

April 2023



STANDING ALTERNATELY - THE **RUNNERS-UP** AND **WINNERS** IN THE LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCK-OUT FINAL: **MARK CARLESS (OLOP)**, **EYUP ODEMIS (KINGFISHER H)**, **GRAHAM STARK**, **MUHARREM AYDIN**, **SIMON BROOKES** AND **HUZEYFE BORAZAN**. KINGFISHER H BEAT OLOP D 5 - 4 (SEE [REPORT](#))

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My thanks to our five-star Chairman for launching this edition (below) - and thanks to Eric Van Looy who has cheerfully shouldered the burden of running Reading's major annual tournaments - the Individual Handicap and Reading Closed - and thus given me a chance to take photos of many of our most iconic players, for your awe and amusement here.

Reading table tennis is in sparkling form, as you will see from the divisional reports and [Nigel Maltby's](#) message. Have a good summer.

Derek Wavell



## Notes from our Chairman

Wow yet another season comes to an end but sadly for the first time in 62 years I did not play in one match for various reasons

You do not know how lucky you all are to be able to play in this great game which I have missed.

On saying that we can all look forward to next season when we celebrate our 100th Birthday. I am looking



forward to what your great committee have in store.

Talking of the committee I would like to thank them all for all of their hard work to make the season go well.

Have a good Summer and I hope to see some of you at my matches..

All the best

Derek Harrison



# DIVISION ONE

by Martin Adams

Well, that's a wrap for another season. I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. After entering results for 110 matches, 1100 sets and some 4000 games (hopefully that's the right naming convention,



GRAHAM MENDICK



For this edition let us salute those who were ultra-committed to their teams this season and managed to make the most appearances. The players in the graphic (below left) missed no more than three matches all season. Keith Winter only missed the penultimate match. So the **Commitment Award**

goes to Paul Savage who, quite incredibly, has not missed a match for 5 (five) seasons. Quite a feat when playing in at least one other league (and he assures me he has not necessarily gone out of his way to maintain this record). Take a bow



PAUL SAVAGE

I was thinking what other additional individual and team facts and figures might make interesting reading...

**Best Player on the Night Award:** Several factors in play here of course, but most player of the match awards goes to Graham Mendick who wins with ten – Dave Croucher and Prayrit Ahluwalia are joint second with eight each.

**Moneysworth Award:** Partly by way of playing more matches, as far as I can see this also goes to Paul Savage who had to contest sixteen fifth games of which he was victorious in seven. Mike Childs not too far behind - thirteen of his clashes went to five games. He won five of them.

**Stayer** (or should that be 'take it easy'?) award – Most fifth

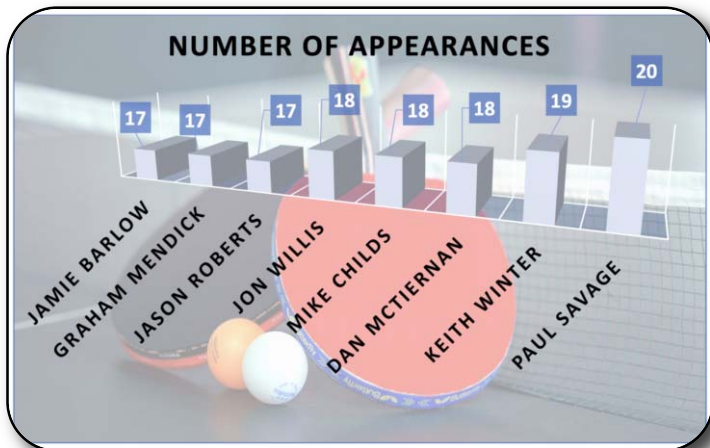
game victories goes to Graham Mendick, who won eight of his nine fifth-game encounters. Lee Calcutt also managed to beat Alan Cummings 11-0 in the fifth!



A CENTRAL FIGURE: HARI GEHLOT OF KF'A'

Derek!) I felt flickers (let's not overdo it) of mixed emotions when a large orange notification popped up on the TT365 website – "There are no more results to enter for this division!!!"

Before we get to the final positions a quick reminder of our Div1 social and curry night and possibly a short Div1 quiz on Friday 5th May 8pm at Chili's Indian, 1st floor, Kings Walk. RG1 2HG. Looks like a solid group of 12-15 so far but it would be great to get a few more to fill up the reservation so let me know on 07917 830202 if you're a friend of the division and you'd like to join us, whether or not your teammates will be there.







MENGYAO SHI OF KINGFISHER 'A'

**Love Award** – As far as I can see, Jamie Barlow was the only player to lose 0-11 twice in the season (both in the same match vs KFA) - but I cannot be sure.

Now to the finishing positions.

**1st: Kingfisher 'A'** Proud to be your champions again. Without playing it out too much, let's just say that it was rather emphatic with just eight dropped points (three from a reserve) and just one in the second half - that has to go in

although to be fair to his colleagues he did not play in the second KF 'A' and KF 'D' encounters, but I have to go on the final averages and total contribution for this edition so...

**MVP: Steve Murgatroyd**

**3rd: Kingfisher 'D'** It's a shame there isn't an award for third. It should be recognised that Julian Telford and friends Graham Mendick, Cath Venning, Ryan Chung and Ethan Zeng chose to rotate their squad at the expense of a possible trophy. This was illustrated as they were unbeaten against both OLOP 'A' and SC&P 'A' across all four fixtures. Graham Mendick has been brilliant (his third mention already). Ryan could well have caught him in the averages if he'd chosen to play more instead of studying – smart lad.

**MVP: Graham Mendick**



MO COOK OF OLOP 'A'

	DIV 1	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	20	20	0	0	192	8	192
2	OLOP A	20	16	0	4	136	64	136
3	Kingfisher D	20	13	3	4	122	78	122
4	SC&P A	20	10	4	6	110	90	110
5	Kingfisher B	20	9	2	9	87	113	87
6	Tilehurst RBL A	20	7	2	11	85	115	85
7	Sonning Sports A	20	6	2	12	85	115	85
8	Tidmarsh A	20	7	2	11	83	117	83
9	SC&P B	20	5	4	11	79	121	79
10	Kingfisher C	20	1	6	13	65	135	65
11	Reading FC	20	3	1	16	56	144	56

**4th: Sonning Common and Peppard 'A'**

ended up a further twelve points back despite lying second at Christmas. Had Gary Morgan appeared more than once in 2023, their final position could have been improved. Although he faced stronger opponents, Neil Hurford's win rate tailed off towards the end, securing just five of his last fifteen. But given their elevated early position the regular 1-2 from captain Jason Roberts and 2-3 from Jamie Barlow was more than enough to stay above the scrap for other positions by a massive 23 points. Well Done!

**MVP: Jamie Barlow**

**5th: Kingfisher 'B'** top the best-of-the-rest

mini-league. It was always going to be close with just eight points separating fifth and ninth. This squad man-

the record books somewhere! A shout-out to all those who scored a point against us over the season, especially against our regular four. Those are Graham Mendick (vs Martin Adams), Ed Lush (vs Darren Jones), Prayrit Ahluwalia and Mo Cook (vs Ross Saxby). But no-one quite made it vs Hari Gehlot. Looking forward to next season already.

**MVP: Hari Gehlot**

**2nd : OLOP 'A'** Deserved and worthy runners up. Ian Cole, Mo Cook, Justin Mead and Steve Murgatroyd did enough after the turn to pull away from KF 'D' and SC&P 'A' to take second with a fourteen-point cushion, which would have been more if it wasn't for nine forfeited points. Around Christmas they scored 38 out of 40 while their closest rivals faltered. See you at the presentation evening (7th June 7pm Tilehurst RBL – Please all readers support this event). Murg actually overtook his colleagues in the average stakes (Just 3% separates them all!) thanks to an excellent maximum vs SC&P 'A' -



JULIAN TELFORD OF KINGFISHER 'D'



aged to win as many overall matches as they lost, a feat unequalled by any team below them. With 59% Theo Kniep is the only contributor over 50% and I received several

### DIV 1 LEADING AVERAGES

Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	45	45	100.00%
Mengyao Shi (S)	Kingfisher A	9	9	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	47	46	97.87%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	32	31	96.88%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	38	36	94.74%
David Croucher	Sonning Sports A	37	32	86.49%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	49	41	83.67%
Ryan Chung	Kingfisher D	29	23	79.31%
Prayrit Ahluwalia	Kingfisher C	45	34	75.56%
Ed Lush	SC&P B	42	31	73.81%
Murgy Murgatroyd	OLOP A	41	29	70.73%
Gary Morgan	SC&P A	27	19	70.37%
Ian Cole	OLOP A	39	27	69.23%
Mo Cook	OLOP A	42	29	69.05%
Jamie Barlow	SC&P A	51	35	68.63%
Justin Mead	OLOP A	37	25	67.57%
Barry Carter (S)	Tidmarsh A	3	2	66.67%



IAN COLE OF OLOP 'A'

replicate strong earlier results versus the likes of Mo Cook, Justin Mead and Antony Baker. Alan Cummings wasn't far behind and this season got the better of such talent as Mike Childs and Neil Hurford.

**MVP: Theo Kniep**

match comments highlighting his exemplary temperament and attitude, typified when he completed a six-out-of-six record against chasers Tilehurst RBL 'A' (with fifth games required in every set in the most recent encounter). This fixture was where their season culminated in an excellent 8 - 2 win with Phil Mead matching Theo's maximum plus a double from Nigel Keedy, but Martin Pugh played slightly less recently and could not



ROSS SAXBY OF KINGFISHER 'A'

**6th: Tilehurst RBL 'A'** started their final match in 8th but with the knowledge that an 8 - 2 favourable result away to SC&P 'B' would have sealed their own dream of fifth. But when Ed Lush showed up for the opposition they knew it would be unlikely. It ended up 5 - 5. But well done to the trio of Jon Willis, Marc Brent and Keith Winter for the number of appearances and commitment. It's also my favourite after-match venue. See you there on 7th June. 'Nuf said.

