

April 2019

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: *Derek Wavell*

End of Season

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Here we describe both the Senior and Junior Masters tournaments. And behind the juniors there's an even younger generation knocking at the door too - e.g. tiny Levi Li-Telford above. (Almost all photos are by Didier Garçon.)

How do you find this season's new points system? Did it produce better results?



This newsletter could be my goodbye edition. If so - I shan't forget you! It has been the greatest fun doing justice to your adventures for the last 12 years. Since I started back in 2007 there has been a change in readers' expectations. We moved from paper to PC. Originally the Newsletter was mostly black and white text, with just a few pictures - small, static and blurry groups. Now it's big, full-colour action photos - 66 in this edition - plus videos and animations, live links and sounds. No targeted ads, though - I have resisted that. Our readers' current move is from PC to mobile. What changes if any do you need now? Should League reporting be on social media rather than PDF?

Anyway, have fun!
Derek



READING SENIOR MASTERS *by Derek Wavell*



MARTIN ADAMS

Kingfisher club, two from Sonning Common & Peppard, and one each from Kennet Valley, Milestone and Tidmarsh. Daniel Moses, who was last year's winner, was not there, but last year's runner-up, Hari Gehlot, took a full part.

This year two tournaments, the Reading Senior Masters and the Reading Junior Masters, were interleaved at Kingfisher Club on Sunday 14th April.

As usual, ten of the brightest and best players in Reading in each of the senior and junior categories were invited to compete together - a contest from which true champions could emerge!

The result was table tennis of an élite standard.

In the end, eight senior players took part - three from



GRAHAM MENDICK AND HARI GEHLOT

To start with they were separated into two round-robin groups, A and B. Group A contained two members of Kingfisher 'B' - one of the top teams in the league: Martin Adams and Mark Banks (whom we know as the writer of our Division One report). And that superiority showed, because both players beat Anthony Baker (of Tidmarsh) and Julian Telford of the new club Kennet Valley though Anthony did take Mark Banks to four games. Martin came out as group leader by beating Mark Banks 6-11, 7-11, 4-11.



JOE BARRACLOUGH AND GARY MORGAN

Group B was more complicated, with Hari Gehlot of Kingfisher and Gary Morgan of Sonning Common both winning two and losing one. Five of the six contests in this group were bitterly-fought, and went to four or five games.

When Hari and Gary played each other, Gary Morgan won in five gruelling games, though Hari staged a big fightback in the third and fourth games. The scores (to Gary) were 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 11-9. Also in that group were Joe Barraclough from Sonning Common - who had won the Junior version of the Masters last year - and Graham Mendick from Milestone - the only player registered in Division Two.



MARK BANKS



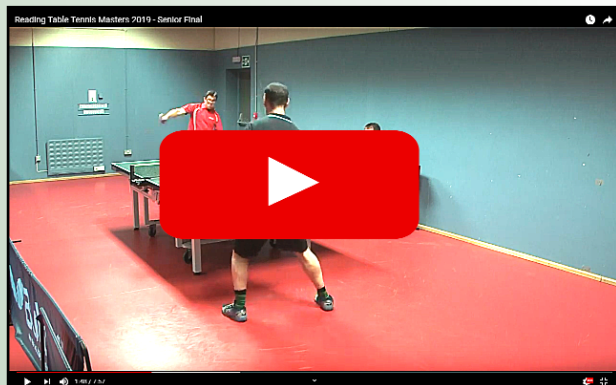
ANTHONY BAKER AND MARTIN ADAMS

Joe Barraclough did succeed in beating Gary Morgan - and Graham beat Joe.

In the semi finals, Martin Adams beat Hari Gehlot in five games,

and Mark Banks beat Gary Morgan in four.

The final was between two team mates - Martin Adams and Mark Banks. This was a match of inscrutable services and lightning reflexes, forcing errors from both players. You can see it on this video:



Team Handicap Competition 2018-19

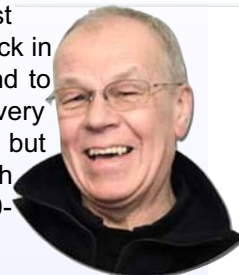
organised by Ray Webb

After weeks of competition covering a total of twenty-five matches it once again all boiled down to Reading FC 'A' against a team from OLOP, coincidentally, a repeat of the previous two finals.

OLOP 'DB' comprising Mark and Ben Carless from OLOP 'D' and Ralph Philips from the 'E' team had progressed to

to clinch the set. 2/1 to OLOP

Set four pitted Ben against Antony and it was Antony who got off to a great start by winning the first game easily. Nonetheless, Ben fought back in the next game, despite being well behind to level the scores. The final game looked very much as though Tony would prevail, but Ben's serves, heavily loaded with variable spin, proved decisive 10-21, 21-18, 21-18. 3/1 to OLOP



Set five saw Ralph against Richard, the first set not to require a deciding game. A straight games win for Ralph, who was always in control, thus putting OLOP in a commanding position. 4/1 OLOP

Set six, Mark against Paul. First game to Mark, despite an amazing comeback from Paul, second game to Paul, fairly easily. Final game was incredible, with each player taking the initiative at different times - and it really looked as though Paul would win. Mark, however, thought otherwise and produced a 'back to the wall' effort, combined with a high level of skill to win the day and indeed the match 21-18, 15-21, 21-19.

With the score at 5/1 to OLOP, and the clock already at 10:00pm, both teams agreed to call it a day. The result did not reflect the closeness of many of the games, where every set bar one went to three games.

Both teams gave it their all with Reading FC looking to achieve a Cup double, but OLOP were just too good on the night.

Difficult to nominate Player of the Match and upon reflection I think that the father and son team of Ben and Mark jointly deserve that accolade. Both playing with great skill and fortitude and displaying a never say die attitude.

Congratulations to OLOP 'DB', worthy winners of the trophy, making it three on the trot for the Our Lady of Peace Club. Remarkably a team from the Our Lady of Peace club has now won this competition thirteen times in the last fifteen seasons.



READING FC A CAPTAIN RICHARD WITT



MARK CARLESS (OLOP) v PAUL BROWN (RDG FA)

the final relatively comfortably with wins over Milestone 'B', Kingfisher 'G', Tidmarsh 'D' and Springfield 'B'. Mark making the most of his +8 handicap with only one loss on the way.

Reading FC, despite needing a last set 21-15, 21-16 win by Wayne Alleyne to get them past Kingfisher 'E' in the quarter-final, also reached the final without too much trouble. Richard Witt, Wayne and Antony Alleyne seeing Reading FC through the first three rounds, with Jazz Dhillon brought into the side for the semi-final. All-round team performances were the order of the day for Reading who would also bring in Paul Brown for his first appearance in the competition for the final.

And so to the final where I'm indebted to Paul Treadgold for the following match report:

Antony[+1] won the first set 21-16, 17-21, 21-15 against Ralph[Scr], with each game being closely contested - this would prove to be the only success for Reading FC.

Paul[+2] then played Ben[-4] and took the first game easily. However, Ben was not to be outdone and despite a topsy turvy final two games, he held his nerve to prevail 11-21, 23-21, 21-18.

Set three featured Mark[+8] against Richard[+3]. Mark took the first game easily: but Richard fought back to level matters and despite Richard taking a commanding lead in the final game, Mark showed admirable skill and tenacity

Springfield 'B'	4
OLOP 'DB'	5
OLOP 'DB' 5	
Reading FC 'A' 1	
Reading FC 'A'	7
Springfield 'C'	2



DIVISION ONE

by Mark Banks

Here we are then. The end of another season. And probably the most controversial season the Reading League has seen in many a year. Yep, the good old change of points rule. You all know my views on it. How the greatest League in the South of England can ditch its brilliant points system and incorporate the little old Maidenhead sys-



Congratulations to **Kingfisher 'A'** who were champions in waiting before a ball had even been hit and who very much were favoured by the change in points system. They couldn't quite go through the league unbeaten though, with a thumping 8 - 2 defeat at the hands of their bitter rivals Kingfisher 'B' but they knew the title was already theirs so I'm sure they weren't overly bothered. Hariiiiiiiii was once again top dog for KFA. Just lost to the 2 players all season. I'll let you check his stats to work out who

those 2 players were. Krasi's season was hampered by a hip operation but he's back playing now. Sagar is surely a contender for most improved player with some great wins and tip top average. Elson won the Reading Closed and is clearly a classy performer and Dmitry is as solid as you like with another good season. Well played Kingfisher 'A'. You lost the battle but won the war – have a nice summer.

MVP: Hari Gehlot

Not sure what to say about our own **Kingfisher 'B'** that you don't already know. We have the best player. We beat the Champions 8 - 2. We were badly hampered by injuries and unavailability – especially in the first half. 10 points on that match messed us right up. We don't like excuses. Hopefully we will stay together next season. Martin has been sublime, winning all his matches and only being pushed by one player



MARTIN ADAMS

tem is literally beyond me. Why why why????

It probably cost us the title in Div 1. And before

anybody goes and counts up all the sets won – let's just say that a lot of those matches wouldn't have finished that way if 2 points for a win counted. Trust me on that 😊 Can anything be done about it now? Is it here to stay? I hope not. Lots of other controversies in the bigger

world of table tennis. Most of you will now be aware of the fallout between Table Tennis England and TT365 (who provide the brilliant RDTTA and hundreds of other websites). Some big decisions lie ahead. Enjoy your summer and don't bother clicking on the Masters video. There's nothing to see there OK!

Love & Peace x

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	22	21	0	1	189	31	189
2	Kingfisher B	22	20	1	1	171	48	171
3	SC&P A	22	15	2	5	144	76	144
4	Kingfisher C	22	16	0	6	142	78	142
5	SC&P B	22	12	4	6	122	98	122
6	Tidmarsh B	22	8	4	10	97	123	97
7	Curzon Club A	22	7	3	12	95	125	95
8	Tidmarsh A	22	7	2	13	93	127	93
9	Kennet Valley A	22	4	2	16	81	139	81
10	SC&P C	22	4	4	14	75	144	75
11	Kingfisher D	22	3	2	17	57	163	57
12	Milestone A	22	1	4	17	53	167	53

really. I finally got fit after Christmas and got back to something near my best. Richard has struggled a bit. Flashes of his old self mixed in with uncharacteristic mediocrity and Artur was back in the Ukraine for a while but was very good when he turned out. We will have a think over the summer as to what to do next season. Basically that means we will find a pub somewhere and thrash it out over a few beers or more.

MVP: Martin Adams



HARI GEHLOT

Very well played **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** who managed to hold on to 3rd spot despite losing the services of star man Gary Morgan pretty much after Christmas. Gary was brilliant in the first half



GARY MORGAN

and a top player. Neil is still dining out on his Andy Wang victory. Is there anybody he hasn't told? Jason kinda goes under the radar a bit but finished the season very strongly. You can always tell Jason is playing well because his name appears in the doubles box on the scorecard. Completely unheard of in previous years. Joe Joes too. He will definitely be missed as he nips off to University in London. Playing as well as he ever has too and I hope he still registers and gets the odd 5 game set when he's back home on



NIGEL MALTBY

leave. Malcolm still enjoying himself. Would prefer to watch the football on his phone than his team mates but that's OK as long as England are winning! Not sure what the future holds for this lot. Gary is spending more and more time coaching and with Joe Joes away there are definitely going to be some gaps that may need to be filled. But for now it's well played boys. Nice 3rd place. Enjoy your summer on the golf course.

MVP: Gary Morgan

Well done also to **KFC** who were pretty much 4th all season and just had a squeak of snatching 3rd but fell a few points short in the end. Solid team are KFC and they were far superior to any of the teams behind them in the table and the points gap confirms that. Nigel played really well all year with some top wins across the board and has really taken to this level of

TT. Phil improved as the season progressed. Playing as well as he ever has and clearly enjoying his game too. Alan is another one who seems to have enjoyed his season in this team and those 3 together are as solid as they come at this level. Ivor unfortunately has been out of action. And we hope to see him back shortly. Very well played. Definitely the makings of a very good side and if they keep together then I will expect more of the same next season. Have a good summer fellas.

MVP: Nigel Keedy

Another team confirming their superiority over the teams below them were surprise package **Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'**. If you'd said to this lot you're gonna finish 30 points ahead of Tidmarsh 'A' they would have thought you'd been drinking heavily for days. But that's exactly what they did. Just incredible stuff from these boys and I for one am delighted for them. Andy Wang was definitely fighting Sagar for most improved player. For my money Andy gets it. From pretty much nowhere he was sweeping all before him and it was only when Neil Hurford got involved and told everybody how to beat him that he



JOE BARRACLOUGH

started to lose one or two – but that's all it was. Simply superb stuff and a great asset not only to SCPB but to the League in general. Nigel had a brilliant season too. Easily his best in the top flight with some extraordinary performances. Jeremy too.



ANDY WANG

started to lose one or two – but that's all it was. Simply superb stuff and a great asset not only to SCPB but to the League in general. Nigel had a brilliant season too. Easily his best in the top flight with some extraordinary performances. Jeremy too.

Managed to beat his bro to level that particular battle over the season and Brian played very well in the 2nd half of the season with some notable wins of his own. Great stuff and enjoy your deserved summer.

