A' twice as they still need to play the postponed match from the first half of the season.

**OLOP 'B'** continued their impressive performance and



MARK CARLESS OF OLOP 'B'



EYUP ODEMIS OF KINGFISHER I

they increased their momentum with a new addition to their experienced trio. Jacek Piechocki joined after the Christmas break and he had 12 wins out of 12 games which is really impressive. His contribution helped OLOP 'B' to win 32 points in 4 matches which helped them to close the gap for promotion a little bit. However, their opponents are also winning so they need their opponents to drop some points.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** were another candidate for promotion before the season however due to some set-





### DIV 3

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	OLOP C	16	13	1	2	113	47	113
2	Kingfisher I	15	12	2	1	110	40	110
3	OLOP B	15	10	3	2	96	54	96
4	Tilehurst Meths A	16	10	3	3	89	71	89
5	OLOP D	15	7	1	7	74	76	74
6	SC & P E	15	5	3	7	73	77	73
7	Tilehurst Meths B	16	4	4	8	69	91	69
8	Tidmarsh D	15	5	2	8	67	83	67
9	Sonning Sports B	14	2	4	8	58	82	58
10	Tilehurst Meths C	15	3	0	12	48	102	48
11	Kingfisher J	16	1	1	14	43	117	43



OLOP D CAPTAIN, LOUISE FORSTER

backs they were a little back from top of the table. Captain Eric Van Looy has returned from injury; even though he is not completely fit he managed to protect his perfect run so far. Eric's performance gave them a little boost but it seems to be less than enough for the promotion race. However, their matches with OLOP 'C' and Kingfisher 'I' will be a deciding factor in the title race.



ERIC VAN LOOY OF TILEHURST METHS A'

**OLOP 'D'** have been cruising in mid-table almost all the season and their place

deciding factor on their position in the mid-table.

### DIV 3 LEADING AVERAGES

Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	12	12	100.00%
Jacek Piechocki	OLOP B	12	12	100.00%
Huzeyfe Borazan	Kingfisher I	39	32	82.05%
Eyup Odemis	Kingfisher I	39	32	82.05%
Dave Sanket	OLOP C	24	19	79.17%
Eapen John	Kingfisher J	36	28	77.78%
Binit Bhaskar	OLOP C	36	28	77.78%
Jeremy Willis	SC & P E	36	26	72.22%
Muharrem Aydin	Kingfisher I	30	21	70.00%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths B	33	23	69.70%
Mark Carless	OLOP B	36	25	69.44%
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Tilehurst Meths A	36	25	69.44%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	39	27	69.23%
Graham Stark	OLOP B	42	29	69.05%
Shawnik Thakur	OLOP C	27	17	62.96%

**Sonning Common and Peppard 'E'** became a more consistent and powerful team in the second half of the season. Jim Warren joined Jez Willis in a few matches with his trebles and helped his team to win with a good lead. They can challenge for fifth place if they win the OLOP 'D' match but even if they lose they are quite confident in 6th place.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** are in the 7th position but they played 1 more match and this could be temporary as they only lead by 2 points. They have been consistent in getting points in every game so they are confident and far away from the relegation zone. They have the most versatile team in the league, with a wider pool of players in their club. They have played with 8 different players so far which is an interesting fact about them.



JAMES SMITH OF OLOP D

seems set for the remainder of the season. Captain Louise Forster and Individual Handicap Cup winner James Smith are constantly winning important points for their team. Their re-match against Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' will be



JIM WARREN OF SC&P E



**Tidmarsh 'D'** were in the 7th position before the last newsletter and now they are in 8th position. However, they have 1 match in hand so it's more likely they will regain their spot. They have underperformed slightly as one of the best players from last season Chris Webb and another experienced player Ray Webb could not find their rhythm and form this season. Having said that, they challenged good teams like OLOP 'C' and they are still one of the key teams who will play with both title contenders in upcoming weeks.