**MVP: Keith Winter**



SONNING SPORTS 'A': DAVE CROUCHER, BOB WOODMANSEE, NICK SEARS & PAUL SAVAGE

**7th: Sonning Sports 'A'** finish behind Tilehurst only on countback by fewer matches won. We've already mentioned Paul Savage's epic efforts in terms of commitment but without Dave Croucher's attainment and achievement they would have struggled. Even so, to get promoted last year and survive Division One at the first time of asking is no mean feat. Nick Sears has proved he has good wins in him (Murgatroyd and Mead on the different nights) and I hope Bob Woodmansee will continue smiling into next season.

**MVP: David Croucher**

**8th: Tidmarsh 'A'** have had an average season by their standards although you could argue they are





only five points from fifth. Lee Calcutt was unavailable early season and Duncan Groves was away on a handful of occasions which could have made the difference. Duncan(50%), Antony Baker (48%) and Lee (47%) were all closely matched with valuable contributions from Simon Barter (24%).

**MVP: Duncan Groves**

**9th: Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'**

What I didn't realise is Ed Lush only took up the game six years ago. That's astonishing. Without Ed they would certainly be staring down the barrel of relegation. But when Matt Isherwood, who ended on a creditable 44%, was playing more regularly and winning more often they became more competitive. Matt Stone, Denise Weller and Tim Raby also made valuable contributions to ensure relegation was never on the cards. Great survival instincts by all concerned.

**MVP: Ed Lush**

**10th: Kingfisher 'C'** For Prayrit Ahluwalia to finish in the top ten averages at age just thirteen years of age is really impressive. Unfortunately his teammates were not able to his teammates were not able to make a major impact over the season which means they end up in the first of the official relegation places. I've mentioned that Dan McTiernan has that



big win in there and I was almost proved correct as he took the opening two ends against Graham Mendick 11-1 ,11-8, only to subsequently fade. Mike Douglas made some promising appearances but has medical concerns and despite keeping a major commitment to the team after moving to Newbury and without a car, Emma Blachford was only able to add a couple of points since the Christmas break.

**MVP: Prayrit Ahluwalia**

**11th: Reading FC** After their first season in the top flight they find themselves in one of the official relegation positions at the foot of the table. But it wasn't for lack of trying. Mike Childs only missed two evenings in a brave attempt to keep them up but it was not enough. Tom Lewis added some momentum but was not available as often as needed and the promoted trio of Wayne and Ant Alleyne and Jazz Dhillon could not muster up enough points in support.

Jazz is still the nicest bloke in the division although he didn't get a chance to prove otherwise since the last newsletter. It will be interesting to see which teams end up constituting the top division next season, but I, for one, hope you're still here.

**MVP: Mike Childs**

**Secretary's Notes:**

It is pleasing to report that despite the ever present threat of Covid we have managed to successfully complete the 2022/23 season.

Congratulations to all our winners and runners up, and well done to every single person for making this season a success and enabling the Reading League to thrive, that includes all our players and our happy band of volunteers who have continued to enable us all to have a league to play in.

I will leave you to read the individual divisional reports to see who our various champions and runners up were. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Eric Van Looy and his helpers on the day the Reading Closed Championships were successfully run in March. It was a very busy day I gather!

The Reading Association Awards presentation has again been linked with the AGM this year



and both will take place on **Wednesday 7th June**, starting with the presentations at 7pm and followed by the AGM at approx 8pm. Please make sure that your club sends at least one representative to the AGM. The Agenda and any proposed rule changes will be issued shortly. At the Presentations we will not only be making awards to our winners and runners up in the league and Closed Championships but we will also be making our usual awards for Best Junior Performance, Most Improved Junior, the Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award and the John Freeman trophy to the player with the highest playing average.

Once again thanks to everyone and see you back across the table for 2023/24 - The Reading League's Centenary season - which is scheduled to start week commencing 11th September.

**Nigel Maltby (RDTTA Secretary)**





# TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

We started out last October with 22 teams in this year's Team Handicap competition, and by the end of the season we saw two Div 3 teams meeting in the Final – Pangbourne WMC vs Kingfisher 'H'.



CLIVE TAYLOR, LEROY WILSON AND JOHN SIMMONDS OF PANGBOURNE WMC,

Pangbourne WMC have played the whole season as a three man team of Leroy Wilson, Clive Taylor and John Simmonds, and Kingfisher 'H' were represented by Huzeyfe Borazan, Eyup Odemis and Muharrem Aydin.

Both teams had some great matches en route to the final, with Pangbourne beating both Springfield teams and Reading FC to reach the final. Kingfisher 'H' had previously seen off last years winners Sonning Common and Peppard 'D', plus a couple of OLOP teams and also beat Kingfisher 'E' on their way to the final.

Handicaps were fairly close between the two teams with the largest gap between any two players across the teams being only 7, so most games were fully fought matches with both players starting fairly even.

The first game saw John Simmonds against Huzeyfe Borazan. John started the game with a one point start, and went on to win 21-14 and 21-7. Next up we saw Clive Taylor meeting Eyup Odemis, with Eyup having a five point start. Eyup started well, taking the first game 21-12, Clive put up a strong fight in the second winning 21-16. The third game was a close fight with Eyup taking it 21-15.

With the match score now at one apiece, next up was Leroy Wilson and Muharrem Aydin, Leroy started the game two points down but pulled back to win 21-17 and 21-19. Clive then played Huzeyfe, and won this one 21-18 and 21-9. John then met Aydin, with Aydin getting a 5 point start, John took this one 21-19 and 21-15.

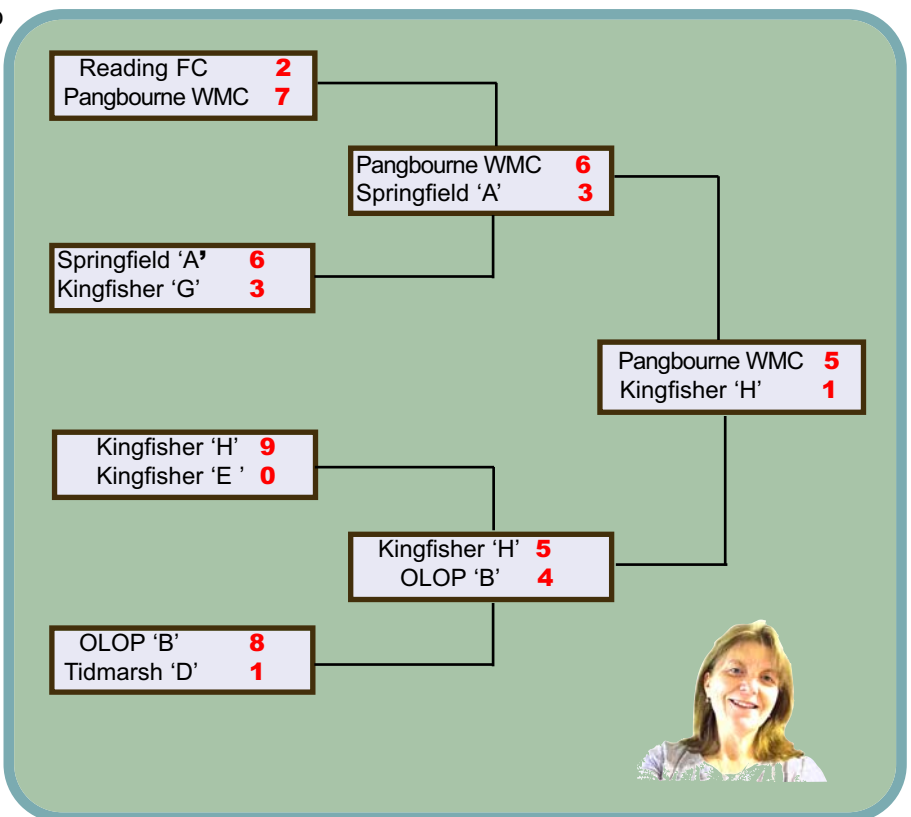
The match score was now 4 - 1 to

Pangbourne so Leroy knew that there was all to play for as he met Eyup. These players were equally matched on handicaps so we had a 0 - 0 starting point. This was an exciting game, it was a very tight match, with many thrilling rallies and lots of movement around the table by both players. Leroy took the first game 21-13, Eyup fought back valiantly to take the second 21-17. The third game was then a major battle between the two players and saw Leroy taking it at 23-21.

So the evening ended with a great 5-1 win for Pangbourne WMC, which alongside their Division 3 Champions status sees them as double champions for this season. Congratulations also to runners up Kingfisher 'H' who fought hard and showed great sportsmanship throughout the evening.



EYUP ODEMIS, MUHARREM AYDIN AND HUZEFYFE BORAZAN OF KINGFISHER H





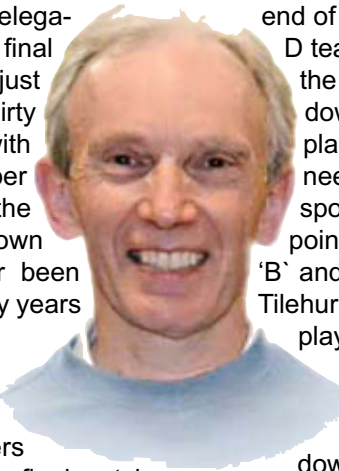


# DIVISION TWO

by John Willcocks

Well, what a season this has turned out to be with the second promotion and relegation places not decided until the final match of the season which took place just before Easter. Over twenty draws, almost thirty 6 - 4's, no 10 - 0's and hardly any 9 - 1's with the division winners averaging 6.2 points per match and the bottom team 3.7, plus with the team in the second relegation place going down averaging 4.4. There has probably never been such another closely fought season for many years and maybe never at all.

