READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Derek Wavell







RDTTA Individual Handicap Final on 7th January 2023 - Graham Stark playing Eyup Odemis.



Is Reading table tennis really waking up again after COVID and the first Ukraine blues? Can you feel a new zest in the air?

★Nigel our Secretary gives us a lightning survey on the League position. ★Old and new players come together in greater numbers than before in the Individual Handicap. ★ And giants of the past and present meet at the Berkshire Intertown Tournament.

I hope you'll find your own story here and your picture too.

Derek Wavell



DIVISION ONE by Martin Adams

appy 2023 and welcome to another brief update from Division 1. Q3 is behind us and with five or so matches left, it's now looking a little clearer regarding who will succeed as runners-up and who is likely to finish in the dreaded official drop zone. Even if it stays as it is, we shall have to wait and see which clubs will actually end up going down and coming up.

Before all that, I'm delighted that curry night is on for Friday 5th May and that several teams have confirmed they are sending representatives! I am still to hear from a few captains so reminders will be on their way to you. It's never too late to join as it's a fairly open reservation right now – the more the merrier.

	DIV 1	PL	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
1	Kingfisher A	15	15	0	0	143	7	143
2	OLOP A	15	13	0	2	112	38	112
3	Kingfisher D	15	11	1	3	97	53	97
4	SC&PA	14	9	2	3	84	56	84
5	Kingfisher B	16	7	2	7	66	94	66
6	Tilehurst RBL A	15	6	1	8	63	87	63
7	Sonning Sports A	15	3	2	10	58	92	58
8	SC&P B	14	3	2	9	54	86	54
9	Tidmarsh A	15	3	1	11	52	98	52
10	Kingfisher C	15	1	4	10	48	102	48
11	Reading FC	15	3	1	11	43	107	43

1st: Kingfisher 'A' just need a handful more points to confirm the successful defence of their title. Aside the odd come-back drama (e.g.Ross 0 - 2 vs Dale Ballard, Hari 0 - 2 vs Neil Hurford), there have been no dropped points since the new year and Hari Gehlot is the only regular player that remains undefeated in the entire Reading League. I am confident it will not be so much of an easy ride next season as the young players continue to improve - or if OLOP can field a full squad each time or re-sign Sam Ricks and / or Dan Moses for the odd match. There are plenty of other players and combinations out there that would give us a tough match or title-chase if it all came together, so I doubt we will be splitting up our little group of friends next season to make things more interesting. But never say never.

MVP: Hari Gehlot

2nd: It looks like **OLOP 'A'** have done enough to win the second place mini-league. While it was anyone's guess around the turn of the year, they have been far more clinical in comparison to their closest rivals, who have faltered in recent weeks. As individuals they have all added around 10% to their averages since the last edition. There are some tough fixtures to come, as with their challengers, but I expect to see OLOP 'A' alongside Kingfisher 'A' at the trophy presentation evening. Ian Cole, Mo Cook and Justin Mead

are all on winning streaks of ten or more, lan having only dropped two ends in the process. Murgy could have

joined them but for a single loss. Find out who defeated him by reading on.

MVP: lan Cole

3rd: The battle for third could still be hot. **Kingfisher 'D'** are looking in reasonable shape for a place on the proverbial podium but

have a really tough run ahead of them

including OLOP 'A', Kingfisher 'A' and SC&P

> 'A' (twice!). No real controversy this time over Q3 Most V a I u a b I e Player since Ryan Chung

hasn't RYAN CHUNG

appeared since Christmas due to studies (one of the reasons they have lost ground on OLOP) and, except for a hiccup losing out to Marc Brent, Graham Mendick has won all of his, including exacting revenge on Ed Lush 3 - 0. Young Ethan Zheng has been selected regularly since the turn and is starting to carve out some promising

results (following in his father

Philip's footsteps) with Marc Brent, Nigel Keedy and Tom Lewis among his victims. Both he and Julian Telford ruined a rare opportunity outscore Graham against Tilehurst RBL following his loss to Marc Brent, but they could not overcome Keith Winter and Jon Willis respectively.

Cath Venning has unfortunate-

ly not been able to add to her tally in 2023.