**Sonning Sports 'B'** are 10 points clear from the relegation zone and they also have one match in hand so it seems they are safe from relegation for now. Their players have similar averages so every match, their best player changes which gives them an advantage in winning points constantly even if not all players



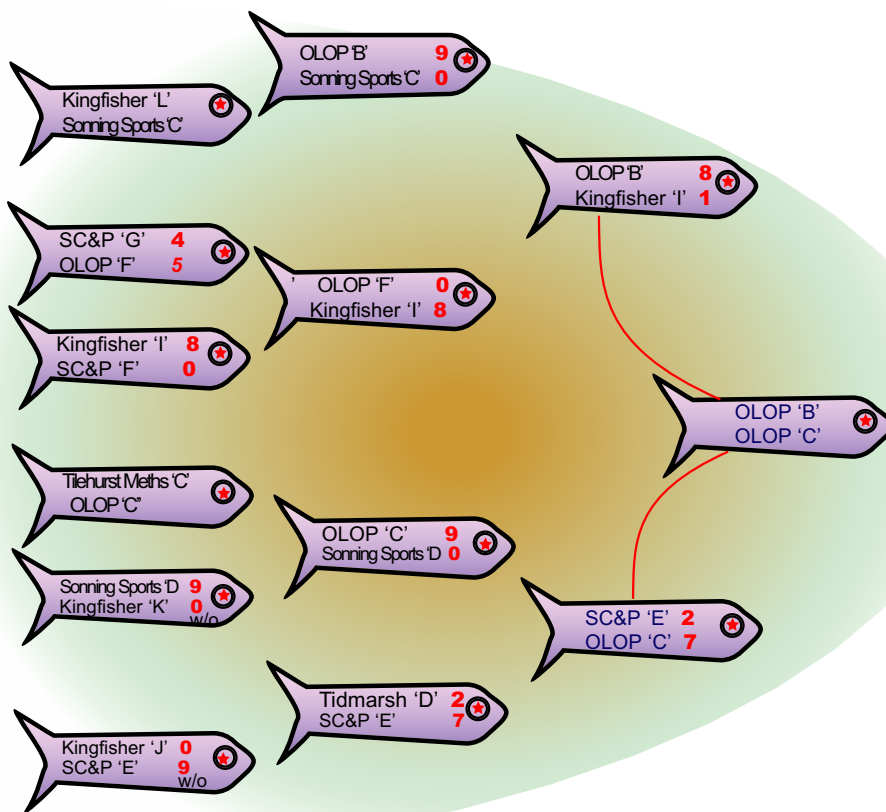
BRETT HASTINGS IN THE SONNING SPORTS HALL

perform well.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** are losing their hope week by week in the fight for survival in Division 3. They started pretty well in the second half with winning 6 - 4 against a good team Tidmarsh 'D' but just after that they struggled to have another win so their chances are getting very low every week.

**Kingfisher 'J'** definitely improved their performance and results by adding a few new players to the team and they started winning more points. However it's still not enough and they need more points in the remaining four matches which seems highly unlikely to happen in this season.

## LOWER DIVISIONS TOURNAMENT *by Louise Forster*



The semi-finals for the LDKO competition took place this month.

The first semi-final was between OLOP 'C' and Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'. OLOP C won 7 – 2.

The second semi-final was a re-run of last year's final

between Kingfisher 'I' and OLOP 'B' which saw OLOP 'B' winning 8 -1.

So this year will see an all-OLOP final with OLOP 'C' meeting OLOP 'B'.





# DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

**C**rikey where does the time go? We are on the run in and it would seem that the champions are between the top two - but perhaps Springfield 'C' might have a say in it.

**Sonning Common & P 'F'** had a fine 9 – 1 win against their 'G' team with Gerry Bacon, Graeme Streets and Mike Casserley all obtaining trebles At Kingfisher 'K' they won 3 – 7 with Oliver Bonser and Graeme both gaining trebles. For Oliver they were all 3 straight. At TRBL 'C' they came away with a fine 3 – 7 win thanks to trebles from Gerry and Oliver. They also won the doubles. At home to bottom side Kingfisher 'L' they won 8 – 2 with POM Mike winning three as did Graeme. Alistair picked up a single.