As had looked likely for a while SC&P 'D' ended up as worthy champions winning the division by eleven points. The runners up spot was undecided until the last set of the final match which did not take place until almost two weeks after the



SC&P 'C' had a lot of very close results towards the end of the season and this, plus a defeat against their D team allowed some of the teams behind them into the race for second spot. In the end it all came down to the two re-arranged matches they had to play after the regular season finished, with them needing twelve points to clinch the runners up spot. In the first of these they secured half the points needed with a 6 - 4 win over Tilehurst RBL 'B' and that left them needing the same score against Tilehurst Meths 'A'. In this match some sets had to be played out of order to allow Eric Van Looy to leave early and in one of them Brian Meheux put in a fantastic performance to beat Eric in four. Despite this SC&P 'C' found themselves 3 - 1 down, they got back to 4 - 4 but Malcolm Gregory was 4-8 down to Phil Jones in the fifth before winning 11-9. A win in the doubles then gave them the sixth point they needed.

They have used the same three players throughout the season and all of them have had good spells and have had times when wins have been more difficult to find. Skipper Nigel Maltby and Malcolm Gregory have ended up with identical averages of 59% and Brian Meheux has given them good support to end up at 45%

**Previous Prediction - 2<sup>nd</sup> Final Position 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Best Recent Performance- Brian Meheux with a great win in four against Eric Van Looy in the promotion/relegation decider, winning the set on his fifth set point.**

DIV 2		PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	SC&P D	18	11	4	3	111	69	111
2	SC&P C	18	11	3	4	100	80	100
3	OLOP B	18	7	5	6	100	80	100
4	Tidmarsh B	18	8	6	4	95	85	95
5	Kingfisher G	18	10	2	6	94	86	94
6	Tilehurst RBL B	18	6	7	5	92	88	92
7	Kingfisher F	18	5	4	9	81	99	81
8	Tilehurst Meths A	18	4	5	9	81	99	81
9	Kingfisher E	18	4	4	10	79	101	79
10	OLOP C	18	2	4	12	67	113	67

regular season finished after a postponement due to Covid. In this match some sets had to be played out of order so it all came down to the doubles, which was played at the end, and SC&P 'C' won it after a scare in the first game to secure the 6 - 4 win they needed. The four points gained were enough to keep Tilehurst Meths 'A' up as well.

SC&P 'D' finished the season with two good wins and three draws which was easily good enough to ensure they stayed comfortably clear in top spot. Danny Dockree had a great season and kept up his excellent form throughout finishing top of the divisional averages on 92%, although he did suffer close defeats to Kate Maksimenko and Roger Pritchard in the last few matches. Jonathan Abbott finished the season strongly to boost his average to 70% and Mark Jones and Angus Jones gave them good support.

Hopefully they will give a good account of themselves in Division 1 next season.

**Previous Prediction - 1<sup>st</sup> Final Position 1<sup>st</sup>**  
**Best Recent Performance - Jonathan Abbott with very good maximums against promotion rivals SC&P 'C' and Tidmarsh 'B' in the last few matches.**

OLOP 'B' had a fine end to the season with a draw against the league champions followed by two big wins in their last two matches. These results propelled them up to second place with only SC&P 'C', who had two re-arranged matches to play, able to catch them. Darek



ERIC VAN LOOY



Kaminski and Chris West both played very well in the last few matches and boosted their averages to almost 70% and with Dave Godfrey and Alistair Richardson also winning regularly they were always going to be contending for a promotion place. However, in the end despite finishing with the same number of points as SC&P 'C' they missed out due to the number of matches won.

**Previous Prediction – 3<sup>rd</sup> Final Position 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Darek Kaminski beating Kate Maksimenko in four, Kate's only defeat in the second half.**

**Tidmarsh 'B'** despite losing Barry Carter for the last quarter of the season still managed to get quite close to the second promotion place and they would have been even closer if they had not suffered a heavy loss against the eventual champions. In Barry's absence their remaining three players all put in good performances in the run in. Dale Ballard recovered from losing all three in the defeat against SC&P 'D' to win ten out of his final twelve sets to finish on 69%, François Durand and Mike Aistrop also played well in the last few matches.

**Previous Prediction – 5<sup>th</sup> Final Position 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Dale Ballard with an impressive maximum against SC&P 'C'**

**Kingfisher 'G'** had a very good run of results which put them in with a chance of snatching second spot but a 6 – 4 defeat against SC&P 'C' followed by a surprising 9 – 1 reverse at OLOP 'B' in their last match meant they had to settle for fifth. Satej Jaywant had a very good second half of the season and finished with 73% and Savva Christodoulou also finished the season strongly. The rest of the team also won consistently and if Neil Dellar had been able to play more often they could have finished second. I would like to thank Andrew Adair for his excellent match reports which have been a great help when I have been writing my weekly press reports.

**Previous Prediction – 6<sup>th</sup> Final Position 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Savva Christodoulou with a hard-fought win in five against Nigel Maltby**



KATE MAKSIMENKO

**Tilehurst RBL 'B'** had a few player availability issues in the last couple of months of the season but ended up in sixth place and could easily have finished as high as fourth. They had an unbeaten run of seven matches all of which were either 6 – 4 wins or draws but the run finally ended in the last match of the season when they lost 6 – 4 to SC&P 'C'. Kate Maksimenko had a fine second half of the season only losing once, to Darek Kaminski, this run included victories over Danny Dockree and Eric Van Looy.

Kate finished on 88% but both Nick Lean and your DFS were unable to win as often as they would have liked in the second half and Pete Bradley was unable to play after the end of January.

**Previous Prediction – 7<sup>th</sup> Final Position 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Kate Maksimenko with a fantastic display of hitting to beat Danny Dockree in a high-quality encounter**

### DIV 2 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Danny Dockree	SC&P D	50	46	92.00%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	48	44	91.67%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	48	42	87.50%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	42	34	80.95%
Satej Jaywant	Kingfisher G	33	24	72.73%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	33	23	69.70%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP B	42	29	69.05%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	48	33	68.75%
Chris West	OLOP B	35	24	68.57%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	30	18	60.00%
Savva Christodoulou	Kingfisher G	32	19	59.38%
Nigel Maltby	SC&P C	54	32	59.26%
Malcolm Gregory	SC&P C	54	32	59.26%
Clive Gold	Kingfisher E	42	24	57.14%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	42	24	57.14%

**Kingfisher 'F'** despite having to play most of the top teams in the run in they played well to secure enough points to avoid the drop. Roger Pritchard played consistently throughout the season and ended up on 81% and Ajai Kamath improved a lot during the second half and a good run in the last few matches enabling him to get his average over 50%. Their other players also picked up some vital wins towards the end of the season and they avoided the drop by two points.

**Previous Prediction – 9<sup>th</sup> Final Position 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Ajai Kamath with a vital maximum in their 8 – 2 win over**

**Kingfisher 'E', a result which in the end decided which of the two teams would stay up.**



ROGER PRITCHARD

**Tilehurst Meths 'A'** had some team availability issues throughout the season and they ended up having to play three times after the regular season finished, although two of the re-arrangements were at the request of the opposing teams. Two wins and a close defeat in their final match at SC&P 'C' were enough to see them maintain their Division 2 place with a couple of points to spare. Despite losing twice in their final matches Eric Van Looy finished on 92% and Bill





Stamatiou had a consistent season and ended on 50%, Phil Jones and Jess Eassom chipped in with some vital wins when needed during the last few matches. Their doubles record was also very good and was probably the difference between them staying up and going down.

**Previous Prediction – 8<sup>th</sup> Final Position 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance — Bill Stamatiou with very good wins over Nigel Maltby and Brian Meheux in the promotion/relegation decider.**

**Kingfisher 'E'** had injury problems throughout most of the season which had an impact on their performances and where they eventually finished in the division. In particular Luca Bianchi only played in eight matches and if he had been able to play a few more times they would probably have finished higher up the table. They had three players averaging over 50% and another just under 40% so that should have been good enough for them to stay up, however despite their improved results in the second half of the season they just fell short.

**Previous Prediction – 7<sup>th</sup> Final Position 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance – Clive Gold with a three straight maximum against OLOP 'B'**

**OLOP 'C'** lost their last seven matches and unsurprisingly finished in bottom spot, something which had looked to be on

the cards for some time. Pradeep Desh kept on winning consistently right to the end of the season and finished on a very creditable 57%. However, with Binit Bhasker's form dipping in the second half of the season and their other players only able to contribute occasional wins they always had too much to do to avoid the drop.

**Previous Prediction – 10<sup>th</sup> Final Position 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Best Recent Performance—Reserve Parvin Baishkiyar with an excellent win in four against Malcolm Gregory.**



NICK LEAN OF TILEHURST RBL 'B'

## LOWER DIVISIONS TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

The twelve teams that entered the Lower Divisions Knockout competition were whittled down to the remaining two and the final was played on 11th April at OLOP. The two teams that reached the final were Kingfisher 'H' and OLOP 'D'. With these two teams only separated by two points in the league table I expected a close match and wasn't disappointed'.