MVP: Andy Wang

They will be pleased. The Tidmarsh bragging rights over the summer belong to **Tidmarsh 'B'** who just about did enough to see off their A team in the end after being pretty much neck and neck all season. Squirrel came in with a whopping 80%. – definitely his best season for long while. Saw him at the Masters and he was going nuts. Lee has had a good season too back in the big time. Simon did respectfully well and Ray was winning round 1 in 4. And Chris – managed to get off the mark eventually. Phew! Very well

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher B	52	52	100.00%
Dmitry Khakhamov	Kingfisher A	26	25	96.15%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	54	51	94.44%
Mark Banks	Kingfisher B	49	44	89.80%
Krasimir Ivanov	Kingfisher A	27	24	88.89%
Artur Morar	Kingfisher B	18	16	88.89%
Andy Wang	SC&P B	60	53	88.33%
Sagar Sawant	Kingfisher A	42	36	85.71%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	21	17	80.95%
Anthony Baker	Tidmarsh B	44	35	79.55%
Steve Murgatroyd	Tidmarsh A	29	22	75.86%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher C	60	44	73.33%
Neil Hurford	SC&P A	39	28	71.79%
Nigel Keedy	Kingfisher C	42	30	71.43%
Lee Calcutt	Tidmarsh B	35	25	71.43%
Joseph Barraclough	SC&P A	45	32	71.11%



ANTHONY BAKER

done then. Comfortably mid-table and can enjoy their well deserved summer off.

MVP: Squirrel

Slightly disappointing run in for **Tidmarsh 'A'** who ended up finishing below the B team. In fairness they were badly hampered by Injury and unavailability however a squad of their talents should end up higher up the table imo. Murgy did well. Still got it with those big booming backhands and Duncan too. A very respectable season at this level and some nice wins along the way. Barry played well. He will be more than satisfied with some of the scalps that he managed to take and so will John & Mike with François picking up a few here and there too. These will need to regroup over the summer and I'm expecting bigger things next season! Have a good one chaps!

MVP: Murgy

Finishing the season like a runaway train were the trio down at **Curzon 'A'** who too finished above

Tidmarsh 'A' and again if you'd told them that at the start of the season they would have bitten your hand off. Brilliant play from these guys. Jon in particular finished especially strongly, saving his best form for the run in. Peter too. Niggling injuries you'd expect at his age but still played every match and a very handy contribution. John missed 4 or 5 matches but

came back well and all in all they will be well pleased with their work back in D1. Safe from relegation and a good summer awaits. Enjoy it lads!

MVP: Jon Willis

I think I read somewhere that the Reading website was in the top 6 most visited websites in the country. If that's the case then that stat can be attributed to one man and one man only – Julian Telford



JULIAN TELFORD

from Kennet Valley Free Church 'A'. It doesn't matter what time of day it is – he's on there. I might enter a result at 2am and he's messaging me saying nice win for Sonning or whoever! Incredible stuff and the man is keen. He practices – a lot. I thought Hari was bad but this guy is off the scale. And it's obviously paying off. Been getting better all season and is now right up there when people talk about the best players in the league. OK not RIGHT up there but you know what I mean 😊 Well played **Julian**. See you next season. Cath started the season playing really well and ended it playing really well too which was great to see.

Masoud started to struggle a bit but did well at the right times and they all came together to secure another season in the top flight. May need another player to come in and take some of the pressure off

be quietly pleased with their efforts this season. In the end finished reasonably comfortably ahead of D and Milestone and can enjoy their summer knowing that another top flight season awaits come September. Well played and enjoy!

MVP: Matt Stone



DENISE WELLER



MATTHEW ISHERWOOD

and we'll see how that goes over the summer. Have a good one guys and girls! Nice one!

MVP: Julian Telford

One team who did finish the season quite well were **Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'** who always looked like they would be safe from the drop but just needed those final points to mathematically see them over the line. Matt Stone did well. Pretty much 50% is a good effort and was more than well backed up by Denise Weller, Matt I, Tim and Niall. I think they will

And so we say goodbye to **Kingfisher 'D'** and **Milestone 'A'**. Both teams gave their all but at this level it was always a tough campaign for both teams but they can both enter D2 with their heads held high and better players for the experience. So for Clive, Guy, Grant, Luca and my old buddy Willis and for Sanket, Zoltan, Sachin and David we will miss you but no doubt you will be back again to grace our tables one day. Cheers to you all and see you soon!

MVP: Grant Wheatley & Sanket



DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Congratulations to Springfield 'A' on winning the title and to Milestone 'B' on finishing runners up. This had looked on the cards since well before Christmas and although both teams suffered the odd defeat in the second half of the season their general results were easily good enough to secure the promotion places. So, it's the 'promised land' of Division 1 for them next season and I am sure they will enjoy the experience. With Milestone 'A' being relegated from Division 1 it will be interesting to see which players will end up playing for their Division 1 team next season.

Commiserations to Kingfisher 'E' and Curzon 'B' who finished in the relegation places. Kingfisher 'E' suffered with injury and availability problems for almost all of the season and despite Eric Holmes's best efforts they were often unable to field full teams. In the early part of the season Curzon 'A' looked like they would have a good chance of staying up but a number of the teams around them were able to

strengthen their squads mid-season which helped to seal their fate.



It has generally been a very competitive division with a high percentage of close matches. Can I give a thankyou to the team captains who have nearly always got the result cards to me quickly, for getting postponed matches rearranged and for the informative match reports some have provided.

Springfield 'A' suffered defeats to both Sonning Sports 'A' and Tilehurst Meths 'A' during the last few weeks of the season but these defeats were not really damaging as they also had four very comfortable wins during that time. The new scoring system has favoured them as, although they have lost five times, all of those defeats have been close and the majority of their wins have been 8 - 2 or better. Phil Burke has been their star player but Adam Sheen and Ludovic Couillard have given him excellent support. These three played in almost all of the matches

		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Springfield A	22	16	1	5	157	63	157
2	Milestone B	22	18	1	3	142	78	142
3	Sonning Sports A	22	12	3	7	124	96	124
4	OLOP A	22	10	4	8	118	102	118
5	Kingfisher F	22	10	2	10	115	105	115
6	OLOP C	22	12	1	9	112	108	112
7	SC&P D	22	9	5	8	110	110	110
8	Tilehurst Meths A	22	8	5	9	106	114	106
9	Pangbourne WMC	22	6	6	10	102	118	102
10	OLOP B	22	7	4	11	97	123	97
11	Curzon Club B	22	3	3	16	75	145	75
12	Kingfisher E	22	1	5	16	62	158	62

and they only had to call on reserves three times. It will be interesting to see how they fare in Division 1 next season and will they look to strengthen their squad for the division 1 campaign?

Initial Prediction – 2nd Finished 1st

Best Recent Performance - Adam Sheen with a good win in four against the in-form Clive Perry

Milestone 'B' won nine of their last ten matches but a number of those wins were by small margins so consequently they could not close the gap on Springfield 'A' at the top of the division. Unlike Springfield 'A' the new points system did not help them as they would have finished first previously by virtue of winning the most matches. The majority of their squad finished with very healthy averages with Graham Mendick on a very impressive 92% which meant he finished top of the averages in the division, he was also unbeaten on the four occasions he played up in Division 1. The team has had a large squad which has meant that only three of their players have played in at least half their matches. It will be intriguing to see what their team make up is next season particularly as their 'A' team have been relegated from Division I. Will the core of this year's team play next season or will they juggle the players from the two teams in some way?

Initial Prediction – 1st Finished 2nd

Best Recent Performance - Graham Mendick recovering from losing the first game to beat Keith Winter in four.

Sonning Sports 'A' had a very good second half of the season and their run of excellent results saw them storm up the table to finish in third place. The mid-season signing of Nick Sears transformed their fortunes and helped to turn them into a very competitive team. Their highlight was doing the double over champions Springfield 'A' with Paul Savage getting maximums on both occasions and they also had a win over runners up Milestone 'B'. Their form suggests they could be promotion contenders next season but with many of their players playing in multiple leagues consistency of team selection could be a problem for them. Paul Savage and Nick Sears finished with very

high averages and the rest of the squad had a number of good wins and their 82% doubles average is probably the best in the division

Initial Prediction – 9th

Finished 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Nick Sears winning a marathon 16-14 against Phil Burke in the fifth

OLOP 'A' have had some mixed results recently, winning four matches and losing three. However, finishing fourth is a good achievement for a team that has had to use ten players, including a number of reserves, during the season. Clive Perry had a very good last few weeks to get his average over 70% and he finished just behind skipper Chris West, Darek Kaminski also had a strong finish to the season.

Initial Prediction – 7th

Finished 4th

Best Recent Performance - Clive Perry winning a tight set in five against Phil Burke.



GRAHAM MENDICK

Kingfisher 'F' had a slightly disappointing end to their season losing four of their last six matches. For most of the campaign they were challenging for third spot but in the end they had to settle for fifth. Roger Pritchard's fine form continued to the end of the season and he had comfortably the highest average in the team with 86%. The rest of the squad all made some valuable contributions and in particular Rick Leachman had some good wins in the last few matches.

Initial Prediction – 4th

Finished 5th

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Graham Mendick	Milestone B	53	49	92.45%
Paul Savage	Sonning Sports A	66	59	89.39%
Keith Winter	Tilehurst Meths A	45	39	86.67%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	42	36	85.71%
Daniel Wills	Milestone B	21	18	85.71%
Phillip Burke	Springfield A	65	55	84.62%
Nick Sears	Sonning Sports A	27	22	81.48%
Chris West	OLOP A	44	32	72.73%
Johnson Xu	OLOP B	33	24	72.73%
Clive Perry	OLOP A	42	30	71.43%
Alan Mollett	SC&P D	45	32	71.11%
Adam Sheen	Springfield A	65	46	70.77%
Thomas Lewis	OLOP C	30	21	70.00%
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	64	44	68.75%
Arun Rajagopal	Milestone B	21	14	66.67%
Jingshun Huang	Milestone B	35	23	65.71%

Best Recent Performance – Rick Leachman with a very good win in four over Adam Sheen

OLOP 'C' finished on a good run winning five of their last seven matches which was a similar pattern to the first half of the season. Tom Lewis proved to be a good signing and he ended up with an average of 70%, Binit Bhasker finished the season well to get his average up to 57% and the rest of the team all averaged between 33% and 56% consequently the majority of their matches were fairly close affairs.

Initial Prediction – 6th Finished 6th

Best Recent Performance- Two by Tom Lewis, beating both Keith Winter and Nick Sears in five.

SC&P 'D' has a good finish to the season only losing once in the last seven matches. During this period most of their matches were close with the two exceptions being their heavy defeat to OLOP 'A' and an equally heavy win over Tilehurst Meths 'A'. Alan Mollett finished the campaign in excellent form getting four maximums in his last five appearances. Angus Jones also had a strong finish to the season and with solid support from Mark Jones and Eric Walker they were close to finishing higher than their final placing of seventh.

Initial Prediction 10th Finished 7th

Best Recent Performance - A team effort with excellent maximums by Allan Mollett, Angus Jones and Mark Jones in their big win over Tilehurst Meths 'A'

Tilehurst Meths 'A' had a mixed last few matches with some good wins and a few defeats. Their highlight during this period was their fine 7 - 3 victory over champions Springfield 'A' in which Keith Winter recorded a great maximum and was well backed up by wins from Jes Easom and Phil Jones. Keith finished with a very healthy average of 86%, Jes and Phil had solid seasons and Michael Williams had a few really good wins, including one over Graham Mendick. With their 'B' team winning promotion from Division 3 it will be interesting to see how their

teams line up at the start of next season.

Initial Prediction – 3rd Finished 8th

Best Recent Performance – Keith Winter with a great three straight win over Paul Savage

Pangbourne WMC had wins, draws and defeats towards the end of the season. This followed the pattern set earlier in the campaign where most of their matches were close and in fact they had more draws than any other team (six). John Simmonds' good form continued to the end of the season and he finished with an average of just under 70%. Clive Taylor and Leroy Wilson contributed well to the team and these three played in every match except one which was a very good effort

Initial Prediction 11th Finished 9th

Best Recent Performance - John Simmonds with a three-straight victory over Madan Polekar

OLOP 'B' had a disappointing final few weeks losing six of their last eight matches. This run of form saw them drop down the table to finish tenth when for most of the season it looked likely that they would finish higher in the table. Johnson Xu was their best player on 73% but he did not play in many of the final matches. They had a number of other players with averages at around 50% but Johnson was the only one who looked likely to get any maximums. They also had to use reserves on quite a few occasions which did not help their cause.

Initial Prediction - 5th Finished 10th

Best Recent Performance – Johnson Xu with a win in four against Nick Sears



TAMIR SLOBODSKOY OF OLOP B

Curzon 'B' had a reasonable finish to the season but they could not close the gap between themselves and the teams immediately above them. Their one win in the last few weeks came against OLOP 'B'

and they then finished the season with a difficult run of fixtures in which they acquitted themselves quite well. Charlotte Binley and Nick Lean both had solid seasons but their other players struggled at times although they all contributed some useful wins.

Initial Prediction – 8th Finished 11th
Best Recent Performance – Charlotte Binley with a win in five against Tom Lewis

Kingfisher 'E' had difficulty fielding teams the whole season and this situation did not get any better during the last few weeks when they lost the services of John Liddle. They were already having to

play reserves regularly and at times only having two players and the situation worsened towards the end of the season, including having to concede a match. Skipper Eric Holmes had a consistent year and he had some notable victories and Ruben, Tarik and new signing Madan had some good wins in their last few matches but they were unable to play often enough.

Initial Prediction 12th Finished 12th
Best Recent Performance – Eric Holmes with a fine maximum against OLOP 'B'

National Junior League 2018/19

This year Reading had three teams playing in the National Junior League. Matches were played at Cippenham TTC across four sessions in the 18/19 season. A total of 24 teams from across the South East took part in the league.

Reading 'A' (Rayaan Asghar, Johnson Xu, Jamie Barlow, Ben Carless, Mo Cook) played very well to finish in a worthy fourth place in Division One. Reading 'B' (Mo Cook, Jonathan Croos, Rajat Sawant, Rudresh Desai and Harry Bullock) had a bit of a boomerang season, they were relegated from Division Two after the first two sessions, then went on to successfully win Division Three in the third session, but then finished bottom of Division Two again at the end of the fourth session. Reading C (Tanubhav Saha, Tommy Walsh, Rishika Desai, Anish Deshpande and Jake Melhuish) played in Division Four, they fought hard and finished around mid-table.