**Sonning Sports 'D'** went back to the top of the table by beating Springfield 'B' 8 – 2 with James Miller gaining a hat trick but he did lose an end to Steve O'Connor 13-15.

Cris Reynolds won two but in one game had to come back from 7-10 down to win 12-10. John Churchhouse weighed in with a double as did Cris. Also Cris and James maintained their 100% record in the doubles. At OLOP 'F' they won 2 – 8 with James winning all three in straight sets. In his first set he faced Gopi who like him had only lost 1 set and beat him 1-11, 3-11, 6-11. Cris won two as did John. When John beat Anish he was 8-4 down in game two to come back to win 10-12 which helped him win the set. Cris had other fortunes again against Anish when in game he was 7-10 up only to lose 14-12 in the fifth game. At Kingfisher 'K' they won 4 – 6 which was the same score first time round. In that earlier match 7 sets were three straight and it was the same this time.

James continued his good form by winning all three in straight sets and beating Walter 4-11, 10-12, after being 10-8 down and 4-11, Emrah 7-11, 9-11,5-11, Moto 4-11, 8-11, 2-11. He also kept the side's 100% record in the doubles by teaming up with Cris who himself won two but had to work hard against Emrah beating him 6-11, 11-4, 11-5, 7-11, 7-1.

**Kingfisher 'K'** won 2 – 8 at O.L.O.P 'E' with Mick Mitcham winning three and Walter Aldridge winning two and Moto Mitcham winning one. There was one conceded and Mick and Walter won the doubles At home to Sonning 'F' they lost 3 – 7 with Walter, Emrah Bulut and Houran Tsun all beating Alistair Scott At



Sonning Sports 'C' they drew with Houron and Walter winning two each and Mick winning one. Against leaders Sonning



WALTER ALDRIDGE

Sports 'D' they lost 4 – 6 with Walter winning two and Moto and Emrah winning one. At Springfield 'B' they won 2 – 8 with Houron winning all three while Mick and Walter won two



HOURON TSUN

each

**Springfield 'C'** went to TRBL 'C' and lost 6 – 4 with Benson Shiu, Richard Sabberton-Coe and Tom Berryman all gaining singles. Benson and Richard also won the doubles. Against their 'B' team, trebles from Benson and Ludo Couillard and a single from Richard gave them a 3 – 7 win. They then moved into third place by beating Kingfisher 'L' 9 – 1 with Richard and Benson both gaining maximums. Tom played his part by winning two. At OLOP 'F' they came away losing 7 – 3 with Richard winning one and Marcello gaining a double. They bounced back by beating OLOP 'E' 8 - 2 with Ludo winning three and Richard and Benson winning two



GOPI

**O.L.O.P 'F'** went to Sonning Sports 'C' and gained a draw with Roland Marslin winning all three. Backing him up was Anish Shukul, who won two Against leaders Sonning Sports 'D', they lost 2 – 8 with Gopi and Anish winning the two sets At home to Springfield 'C' Gopi came back to form by winning all three and with Anish winning two and Jan picking up a single this helped towards a 7 – 3 win At home to Sonning 'G' Gopi won all three but had to work hard against Simon Blake beating him 11-5, 9-11, 6-11,11-8,11-8. Anish and Kaushik Shukla each won one in a drawn match.



EMRAH BULUT KING K



DIV 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 SC & P F	15	13	1	1	106	44	106
2 Sonning Sports D	15	12	1	2	103	47	103
3 Springfield C	16	10	1	5	100	60	100
4 Kingfisher K	16	7	1	8	85	75	85
5 OLOP F	15	8	4	3	84	66	84
6 Tilehurst RBL C	14	8	1	5	83	57	83
7 Springfield B	15	7	0	8	72	78	72
8 SC & P G	16	1	3	12	55	105	55
9 OLOP E	14	4	3	7	54	86	54
10 Sonning Sports D	16	1	4	11	47	113	47
11 Kingfisher L	14	2	1	11	41	99	41

**Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'C'** beat Springfield 'C' mainly thanks to a fantastic maximum from Linda King. Geoff Johnson hit a double while Jim Brent gained a single. At home to second place Sonning 'F' they lost 3 – 7 with Linda, Jim and Paul Treadgold each winning one.