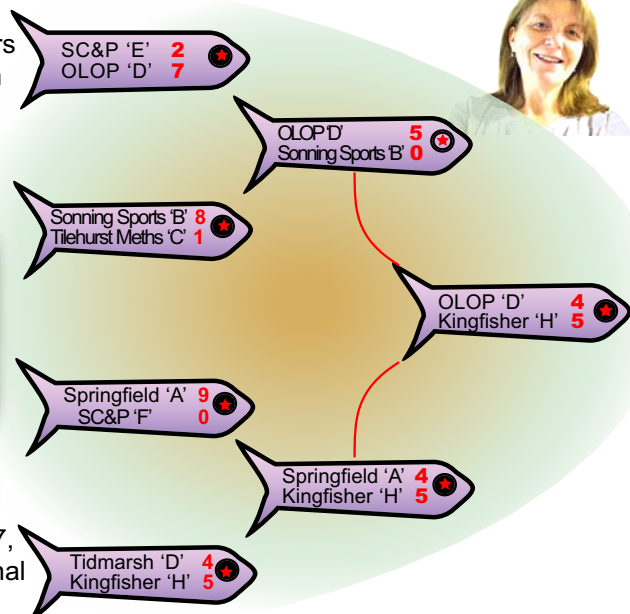
OLOP 'D' have played the season as a three man team, and all three were there on the night for the final – Simon Brookes, Graham Stark and Mark Carless. Kingfisher 'H' were represented on the night by Huzeyfe Borazan, Eyup Odemis and Muharrem Aydin with fellow team mate Ruben Hernandez unable to make the date (but he played a part in getting the team to the final in their earlier matches)

The match followed the traditional format of doubles pairings so players were busy all evening playing in six games each, and it was an action packed evening. The match started with Simon and Mark beating Eyup and Huzeyfe in a thrilling three-game set, and then Kingfisher took the second with Aydin and Eyup beating Simon and Graham in another three-game set. The evening continued in a similar vein with the match score reaching 2 – 2, then 3 – 3 and finally 4 - 4.

So it all came down to the final set which saw Eyup and Huzeyfe taking on Simon and Graham. With everything to play for, this final set was tight and tense. Kingfisher took the first game 11-7, OLOP fought back to take the second 11-7 so it all came down to the final game. Kingfisher emerged as victors with an 11-5 win.



KIGFISHER H - EYUP ODEMIS, HUZEYFE BORAZAN AND MUHARREM AYDIN



So our 22/23 winners of the Lower Divisions Knockout tournament are Kingfisher 'H', with a well deserved and hard fought win. OLOP D were very worthy runners-up who played well throughout the match, which could have gone either way. Congratulations to both teams on their good play and fantastic sportsmanship throughout the evening.



# DIVISION THREE *by Huzeefe Borazan*

**G**et ready to be served with some exciting news from Division 3 about the just-concluded season. It was a season full of ups and downs, dramatic twists and turns, and some nail-biting moments that kept us all on the edge of our seats. Let's dive in!

The champion team may have been decided a few weeks before the league finished, but that didn't stop the promotion race from being an absolute nail-biter! Springfield 'A' was feeling pretty confident in their second spot, but Tidmarsh 'C' was on their tail, and was hot on their heels until the very last game of the season. Talk about drama! In the end, both teams were tied with a whopping 113 points each, but unfortunately for Tidmarsh 'C', Springfield 'A' had won more matches and snatched that promotion spot right out from under them! Better luck next time, Tidmarsh 'C'!

Meanwhile, over at the bottom of the table, OLOP 'F' had been dropping the ball for far too long. But Sonning Sports 'B' weren't ready to give up on their dream of staying in the league just yet! They fought tooth and nail until the very last couple of weeks, but unfortunately for them, Tilehurst Methodists 'B' were just too committed to staying in Division 3. And with the return of Nigel Rowland, they were stronger than ever!

Now, let's take a closer look at how each team performed individually. Did they ace their way to the top, or did they fumble their way to the bottom? Either way, it was one heck of a season!

## CHAMPIONS - Pangbourne WMC



TRIUMPHANT PANGBOURNE WMC PLAYERS:  
CLIVE TAYLOR, LEROY WILSON AND JOHN SIMMONDS

These guys were the real deal this season, dominating the

league in every way possible. They didn't just win matches; they won hearts with their impressive skills and thrilling rallies.

Let's start with the stats; Pangbourne WMC were unbeaten this season, and not even the likes of Tidmarsh 'C' (twice!), Kingfisher 'H', and Springfield 'A' could break their stride. They are the epitome of consistency, and they proved that they are a tough nut to crack no matter who they faced on the night.

But the stats don't tell the whole story. Pangbourne WMC were a joy to watch this season, with good rallies and tough matches keeping us all on the edge of our seats. They were simply unstoppable, and it's no surprise that they were unbeaten in doubles too.

### Interesting facts:

- They are unbeaten this season despite Tidmarsh 'C' (2 times), Kingfisher 'H' and Springfield 'A' being so close to winning them but they had to settle for a draw.
- Pangbourne WMC was also unbeaten in doubles.
- in 16 out of 18 matches, the Player of the Match award went to a Pangbourne team. Clive Taylor took home the award 9 times, while John Simmonds wasn't far behind with 7.
- The only player to have POM against them in both matches was Ian Wu - now that's an interesting tidbit!

So, what's next for these table tennis titans? Well, they're headed to Division 2 next year, and we have no doubt that they'll be just as unstoppable there. Good luck, Pangbourne WMC! We can't wait to see you in action again!

## RUNNERS UP - Springfield 'A'

Now let's talk about Springfield 'A' and their dramatic journey to promotion! These guys had high hopes for the title, but a crushing defeat at the hands of Pangbourne WMC put a dent in their plans. But did they let that setback discourage them? Not one bit! They stuck with their promotion target and didn't lose their concentration.

Despite some close calls and draws, Springfield 'A' went unbeaten in their last 5 games - talk about an impressive run! And in the final week of the season, their promotion campaign was in serious danger. But thanks to their hard work and determination, they managed to clinch promotion ahead of Tidmarsh 'C', with more wins under their belt.

### Interesting facts:

- Jason King had the best average in the team at 76.60%, proving that he was a real asset on the table.
- And let's not forget about Mat Hickman, who made a huge contribution in the second term - a key factor in their promotion success.

So, what's next for Springfield 'A'? They're headed to Division 2 next year, and we have no doubt that they'll be a force to be reckoned with. Good luck, Springfield 'A' - we





can't wait to see you take on your new challenges!

a force to be reckoned with. Who knows what the future holds for this talented team? We can't wait to find out!

DIV 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
1 Pangbourne WMC	18	14	4	0	130	50	130
2 Springfield A	18	12	4	2	113	67	113
3 Tidmarsh C	18	10	5	3	113	67	113
4 OLOP E	18	10	3	5	106	74	106
5 Tidmarsh D	18	8	2	8	105	75	105
6 Kingfisher H	18	9	5	4	100	80	100
7 OLOP D	18	8	1	9	90	90	90
8 Tilehurst Meths B	18	4	0	14	65	115	65
9 Sonning Sports B	18	3	0	15	51	129	51
10 OLOP F	18	0	0	18	27	153	27

### 3rd Place - Tidmarsh 'C'

After being relegated from Division 2 last year, Tidmarsh 'C' came into this season with something to prove. And man, did they prove it! They were one of the strongest candidates for promotion, and they showed that consistency is key throughout the season.

Despite temporarily moving down the table due to having a few games in hand, Tidmarsh 'C' pushed hard in the last few weeks to try and secure promotion. They closed the gap between them and Springfield 'A', but unfortunately, they lost more games than Springfield, which meant they couldn't quite clinch that promotion spot. The damage was done when they lost 7 - 3 to OLOP 'E', which ended up being their only defeat in the entire 2023 calendar year - talk about an impressive record!

#### Interesting facts:

- Ian Wu was the team's standout performer with an impressive 86.27% average - the second-best in Division 3.
- And get this - Tidmarsh 'C' was the only team that Pangbourne WMC failed to beat this season. That's quite an accomplishment!
- Finally, Tidmarsh 'C' had the greatest number of players of any team in the league - 8 different players represented the team at some point during the season.

All in all, Tidmarsh 'C' may not have secured promotion this time around, but they've certainly shown that they're

### 4th Place - Tidmarsh 'D'

Tidmarsh 'D' has been a force to be reckoned with in Division 3 for the past few years, and this season was no different. With a great run for the promotion, they were poised to take the next step up the ladder. However, their dreams were shattered when they lost 8 - 2 to the formidable Pangbourne WMC in the penultimate week.

Despite the setback, Tidmarsh 'D' had some stellar players in Ray Webb and Chris Webb, who contributed a whopping 60 points to the team's tally. Additionally, they proved to be great sports by lending their players to fellow team Tidmarsh 'C' when they were short on players.

In a nail-biting finale against Tidmarsh 'C', Tidmarsh 'D' managed to collect four points in their last match, but unfortunately, this meant that their fellow team, Tidmarsh 'C', was unable to secure promotion.

#### Interesting facts:

- Ray Webb was a powerhouse for Tidmarsh 'D' with their best average of 78.57%, which was the fifth-best in the entire division.
- Despite losing eight matches this season, Tidmarsh 'D' managed to collect an impressive 105 points.
- The team's doubles performance was top-notch, winning 13 out of 18 games.

As the season comes to an end, Tidmarsh 'D' will be looking forward to improving their performance next season. With their consistent performance and strong doubles play, they will be hoping to challenge for promotion to Division 2.

### 5th Place OLOP 'E'

The OLOP 'E' table tennis team, like a bunch of fierce warriors, were determined to make a promotion to Division 2 especially after Christmas break. With their eyes set on the promotion, they battled it out like never before, but alas, they fell just short of their goal.

But what was the turning point for OLOP 'E'? It was that fateful game against Tidmarsh 'C', where they emerged victorious with a stunning 7 - 3 win. It was the highlight of their season, the cherry on top of their sundae. But after that match, they couldn't quite clinch another win, and that's what ultimately led to their heartbreaking defeat.

#### Interesting facts:

- Parvin Baishkiyar, who was a force to be reckoned with on the table, led the charge for OLOP 'E' with a smashing 79.31% average.
- This guy was the talk of the town, with 7 Player of the Match awards in just 10 appearances!
- The team also had an impressive spread of points, with all members contributing 20+ points. It was a true team effort!
- And let's not forget about Louise Forster, who racked



PARVIN BAISHKIYAR OF OLOP E



up the most points for the team. Talk about the captain!