Well done to all teams for taking part, it really demanded dedication with players often playing against ten different opponents throughout the course of each day. It was also great to see our young players showing such great teamwork and sportsmanship during the matches.



RUDRESH DESAI

National Cadet League 2018-2019

This year we entered just 1 team into the Cadet League, as many of our regulars had become too old for the event. We had 6 players -

Tanubhav Saha, Adrian Mitchell, Josh Sandland, Anish Deshpande, Holly Ranson and Emma Ranson.

We were put into division 2 which was by far too strong for us, and were looking forward to going down to division 3 to play at our own level. However another team were in the same position and our youngsters played out of their skins to take a win.

So for round 2 we found ourselves still in division 2 which only got stronger, as the team that came up, actually won that round.

So finally in division 3 they found their feet and had some fantastic games and a much more enjoyable day, finishing 3rd by 1 point to Chiltern 'C' after just beating them 5-1.



ADRIAN MITCHELL



JAMIE BARLOW

Well done everyone.

by Louise Forster

by Wendy Porter

Lower Divisions KO Cup - 2018-19

organised by Ray Webb

In their delayed Semi-final Reading FC 'A' eased past OLOP 'D' 5-4. After initially opening up a three set lead, Reading were pegged back in sets four and five, before taking the next two sets for victory and a place in the final. Awaiting them would be Springfield 'B' who had previously brushed aside a strong Kingfisher 'G' squad in the other semi-final.



STEVE LEGGETT

With both sides varying their line-up throughout the rounds and with no one pairing proving dominant for either team, the final looked as if it could be tight, and my - what an understatement that would prove to be. With seven of the nine sets requiring a third game decider and never more than a

set between the sides at any time, it could not have been closer. Match statistics show Springfield ahead on games won 13 - 12 and virtually nothing between the sides on point-count, where Reading sneaked it 241 - 236.



RICHARD WITT, ANTONY ALLEYNE

Reading FC 'A' 5
OLOP 'D' 4

Reading FC 'A' 5
Springfield 'B' 4

h] Kingfisher 'G' 2
Springfield 'B' 7

Steve Leggett / Rob Wilkie took the opening set 11-6, 4-11, 12-10 to give Springfield the lead. Reading fought back to level through Wayne and Antony Alleyne 11-9, 10-12, 11-8. Steve / Seth Martin restored Springfield's lead 11-8, 8-11, 12-10 only to be pegged back once again 11-9, 11-13, 13-11 by Antony / Richard Witt. Springfield took set five, Reading replied with set six. Taking set seven put Springfield within one set of the match, but Antony / Richard pulled out another three game set 12-14, 11-8, 11-4 to leave the match poised as a last set winner takes all. Springfield's unbeaten pairing of Steve / Rob would face Reading's also unbeaten pairing of Wayne / Antony. Fittingly it took three games to decide who would win the trophy. 11-8, 7-11, 11-8 and Reading FC 'A' have regained the trophy they last won in 2015/16.



WAYNE ALLEYNE

With both teams contributing to a cracking final it has to be congratulations to Richard Witt's Reading FC side, and commiserations to Peter Gurney's Springfield who put up a tremendous effort, falling just short in the end.



READING FA: ANTONY ALLEYNE, RICHARD WITT AND WAYNE ALLEYNE



SPRINGFIELD 'B'S STEPHEN LEGGETT, PETER GURNEY, ROB WILKIE AND SETH MARTIN

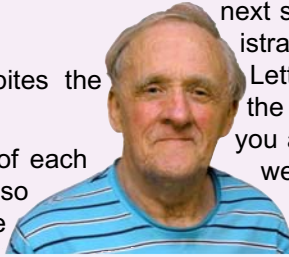
Notes from our Chairman

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone. Yet another season bites the dust. How time flies.

Anyway I congratulate the Champions of each division as well as the runners up. Also regarding the teams who finished in the bottom two I hope that you still enjoyed your table tennis and hope that you make a speedily return to the division you left.

Now for some good news. I am very happy to inform



you that all of my committee are willing to stand again next season apart from Nick who was the league registration secretary and Derek who was the News Letter editor. I thank them both and all of the rest of the committee for all of their hard work on behalf of you all. I have to say without these dedicated officers we would not have a league. Regarding those two posts that need filling if anyone fancies giving it a go can they please inform me.

Have a good summer

All the best

Derek



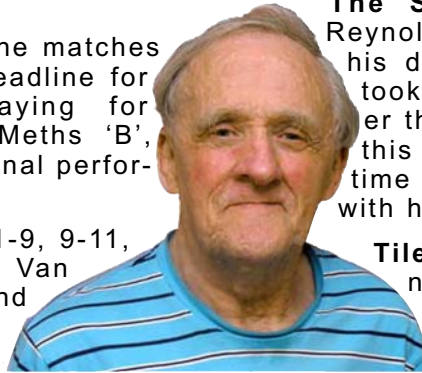
DIVISION THREE

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone,

I will make a comment on the matches that were played after the deadline for my newsletter report. Playing for **Tidmarsh 'C'** at Tilehurst Meths 'B', Simon Craig put in a sensational performance by winning all three.

He beat Martin Wetherell 11-9, 9-11, 6-11, 9-11 then came Eric Van Looy who was on 100% and Simon won 4-11, 11-8, 8-11, 9-11. Then came second in the averages Nigel Rowland 11-9, 7-11, 11-7, 8-11, 7-11. Very well done Simon - this will surely go down as the best performance of the season. Ian Wu and Spencer Harvey both picked up singles. For Tilehurst Eric and Nigel won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. The Springfield derby saw the 'B' team beat the 'C' team 2 - 8. Rob Wilkie hit all three and Stephen Leggett and Peter Gurney both won two each. For the 'C' team Jason King won two by beating Stephen and Peter. In the match between Sonning Sports 'B'



The Sports had their moments with Cris Reynolds when he took a game off Eric much to his delight. In the doubles Cris and Florin took a game off Eric and Nigel 11-5, however they went down in four games. Cris said this was a vast improvement from the first time they played them, and he was pleased with his side's efforts despite the big defeat.

Tilehurst Meths 'B' then returned to their normal programme by winning 3 - 7 at O.L.O.P 'D' with Nigel on top form winning all three and only Paul Treadgold took a game from him. Patrick O'Sullivan came back into the side and gained a double while Martin picked up a single. In the match against Curzon 'C' they powered their way to an 8 - 2 win with Eric hitting a hat trick while Martin and Patrick won two each. Eric and Martin also won the doubles. Without Eric they were held to a draw by Tidmarsh 'D'. Nigel hit two besides teaming up with Patrick to win the doubles. Patrick and Martin both obtained singles. Next by beating Springfield 'C' 8 - 2 they have almost clinched the top spot. Nigel and Martin both hit trebles but Martin had to work hard for his because it took 14 games. Against Rob Attack he had to come back from two games down. Reserve Roy Hull had a nice win over Chris Taylor. At Sonning Com & P 'E' they came away with a 2 - 8 win thanks to hat tricks from Martin and Nigel and a single from Patrick. Martin and Nigel also won the doubles. This win means they are promoted and it would seem as champions unless there is a big shock in the remaining match so on behalf of you all I congratulate Patrick and his team. The final fixture was against Kingfisher 'G' and it ended all square. Eric hit his usual hat trick with Nigel picking up a single. The two of them also kept their unbeaten record in the doubles.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Tilehurst Meths B	22	17	4	1	159	61	159
2 Springfield B	22	15	1	6	152	68	152
3 Tidmarsh C	22	14	5	3	142	78	142
4 Kingfisher G	22	14	7	1	138	82	138
5 Reading FC A	22	14	1	7	127	93	127
6 OLOP D	22	10	3	9	115	105	115
7 Tidmarsh D	22	8	5	9	103	117	103
8 Curzon Club C	22	4	4	14	89	131	89
9 Springfield C	22	6	4	12	88	132	88
10 SC&P E	22	4	3	15	83	137	83
11 Sonning Sports B	22	4	4	14	75	145	75
12 Kingfisher H	22	0	3	19	49	171	49

and Tilehurst Meths 'B' the away side won 1 - 9 with Florin Dimofte beating Martin.

Patrick 20/45=44.4% 2 trebles, 5 doubles, 4 singles, best win Wayne Alleyne P.O.M 2
 Martin 29/54=53.7% 4 trebles, 6 doubles, 5 singles, best win Geoff Johnson P.O.M 4
 Nigel 47/54=87.0% 12 trebles, 5 doubles, 1 sin-

gle, best win Ian Wu P.O.M 4
 Eric 41/42=97.6% 13 trebles, 1 double, best win
 David Wells P.O.M 9
 Doubles 21/22=95.5%

Sets first half 81 second half 78

Springfield 'B' kept in the promotion race by beating Sonning Com & P 'E' 8 – 2. Peter had a very good night by playing awesome table tennis to win all three. Steve and Rob both won two each with the two of them winning the doubles. Peter told me it was a good night and perhaps the scoreline did not give justice to Sonning. In their top of the table clash with Kingfisher 'G' they just got touched off 6 – 4. Steve and Peter both won two each. They then took a big step



STEVE LEGGETT OF SPRINGFIELD B

for promotion by beating Kingfisher 'H' 9 – 1. Peter and Seth Martin both hit trebles while Steve won two besides teaming up with Seth to win the doubles. Peter informed me in his set against Maksym he hit a very hard shot towards Maksym and as a result it took him to Maksym's end where he managed to get the ball back over the net much to the amusement of all concerned. Needless to say Peter was not able to return it. By winning 3 – 7 at Sonning Sports 'B' they have clinched promotion so very well done. The skip-

per Peter led by example by winning all three. Steve hit two and Seth won one besides teaming up with Steve to win the doubles. Next came an



ROB WILKIE & SETH MARTIN OF SPRINGFIELD B in-

form O.L.O.P 'D' and this finished in a draw. Steve and Peter both won two each and Seth managed a single. In set ten Seth just lost to Graham Stark 8-11 in the fifth end after having four set points in game four. The game went like this 11-7, 7-11, 11-9, 11-13, 8-11.

I have to mention that if we were playing for points their team would have only finished fourth.

Peter 40/60=66.7% 8 trebles, 5 doubles, 6 singles, best win Nigel Rowland P.O.M 6

Rob 35/42=83.3% 7 trebles, 7 doubles, best win Nigel Rowland P.O.M 6

Steve 42/60=70.0% 7 trebles, 9 doubles, 3 singles, best win Geoff Johnson P.O.M 4

Seth 20/36=55.6% 4 trebles, 1 double, 6 singles, best win Terry Hardie

Doubles 15/22=68.2%

Sets First half 78 Second Half 74

Kingfisher 'G' despite missing their captain beat Kingfisher 'H' 6 – 4. David Wells did the business by winning all three and teamed up with Gwynne Penny who won two to take the doubles. At Sonning Sports 'B' they were again without two of their better players, and as a result lost for the first time 7 – 3. Gwynne Penny won two and David Wells won one. Next they were home to Springfield 'B' and managed a 6 – 4 victory. David and Nils Wedi both gained doubles while Joaquin Sabater hit a single. David and Nils also won the doubles. At Tidmarsh 'C' they came away with a draw. Nils and Joaquin both gained doubles with Gwynne obtaining a single. Next they beat Reading FC 'A' 6 – 4. David and Nils both won two each and also won the doubles. Gabor Radnoti had a nice win over Wayne. If we were playing under the old points system they would have gone up. They finished at Tilehurst Meths 'B' and came away with a draw thanks to doubles from David and Nils and

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths B	42	41	97.62%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths B	54	47	87.04%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield B	42	35	83.33%
David Wells	Kingfisher G	51	41	80.39%
Tony Alleyne	Reading FC A	60	47	78.33%
Nils Wedi	Kingfisher G	42	32	76.19%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	42	32	76.19%
Benedict Carless	OLOP D	42	30	71.43%
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club C	59	42	71.19%
Stephen Leggett	Springfield B	60	42	70.00%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	30	21	70.00%
Peter Gurney	Springfield B	60	40	66.67%
Gwynne Penny	Kingfisher G	42	28	66.67%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	45	29	64.44%
Melvyn Lovegrove	SC&P E	48	30	62.50%
Spencer Harvey	Tidmarsh C	48	30	62.50%



RICHARD WITTS AND ANTHONY ALLEYNE

a single from Joaquin.

Nils 32/42=76.2% 4 trebles, 10 doubles, best win Nigel Rowland P.O.M 3

Joaquin 17/29=58.6% 2 trebles, 4 doubles, 3 singles, best win Geoff Johnson P.O.M 1

Gabor 3/12=25.0% 3 singles, best win Richard Hudson

David 41/51=80.4% 8 trebles, 8 doubles, 1 single, best win Nigel Rowland P.O.M 5

Didier 1/21=4.8% 1 single, best win Himanshu Pasbola

Gwynne 28/42=66.7% 6 trebles, 3 doubles, 4 singles, best win Geoff Johnson P.O.M 3

Doubles

Sets First Half 71 Second Half 67

Tidmarsh 'C' beat club mates the 'D' team 3 – 7 thanks mainly to a Simon treble. Ian and Richard both gained doubles. They then lost 4 – 6 to Springfield 'C' despite Richard winning all three and teaming up with David Sheppard to win the doubles. Sadly Simon had car trouble on the way to the match so the team only had two players. At Sonning Com & P 'E' they came away with a 3 – 7 win with Player of the match Spencer Harvey hitting a great treble. Richard won two and David gained a single. At home to Kingfisher 'G' Ian hit a great hat trick but had to work hard against Nils, beating him 5-11, 11-5, 12-10, 7-11, 16-14. Richard won one and also teamed up with Ian to win the doubles. When they played relegated Kingfisher 'H' they won 1 – 9 with Spencer and David both gaining trebles. For David it was his first of the season. Richard won two. They ended the season by beating Sonning Sports 'B' 10 - 0 with Ian, David and Spencer all gaining trebles. For Ian they were all three straight. Ian and David also won the doubles.