At Sonning Sports 'C' they won 1 – 9 with Linda and Geoff gaining trebles. Paul played his part by winning two and teaming up with Linda to win the doubles.

**O.L.O.P 'E'** had a fine 4 – 6 win at Sonning Common & P 'G'. As ever Pat Daniels hit a treble, with Fitzroy Licorish winning two and the two of them winning the doubles. At Kingfisher 'K' they lost 8 – 2 without Pat and during the match Fitzroy Licorish got injured so the only wins came from Derek Brook and Susan Daniels. At home to Kingfisher 'L' hat tricks from Pat and Licorish gave them a 4 – 6 win. At Springfield 'C' they lost 8 – 2 with Pat winning the sets.

**Springfield 'B'** went to Sonning Sports 'D' and lost 8 – 2 with Rob Attack winning the sets. At Springfield 'C' they lost 3 – 7 with Steve O'Connor and Shas Veeranani both gaining singles and also teaming up to win the doubles. Next they won 3 – 7 at Sonning 'G' with Rob winning all three and teaming up with Shas who won one. Steve picked up a double. At home to Kingfisher they crashed to a 2 – 8 defeat with Rob winning the sets.

**Sonning Sports 'C'** were held to a draw by O.L.O.P 'F' with John Scott winning two and Peter Evans and Phil

Cantor picking up one each. Next they lost 6 – 4 at Sonning 'G'. Stephen Reader won two and Peter and Mike Gautrey both picked up singles. At home to Kingfisher 'K' Stephen hit a good hat trick besides teaming up with John to win the doubles.

John also picked up a single in a drawn match. At home to TRBL 'C' they lost 1 – 9 with Mike beating Paul.



JOHN SCOTT

**Sonning 'G'** lost 4 – 6 at home to OLOP 'E'. John Evans won two and Derek Wavell and Graham Paddick won one each. For Graham it was first of the season. Away to their 'F' team they crashed to a 9 – 1 defeat; however Simon Blake and David Riddle had a great doubles win over Gerry and Graeme 6–11, 9–11, 11–7, 11–9, 6–11. When you consider that they are two of the best players it was a great win. At home to Sonning Sports 'C' they gained their first win of the season winning 6 – 4 with David winning all three with style. Derek won two besides teaming up with David to win the doubles. At home to Springfield 'B' they lost 3 – 7. Simon won two and John won one. Away at OLOP 'F' they shared the spoils, with Derek and David winning two each. Simon and David had a good doubles win over Gopi and Kaushik.

**Kingfisher 'L'** played their first game in the new year and lost 9 – 1 at Springfield 'C'. Sue Parker beat Tom Berryman. At home to OLOP 'E' they lost 4 - 6 with Gill Bennett, Peter Bennett and Atinc Erguven all beating Susan. At Sonning 'F' they lost 8 – 2 with Peter and Atinc both beating Alistair Scott.



ATINC ERGUVEN OF KINGFISHER L

Leading POM players:

James	10	
Gerry	7	
Gopi	7	
Pat	6	CHEERS
Rob	5	
Linda	5	Derek

### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
James Miller	Sonning Sports D	33	32	96.97%
Gerry Bacon	SC & P F	24	23	95.83%
Ludovic Couillard	Springfield C	23	22	95.65%
Patrick Daniels	OLOP E	27	25	92.59%
Gopi Ponnappalli	OLOP F	30	27	90.00%
Graeme Streets	SC & P F	24	21	87.50%
Oliver Bonser	SC & P F	21	18	85.71%
Linda King	Tilehurst RBL C	27	21	77.78%
Marcello Caramma	Springfield C	18	14	77.78%
Cris Reynolds	Sonning Sports D	39	30	76.92%
Robert Attack	Springfield B	39	28	71.79%
Fitzroy Licorish	OLOP E	17	12	70.59%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	27	19	70.37%
Mike Casserley	SC & P F	36	25	69.44%
Michael Mitcham	Kingfisher K	30	20	66.67%
Paul Treadgold	Tilehurst RBL C	30	20	66.67%