OLOP 'E'S CAPTAIN, LOUISE FORSTER

But fear not, dear fans! This team is not giving up, and they'll be back with a vengeance next season. OLOP 'E' will be training harder than ever, practising their serves, perfecting their backhands, and psyching out their opponents. You better watch out, Division 3, because these guys are coming for you.

### 6th Place Kingfisher 'H'

Unlike other divisions, Kingfisher's only team in Division 3, Kingfisher 'H', has been quite the underdogs this season. But, have they been giving their opponents a run for their money! With just 4 losses, they've proved to be quite the unpredictable team, with players sporting unique styles and varying performances that have kept their opponents on their toes.

#### Interesting facts:

- Two of their three defeats this season were by a whopping 9 - 1 scoreline against Pangbourne WMC and Tidmarsh 'D'.
- They almost pulled off a shocker against Pangbourne WMC, coming so close to converting a match point in doubles but unfortunately falling short.
- Despite being mid-table for most of the season, Kingfisher 'H' managed to secure a place in the Team Handicap Cup final and won the LDKO Cup. Who said underdogs can't win?

With their improved consistency and unique playing styles, they could be a stronger candidate for promotion next season. They can build on the lessons learned from this season and continue to work on their strengths as well as address any weaknesses they identified. All eyes will be on Kingfisher 'H' next season as they aim to make their way up the divisional ladder.

### 7th Place OLOP 'D'

OLOP 'D' had a rocky start to the season, losing six out of their first nine matches. But just like a ping pong ball

bouncing back, they picked themselves up and found their stride in the second half. Led by Graham Stark's impressive performance, they managed to score some crucial points. Mark Carless and Simon Brookes also stepped up their game, winning five matches and drawing one in the latter half of the season. But what's even more impressive is their team dynamic. Each player played the same amount of matches, and their individual performances were incredibly close.

#### Interesting facts:

- Their individual performances are so close and each player played the same amount of matches
- They won 90 games and lost 90 games, making them the ultimate definition of balance.
- OLOP 'D' also proved to be giant killers this season, as they were the only team to beat the mighty Springfield 'A' along with Pangbourne WMC.
- And to top it off, each team member received at least one POM (Player of the Match) award.



GRAHAM STARK

Next season, with lessons learned and a more cohesive team, OLOP 'D' could be a real force to be reckoned with in Division 3. Who knows, maybe they'll be the ones to take a run for promotion!



MARK CARLESS

### 8th Place Tilehurst Methodists 'B'

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' entered Division 3 with one goal in mind: avoid relegation. They were doing well until they faced a setback - the loss of Nigel Rowland due to health issues. With only three players left, Tilehurst fought hard to stay in the league. It was a great relief when Nigel returned for the last two matches, winning 4 valuable points for his team and even earning the POM award for the final match.

#### Interesting facts:

- Throughout the season, Tilehurst Methodists 'B' fielded 7 different players - a true testament to their adaptability and resilience.
- Despite the challenges they faced, each member of the





team earned at least one the POM award, making them one of only two teams in the division to do so.

Next season, Tilehurst Methodists 'B' will aim to have a stronger and more consistent performance with a full team available. They may also focus on recruiting new players to strengthen their squad and increase their chances of competing in the league. Additionally, they will work on their strategies and tactics to improve their overall game and aim for a higher ranking in the division.

### DIV 3 LEADING AVERAGES

Clive Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	53	47	88.68%
Ian Wu	Tidmarsh C	51	44	86.27%
John Simmonds	Pangbourne WMC	50	40	80.00%
Ray Webb	Tidmarsh D	42	33	78.57%
Parvin Baishkiyar	OLOP E	32	25	78.13%
Jason King	Springfield A	47	36	76.60%
Mat Hickman	Springfield A	15	11	73.33%
Simon Craig	Tidmarsh C	36	26	72.22%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh D	39	27	69.23%
Huzeyfe Borazan	Kingfisher H	39	25	64.10%
Louise Forster	OLOP E	44	28	63.64%
Eyup Odemis	Kingfisher H	48	30	62.50%
Rob Wilkie	Springfield A	50	31	62.00%
Richard Hudson	Tidmarsh C	30	18	60.00%
Harry Bullock	OLOP E	42	24	57.14%
Graham Stark	OLOP D	49	27	55.10%

### 9th Place Sonning Sports 'B'

Sonning Sports 'B' had a challenging season in Division 3 after their promotion from Division 4 as champions. Despite their goal of staying in the division, they struggled with inconsistency in their results. In the first half of the season, they suffered several high-margin defeats, including 9 - 1 and 8 - 2 losses. However, they bounced back with an impressive 10 -



BRETT HASTINGS

#### Interesting facts:

- Harry Brough and Brett Hastings were the key contributors to their points throughout the season.
- They were one of only three teams that managed to beat Tidmarsh 'C' this season.
- Interestingly, they earned over one-third of their total points for the season from just one team, OLOP 'F'

Next season, Sonning Sports 'B' will be looking to bounce back and earn promotion back to Division 3. They will likely reflect on their inconsistency and aim to improve their performances in order to be more competitive in matches. They may also focus on strengthening their roster and building team chemistry to better face the challenges of a higher division. With their experience and determination, they will surely be a team to watch in the upcoming season.

### 10. OLOP 'F'

In a season full of surprises the only team that could not make a surprise was OLOP 'F'. They had a tough start to the season with a string of unlucky defeats. Despite putting up a good fight, they couldn't secure a single win in the entire season, but they didn't give up. With a determined spirit, they kept fighting and managed to earn some points in the second half. Their closest to getting a point was against their fellow OLOP 'E' team, where they gave a strong performance but ultimately lost 6 - 4. James Evison stood out as the top performer for the team, with the most wins and the best individual average

#### Interesting facts:

- OLOP 'F' is the only team in the division without a win this season, but they never gave up and kept fighting until the end.
- Despite not winning a single spirit, OLOP 'F' players played with great passion and spirit.
- James Evison was the shining star for OLOP 'F', demonstrating his skills and determination in each match.

Final words, the 2022-2023 season Division 3 featured many exciting matches and performances. Several teams fought hard to for promotion while some of them vied to avoid relegation. OLOP 'E' and Tidmarsh 'C' were strong candidates for promotion, while Tilehurst Methodists 'B'



JAMES EVISON OF OLOP 'F'

and Sonning Sports 'B' had to compete to avoid relegation. Kingfisher 'H' surprised with their consistent winning record, and OLOP 'D' improved in the second half of the season. Overall, the season was filled with memorable moments and impressive performances from players across the league.

Pangbourne WMC, the champions and Springfield 'A', the newly-promoted team, must be over the moon with their performance this season. Tidmarsh 'C' came close but couldn't quite make it which is heartbreaking for them. Tilehurst Methodists 'B' fought tooth and nail and stayed up, while Sonning Sports 'B' will have to regroup and come back stronger next season. Overall, it was a fantastic season full of excitement, tension, and high-quality table tennis. We can't wait to see what next season brings!



# READING CLOSED TOURNAMENT

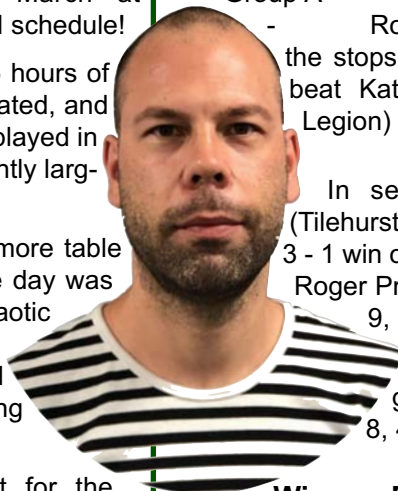
by Eric Van Looy

The Reading & District TTA Closed tournament for the 2022-2023 season was held on 5 March at Cippenham TTC, and boy was it a packed schedule!

196 sets were played over the course of 12.5 hours of TT, a bigger stress on the schedule than anticipated, and a big difference with the years before (139 sets played in 2021, 175 in 2020, and 141 in 2019, all with slightly larger entry numbers).

While it meant that players were given a lot more table time, suffice to say that the organisation on the day was not as smooth as I hoped, and may have felt chaotic at times. To ease the pressure on the schedule (and myself as organiser), next season's Closed Tournament will be revised to bring everything back in balance.

In the morning, our players battled it out for the Divisional titles.



(Tilehurst Royal British Legion) 3 - 2 (6, -9, 13, -9, 9) in Group A

- Roger Pritchard (Kingfisher) pulling out all the stops to come back from 2 games down and beat Kate Maksimenko (Tilehurst Royal British Legion) in five games (-3, -8, 5, 4, 4)

In semi-final 1, top seed Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Methodists) advanced to the final with a 3 - 1 win over Kate Maksimenko (6, 14, -7, 8), while Roger Pritchard dispatched Andrew Adair 3 - 0 (7, 9, 6).

In a topsy-turvy final, Eric managed to get the better of Roger in five games (6, -8, 4, -12, 7).

**Winner: Eric Van Looy** (Tilehurst Methodists)  
**Runner-up: Roger Pritchard** (Kingfisher)

## Division 1

We had 3 round-robins putting the group winners and the best number 2s into the semi-finals.

A couple of matches to pick out here were:

- Mengyao Shi (Kingfisher) narrowly beating Ian Cole (OLOP) 3 - 2 (6, 2, -7, -8, 10) in Group B
- Graham Mendick (Kingfisher) edging out Ross Saxby (Kingfisher) 3 - 2 (-4, 5, 8, -7, 10) in Group C

In semi-final 1, Ian Cole (best 2nd) surprised top seed Hari Gehlot (Kingfisher), advancing to the final with a 3 - 2 win (9, -4, 4, -7, 8).

In semi-final 2, Mengyao Shi had to work hard to defeat Graham Mendick 3 - 2 (9, -8, 9, -9, 8).

The final between Mengyao and Ian was not as close as it was in their group B encounter, with Mengyao winning 3 - 0 (9, 3, 9).