David 15/30=50.0% 2 trebles, 2 doubles, 5 singles, best win Peter Gurney P.O.M 1
 Spencer 30/48=62.5% 6 trebles, 2 doubles, 8 singles, best win Peter Gurney P.O.M 2
 Ian 32/42=76.2% 7 trebles, 4 doubles, 3 singles, best win Nick Lean P.O.M 8
 Richard 29/45=64.4% 3 trebles, 8 doubles, 4 singles, best win Steve Leggett P.O.M 4
 Simon 21/30=70.0% 5 trebles, 3 doubles, best win Eric Van Looy P.O.M 3
 Doubles 15/22=68.2%

Sets first half 72 second half 70

Reading F C 'A' had a close 4 – 6 win at Curzon 'C' thanks to a good team performance. Anthony Alleyne and Paul Brown both won two each and Wayne Alleyne won one besides teaming up with Anthony to win the doubles. Next they had a big victory over Tidmarsh 'D'. Paul, Wayne and Anthony all recorded maximums. For Wayne it was his first of the season. Paul was the P O M by winning his three sets in straight games which gave them a 9 – 1 victory. At Springfield 'C' they came away with a 4 – 6 win mainly thanks to an Anthony treble. To help the cause Wayne won two and Paul managed a single. They then lost 4 – 6 at home to Sonning Com & P 'E' with Anthony winning two and Wayne obtaining a single. Anthony was in top form at Kingfisher 'G' by winning all three but with Richard only winning one the side lost 6 – 4. Next they beat Kingfisher 'H' 10 – 0 with Anthony, Richard and Wayne all recording trebles. For Anthony and Richard they were all three straight.

Richard 17/32=53.1% 2 trebles, 5 doubles, 1 single, best win Melvyn Lovegrove P.O.M 1

Paul 14/27=51.9% 2 trebles, 3 doubles, 2 singles, best in Ben Carless P.O.M 2

Jazz 9/12=75% 2 trebles, 1 double, 1 single, best win Ben Carless P.O.M 3

Anthony 47/60=78.3% 10 trebles, 8 doubles, 1 single best win Nigel Rowland P.O.M 9

Wayne 28/66=42.4% 2 trebles, 8 doubles, 6 singles best win Peter Gurney

Doubles 12/22=54.5

Sets first half

57 second

Half 70

Tidmarsh 'D' lost 3 – 7 to Tidmarsh 'C'. Terry Hardie did well to win two besides teaming up with Dave Edwards to win the doubles. At Reading F C 'A' they only had a doubles win to show for their efforts when Terry and Th e r e a s a teamed up in a 9



WAYNE ALLEYNE

- 1 defeat. Against Tilehurst Meths 'B' according to Dave E Terry was in sensational form and won all three in straight games. He beat Martin 11-2, 11-6, 11-2 Patrick 11-7, 13-11, 11-5 and the big one Nigel 11-6, 11-5, 11-5 so well done Terry. Oh I almost forgot, Dave E and Dave S both won one each to give them a draw. Both Terry and Dave E won three each to help them beat Curzon 'C' 3 - 7. Terry and Thereasa also won the doubles. At O.L.O.P 'D' they lost 8 - 2. Terry won one by beating Mark in five games and also teamed up with Dave E to win the doubles. They finished the season by beating Springfield 'C' 8 - 2. Dave E was the star by picking up a hat trick and giving him good support were Thereasa and Dave S who won two each.

Dave E 22/45=48.95 4 trebles, 3 doubles, 4 singles, best win Melvyn Lovegrove P.O.M 3

Terry 31/51=60.8% 6 trebles, 4 doubles, 5 singles, best win Nigel Rowland P.O.M 5

Dave S 10/48=20.8% 1 double, 8 singles, best win Paul Brown

Thereasa 24/51=47.1% 2 trebles, 6 doubles, 6 singles, best win Peter Gurney P.O.M 2

Doubles 14/22=63.6%

Sets first half 55 second half 48

O.L.O.P 'D' entertained Tilehurst Meths 'B' and went down 3 - 7. Paul Treadgold had a good night by beating Patrick and Martin while Simon Brookes also beat Martin. Next they won 1 - 9 at Kingfisher 'H'. Mark and Ben Carless both gained trebles and also teamed up to win the doubles. Paul won two. For Mark it was his first ever maximum. At home to Curzon 'C' Simon gained his first maximum of the season to help his side in 8 - 2. Mark and Graham Stark both won two each. Next came a fantastic 0 - 10 win at Sonning Sports 'B'. Graham, Mark and reserve Ralph Phillips all hit trebles. The good run continued by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 8 - 2 with Ben and Graham both hitting trebles. Mark played well by winning two. At Springfield 'B' they came away with a draw mainly thanks to a great treble obtained from Ben who beat Seth 8-11, 3-11, 5-11, Steve 6-11, 1-11, 9-11, Peter 7-11, 7-11, 11-6, 7-11. Graham won one and Simon and Ben won the doubles.

Simon 11/30=36.7% 1 treble, 1 double, 6 singles, best win Geoff Johnson P.O.M 2

Graham 28/45=62.2% 4 trebles, 6 doubles, 4 singles, best in Melvyn Lovegrove P.O.M 1

Paul 20/39=51.3% 3 trebles, 3 doubles, 5 singles, best win Nils Wedi P.O.M 2

Mark 13/39=33.3% 2 trebles, 2 doubles, 3 singles, best win Melvyn Lovegrove

Ben 30/42=71.4% 7 trebles, 3 doubles, 3 singles, best win David Wells P.O.M 6

Doubles 10/22=45.5%

Sets first half 57 second Half 58

Springfield 'C' beat a two player Tidmarsh 'C' and as a result gained 6 vital points. Jason, Robert Atack and Adrian Wegrzynowski all won one each. They then entertained Reading FC 'A' and went down 4 - 6 with Jason winning two and Adrian picking up a single besides teaming up



BEN CARLESS OF OLOP D

with Adrian to win the doubles. Against the leaders Tilehurst Meths 'B' they welcomed back Chris Taylor to the team after having a mini stroke at Christmas which caused him to lose the sight in one eye. I understand he is feeling a little better so on behalf of you all I wish him good luck. On the playing front Rob and Adrian both gained singles in a 8 - 2 defeat. Against Curzon 'C' Jason was in brilliant form by winning all three and with Robert winning two and Adrian one this helped to a 7 - 3 win. At Tidmarsh 'D' they lost 8 - 2 with Robert and Adrian winning one each.

Rob 12/53=22.6% 2 doubles, 8 singles, best win Cris Reynolds

Chris 10/33=30.3% 2 trebles, 4 singles, best win Wayne Alleyne P.O.M 1

Adrian 23/44=52.3% 3 trebles, 4 doubles, 6 singles, best win Geoff Johnson P.O.M 4

Jason 29/47=61.7% 3 trebles, 7 doubles, 6 singles, best win Ben Carless P.O.M 3

Doubles 10/22=45.55%

Sets first half 39 second half 49

Curzon 'C' played hosts to Reading FC 'A' and despite a treble from Geoff Johnson and a single from Jim Brent we lost 4 - 6. I have to say I was unlucky against Paul Brown going down 12-10, 11-4, 8-11 after being 5-1 up, 10-12, 10-12 after being 1-8 down to then lead 10-9 only for Paul to get the slightest of an edge which we all thought it was going off. We then lost 8 - 2 at Tilehurst Meths 'B' with Geoff beating Martin and Patrick. We next crashed to an 8 - 2 defeat at O.L.O.P. 'D' with Geoff winning the two. We then eased our relegation fears by beating Kingfisher 'H' 10 - 0. Geoff, Jim and Derek were the hat trick men. For Jim it was his first since January 2011 so well done. We were then brought down to earth by losing to Tidmarsh 'D' 3 - 7 with Geoff, Jim and Derek all beating Thereasa. We then lost 7 - 3 at Springfield 'C' with Geoff winning two and Jim picking up a single. As a result of beating Sonning Com & P 'E' 6 - 4 we are safe from the drop. It was a good team performance with Geoff and Jim winning two each and also teaming up to win the doubles. Derek played his part by winning one. We finished by going down 3 - 7 to Sonning Sports 'B' with Geoff winning

two and Jim winning one. By gaining 3 sets it meant we finished in 8th place. Finally I have just played in my 1106th league match and Jim 1101 and these were just for my team. So with regard to sets I have played in 3296 and Jim 3281. I feel sure that by playing up i could add a lot more for both of us.

Derek 14/57=24.6% 2 trebles, 8 singles, best win Gwynne Penny

Jim 14/60=23.3% 1 treble, 1 double, 9 singles, best win Jason King

Geoff 42/59=71.2% 7 trebles, 8 doubles, 5 singles, best win Rob Wilkie P.O.M 8

Nick 12/15=80.0% 2 trebles, 3 doubles, best win Nils Wedi P.O.M 1

Phil 0/6

Doubles 7/22=31.8%

Sets first half 49 - second half 40

Sonning Sports 'B' raced into a 0 – 4 lead at Sonning Com & P 'E' and finally came out to win 4 – 6. Cris Reynolds was the Player of the Match by gaining his first maximum of the season. Himanshu won two and Sally James obtained a single. In the match Cris beat Oliver in the first set 8-11, 4-11, 13-15. This was the first time that he had beaten him. In the second set Sally played Derek and ran out a winner in 5 games. In set three Himanshu won in three against Jamie. Cris then beat Derek in straight sets for the team to go 0 – 4 up. Then a fight back by the home team who took the next three sets. Then to steady the nerves Himanshu took on Derek and won 11-9, 9-11, 9-11, 11-6, 9-11 and then in set nine Cris made sure of the in by beating Jamie 5-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-9, 5-11. This win has given Cris and his team that they can get out of the bottom two at the season's end. Next came a sensational 7 – 3 win over unbeaten Kingfisher 'G'. Florin Dimofte was the star. In his opening set he took on the highly rated David Wells and won 13-11, 11-7, 11-9. He played with controlled aggression throughout and gained his reward. Cris then played Didier and soon found himself two games down and in the first game he managed to serve off the table 4 times, however he regained his confidence and won the next three games. Himanshu then took on Gwynne Penny and won the first two games but lost in five. In set 5 with the scores level Florin then played Gwynne in a high quality match and won it three straight. At the doubles with the Sports 4 – 2 up Florin and Himanshu took on David and Didier and won 12-10, 12-10, 8-11, 9-11, 11-8. In set nine Himanshu had probably his best win of the season by beating David 11-3, 11-3, 12-10. In set ten Florin completed his hat trick by beating Didier 11-6, 14-12, 11-5. So they must now have a great chance of moving out of the bottom two. This they did by gaining a draw at Kingfisher 'H' after being 3 – 0 down. Then Florin took on Maksym and won in four by playing determined table tennis. In set five Sally played Ken whom she has never beaten and won the first game 9-11 - only for Ken to level by winning 11-6. But Sally playing with great determination, concentration and spir-

it then won 9-11; however, Ken then hit back to win the next game 11-4 but Sally did not give up and then won 9-11. In set six Cris beat his Bracknell team mate Peter Bennett in four games to level the score at 3 – 3. Next was the doubles when Sally and Cris took on Peter and Ken and won in four to put Sonning 3 – 4 up. In set eight Sally took on Maksym and completed her double by winning in four games. Then Kingfisher won the two final sets when Peter beat a tiring Florin and then Ken beat Cris to bring the match score level. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' they crashed to a 0 – 10 defeat. Against promotion contenders Springfield 'B' they went down 3 – 7. In the opening set Florin faced Steve Leggett and won 11-6, 11-5, 11-7. This was great news for Florin having lost to Steve earlier in the season. In set two Cris just went down in four games but it was close because the last two were 9-11. Himanshu then played Peter Gurney and only lost 11-13, 6-11, 7-11. In the second and third games Peter took control when they were level at 6 all and 7 all. Moving on to set six Himanshu played Seth and won 12-10, after being 3 – 8 down 11-4, 6-11, 11-6. In the doubles Florin and Cris took on Seth and Steve and won the first game 11-7 then lost 3-11, 11-13 from a winning position 5-11. In set ten which was the only one that went to five games Florin beat Seth 11-5, 7-11, 12-10, 5-11, 11-5. In that fifth game at change ends Florin was 5-3 up then won the next four points to give him confidence to win. They then travelled to Tidmarsh 'C' and went down 10 – 0. I have to mention that there were 5 games that were settled by two points and only one went in favour of the Sports. Now I have a report on the match from Cris. In the first set of the evening Ian played Cris and Cris was perplexed by his serve in the first game and lost 11-4 then settled down and only lost 11-9, 12-10 after being 7-10 up. Spencer then took on Sally and won 11-8 then took control by winning 11-2, 11-5. Himanshu arrived late and was duly harassed and was two games down before he settled down but he on the third game 8-11 but then David then won the fourth game to put the Sports 3 – 0 down. In set four Spencer took the first game against Cris 17-15 with both players having chances to win however Spencer then having won that vital game won the next two 11-7, 11-8. Set six was similar to set four which saw David beat Sally 12-10, then that gave him the confidence to take the next two games 11-7, 11-8. The doubles went the way of Tidmarsh in four games. In set eight Spencer beat Himanshu 11-8, 10-12, 11-8, 11-5 with the serves of Spencer bothering him. As I mentioned above, by looking at the card perhaps on another day some of the scores could have gone the other way. In their final match at Curzon 'C' they came away with a 3 – 7 win. Florin started the evening by beating Derek in straight games and this was followed by Sally beating Jim 9-11 in the fifth end after losing to him at home. In set three Cris went down in four games and after beating Geoff 9-11 in the second game he thought he had a chance but Geoff changed his

game to come out winning.