MVP: Graham Mendick

4th: Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' have also stuttered somewhat in recent weeks, scoring just sixteen points from a possible forty. But they may yet overtake Kingfisher 'D' for third. As well as the double-header with KFD they have a match in hand and have already taken their punishment from Kingfisher 'A'. Neil Hurford has lost his impressive record of only losing to Kingfisher 'A' players



DIV 1 LEADING AVERAGES

Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher A	33	33	100.00%
Mengyao Shi (S)	Kingfisher A	6	6	100.00%
Martin Adams	Kingfisher A	33	32	96.97%
Ross Saxby	Kingfisher A	30	29	96.67%
Darren Jones	Kingfisher A	27	26	96.30%
Graham Mendick	Kingfisher D	34	30	88.24%
Ryan Chung	Kingfisher D	20	17	85.00%
lan Cole	OLOPA	27	22	81.48%
Gary Morgan	SC&PA	21	17	80.95%
David Croucher	Sonning Sports A	26	21	80.77%
Justin Mead	OLOPA	25	20	80.00%
Jamie Barlow	SC&PA	36	28	77.78%
Mo Cook	OLOPA	30	23	76.67%
Ed Lush	SC&PB	30	23	76.67%
Prayrit Ahluwalia	Kingfisher C	30	22	73.33%
Neil Hurford	SC&PA	24	17	70.83%
Murgy Murgatroyd	OLOPA	35	24	68.57%

(keep reading to find out who upset him). Gary Morgan now tops their averages but has only made a single appearance in 2023 (an impressive max vs Sonning Sports), whilst Jamie Barlow has contributed the most points. Jason Roberts has added a few more as our league secretary, Nigel Maltby, made a couple of welcome reappearances in division one.

MVP: Jamie Barlow

5th: Just about hanging on to the top of the 'best-of-the-rest' mini-league is Kingfisher **'B'**, but they have played at least one more match than their competition. For the first time this season someone other than the main five (Alan Cummings, Nigel Keedy, Theo Kniep,

PAUL SAVAGE OF SONNING SPORTS 'A'

Martin Pugh, Phil Mead) was called up - Roger Pritchard expertly stepped in to take out both Dan McTiernan and Mike Douglas by a 3 - 2 score line. The regulars have been predictably steady having all played nine or ten matches each. Theo remains on course to finish top of their averages, although he has only played once in 2023, which makes choosing an MVP from recent performances more challenging....let me take a look....

MVP: Nope - Sorry - Can't decide!

6th: Tilehurst RBL 'A' have a game in hand over KFB and remain tough opponents with some creditable performances behind them. Marc Brent has conjured up some winning form recently - and what magic wins! Graham Mendick 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-9 and Prayrit Ahluwalia 11-9, 9-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-9. Keith Winter has played in every match and his form guide graphic looks like a mountain range peaking at Christmas (check it out on the website), but he did have Hari worried for a moment as he won the first and was leading the fourth 9-7 ready to

go the fifth, only for Hari to win the last four points. Soon-tobe-father Jon Willis notably managed to spoil Julian Telford's otherwise successful evening, thrashing him 6,6 and 3. Nick Lean and Kate Maksimenko were sworn in as reserves for recent encounters. Kate picked up a useful win over Nigel Maltby, dishing up revenge after losing to him in a Division 2 encounter earlier in the season.

MVP: Marc Brent

7th: All things are looking up for Sonning Sports 'A' right now. Revitalised by regular appearances from Dave Croucher, they have gained a couple of places since the last write-up. They even won their first doubles. And guess what - Bob Woodmansee is no longer the nicest bloke in the division. Matching Keith Winter's attendance record, Paul Savage is the only other player to appear in every match. Can they keep it up for the whole season? Paul also crafted his first maximum and scored a notable victory over Jamie Barlow while Nick Sears' defeats have only been at the hands of strong players. After a top-notch new-year tussle which ended 5 - 5, SC&P 'A' captain Jason Roberts commented that this lot should be higher up the division. Well



NICK SEARS - OF SONNING SPORTS 'A'



KATE MAKSIMENKO - CALLED UP FROM TILEHURST RBL 'A'





Jason, your wish came true.

MVP: Dave Croucher

8th: Now that Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' have caught up on the majority of their rearranged fixtures (Well Done!) they are back in the mix and could still make it to mid-table by the end. Big shout-out to Matt Isherwood who took out Murgy 9-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-9, 11-9. As for the other team members in 2023, Ed Lush has only dropped a single point in typical fashion while Denise Weller and Matt Stone have also contributed a point or two with Tim Raby yet to record a victory.



MVP: Ed Lush

9th: Tidmarsh 'A' have negotiated most of the tougher opponents so I expect them to gain points and places in the



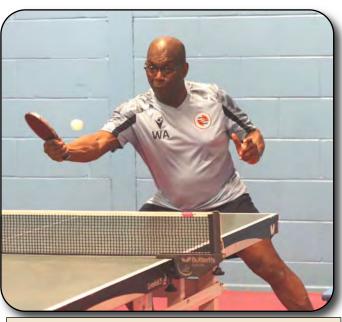
remaining weeks – exactly as they did in the first half. The only real heroic performances of late have spawned from reserve, Dale Ballard. Firstly he was 2-0 and 5-1 up on Ross Saxby before bowing out. Next he outscored both Antony Baker and Simon Barter in their 4 - 6 defeat to SC&P 'A', including arguably the result of the season by beating Oxfordshire county player Neil Hurford, who had previously only lost to Kingfisher 'A' opponents. He has proved a point to captain Duncan Groves, who has just put in a single recent appearance, that he is capable of winning in division 1 despite some erratic statistics, as he will admit to himself, in the lower division.