**Winner: Mengyao Shi** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-up: Ian Cole** (OLOP)



MENGYAO SHI OF KINGFISHER A

## Division 3

This division was the most competitive one, with only the group winner out of the 4 groups to advance to the semi-finals.

Some round-robin highlights were:

- Ruben Hernandez (Kingfisher) almost letting a 2 - 0 lead slip against Graham Stark (OLOP) but coming through in five (8, 2, -4, -6, 8). This was not enough to advance out of Group A, with top seed Clive Taylor (Pangbourne WMC) advancing.
- Both Mark Carless (OLOP) and James Evison (OLOP) fighting hard to upset Richard Hudson (Tidmarsh) in Group B, winning in five (Mark -13, 5, -12, 11, 7; James 6, -13, -10, 6, 8). 2nd seed Parvin Baishkiyar (OLOP) progressed to the semi-finals.
- Huzeyfe Borazan (Kingfisher) upsetting the seedings by beating 3rd seed Louise Forster (OLOP) 3-0 in Group C (8, 9, 6), which helped him to advance into the semis.
- A Simon Brookes (OLOP) comeback from 0 - 2 down to beat 4th seed Eyup Odemis (Kingfisher) in five (-12, -7, 9, 5, 7). A 3-way tie for 1st place between Harry Bullock



DIV 3 WINNER PARVIN BAISHKIYAR

## Division 2

6 Division 2 players were slotted into 2 groups, with 2 players advancing to the semi-finals.

Top matches at this stage were:

- Andrew Adair (Kingfisher) beating John Willcocks





(OLOP), Eyup and Simon was decided in favour of Harry due to a better games ratio between the 3 players.

In semi-final 1, Clive Taylor got back on track after losing game 1 to beat Harry Bullock 3 - 1 (-5, 6, 8, 6), while Parvin had fewer problems against Huzeyfe, running out a 3 - 0 win (8, 9, 8).

The final between Clive and Parvin was a very tight affair, but in the end it was Parvin on top with a 5-game win (9, -8, 5, -4, 7).

**Winner: Parvin Baishkiyar (OLOP)**  
**Runner-up: Clive Taylor (Pangbourne WMC)**

#### Division 4

Just like in Division 2, 6 players were slotted into 2 groups, with 2 players advancing to the semi-finals.

Top sets of the Group Stage were:

- John Scott (Sonning Sports) beating Emrah Bulut (Kingfisher) from 2 - 1 down (13, -7, -9, 8, 5) in Group A.
- 2nd seed Linda King (Tilehurst Royal British Legion) and John Evans (Sonning Common & Peppard) going to the wire, with Linda triumphing 3 - 2 (-6, -8, 8, 6, 11)



DIV 4 WINNER JIM WARREN

In the first semi-final, top seed Jim Warren (Sonning Common & Peppard) had few problems advancing to the finals with a 3 - 0 win over John Evans – likely still catching his breath after his 5-game epic with Linda (3, 6, 5).

In the second semi-final, John Scott defeated Linda after the narrowest of 5-game wins (7, 10, -9, -9, 9).

In the final, it was Jim Warren showing why he was top seed with a 3 - 1 win over John Scott (7, 4, -10, 9)

**Winner: Jim Warren (SC&P)**  
**Runner-up: John Scott (Sonning Sports)**

The middle part of the schedule was reserved for the age-restricted events: **Juniors, Under-40s, Veterans, Over-50s and Over-60s.**

The **Junior** event only had 2 players, who played a straight final to decide the winner. And while the skills gap between Division 1 top player Mo Cook (OLOP) and newcomer Pehej Vig (Kingfisher) was big (3 - 0; 3, 1, 5), Pehej showed some great potential!

**Winner: Mo Cook (OLOP)**  
**Runner-up: Pehej Vig (Kingfisher)**

The **Juniors** were added to the **Under-40s** draw to



PEHEJ VIG, RUNNER-UP IN THE JUNIOR EVENT

make 2 groups of 4, with the top 2 advancing to the semis.

Highlights were:

- Harry Bullock advancing in Group B after a five-game upset against 4th seed Kate Maksimenko (-11, 9, -10, 5, 6).
- Ross Saxby (seeded 2nd) needing five games to beat Mo Cook (12, -3, 7, -9, 6)

In-form Mo Cook advanced to the final after a gutsy 3 - 2 win over top seed Mengyao Shi (9, -9, -7, 9, 9), while Harry Bullock's progress was halted by Ross Saxby in a 3 - 0 win for Ross (5, 8, 8).

Ross continued his winning streak in a second victory over Mo, this time in 4 games (3, 4, -9, 11)

**Winner: Ross Saxby (Kingfisher)**  
**Runner-up: Mo Cook (OLOP)**

In the **Veterans** event, top seed Eric Van Looy pulled out in order to concentrate on managing the schedule, which left Group A wide open for the remaining players, who turned it into a tight contest: Eyup Odemis narrowly beat Huzeyfe Borazan in five (4, 11, -15, -7, 10), and Huzeyfe in turn beat Ruben Hernandez in five (9, -6, -6, 7, 8). Ruben's 3 - 0 win over Eyup helped to secure first place, with Huzeyfe progressing in 2nd spot.

Things were more predictable in Group B, with remaining top seed Julian Telford (Kingfisher) advancing in first place, followed by Parvin Baishkiyar in second spot. Muharrem Aydin (Kingfisher) took a single win against Emrah Bulut to claim 3rd spot.

While Julian grafted his way through the semis with a sold win over Huzeyfe (8, 5, 6), Parvin had to throw the kitchen sink at Ruben in order to progress to the final (-6, 11, 9, -8, 6).

Julian's Division 1 credentials showed in the final, crowning himself the winner after a 3 - 0 win



VETERANS WINNER JULIAN TELFORD



over Parvin (8, 8, 7).

**Winner: Julian Telford** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-up: Parvin Baishkiyar** (OLOP)

Lots of classy players in the **Over-50s event**, with Division 1 players Graham Mendick (1) and Ian Cole (2) the top seeds.

Sets worth highlighting were:

- Louise Forster claiming second spot in Group A after a tight 3 - 2 win over Brett Hastings (Sonning Sports) (-7, 8, -9, 4, 11)
- 3rd seed Nick Sears (Sonning Sports) surviving a scare in Group B, coming from 2 - 1 down to beat James Evison 3 - 2 (2, -9, -10, 8, 3)

Ian Cole made it to the final, courtesy of a 3 - 0 win over Louise (5, 7, 5), while Graham had a slightly tougher task dispatching Nick Sears (5, 9, 10).

Graham took the Over-50s title with a determined 3 - 0 victory over Ian (8, 11, 10)

**Winner: Graham Mendick** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-up: Ian Cole** (OLOP)

The largest age-restricted event was that of the **Over-60s**, which is likely to continue in the next few years ...

Players were slotted into 4 groups, with 4 group winners to proceed to the semi-finals.

Top seed Hari Gehlot left his Group A opponents Wayne Alleyne (Reading FC) and Nick Lean (Tilehurst Royal British Legion) fighting for scraps, with Wayne claiming second spot in a 3 - 0 win over Nick (8, 5, 9).

In Group B, Richard Hudson showed good form narrowly beating Division 4 winner Jim Warren in five (8, 8, -4, -9, 5), but it was not enough to keep 2nd seed Roger Pritchard from going through.



RICHARD HUDSON OFTIDMARSH C

Paul Savage (Sonning Sports) easily progressed out

of Group C, with Andrew Adair being tested by John Evans in a 3 - 1 win (-5, 9, 4, 12).

Clive Taylor managed 3 four-game wins in Group D to move to the semis. John Willcocks took 2nd spot, though not before being taken to five by Mark Carless (3, -9, -8, 7, 4). Mark claimed third spot over John Scott after a straight 3 - 0 win (5, 9, 9).

Hari Gehlot romped through to the final after a quickfire 3

- 0 win over Clive (4, 7, 3), with Roger equally needing just 3 games to overcome Paul Savage (5, 10, 8).

Roger almost managed an upset in the final, but had to settle for the Runner-Up spot once Hari got underway in a 3 - 2 win (-10, -6, 2, 4, 8)

**Winner: Hari Gehlot** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-up: Roger Pritchard** (Kingfisher)

The remaining open events were played throughout the latter part of the day.

The truly open **Ping-Pong** event saw 24 players fighting



ROGER PRITCHARD

it out in a randomized KO draw. While the level of "standard" table tennis skills did shine through in most of the results, upsets such as Jim Warren beating Hari Gehlot 2-0 in the Last-16 were always going to be possible.

While few were surprised to see hardbat specialist Roger Pritchard advance to the final, many were amazed by Ross Saxby's shot making to take his second title of the day with a 15-10, 15-9 victory over Roger, who himself took his third runner-up spot of the day.

**Winner: Ross Saxby** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-Up: Roger Pritchard** (Kingfisher)

**5 Mixed Doubles** pairs was a good turnout for an event so dependent on the availability of our female league players.



ALICE WALKER, SUE DANIELS AND SIMON BROOKES





WOMEN'S SINGLES WINNER  
KATE MAKSIMENKO

While top seeds Ekaterina Maksimenko/Nick Lean and Louise Forster/Andrew Adair progressed straight to the semis, 3 pairs played in a round-robin to decide the remaining 2 spots.

Linda King & John Willcocks took first place with a 3 - 1 win over Alice Walker (OLOP) & Simon Brookes (11, -9, 8, 7), and a 3-straight win over Susan Daniels (OLOP) & Parvin

Baishkiyar (4, 6, 5), while Alice and Simon took the last semi-final spot with a 3 - 0 win over Susan & Parvin (4, 8, 9)

Kate & Nick were tested by John & Linda, but advanced to the final with a 3 - 1 win (9, 5, -8, 5). Alice & Simon upset the books, however, and defeated Louise & Andrew after a fifth-game nailbiter (3, -9, 4, -3, 10).