In set four Florin beat Jim 7-11, 7-11, 8-11 but in each game the score was 7 each. Then Cris won his only set of the evening by beating Derek very easily three straight then Sally took on Geoff who she beat at home but could not repeat it and lost three straight. In the doubles Florin and Sally were too good for Geoff and Jim and won three straight. In set nine we saw the best match of the night with Florin beating Geoff 11-9, 7-11, 6-11, 11-9, 7-11. So this gained a hat trick for Florin who is now going home to Romania so on behalf of you all I wish him well. All in all it was a good evening's table tennis.

Cris 16/51=31.4% 1 treble, 2 doubles, 9 singles, best win Jason King P.O.M 1

Florin 25/48=52.1% 3 trebles, 6 doubles, 4 singles, best win David Wells P.O.M. 4

Sally 16/48=33.3% 5 doubles, 6 singles, best win Geoff Johnson

Himanshu 13/45=28.9% 5 doubles, 3 singles, best win David Wells

Doubles 4/22=18.2%

Sets first half 36 second half 39

Sonning Com & P 'E' lost to Sonning Sports 'B' 4 – 6 which was a good effort because at one time they were 0 – 4 down. Oliver Sayer managed a double and Jamie Legg won one. The two of them also won the doubles. At Springfield 'B' they went down 8 – 2 and despite this there were a lot of close sets. Melvyn Lovegrove did very well and gained a nice double by beating Steve and Rob. At home to Tidmarsh 'C' they gained three vital points with Melvyn winning two and Jamie one. They then gained six vital points by winning at Reading F C 'A'. Derek and Melvyn won two each and Jamie won one. Derek had a walkover against Richard in set 8 because Richard had to go. Singles from Oliver and Derek was all they got against Tilehurst Meths 'B' in a 2 – 8 defeat. At Curzon 'C' they lost 6 – 4. Melvyn was in brilliant form and only lost one game on his way to a maximum. Mikey Legg won the other set by beating me.

Jamie 19/57= 33.3% 2 trebles, 1 double, 11 singles, best win Peter Gurney P.O.M 2

Oliver 9/24=37.5% 3 doubles, 3 singles, best win Wayne Alleyne

Derek 16/47=34.0% 1 treble, 3 doubles, 7 singles, best win Gwynne Penny P.O.M 2

Melvyn 30/48=62.5% 3 trebles, 8 doubles, 5 singles, best win Rob Wilkie P.O.M 2

Jim 0/12

Mikey 2/9=22.2 % 2 singles best win Derek Harrison

Doubles 6/22= 27.3%

Sets first half 39 second half 44

Kingfisher 'H' only lost to high flying Kingfisher 'G' 6 – 4. Peter Bennett did well to win two by beating Gwynne Penny 12-14, 10-12, 13-11, 11-8, 7-11 and Didier Garçon 11-7, 7-11, 2-11, 6-11. Ania Pytka and Dmitry Merziyakov also defeated Didier. At home to O.L.O.P 'D' they crashed to a 1 – 9 defeat with Ken Robb beating Paul Treadgold. They then drew with

Sonning Sports 'B'. Peter and Ken both won two and Maksym won one. Two days later they crashed to a 10 – 0 defeat at Curzon 'C' I have to say that despite getting beaten they were very sporting and Ken is a credit to the game. After losing to Springfield 'B' 9 – 1 the side are going down. Peter won the set by beating Steve Leggett. Against Tidmarsh 'C' Ken had a nice 11-6, 11-8, 11-8 victory over Richard Hudson in a 1 – 9 defeat. Finally their season came to an end when going down 10 – 0 to Reading FC 'A'

Peter 18/39=46.2% 5 doubles, 8 singles, best win Seth Martin

Ania 3/36=8.33% 1 double, 1 single, best win Robert Attack

Ken 11/42=26.2% 3 doubles, 5 singles, best win Cris Reynolds P.O.M 1

Dmitry 4/39 =10.3% 4 singles, best win Simon Brookes

Maksym 10/42=23.8% 2 doubles, 6 singles best win Dave Edwards P.O.M 1

Doubles 3/22=13.6%

Sets first Half 26 second half 23

A few more stats:

Only Wayne Alleyne played in every match.

Closest Set: Wayne Alleyne losing to Patrick O'Sullivan 12-10, 12-14, 11-7, 10-12, 10-12

Best doubles pairing Eric Van Looy and Nigel Rowland 10 /10=100%

Best Team Doubles Tilehurst Meths 'B' 21/22=95.5% only lost against Curzon

Most Improved Player Mark Carless First Half 2/15, 13.3% Second Half 11/24 45.8%

Also there were 22 5-5 matches, 28 were 6-4, 29 were 7-3, 25 were 8-2, 18 were 9-1 and there were 10 10-0.

Finally I would like to thank the captains who sent me reports on their matches and in particular Cris who was great.

Also I would like to say good luck to the two bottom teams and wish them a speedy return to the third division.

Lastly thank you Dave Edwards for your kind comments about my efforts this season. It's nice to know that someone thinks I have done a good job.

Cheers

Derek

READING JUNIOR MASTERS by Derek Wavell

The winner of last year's Junior Masters, **Joe Barraclough**, had now gone up to take part in the Senior Masters - which was fair enough, because he has been playing in Division One of the senior league all year - and with an average win ratio of 71%, which is not just good, it's brilliant. Joe was actually competing in the same room at the same time while the junior competition was going on - but in a different tournament, and never the twain shall meet.

Junior competitors were first segregated into two round-robin groups, designated A and B. Group A included those who came in second and fourth last year (**Rayaan Asghar** and **Tamir Slobodskoy**); group B had last year's number three, **Jamie Barlow**.

In Group A, the very competent **Rayaan Asghar** beat all his four opponents, as might have been expected - though **Rajat Sawant** took a game off him, and was otherwise undefeated. **Tamir Slobodskoy**, who came fourth last year, had a disappointing day and only one win.

In Group B it was young **Jamie Barlow** who swept all before him - with the experienced **Ralph Philips** in second place.

So the stage was set for **Jamie** to meet **Rayaan** in the final. Was this to be a repeat of last year, when the winner was **Rayaan Asghar**?

For a while it looked as if that might happen. **Rayaan**, a head taller, won the first game 11-6, counting on highly-spun services followed up by a powerful forehand attack. **Jamie**, for his part, was not afraid to return the ball quite high, relying on his speed on his feet, and ability to keep returning the ball from the back of the court. But that game went to **Rayaan**.

Here the pendulum started to swing the other way, as **Jamie** made his own special style pay off - riposting off the bounce on both forehand and backhand, and constantly switching direction from one corner to the other. In the end this pattern held - and **Jamie** won the next three games 11-8, 11-4, 11-7.

You can see the **video** here. And you can also see the playoff for third and fourth places, between **Ralph Philips** and **Rajat Sawant** - which was won by **Rajat** 8-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-6.

Congratulations to the winner, **Jamie Barlow**, and to all the other players, who displayed great talent. And particular thanks to **Wendy Porter**, who made light of organizing yet another competition with kindness as well as great efficiency.



JUNIOR MASTERS FINAL



3rd - 4th ELIMINATOR



JAMIE BARLOW



RAYAAN ASGHAR



RAJAT SAWANT



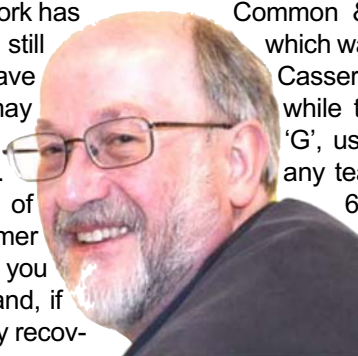
RALPH PHILIPS



DIVISION FOUR

by Martin Wetherell

Well, for some people, all that hard work has paid off and you are probably still savouring your victories. If you have personally had a good season then you may also be walking around with a smug grin, while others may still be licking their wounds. True sportsmen and sportswomen will, of course, have just moved on to their summer activities ! Whichever category describes you best, I hope you enjoyed the past season and, if you are currently injured, I wish you a speedy recovery.



Regardless, kudos must go to Ralph Philips (Our Lady of Peace 'E'), who went the whole season unbeaten, and Oliver Bonser (Reading FC 'B') ,who was the only other person above 90%, since he only lost three sets. Other high-flyers, who may have had targets on their backs, were Roy Hull (Tilehurst Methodists 'C') on 87.27%, Derek Anderson (Reading FC 'B') on 84.38%, Joe Bull (Reading FC 'B') on 83.87%, Chris Bunn (Our Lady of Peace 'E') on 82.93%, Alona Slobodskoy (Our Lady of Peace 'E') on 81.82% and Anthony Reeve (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') on 81.25%.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP E	22	18	2	2	161	59	161
Tilehurst Meths C	22	16	3	3	146	74	146
Reading FC B	22	13	1	8	129	91	129
Tidmarsh E	22	12	1	9	125	95	125
Milestone C	22	11	3	8	122	98	122
SC&P G	22	13	3	6	119	101	119
SC&P F	22	8	3	11	109	111	109
Kennet Valley B	22	11	1	10	102	118	102
Kingfisher I	22	6	0	16	87	133	87
Springfield E	22	5	2	15	83	137	83
Springfield D	22	5	1	16	69	151	69
Sonning Sports C	22	3	2	17	68	152	68

On the flip side, I note that everybody won at least once, the exception being Colin Gentle, who was signed up late in the season by Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' but, in the end, only played one match.

Congratulations to Our Lady of Peace 'E' on winning Division 4 and Tilehurst Methodists 'C' on their promotion as runners-up. I'm sure everyone has the Awards Presentation Evening, on 7th May, in their diary, so they can congratulate these teams in person. Unfortunately someone has to come last and this time the misfortune belongs to Sonning Sports 'C'.

There have been a number of unbeaten Doubles pairings and, not unsurprisingly, the more successful ones play for Our Lady of Peace 'E' or Tilehurst Methodists 'C'. Top of the heap are Roy Hull & Steve Wood, who have played together 7 times, while other unbeaten Methodists pairings are Rob James & Steve Wood and David Bates & Roy Hull. Checking my records, Steve played Doubles 11 times and was always on the winning side. It should also be noted that up until their defeat by Oliver Bonser & Carl Edlind (Milestone 'C'), Ralph Philips & Jan Polnik (Our Lady of Peace 'E') had also played together 7 times, winning each time.

In an interesting take on strategies (or not !), Sonning

Common & Peppard 'F' only used four different pairings, which was the least by any team, with Derek Maltby & Mike Casserley playing together 19 times, winning 10 matches, while their clubmates in Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', used ten different pairings, which was the most by any team. In case you wondered, the 'G' team finished 6th and the 'F' team 7th.

In terms of the PoM table, Joe Bull (Reading FC 'B') overtook Roy Hull (Tilehurst Methodists 'C') and kept ahead to the end, finishing top with 13 awards, Roy taking 2nd place with 12 awards, with Anthony Reeve (Sonning Common & Peppard 'G') in 3rd with 9 awards, Ralph Philips (Our Lady of Peace 'E') in 4th with 8 awards and Mike Casserley (Sonning Common & Peppard 'F') in 5th with 7 awards.

Since I voiced the question in a previous Newsletter, it is possible that someone has been waiting months in anticipation of the final outcome. Well, if that was you, you are in luck, since the most games played in a Division 4 match was 43. This match was in December, between Our Lady of Peace 'E' and Reading FC 'B', when they drew 5 - 5.

After the last Newsletter, **Kennet Valley Free Church 'B'** were 9th in the Table, having only played 15 matches. They started their final run-in by welcoming the leaders Our Lady of Peace 'E' and after a competitive match, comprising 42 games, they could consider themselves unlucky to end up on the wrong end of a 9 - 1 scoreline. This was only the second time this season that Steve Christelow went home without a win and with Jamie Li-Telford suffering a similar fate, Kennet Valley's blushes were only spared because Toby Barter had defeated Andrew Adair in the first set.

For their next match, away to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', Steve Christelow and Russell Moores were both pressured to play, despite suffering from injury, with Jamie Li-Telford completing the lineup. Kennet Valley emerged victorious, winning 6 - 4, but out of the 39 games played, 18 were won by the minimum two points. For this state of affairs we need to equally blame the Commoners' Steve Knott, as well as Jamie, since they opened the match with Jamie winning 9-11 13-11 13-11 11-9, Jamie subsequently defeating Julian James 10-12 11-8 16-14 11-8 before losing his final set, against Mike Casserley, 5-11 11-13 10-12. Steve Christelow had two tough five game sets, before clinching the final set to record another maximum, while Russell recorded a crucial win, defeating Steve Knott 9-11 12-10 11-7 11-6, in his first outing this year.

The following week was a busy one, with Kennet Valley

hosting Kingfisher 'I' and then, two days later, travelling to Reading FC 'B' to play a fixture which had been postponed from January. Kingfisher fielded both their latest signings, Sandeep Burande and Roger Prew, as well as Meriel Low, and only Russell Moores had any joy, defeating both Roger and Meriel, with Lewis Oke and Jamie both winless on the night, although Jamie was so close to a win, before losing to Meriel 11-8 11-9 9-11 12-14 9-11. Following this 2 - 8 defeat, Lewis, Jamie and Steve Christelow had more joy at Reading FC 'B', Jamie recording a single while Lewis and Steve both recorded two wins as well as combining to win the Doubles, ensuring a 6 - 4 victory on the night.