MVP: Dale Ballard

10th: Kingfisher 'C' captain Mike Douglas has already put in more appearances in 2023 than before the turn and with notable victories against the likes of Alan Cummings and Tom Lewis they might just make it, especially if Prayrit Ahluwalia is available for selection. But with Kingfisher 'A' still to come, catching the teams above them looks unlikely now. Whilst they enjoyed a promising start to the campaign, both Daniel McTiernan and Emma Blachford have struggled to make significant points contributions.

MVP: Prayrit Ahluwalia

11th: Reading FC still prop up the table - but some good news is that since the new year, both Alleynes, Wayne



WAYNE ALLEYNE OF READING FC

and Ant, have contributed their first singles points, six in total, to the cause. Ant bravely fought back to edge out Matt Isherwood 7-11, 8-11, 11-7, 13-11, 12-10 - so all that practice seems to be paying off, although Jazz Dhillon is now the nicest bloke in the division and I do hope he can upset somebody before the season is out. Looking at the remaining fixtures, despite having to face Kingfisher 'A', a handful of points are still up for grabs for them, Mike Childs and Tom Lewis.





BERKSHIRE INTER TOWN TOURNAMENT by Duncan Groves

Reading retain the Barbara Peisley trophy!

This tournament was last played in January 2020 before the pandemic, when Reading stormed to victory. Fast forward three years and, with a revised format, Reading once again triumphed.

Due to selection issues faced by other leagues, it was agreed that the traditional three-person teams be shrunk to two, with four singles matches and one doubles in each mini league. Three of the representative

leagues managed to field all six teams, Division 1,2 and 3 for both Seniors and Veterans. One league, Bracknell, fielded five teams, with their Div 3 Veterans missing out.

With quality players from Reading and Newbury leagues, Division 1 Seniors was always going to be the highlight of the tournament. As expected, both Reading and Newbury had comfortable wins over Bracknell and Maidenhead league teams, setting up a thrilling finale.

In the opening match two giants of Berkshire's table tennis history faced each other - Martin Adams and Dave Barr. Virtually the whole of Cippenham fell silent to watch this encounter, with Adams using his topspin forehand and kill shots against the clever back-from-

table defence of Barr. The opening game was inched 12-10 by Adams but Barr took the second 13-11. Barr turned up the heat in game three, winning it 11-7 and closed out the match in the fourth, 11-9. It really was a privilege to see these superstars of Berkshire table tennis at a competitive event.



Reading's Meng Yao Shi (above) then took on Newbury's Antony Baker. At two sets down, it looked over for the Reading player, but he somehow took the next three games 11-9, 11-9, 11-3 to tie the set.







GRAHAM MENDICK OF READING

As expected, Adams and Barr then won their reverse singles to set up a doubles decider. Another fantastic match (see fan club below) was won by the closest of margins – 13-11 in the fifth game – by the Reading team, to secure the first maximum point haul.

A similar story was unfolding in the Division 2 Senior league, with Reading and Newbury battling head-to-head for the main points, after easy wins over Bracknell and Maidenhead.

Lee Calcutt had stepped in at short notice to team up with Ross Saxby when Reading had a player drop out. Their opponents fielded the

excellent

Jamie Cole and in-form James Ellicott.

The singles matches were all tight but

two great wins from Saxby meant it came down to the doubles to decide the victor. Incredibly, just as with Division 1 Seniors, it ended with a fifth set 13-11 win for the Reading team

The other four mini leagues turned out to be more convincing wins for the Reading league.

In Division 3 Seniors the talented young pair, Theo Kniep and Ethan Zeng, won all three matches relatively comfortably, against far more experienced players. No rest for them, though, as they headed off to Kingfisher for the Berkshire schools' tournament, which took place immediately after.

Reading league fielded Hari Gehlot and Graham Mendick in Div 1 Vets and they proved far too strong for all three opposing teams, ending with a 5 - 0 clean sweep.

There was a similar story in Div 2 Vets as Julian Telford teamed up with Duncan Groves. Although Groves had a close 5-game match against Bracknell's Andrew Adair, the match ended in a comfortable 5 - 0 win. Matches against Newbury and Maidenhead went the same way.

In the final mini league, Paul Savage and Sonning Sports teammate Nick Sears recorded a 5 - 0 win over Maidenhead and a 4 - 1 win over Newbury.