In the end it was Kate & Nick taking the Mixed Doubles crown with a 3 - 1 victory over surprise pair Alice & Simon (7, 2, -9, 5)

**Winner: Kate Maksimenko/Nick Lean** (Tilehurst Royal British Legion)  
**Runner-Up: Alice Walker/Simon Brookes** (OLOP)

With 2 pairs in the **Women's Doubles** event, it was a straight final match between British Legion duo Linda King and Kate Maksimenko and OLOP pair Alice Walker and Louise Forster, with the title for Linda & Kate after a 3 - 0 victory (7, 6, 11)

**Winner: Kate Maksimenko/Linda King** (Tilehurst Royal British Legion)  
**Runner-Up: Alice Walker/Louise Forster** (OLOP)

15 pairs in the **Men's Doubles** event, with the top seeds of Hari Gehlot/Mengyao Shi (1) and Ian Cole/Ross Saxby (2) making it to the final. There were a few upsets and tight sets en route, though:

- Eyup Odemis/Muharrem Aydin taking the first game against Mo Cook/Harry Bullock in a 3 - 1 loss (-8, 9, 8, 2) in the 1st round
- Mo and Harry claiming a semi-final spot thanks to a win over 4th seeds Paul Savage and Nick Sears (-6, 9, 10, 4)

Both semi-finals saw two 3 - 0 wins for the top pairs: Hari/Mengyao defeated Mo/Harry (2, 6, 4), while Ross/Ian had a solid win over Graham Mendick and Ian Telford.

Although Ross and Ian started their final with a bang (11-3), the pair of Hari and Mengyao recovered well to take the title (-3, 9, 8, 14).

**Winner: Hari Gehlot/Mengyao Shi** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-Up: Ross Saxby/Ian Cole** (Kingfisher/OLOP)

4 players in the **Women's Singles** event went straight to the semi-finals. The seedings were respected, with Kate Maksimenko advancing to the final after a 3 - 0 win over Alice Walker (4, 4, 4), while Louise Forster equally needed 3 games only to defeat Linda King (6, 1, 5).

Kate took her 3rd title of the day with a dominant 3 - 0 win over Louise (4, 6, 3).

**Winner: Kate Maksimenko** (Tilehurst Royal British Legion)  
**Runner-Up: Louise Forster** (OLOP)

32 players toughed it out in the **Men's Singles** event, with a couple of surprises and remarkable scorelines along the way:

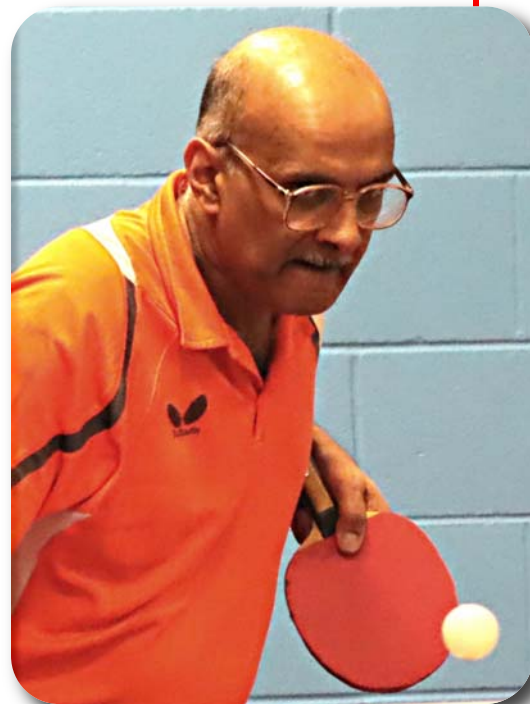
- Huzeyfe Borazan taking the scalp of Div 3 Averages leader Clive Taylor (2, 4, -10, 7)
- Ruben Hernandez (div 3) beating Andrew Adair (div 2) in four games (-2, 10, 10, 8)
- Hari Gehlot wanting to get home early with a 11-0, 11-0, 11-1 win over Eyup Odemis (though that didn't work out as planned, did it Hari?)

In the end, the 4 top seeds all progressed to claim their semi-final spots.

Hari Gehlot (1) beat Graham Mendick (4) after a 3-straight win (7, 8, 9) in their semi-final encounter, while Mengyao Shi (2) had equally few issues getting past 3rd seed Ross Saxby (3, 8, 7).

After a highly entertaining final match of the day, it was Hari who can call himself once more **R&DTTA Men's Singles Champion**. In a loop-to-loop, left-to-right spin battle, Hari managed to overcome Mengyao in 5 close games: 13-15, 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 15-13.

**Winner: Hari Gehlot** (Kingfisher)  
**Runner-Up: Mengyao Shi** (Kingfisher)



MEN'S SINGLES WINNER HARI GEHLOT



Congratulations to the winners, thanks to all players who helped me throughout the day, thanks to those who stayed to help tidy up, commiserations to those who've umpired more than they perhaps wanted to (I appreciate it enormously, though), and I hope to see you all next season!

Eric

## GLIMPSSES OF THE READING CLOSED



MUHARREM AYDIN AND LOUISE FORSTER



ALICE WALKER OF OLOP 'F'



**MYSTERY CHALLENGE-**  
CLICK THE PIC

Here was a glad sight that had me rubbing my eyes. Recreated just as overwhelming as I remembered her - former ladies' champion Mary Allan. She did not compete this time (after a break of

### **Blast from the Past**

14 years) but joined in lightning-fast workouts with many of the top players present. Mary was Reading Ladies Singles Champion eight times - in the seasons of 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007.



TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER ERIC VAN LOOY WITH KATE MAKSIMENKO





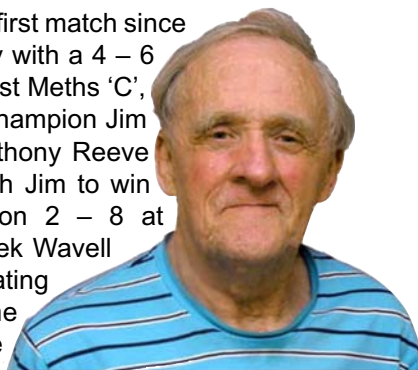
# DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Hello everyone,  
Well, yet another season draws to a close  
I hope that you all enjoyed it

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' were Champions so I congratulate Anthony and his team.

**Sonning 'E'** played their first match since the 7th Feb and came away with a 4 – 6 win at top of the table Tilehurst Meths 'C', thanks mainly to the Div 4 Champion Jim Warren who hit a treble. Anthony Reeve won two and teamed up with Jim to win the doubles. They then won 2 – 8 at Sonning Sports 'C' with Derek Wavell winning all three, thus repeating his earlier result first time round. Jim and David Riddle both won two They then hammered a two player T.R.B.L 'C' 9 – 1. Doubles from Jim and Anthony and a single from Ian Davenport.. Then in the return against T.R.B.L they won 3 – 7 thanks to maximums from Jim and Ian



As a result of beating their 'F' team 2 – 8 they leaped to the top of the table and are CHAMPIONS. Anthony hit a very vital treble and was backed by Jim and Ian who obtained doubles.

**Anthony 32/35 = 91.4% 8t, 4d POM 7**  
**Derek 13/24 = 54.2% 2t, 3d, 1s POM 1**  
**Ian 11/14 = 78.6% 2t, 2d, 1s POM 2**  
**David 8/18 = 44.4% 3d, 2s**  
**Jim 26/29 = 89.7% 6t, 4d POM 4**  
**John 8/21 = 38.1% 1t, 2d, 1s**  
**Doubles 12/16 = 75%**  
**First half points 53 second half 60**

**T.R.B.L. 'C'** lost a vital promotion battle when going down 2 – 8 to Sonning 'F'

Geoff Johnson won the two sets. Next at home to Sonning Sports 'C' they only drew so it was GOOD NIGHT NURSE to their promotion hopes. Jim Brent and Paul Treadgold won two each with Linda King gaining a single. At Tilehurst Meths 'C' Linda did very well by winning two and was unlucky not to get a hat trick when she lost 13–11 in the 5th end to Steve C . Geoff won the other set At Sonning 'E' we lost 9 – 1 with Paul beating Ian At home to Sonning 'E' we lost 3 – 7 with Jim, Paul and Geoff all beating Derek  
**Geoff 26/39 = 66.7% 5t, 3d, 5s POM 6**  
**Linda 20/33 = 60.6% 2t, 6d, 2s POM 2**  
**Paul 19/36 = 52.8% 1t, 6d, 4s POM 1**  
**Jim 16/33 = 48.5% 7d, 2s**  
**Doubles 6/16 = 37.5%**  
**First half points 47 Second half 40**



LINDA KING



DIV 4 CHAMPIONS - JIM WARREN, ANTHONY REEVE AND IAN DAVENPORT OF SONNING COMMON AND PEPPARD 'E'

Tilehurst Meths 'C' finished runners up so well done Andy and his lads

**Tilehurst Meths 'C'** gained a narrow 4 – 6 win at Springfield 'B' mainly thanks to a great three straight treble from Steve Christelow who beat Rob 4 – 11, 10 – 12, 5 – 11, James 2 – 11, 2 – 11, 7 – 11 and Marcello 4 – 11, 10 – 12, 7 – 11. Andy Stone and Arek Ziolkowski both obtained singles.