The next week saw Kennet Valley succumb to a 6 - 4 defeat against Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', with the Commoners' Anthony Reeve defeating Steve 11-4 9-11 7-11 11-7 13-11, in the final set, to guarantee the win and deny Steve his maximum, Toby Barter beating David Pearson 9-11 11-9 11-7 4-11 11-9 for his single and then partnering Steve to a Doubles win, while Russell Moores had no joy, leaving empty-handed. For their penultimate match, Kennet Valley travelled to Tidmarsh 'E', where they won 8 - 2, Steve Christelow and Lewis Oke both recording maximums, this being Lewis's first treble, while Toby Barter recorded one win by beating Mike Bundy. They finished the season in style, the three youngsters beating Springfield 'E' 8 - 2, Jamie Li-Telford recording his second maximum, while Lewis and Toby both recorded two wins each.

After their second match, Kennet Valley Free Church 'B' had climbed to 8th place and there they remained, win or lose. Steve Christelow finished top of the Club averages, with 67.39%, while Russell Moores ended with 32.14%, after injury curtailed his match appearances. During the season I received comments regarding the improvement of the youngsters in this team, which is possibly best illustrated by their first appearance together, in October, when they lost to Springfield 'D' 3 - 7 compared to their last appearance together, in March, when they beat Springfield 'E' 8 - 2. However, their perseverance also ensured that this team had the highest average number of games played, with most of their recent matches requiring 39 games or more.

On the Doubles front, they lost the first three matches and won the last four matches. Two new partnerships were tried, Jamie & Russell losing 2 - 3 while Jamie & Lewis won 3 - 1. Toby & Steve won once and lost once, ending with an average of 50%, Steve & Lewis won twice, ending with an average of 66.67%, while their best undefeated pairing was Jamie & Toby, with two wins from two appearances.

Despite signing two new players during the season, **Kingfisher 'I'** still found themselves travelling to Tidmarsh 'E' with only two players, namely Gill Bennett and Roger Prew. Although Roger proved too strong for his opponents, recording his second successive treble, Gill was unable to overcome any of Steve Andrews, Mike Bundy or Pete Sinclair and so, despite a Doubles win, they left having lost 6 - 4.

A full strength squad of Gill, Meriel Low and Sandeep Burande was assembled to face Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', but the Commoners had also brought a full strength squad, including their new signing Ian Davenport, who was undefeated all night, and they subsequently left as 7

- 3 winners, with Gill, Meriel and Sandeep each winning one set. However, the match was not without excitement, with 42 games being played, and although Sandeep lost his opening set to David Pearson 11-7 15-13 10-12 9-11 5-11, he subsequently defeated Anthony Reeve 11-8 8-11 11-2 6-11 11-9, in his final set.

Results took a turn for the better when Kingfisher fielded Roger Prew, Meriel and Sandeep for the trip to Kennet Valley 'B', with Sandeep recording his second maximum while Meriel and Roger each won twice, both losing to Russell Moores but getting the better of Lewis Oke and Jamie Li-Telford, the evening ending with an 8 - 2 victory. One week later, utilising the same trio, Kingfisher reprised this 8 - 2 win, only this time both Sandeep and Roger recorded trebles while Meriel was only able to record one win, after defeating Julian James but losing to both Colin Jones and Marcello Caramma.

A strong Milestone 'C' team brought this mini-run to an end, Gill Bennett and Sandeep both beating Tony Hayden while Meriel had no luck all evening, although with Sandeep & Meriel winning the Doubles the match finished 7 - 3. Their final match was against 2nd placed Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and Sandeep and Roger both won twice, each getting the better of David Bates and Andrew Stone, but with Meriel ending the night with no wins, Kingfisher were on the wrong side on a 4 - 6 scoreline.

Having started this final set of fixtures in 10th place, one point ahead of Sonning Sports 'C', the 30 points gained over these six matches enabled them to climb to 9th. Nominally, mid-Season signing Roger Prew tops the averages, with 86.67%, and Miguel Caballero is second with 75%. However, since Roger has only played in 5 matches and Miguel Caballero has only played in 4 matches, the star accolade must fall to Sandeep Burande, another mid-Season signing, who has played 33 games, winning two-thirds. Meriel Low has also had a good season, playing 42 games and winning 21, while Gill Bennett regularly assists with singles. Derek Crombie has not played since January, so has had no opportunity to improve his averages.

Gill Bennett & Roger Prew top the Doubles averages, having played together once, winning 3 - 2. Previous pairings Sandeep Burande & Meriel Low have played together two more times, winning once, and new pairing Sandeep & Roger have played together three times, winning twice.

Having played one fixture earlier, in mid-February, **Milestone 'C'** only had five matches left to play. They started where they had left off, with a win, this time a 9 - 1 victory over Sonning Sports 'C', with Carl Edlind and Oliver Bonser both recording trebles while Tony Hayden lost out on his chance of a maximum after losing to John Scott. The following week Oliver, John Evans and Colin Philips travelled to Springfield 'D' where they kept their winning streak alive with a narrow 6 - 4 victory, Oliver recording another maximum with John's two wins and Colin's single all proving to be crucial.

However, most winning streaks come to an end and with Milestone entertaining a strong Our Lady of Peace 'E' side this event duly came to pass, with Oliver losing his first set to Ralph Philips but then recovering to beat both Chris Bunn and Jan Polnik, the team losing 3 - 7 as neither Carl Edlind nor

John Evans could find that elusive win, although John almost beat Ralph, eventually losing 14-16 11-9 11-9 10-12 6-11.

Two weeks later, Tony Hayden, Oliver and John entertained Kingfisher 'I', winning 7 - 3 thanks to trebles from Oliver and John, with Tony defeating Meriel Low to claim his single. Their final match was an away trip to Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', where the honours were shared in a 5 - 5 draw, Oliver recording a fourth maximum from his five outings, while Carl Edlind and John both defeated David Pearson but lost to Anthony Reeve and Jim Warren.

There is no doubt that Oliver Bonser (91.89%) is this team's star, Oliver having only been beaten by Roy Hull (Tilehurst Methodists 'C'), Joe Bull (Reading FC 'B') and, of course, Ralph Philips (OLOP 'E'). Carl Edlind has provided fine support on 63.64%, as has John Evans on 61.36%, with Tony Hayden providing frequent singles and doubles and Colin Phillips chipping in with the occasional win.

Oliver Bonser & Carl Edlind are top of the Doubles averages and they played a further three matches, winning twice. John Evans & Oliver also played together again but lost and,

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winning his final set against John Scott 7-11 11-4 11-4 11-13 19-17, while Mariusz Paluszkiwicz's final set saw him defeat Phil Peat 11-8 11-8 11-9, for his first win in 2019.

However, OLOP went one better the following week, defeating Kennet Valley 'B' 1 - 9, Toby Barter denying Andrew Adair a maximum, while Ralph Philips recorded another maximum as did Alona Slobodskoy, who was victorious in all three of her 5-game sets. Springfield 'E' were the first visitors in this final run-in and were comprehensively despatched 10 - 0, Colin Jones, Tom Powell and Marcello Caramma unable to make any headway against Jan Polnik, Ralph and Alona, with OLOP only dropping 4 games in the match, although Colin tested Ralph before eventually losing 8-11 9-11 12-14.

For their next match, away to Milestone 'C', there was a slight change in personnel with Chris Bunn replacing Alona in the lineup, but the team carried on winning, Ralph defeating all his opponents in his toughest match yet, Chris and Jan both losing to Oliver Bonser to record doubles. The following week, Our Lady of Peace 'E' entertained title rivals Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and effectively ensured their title win with an emphatic 9 - 1 victory, Chris Bunn losing to Roy Hull, while Ralph and Alona both recorded maximums.

Following his heroics, Ralph was allowed to drop, Jan Polnik stepping in as his replacement, duly winning all three and taking the PoM. Not to be outdone, Alona also recorded her fifth successive maximum with Chris Bunn recording a further double, losing out on his chance of a maximum when he lost to John Scott in his final set, resulting in a final match score of 8 - 2. The same trio travelled to Reading FC 'B', for their final match, and made it seven wins from seven with a close 6 - 4 victory, Joe Bull proving a thorn in their side as he was undefeated on the night, while Alona and Chris both defeated Derek Anderson and Harry Edwards, to record two wins apiece while Jan recorded just the one win after losing his opening set to Derek 7-11 11-7 8-11 18-20.

Ralph Philips deserves all the accolades for remaining undefeated all season, but his team-mates all played their part. Alona Slobodskoy, Chris Bunn and Jan Polnik all peaked at the right time, Chris finishing with 82.93% from 41 games, Alona with 81.82% from 33 games, then Jan with 61.90% from 42 games. Andrew Adair also played 33 games and finished with 54.55%, with Mariusz Paluszkiwicz on 26.67%, having played in only 5 matches.

On the Doubles front, the new pairing of Jan Polnik & Alona Slobodskoy got off to a great start at Sonning Sports 'C', winning 11-9 11-5 12-10 and, since they haven't reformed, they join a long list of unbeaten pairings. Chris Bunn & Ralph Philips played together once more, winning to retain their 100%. Jan Polnik & Ralph played together three more times, losing on their eighth and final appearance together and therefore saying farewell to their 100%, while the existing pairing of Chris & Jan played together twice, winning once.

Reading FC 'B' started their final tranche of fixtures with seven matches still to play, and with promotion a definite possibility since they were only 6 points adrift of Tilehurst Methodists 'C' who were in 2nd place. However, their chances were dealt a serious blow as their first match was against the aforementioned Methodists which they lost 8 - 2, their hopes of victory severely dented when they could only field two play-



RALPH PHILIPS

the process, lost their undefeated status. The other outing was by the new pairing of Colin Phillips & John, which was lost 2 - 3.

Despite the scoreline, it wasn't a massacre when **Our Lady of Peace 'E'** travelled to Sonning Sports 'C', on St. Valentines Day, to play their postponed fixture. However, following their 8 - 2 win, OLOP opened up a gap over 2nd placed Tilehurst Methodists 'C', with Alona Slobodskoy winning the final set against Michael Byrne 9-11 11-9 11-6 11-4 to record her second maximum. This match also saw Jan Polnik record his second treble after edging three nail-biting five game sets, just

ers, resulting in three lost points, Joe Bull winning twice, losing out to Rob James 20-22 4-11 7-11. Tidmarsh 'E' were the next visitors and they were unlucky that Derek Anderson picked this match for his first appearance this year, Derek celebrating his selection by recording a maximum which, along with two wins for Joe and the Doubles, when Derek partnered Harry Edwards to a 13-11 2-11 11-9 8-11 16-14 win over Steve Andrews & John Harland, contributed to their 6 - 4 victory. The following week the same team welcomed Sonning Sports 'C', and Derek and Joe both recorded trebles, Harry assisted with a single, having defeated Michael Byrne, which meant that the final score was 7 - 3.

Despite Joe Bull recording another hat-trick, they lost 4 - 6 to Kennet Valley 'B', Harry Edwards losing out to both Lewis Oke and Steve Christelow but gaining the upper-hand over Jamie Li-Telford with a hard-fought 10-12 12-10 11-5 8-11 11-9 victory, while Tony Edwards made his first appearance for two months, his best chance probably the 11-8 9-11 10-12 7-11 loss to Lewis Oke. Joe continued his match winning performances the following week, against Springfield 'D', and with Harry also recording his first maximum of 2019 and Tony Edwards beating Dave Parkin, Reading FC returned home with an 8 - 2 victory.

Reading FC didn't play again until a fortnight later and were not helped by their week off, with the same players all losing to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F's Mike Casserley, Harry also being narrowly defeated by Julian James 9-11 9-11 9-11, with the final match score ending 7 - 3 in favour of their opponents. Their final match of the Season was against the newly crowned Divisional winners, Our Lady of Peace 'E', and Reading FC fielded a strong team with Joe Bull recording yet another maximum, in the process winning a further PoM. However, Harry Edwards was unable to impose himself on any of his opponents and Derek Anderson was only able to defeat Jan Polnik, although his contest with Alona Slobodskoy went to the wire, Alona eventually winning 6-11 11-7 11-4 13-15 11-9, which ensured that OLOP went home with a 6 - 4 victory. However, these four points were sufficient to guarantee that Reading FC 'B' finished the Season in 3rd place.

Joe Bull has been the star for this team, consistently producing match winning performances and as I mentioned in my opening remarks, topped the PoM table with 14 awards. Joe played in every match, after the opening fixture, and is just behind Mike Casserley (Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'), in games played, only because one of the opposing teams turned up with two players, meaning that he has played one set less than Mike. However, Harry Edwards played in every match, which may be a first for such a large squad, and finished on 43.08%. Having mentioned that Joe is the star, I should add that he has a co-star in Derek Anderson, who tops

their averages with 84.38%, having played in 11 matches.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' had played one more match than most of their opponents, since they had brought forward their match against Milestone 'C'. Unfortunately, they not only narrowly lost this match 4 - 6, but also lost the services of one of their star players, for the remainder of the Season, Gerry Bacon injuring himself in the very first set and having to concede his other sets. This meant that they started their run-in in 7th place, tied on 85 points with their 'G' team. With Gerry sidelined, they attempted to bolster their squad with the late signing of Colin Gentle but, unfortunately, Colin only managed to appear for them once, in the first of their five remaining fixtures, which was, coincidentally, their intra-Club

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES					
Player	Team	P	W	%	
Ralph Philips	OLOP E	33	33	100.00%	
Oliver Bonser	Milestone C	37	34	91.89%	
Roy Hull	Tilehurst Meths C	55	48	87.27%	
Derek Anderson	Reading FC B	32	27	84.38%	
Joe Bull	Reading FC B	62	52	83.87%	
Christopher Bunn	OLOP E	41	34	82.93%	
Alona Slobodskoy	OLOP E	33	27	81.82%	
Anthony Reeve	SC&P G	48	39	81.25%	
Peter Sinclair	Tidmarsh E	26	20	76.92%	
Steve Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	40	30	75.00%	
Mike Casserley	SC&P F	63	47	74.60%	
Ian Davenport	SC&P G	18	13	72.22%	

match against the 'G' team. However, despite Mike Casserley winning all three of his sets, neither Derek Maltby nor Colin had any joy against the 'G' team, each of them losing to Anthony Reeve, David Pearson and Jim Warren, which meant that the match was lost 3 - 7.

The following week Kennet Valley 'B' were the visitors and Steve Christelow proved too strong for Steve Knott, Julian James and Mike Casserley, winning 5-game sets against both Julian and Mike. Although Mike defeated Russell Moores 12-10 12-10 11-7 and Jamie Li-Telford 11-5 13-11 12-10, to earn his two wins, Julian was only able to beat Russell and Steve Knott went home empty-handed, which meant the night finished with a narrow 4 - 6 defeat. However, this was a match full of 'what ifs', further examples being Steve Knott's loss to Jamie 11-9 11-13 11-13 9-11 and Jamie's defeat of Julian 10-12 11-8 16-14 11-8. Mike, Julian and Steve were on their bikes for their next match, an away trip to Springfield 'D', and it was nip and tuck all night, with neither team able to build on their lead, the match hinging on the final set, which Marcello Caramma won for Springfield, to tie the match at 5 - 5. Mike and Julian each won twice, both defeating Tom Powell and Colin Jones but neither winning against Marcello, with the regular pairing of Derek Maltby & Mike also winning the Doubles, to earn their share of the points.

It was almost three weeks later when Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' played their next match, at home to Reading FC 'B', which was won 7 - 3, thanks to a treble from Mike Casserley, a double from Julian James and a single from Derek Maltby, this being Derek's first singles win this season. Their final match was an 'away' fixture, against Tilehurst Methodists 'C', which was actually played in Sonning Common. Mike was again undefeated on the night and with Derek defeating David Bates 11-9 10-12 11-9 11-9 to record another singles win, as well as partnering Mike to their fourth, consecutive Doubles victory, Rob James needed to defeat Steve Knott, in the final set, to rescue a 5 - 5 draw. Steve

ended the night with no wins, but went down fighting, just losing to David Bates 10-12 11-13 9-11 and losing to Andrew Stone over 5 games.

Mike Casserley is their star player but was well supported by Gerry Bacon, until his injury, and Julian James, with Steve Knott and Derek Maltby getting close on a number of occasions but just not getting the luck their efforts sometimes deserved. Mike played in more matches than anyone else, only missing one match all season, and with 47 wins achieved a 74.60% average, with Julian just behind on 66.67%, followed by Gerry on 60.61%.

Mike & Derek are the number 1 Doubles pairing and played in all 5 matches, winning their final four outings and only losing to their own clubmates, from the 'G' team. During the season, three other combinations were used, each playing once, two pairings losing, which means that Mike & Julian having played together once and having won, are their only pairing with 100%, Mike & Derek having won 10 of the 19 matches in which they played to end the season on 52.63%.



DEREK MALTBY OF SC&P F

Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' started the final leg in 6th place, tied on 85 points with their 'F' team, but having played one less match. The first of their remaining six fixtures was a 'home' match against the 'F' team and although Mike Casserley recorded a maximum, two wins apiece for Anthony Reeve, David Pearson and Jim Warren, along with a second Doubles win for Anthony and Jim meant that the 'G' team reversed the scoreline from their first match in October, by winning 7 - 3, ensuring that honours were satisfied. The following week, Ian Davenport was selected to play with Anthony and David, away at Kingfisher 'I' and it turned out to be an astute decision, with Ian recording his first maximum, while Anthony won twice and David fought back to defeat Sandeep Burande 7-11 13-15 12-10 11-9 11-5 to record his single, ensuring a 7 - 3 victory.

Their cause was not helped by their trip to Tidmarsh 'E', when they could only field two players, which meant that although Jim Warren recorded his first maximum, David was unable to win either of his 5-game sets and thus the match

was lost 3 - 7. A full-strength squad just got the better of Kennet Valley 'B', winning 6 - 4, thanks to Anthony clinching his treble by beating Steve Christelow, in the final set, 11-4 9-11 7-11 11-7 13-11. However, as shown by earlier results, Anthony needed support and a double from Jim, which included an 11-8 14-12 12-14 11-8 win against Toby Barter, along with a single from David, who on another day could also have won all three, were all needed for the victory.

Ian Davenport returned to the fold and recorded another maximum, this time against Springfield 'E'. This was another instance where the Commoners could only field two players, but with Jim Warren winning twice and also partnering Ian to a Doubles win, the match was won 6 - 4. Their final outing was a home match against Milestone 'C' which ended in an honourable 5 - 5 draw, with Anthony Reeve and Jim both winning twice, and also partnering each other to a Doubles win, while David's best chance to pinch a win was probably against the undefeated Oliver Bonser, which he lost 5-11 9-11 11-8 9-11.

Anthony Reeve has been the 'G' team's best player, with 9 PoMs, although mid-Season signings Jim Warren and Ian Davenport have both been recording a number of wins. On paper the 'G' team have a squad of 7 players, but only four of these players have participated in the final run-in. Anthony leads the averages with 81.25%, having won 39 of his 48 sets, with Ian slightly further back on 72.22%, having played in 6 matches, with Jim Warren on 60%, having played in 10 matches. Marko Madzar is further back on 53.33%, then Arran Reeve and David Pearson are tied on 38.10%, David having played and won twice as many sets, followed by Simon Blake on 33.33%.



JIM WARREN

The final "free" week enabled **Sonning Sports 'C'** to play their postponed home fixture against Our Lady of Peace 'E' and although the 2 - 8 defeat was far from ideal, the two points gained did increase their lead over bottom placed Springfield



COLIN GENTLE OF SC&P F

'D' and moved them to within one point of 10th place. Despite the scoreline, there were a number of close games, with 14 of the 39 games being won by the minimum two points, Michael Byrne & John Scott losing the Doubles 9-11 5-11 10-12, to the new pairing of Jan Polnik & Alona Slobodskoy. Michael was only just beaten 8-11 7-11 11-9 11-9 10-12 in the first set by Jan Polnik, Jan also defeating Phil Peat 8-11 9-11 11-7 11-2 13-11 and finally beating John Scott, again over five games, to record his maximum. The two points were gained as Michael and John both beat Mariusz Paluszkiwicz, John needing five games to win 8-11 9-11 11-7 11-9 11-3.

The following week Sonning Sports travelled to Milestone 'C', where they lost 1 - 9, John Scott's win against Tony Hayden avoiding the whitewash, although Jude O'Halloran came close to recording a win in his 2-11 11-6 11-6 3-11 11-13 defeat by Tony, Mo Cole also losing a number of games by the minimum two points, her 4-11 9-11 11-9 9-11 loss to the undefeated Oliver Bonser possibly her best chance of a win. It got worse the following week, when they suffered a 10 - 0 defeat at the hands of title chasing Tilehurst Methodists 'C', with John Scott, Mo Cole and Michael Byrne unable to make inroads against Roy Hull, Steve Wood or Rob James, although John only just lost the opening set to Roy 11-8 11-9 6-11 11-13 9-11 and Michael had opportunities against Rob, before losing 10-12 6-11 9-11.

Another road trip, this time to Reading FC 'B', and a further defeat, with trebles from Derek Anderson and Joe Bull, along with a single from Harry Edwards meaning that solitary singles for John Scott and Mo Cole, along with them pairing up to win the Doubles, resulted in a 7 - 3 loss. A similar scoreline, a 3 - 7 loss to Tidmarsh 'E', then followed, Jude O'Halloran recording two wins after beating Pete Sinclair and John Harland but losing to Steve Andrews, Jude also partnering Mo Cole to a Doubles win. Although winning the match was unlikely, the result could have been closer, Mo's 11-6 13-15 11-13 9-11 loss to John being one such possibility. Stephen Edwards also had his first outing since November, but he was unable to add to his earlier victories.

A third, consecutive 3 - 7 loss followed, this time a crucial match against fellow wooden spoon contenders, Springfield

'D'. This result meant that although these two teams were now tied on 66 points, the fact that Springfield had won more matches allowed them to leapfrog Sonning Sports 'C' in the table, relegating them to 12th place. Along with the Doubles victory, Michael Byrne and Jude both beat Tom Berryman, to earn their points, with Springfield's Chris Speight and Johnny Worrall both recording trebles, Mo Cole ending the night with no wins, with her best chance undoubtedly her 9-11 9-11 13-15 defeat by Chris Speight. The final match was an 8 - 2 loss away at Divisional champions Our Lady of Peace 'E', John Scott recording one singles win when he beat Chris Bunn. This loss, coupled with results from other matches, meant that Sonning Sports 'C' finished bottom of the table, just one point behind Springfield 'D'.

Jude O'Halloran just edges the averages, with 47.62% over 14 matches, followed by John Scott on 41.67% across 12 matches. Michael Byrne is next, having played in 15 matches, with Mo Cole having played in 14 matches, then Phil Peat and Stephen Edwards, who have both only played in 5 matches.

Although Sonning Sports 'C' lost all of their remaining fixtures, it is interesting to note that after losing the first two Doubles, the final four Doubles were all won, in each case by a different pairing. The existing partnership of Michael Byrne & John Scott lost another set, thus reducing their average to 50.00%, while the fairly new partnership of Steven Edwards & John Scott have played together two more times, losing once, thus reducing their average to 66.67%. Two of the other three wins have improved the existing averages, one to 60%, the other to 50%, while the third win, for the previous partnership of Michael Byrne & Jude O'Halloran has now improved their average to 75%, thus making Michael & Jude their best Doubles pair.

Springfield 'D' started their final run-in in 12th place, 5 points adrift of Sonning Sports 'C', in 11th place, having played one more match. With Alan Gould ruled out for the rest of the season, Tom Berryman took over the captaincy and they managed to transfer in new signing Johnny Worrall, who had just been signed up to play for their 'E' team. They started the final leg of the campaign with a narrow 4 - 6 defeat, at the hands of Milestone 'C', with neither Johnny Worrall nor Chris Speight able to replicate their heroics from their previous match, Johnny beating John Evans and Colin Phillips, but coming unstuck against the irrepressible Oliver Bonser, while Chris beat Colin for a further win. Although Dave Parkin had no joy in the singles, he did partner Johnny to an 11-5 11-6 7-11 8-11 11-9 Doubles victory and the points gained enabled them to close the gap on Sonning Sports 'C' to 2 points.

The same trio were selected the following week, when a further defeat followed, this time an 8 - 2 loss to title chasing Tilehurst Methodists 'C' who had nominally fielded their strongest team. Johnny and Chris both picked up a win, by defeating Rob James, but Dave & Johnny could not repeat their Doubles success from the previous week, losing to the unbeaten pairing of Roy Hull & Steve Wood. A slight shake up in personnel for the visit of another top three team, as Reading FC 'B' came to town, with Chris's place being taken by Tom Berryman. However, the end result was the same, a 2 - 8 loss, with Tom and Johnny both defeating Tony Edwards. Although Dave lost all three, he did push Harry Edwards,

before losing 9-11 9-11 7-11. Further wins were also tantalisingly close for Johnny, who played on the losing side in a 5-game Doubles, as well as losing the 5th game of his final set, against Joe Bull, 12-14.

The following week Chris returned to the fray, replacing Dave in the lineup, for their crucial battle with Sonning Sports 'C', who were ahead in the table by 4 points. The week off had obviously invigorated Chris, who subsequently recorded his fourth maximum, and with Johnny also winning all three, plus a single from Tom, who beat Mo Cole but was then unable to overcome Michael Byrne, eventually losing 8-11 11-8 9-11 10-12, this 7 - 3 win ensured that they leapfrogged their opponents, by dint of more wins. With their final match against Tidmarsh 'E' looming but with Sonning Sports 'C' having played their last match the night before, Springfield 'D' knew what they needed to achieve, to avoid the wooden spoon. Chris got the team off to a great start, beating Steve Andrews 11-7 8-11 8-11 12-10 11-7, but their second point didn't arrive until game 6, when Johnny defeated John Harland, which guaranteed 11th place. However, in the Divisional table they were still tied on points, which was soon remedied by Tom & Johnny's 11-9 11-7 10-12 6-11 12-10 Doubles victory, over Steve Andrews & John Harland.

Springfield 'D' have three players on very similar averages, namely Chris Speight on 46.30%, Johnny Worrall on 44.44% and Margaret Kellermann-Thornton on 46.67% but since Margaret has only played 5 matches, the accolade should go to Chris. Tom Berryman and Alan Goold both won 33.33% of their games, while Dave Parkin had a tough introduction to League Table Tennis, beating Kennet Valley's Toby Barter, in his very match, but subsequently having no joy.

Springfield 'E' started their run-in in 8th place, well clear of the battle for the wooden spoon, although they had played more matches than most of the teams below them. In their last match they had lost to their 'D' team, a loss that was compounded by the fact that one of the victors had been due to sign for them. Two weeks later the same team, comprising Colin Jones, Tom Powell and Marcello Caramma, travelled to leaders Our Lady of Peace 'E', where they suffered their first (and only) 10 - 0 defeat, Ralph Phillips, Alona Slobodskoy and Jan Polnik sweeping all before them, in what would appear to be a very one-sided contest. Until you looked at the scores, when you would notice that 12 of the 34 games were won by the minimum two points, with Colin losing to Ralph 8-11 9-11 12-14 and Tom losing to Alona 7-11 10-12 11-13.