At home to Sonning 'E' they lost 4 – 6 with Steve Wood winning two and Lewis Oke and Rob James both picking up singles. They then won 4 – 6 at Kingfisher 'J', Rob and Andy both winning two and Arek winning one. In the Tilehurst derby they beat TRBL 'C' 7 – 3 with the two Steve's and Rob James all winning two They then won their final match 2 – 8 at Kingfisher 'I' so they are waiting the results of Sonning 'E' to establish if they have won the division. Lewis came up trumps by gaining a treble and was backed up by Andy and Steve C who hit doubles

**Andy 17/27 = 63.0%: 3 trebles, 3 doubles, 2 singles, 1 POM**  
**Steve C 14/18 = 77.8% 2t, 4d 2 POM**  
**Arek 14/27 = 51.9% 5d, 4s**  
**Lewis 22/27 = 81.5% 5t, 3d, 1s 4 POM**  
**Rob 16/27 = 59.3% 2t, 4d, 2s 2 POM**  
**Steve W 13/18 = 72.2% 1t, 5d 1 POM**  
**Doubles 15/16 = 93.8%**  
**First half points 60 Second half 51**



**Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'** had a great night at T.R.B.L 'C' by winning 2 – 8.

Gerry Bacon hit a three straight maximum by beating Jim Brent 6 – 11, 8 – 11, 8 – 11, Linda King 4 – 11, 6 – 11, 8 – 11, and Geoff Johnson 7 – 11, 6 – 11, 8 – 11. Mike Casserley and Oliver Bonser both obtained doubles At home to O.L.O.P they won 9 – 1 with Gerry and Oliver both gaining trebles. Graeme Streets won two. Next they crashed 8 – 2 at Springfield 'B'. Gerry won the two. Against their 'E' team they crashed to a 2 – 8 defeat with Graeme winning the two by beating Jim and Ian.

**Mike 26/42 = 61.9% 5t, 4d, 3s POM 3**

**Gerry 28/36 = 77.8% 7t, 3d, 1s POM 6**

**Alistair 4/18 = 22.2% 1d, 2s**

**Oliver 12/18 = 66.7% 2t, 3d POM 1**

**Graeme 21/24 = 87.5% 5t, 3d POM 4**

**Doubles 7/16 = 43.8%**

**First half points 47 second half 51**

**Springfield 'B'** went down 4 – 6 to Tilehurst Meths 'C'

	DIV 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	SC&P E	16	14	0	2	113	47	113
2	Tilehurst Meths C	16	14	0	2	111	49	111
3	SC&P F	16	9	2	5	98	62	98
4	Tilehurst RBL C	16	8	3	5	87	73	87
5	Springfield B	16	6	3	7	81	79	81
6	Kingfisher I	16	5	2	9	77	83	77
7	Sonning Sports C	16	4	2	10	58	102	58
8	OLOP G	16	3	3	10	52	108	52
9	Kingfisher J	16	1	1	14	43	117	43

to maintain their mid table spot. Rob Atack and Marcello Caramma won two each. At home to bottom side Kingfisher 'J' they won 9 – 1 with Richard Sabberton-Coe and Steve O'Connor both hitting maximums. Rob obtained a double. At Kingfisher 'I' they came away with a draw with Marcello winning two and also teaming up with Rob to win the doubles. Rob won one singles set as did Richard. At home to Sonning 'F' they had a great 8 – 2 win with Marcello winning all three by beating Gerry 8–11, 4–11, 12–10, 11–7, 11–6, Olly 11–4, 9–11, 11–7, 11–8, Mike 6–11, 11–7, 11–3, 12–10. Ludo Couillard and Rob both won two

**Rob 23/35 = 65.7% 2 t, 7 d, 3 s POM 1**

**Marcello 16/20 = 80.0% 3 t, 3 d, 1 s POM 3**

**Ludovic 5/6 = 83.3% 1 t, 1 d POM 1**

**James 0/ 21**

**Steve 15/26 = 57.7% 2 t, 2 d, 5 s POM 1**

**Richard 9/30 = 30.0% 1t, 1 d, 4 s**

**Doubles 10/16 = 62.5%**

**First half points 42 Second half 39**

**Kingfisher 'I'** moved right away from the bottom area by beating Sonning Sports 'C' 9 – 1 with Mick Mitcham and Walter Aldridge gaining trebles. Mick had one close game against Stephen Reader winning 18-16; Maksym Schipka won two besides teaming up with Walter to win the doubles. They then won 3 – 7 at O.L.O.P 'G' with Mick gaining another

hat trick and was given good support by Andy Read who won two while Burak Yildirim hit a single. Next at home to Springfield 'B' Walter hit a good maximum and with Mick winning two this gave them a draw. Against Kingfisher 'J' they won 3 – 7 with Walter, Mick and Emrah all gaining doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' they lost 2 – 8 with Walter hitting a double.

**Mick 19/26 = 73.1% 4t, 2d, 3s POM 3**

**Walter 25/35 = 71.4% 4t, 5d, 3s POM 4**

**Emrah 7/29 = 24.1% 3d, 1 s**

**Maksym 7/21 = 33.3 1d, 5s**

**Andy 5/15 = 33.3% 2d, 1s**

**Burak 2/9 = 22.2% 2 s**

**Doubles 9/16 = 56.3%**

**Points first half 33 second half 44**



EMRAH BULUT OF KINGFISHER I

### DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	35	32	91.43%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	29	26	89.66%
Graeme Streets	SC&P F	24	21	87.50%
Lewis Oke	Tilehurst Meths C	27	22	81.48%
Ian Davenport	SC&P E	14	11	78.57%
Gerry Bacon	SC&P F	36	28	77.78%
Steve Christelow	Tilehurst Meths C	18	14	77.78%
Michael Mitcham	Kingfisher I	26	19	73.08%
Steven Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	18	13	72.22%
Walter Aldridge	Kingfisher I	35	25	71.43%
Patrick Daniels	OLOP G	27	19	70.37%
Marcello Caramma	Springfield B	23	16	69.57%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	39	26	66.67%
Oliver Bonser	SC&P F	18	12	66.67%
Robert Atack	Springfield B	35	23	65.71%

**O.L.O.P 'G'** had a nice 3 – 7 win at Kingfisher 'J' with Fitzroy Licorish and Pat Daniels both gaining maximums. Derek Bond weighed in with a single. At home to Kingfisher 'I' Pat won two and Fitzroy won one in a 3 – 7 defeat, At Sonning 'F' Pat won one in a 9 – 1 defeat. At Sonning Sports 'C' they only had two players so lost 7 – 3 with Pat playing well to record a hat trick

**Pat 19/27 = 70.4% 3t, 4d, 2s POM 2**

**Derek 4/36 = 11.1% 1d, 2s**

**Susan 3/39 = 7.7% 3s**

**Fitzroy 24/39 = 61.5% 5t, 2d, 5s POM 3**

**Doubles 2/16 = 12.5%**

**First half points 27 second half 25**





**Sonning Sports 'C'** lost 9 – 1 at Kingfisher 'I' with Stephen Reader beating Maksym At T R B L 'C' they gained a great draw thanks to a good team performance. Stephen won two and Mo Cole and John Scott both won one each. Mo and Stephen had a nice doubles win . At home to Sonning 'E' they lost 2 – 8 with Stephen winning the two which included beating the Div 4 champion Jim

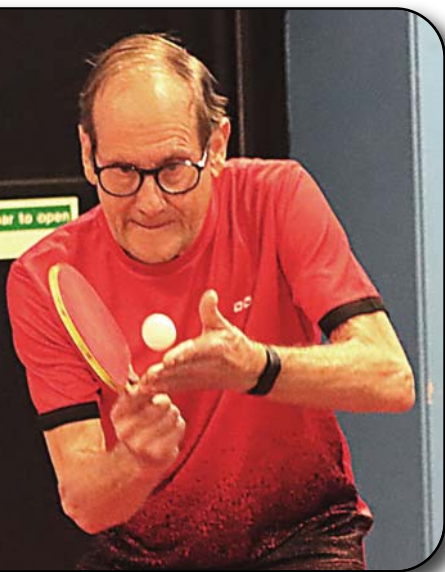
Warren 11 – 8 , 11 – 7 , 6 – 11 , 5 – 11 , 11 – 8 . At home to a two player O.L.O.P side they won 7 – 3 with Stephen, Linda Barlow and Mike Gautrey all winning one

**Stephen 22/37 = 59.5% 3t, 3d, 7s**  
POM 3

**Mike 4/16 = 25.0% 4s**

**Mo 3/24 = 12.5% 4s**

**Michael 3/18 = 16.7% 3s**



JOHN SCOTT

**John 0/21**

**Linda 5/22 = 22.7% 1d, 3s**

**Doubles 9/16 = 56.3%**

**First half points 28 second half 30**

**Kingfisher 'J'** played O.L.O.P.'G' and went down 3 – 7 with Peter Bennett and Rupesh Ahluwalia winning one each besides teaming up to win the doubles. At Springfield 'B' they lost 9 – 1 with Miguel Caballero beating Rob Attack. Against leaders Tilehurst Meths 'C' Rupesh hit a great maximum by beating Rob James 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-6, Andy Stone 11- 6,11-7, 9-11, 10-12, 11-8, Arek Ziolkowski 11-6, 11-7, 11-8. Peter won the other set by beating Arek but the side lost 4 – 6. Despite a Rupesh hat trick they lost 3 – 7 to Kingfisher 'I'.

**Chloe 6/15 = 40% 1t, 1d, 1s**

**Peter 10/30 = 33.3% 2d, 6 s**

**Gill 0/24**

**Miguel 13/21 = 61.9% 6d, 1 s**

**Frank 1/3 = 33.3% 1d**

**Sue 2/30 = 6.7% 2s**

**Rupesh 9/15 = 60.0 % 2t, 3s POM 2**

**Doubles 2/16 = 12.5%**

**Points first half 23 Second 20**

### Some stats

There were 30 home wins 8 draws 34 away wins

There were 3 10 0 wins, 12 9 1 wins 15 8 – 2 wins 16 7 – 3 wins 18 6 – 4 wins and 8 draws

Played in most matches: Mike Casserley 14

Most team doubles: Tilehurst Meths 15/16

CHEERS

Derek



MEN'S SINGLES FINALISTS MENGYAO SHI AND HARI GEHLOT. **WHO IS AHEAD AT THIS POINT...?**