The same team turned out for the visit by Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', which proved to be quite the contest, with neither side able to build a lead. Marcello started the match with an 11-7 16-14 9-11 11-9 victory over Mike Casserley, continued with a 4-game set turnaround against Steve Knott and in beating Julian James, in the final set, drew the match 5 - 5, as well as completing only his second treble of this campaign. However, Marcello couldn't win all the points on his own and the team was also indebted to singles from both Colin and Tom. On another day, a number of close results may have gone the other way, notably Colin's 12-10 7-11 14-12 12-14 5-11 defeat by Julian James.

For their next match, away at Kingfisher 'I', Tom's place was taken by Julian Lancaster, who hadn't played for 5 weeks.

Unfortunately Kingfisher fielded their recent signings and with them both ending the evening undefeated, Springfield 'E' could only manage two wins in their 8 - 2 loss, when Colin Jones and Marcello Caramma both defeated Meriel Low. Colin was successful in the first of his four 5-game sets, four since he also partnered Marcello in the Doubles, emerging victorious 11-8 5-11 9-11 11-9 11-9. Julian also had a 5-game set with Meriel, but the outcome was not on his side, losing the fifth game 9-11.

Yet more mid-season signings were causing problems the following week, when Sonning Common & Peppard 'G' were the visiting team and even though they only arrived with two players, they proved to be too strong for Julian, Marcello and Colin, with Marcello earning one win by defeating Jim Warren 5-11 11-8 11-7 7-11 11-6 and almost earning a second, just losing out to Ian Davenport 11-9 11-6 13-15 6-11 7-11, the match ending in a 4 - 6 loss. Their final outing was a trip to play the youngsters of Kennet Valley Free Church 'B', who are now a totally different package to the start of the season, the result being a further loss, this time 8 - 2, with Tom Powell defeating Toby Barter 10-12 11-6 12-10 11-8 for his win while Julian Lancaster overcame Lewis Oke 11-5 5-11 11-5 11-13 11-9 for his win. Colin Jones was involved in a number of close encounters, which included a 5-game set against Toby and an 11-13 11-9 7-11 10-12 loss to Lewis Oke. Following these four defeats and one draw, Springfield 'E' finished in 10th place, but having finished with 14 more points than their Clubmates in the 'D' team, I believe that this gives them the bragging rights. Until next season !

It looks like Marcello Caramma, with 54.17% from 48 games played, has grabbed the number 1 spot from Paul Martin, who hasn't played since January and is therefore still on 50% from 28 games played. Colin Jones and Julian Lancaster are further down the list, with recent signee Tom Powell averaging one win every second match.

Tidmarsh 'E' are another side that has not registered any-one mid-Season and have relied on their existing stalwarts. After the last Newsletter, Tidmarsh 'E' were in fifth place, three points behind Milestone 'C' with two games in hand. Due, in part, to Milestone's remarkable run-in, which included four wins and a draw, it wasn't until the final match was played that Tidmarsh knew they had leapfrogged Milestone to take 4th place. The first of their final seven fixtures was at home to Kingfisher 'I', who arrived with only two players, albeit one of them being new signing Roger Prew, who had only dropped one game since his February debut. It turned out the hype was true, as Roger won all three and also partnered Gill Bennett to a 5-game Doubles win. Steve Andrews, Mike Bundy and Pete Sinclair all managed to beat Gill, Steve needing 5 games before winning 11-4 11-13 11-7 10-12 11-6, and with the three forfeited games this resulted in a 6 - 4 win.

This was followed by a 6 - 4 defeat at Reading FC 'B', another team contending for 3rd place, Derek Anderson making his first appearance of 2019, to carry on where he left off with another treble. However, Steve joined the small group of players who have beaten Joe Bull, since he got into his stride, to record two wins, with John Harland and Roger Stevens both defeating Harry Edwards in 5-game sets, Roger's 10-12 9-11 11-5 11-4 9-11 win particularly nail-biting, as was Steve & John's attempt to win the Doubles, Derek Anderson & Harry

Edwards eventually winning 13-11 2-11 11-9 8-11 16-14.

Back to winning ways, with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning Common & Peppard 'G', John, Roger and Mike Bundy all losing to Jim Warren, but all emerging victorious from their contests with David Pearson, John and Roger both needing 5 games, which was enough for the match win as the Commoners had only travelled with two players. A 3 - 7 win at Sonning Sports 'C' kept Tidmarsh in the hunt for 3rd place, Steve Andrews winning all three, while Pete Sinclair and John both lost to Jude O'Halloran but beat Mo Cole and Stephen Edwards. However, Kennet Valley 'B' were the opponents the following week and ended up winning 8 - 2, this defeat allowing Milestone 'C' to recapture 4th place. Although Roger Stevens and Steve Andrews both managed to defeat Toby Barter, with Mike Bundy losing 14-12 8-11 11-9 7-11 5-11, none of the team could defeat either Steve Christelow or Lewis Oke, although Steve Andrews came close, eventually losing to Lewis 11-8 7-11 11-8 8-11 12-14.

The following week Roger was recording another treble and with both John and Steve winning twice, Steve losing his first set against Chris Speight but then defeating Dave Parkin and Johnny Worrall, while John sandwiched his victories around his defeat by Johnny, the result was a satisfying 7 - 3. Their final match was the postponed fixture against Tilehurst Methodists 'C', with Tidmarsh needing a single point to make 4th place their own. Although they made their task harder, by only being able to field two players, John and Mike both defeated Andrew Stone and then paired up to beat Roy Hull & Rob James in the Doubles, thus ensuring the 4th spot, despite the 7 - 3 defeat.

Most teams know who is their number 1, but Tidmarsh 'E' are not like most teams ! At least not to an independent observer, since you could reasonably pick Steve Andrews (47 games, 63.83%, 3 PoMs) or Roger Stevens (41 games, 63.41%, 3 PoMs) to get your team home. However, although he has played fewer games, Pete Sinclair (26 games, 76.92%, 3 PoMs) would possibly win the independents' vote. Regardless, these players are also well supported by John Harland (41 games, 56.10%) and Mike Bundy (34 games, 32.35%).

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' were in 2nd place, after the last break, 11 points behind the leaders Our Lady of Peace 'E', but with a game in hand. However, having let their lead slip last year, it was unlikely that OLOP would allow these circumstances to be repeated and therefore the Methodists would have to be at the top of their game, throughout the run-in. They started well, with a 8 - 2 victory over Reading FC 'B', the outcome being favourably swayed by one of Reading FC's selection going AWOL. Rob James was in fine form, winning both his matches, which included a 22-20 11-4 11-7 win against Joe Bull, but Joe subsequently defeated both David Bates and Steve Wood, this being Steve's first match after returning from his work sojourn in the North. However, David and Steve fared better against Harry Edwards, both winning 4-game sets.

The following week they upped their game and recorded their best away result, defeating Sonning Sports 'C' 10 - 0, with Roy Hull, Steve and Rob all undefeated on the night. However, this wasn't a simple victory, with two 5-game sets

and four 4-game sets to enliven the proceedings. The same trio then faced Springfield 'D' with Roy and Steve reprising the success from last week, both recording further maximums, as well as pairing up to win the Doubles. Rob chipped in with a single, by beating Dave Parkin, but he was unable to raise his game, to overcome either Chris Speight or Johnny Worrall, and thus the match finished 8 - 2.

The following week the same faces travelled to title rivals Our Lady of Peace 'E', where they suffered a terminal blow to their dreams, losing 1 - 9, the whitewash only avoided when Roy Hull won his last set, against Chris Bunn. As expected there were a number of close games, but with Ralph Philips and Alona Slobodskoy both unbeaten on the night, the Methodists only managed to win 6 of the 34 games played. Steve and Rob were dropped for the next match, an away trip to Kingfisher 'I', and their places were taken by David Bates and Andrew Stone. The final result was a 4 - 6 win for the Methodists, but it was a close run affair, with Roy beating Roger Prew 12-10 11-8 11-5 to secure his treble and guarantee at least one point, and then David winning the last set, against Meriel Low, to clinch the win. However, Andrew's 5-game win against Meriel was also crucial, as was the Doubles, Roy & David defeating Sandeep Burande & Roger Prew 10-12 7-11 11-7 12-10 11-6.

Rob returned to lead the team, with Roy taking a breather, but with Mike Casserley in scintillating form for Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', winning his singles without dropping a game, the Methodists were fortunate to tie the match 5 - 5, Rob and Andrew both recording two wins, by defeating Steve Knott and Derek Maltby, while David was only able to chip in the one win, defeating Steve Knott 12-10 13-11 11-9 but, in turn, losing 9-11 12-10 9-11 9-11 to Derek Maltby. With promotion now assured, the pressure was off in their final match, which was the postponed visit by Tidmarsh 'E', who were looking for one point, to gain the upper hand over Milestone 'C'. Although Roy Hull and Rob James were both undefeated on the night, Andrew Stone couldn't repeat his feats from three days earlier, losing to both John Harland and Mike Bundy, which meant that as Tidmarsh were only able to field two players, the Methodists won 7 - 3.

Having missed only three matches all season, Roy Hull is the undoubted star with an 87.27% win rate and 12 PoMs, followed by Steve Wood on 75%, who was only able to play in 14 matches, then Rob James on 60.42%, Rob having played in 17 matches. It has been a learning curve for Andrew Stone, in his first foray in the League, but he recently recorded his first brace, so it should be onwards and upwards next season. David Bates, who was drafted in at Christmas, has only played in 5 matches, but has been winning regularly and has an unofficial 42.86% win rate.



YOUTH DIVISION

by Emma Barraclough

Following the cancellation due to snow on February 1st, league play resumed on February 8th.

Mixed attendance levels meant that for the last few weeks of the season games had to be played out of the original fixture sequence. In the remainder of the season we saw some great play in both divisions. Division 1 saw a close match between Lions and Raiders with Lions winning 6 - 4 which included three wins for Mo Cook, and the Lions continued to play well defeating the Raiders 7 - 3 in the second match, then the Pumas 9 - 1 and drew against the Avengers. The Raiders lost 4 - 6 to the Pumas and then defeated them 6 - 3 and the Avengers defeated the Pumas 8 - 2 and the Raiders 7 - 3. These results meant that the Lions won the Division with 61 points with the Avengers in second with 58 points. The Raiders came third with 45 points and the Pumas were fourth with 30 points. The Tigers, who did not compete in the latter part of the season were fifth with five points.

In the remaining games of the season in Division 2 the Strikers defeated the Trojans 8 - 2 with three wins for Anish Deshpande, the Panthers and Spartans drew as did the Trojans and Jaguars with three wins for Gabriel Burch. The Trojans defeated the Spartans 7 - 3 with three wins for Ria Gore but the Spartans won the second match 6 - 4 with three wins for Aditya Mali. The Strikers defeated the Jaguars 9 - 1 but lost 4 - 6 to the Panthers - a match with three wins for James Cunningham. The Strikers defeated Spartans 9 - 1, the Jaguars defeated the Spartans 8 - 2 and the Panthers defeated the Trojans 7 - 3. The season ended with the Strikers as champions with 54 points and the Panthers as runners-up with 52 points.

The Trojans were third on 34 points, the Spartans fourth on 33 points while the Jaguars were fifth with 27 points.

The Friday of half term, February 22nd, saw the annual Handicap Tournament held in memory of Alan Dines, for many years the organiser of the Youth Division. Twelve players registered to take part and those who attended saw some wonderful and well-matched play. The players were arranged into four groups of three with the top two players moving into the quarter-finals of the main competition and the third player moving into the semi-finals of the consolation event. The handicap system led to some great matches which were very much enjoyed by those watching. In the main event the semi-finals were between Mo Cook and Tommy Woodward (won by Mo Cook) and Om Gore and Rajat Sawant (won by Rajat Sawant). In the consolation event the semi-finals were between James Atherton and Anish Deshpande (won by Anish Deshpande) and Ria Gore and Arran Reeve (won by Ria Gore).

The final matches were completed on March 29th. The main event saw a great final between Rajat Sawant and Mo Cook which ended with a win for Rajat Sawant (21-17, 21-16). The consolation final was between Ria Gore and Anish Deshpande and was won by Ria (21-12, 21-8). The last evening on April 5th was the usual party and social evening with parents. We look forward to the start of the new season in September and thanks as always to Wendy Porter for all her hard work as well as to Louise Forster and Emma and Dan Cook.



TEJAS MUNGALE



RUSHABH DHARAMSHI

DIV 1 AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mo Cook	Lions	18	18	100.00%
Rajat Sawant	Raiders	16	14	87.50%
Harry Bullock	Lions	18	12	66.67%
Tejas Mungale	Avengers	15	10	66.67%
Rushabh Dharamshi	Avengers	12	8	66.67%
Rudresh Desai	Lions	12	8	66.67%
Adrian Mitchell	Pumas	11	5	45.45%

DIV 1 TEAMS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Lions	8	7	1	0	61	19	61
2	Avengers	8	5	2	1	58	22	58
3	Raiders	8	3	1	4	45	34	45
4	Pumas	8	2	1	5	30	49	30
5	Tigers	8	0	1	7	5	75	5

DIV 2 TEAMS

	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Strikers	8	6	0	2	54	26	54
2	Panthers	8	7	1	0	52	28	52
3	Trojans	8	1	2	5	34	46	34
4	Spartans	8	2	1	5	33	47	33
5	Jaguars	8	1	2	5	27	53	27

DIV 2 AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Anish Deshpande	Strikers	18	15	83.33%
Tom Robinson	Strikers	21	14	66.67%
James Cunningham	Panthers	18	12	66.67%
Adi Mali	Panthers	18	11	61.11%
Emma Ranson	Jaguars	21	12	57.14%
Lukas Dahmann	Strikers	18	10	55.56%
Ria Gore	Trojans	22	11	50.00%