So, after five hours of non-stop table tennis, the Reading league representative league had topped every single mini league and achieved the maximum 24 points. Newbury finished second with 17, Maidenhead third on 12 and Bracknell came fourth with six.



ANDREW ADAIR OF BRACKNELL

Many thanks to all the Reading players for supporting this event – every one of them from our top division. Thanks also to lan Langley for the event organisation and on-the-day administration.



MENG YAO SHI OF READING WITH SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS



NICK SEARS OF READING

W Butterfly



DIVISION TWO by John Willcocks

he pattern of numerous close matches in this division has mostly continued and this plus the improved form of some of the teams in the bottom half of the table, has resulted in the division bunching up even more. There have been fifteen draws so far and still very few 8 – 2's and 9 - 1's and no 10 - 0's. SC&P 'D' have opened up a gap between themselves and the other teams at the top and now look hot favourites for the title. However, the runners-up place is up for grabs as SC&P 'C's results have dipped a bit and this has allowed a number of teams who have been playing well to close the gap on them. At the other end of the table, it is still a bit difficult to predict who will end up in the relegation places, but at the moment it looks like it will be between OLOP 'C', Kingfisher 'F' and Tilehurst Meths' A'. However, a couple of big wins for the teams towards the

a 6 – 4 defeat to Kingfisher 'G' when they could only field two players due to a mix up over which night they were playing. Their consistent form has enabled them to open up a 19-point lead at the top and although the teams behind them have at least one match in hand the points difference is starting to look too large for the chasing teams to make up. Danny Dockree has been in great form and has not lost since October and in the last few matches he has revenged his two early season defeats against Eric Van Looy and Dale Ballard. The rest of the team has been giving Danny solid support so it's hard to see them doing anything other than keep winning.

Prediction - 1st

Best Recent Performance – Danny Dockree beating Eric Van Looy three straight to avenge his defeat to Eric earlier in the season.

Tidmarsh 'B' had been on a run of either winning 6-4 or drawing but this came to an abrupt halt with a 9-1 reverse at the leaders, although that loss was far closer than the score-

	DIV 2	PL	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
1	SC&P D	14	10	1	3	89	51	89
2	Tidmarsh B	14	6	5	3	72	68	72
3	OLOP B	13	5	4	4	70	60	70
4	SC&P C	12	7	2	3	67	53	67
5	Kingfisher G	13	7	2	4	67	63	67
6	Kingfisher E	15	3	4	8	67	83	67
7	Tilehurst RBL B	12	4	4	4	61	59	61
8	Kingfisher F	14	4	2	8	59	81	59
9	Tilehurst Meths A	12	2	4	6	54	66	54
10	OLOP C	13	2	4	7	54	76	54

bottom could drag other teams into the mix.

SC&P 'D' have won five of the six matches they have played since early December with the only slight blip being



line sugg e s t s with all but one set going to four or f i v e .



LUCA BIANCHI OF KIGFISHER "E2

However, they have since beaten Tilehurst RBL 'B' and that win has pushed them up into second place although they have played more times than the teams just below them. Dale Ballard has not been winning quite as often as he was earlier in the season and with the rest of the team usually picking up ones or twos they are likely to continue with their pattern of lots of close results. They should finish in the top half but they have probably got too much to do to mount a promotion challenge. I would like to wish a speedy recovery to Barry Carter who has been in hospital, hopefully you will be back on the table soon Barry.

Prediction - 5th

Best Recent Performance – Dale Ballard with comprehensive three straight maximum against Kingfisher 'E'







KATE MAKSIMENKO OF TILEHURST RBL 'B'

OLOP 'B' have been showing consistent form for some time and with only one defeat since early November they are definitely in the promotion mix. Their one recent defeat came against promotion rivals SC&P 'C' but two good wins since then have helped compensate for that defeat. Their players do not tend to get maximums very often and this could end up stopping them from finishing second but with two players on 67% and two on over 40% they could well pick up enough points to clinch the second promotion place.

Prediction – 3rd

Best Recent Performance – Darek Kaminski with two very good wins against SC&P 'C'

SC&P 'C' have only played three times this year and

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Player	Team	Р	W	%
Danny Dockree	SC&P D	38	36	94.74%
Eric Van Looy	Tilehurst Meths A	33	31	93.94%
Kate Maksimenko	Tilehurst RBL B	30	25	83.33%
Roger Pritchard	Kingfisher F	30	25	83.33%
Darek Kaminski	OLOP B	30	20	66.67%
John Willcocks	Tilehurst RBL B	27	18	66.67%
Jonathan Abbott	SC&P D	27	18	66.67%
Chris West	OLOP B	24	16	66.67%
Satej Jaywant	Kingfisher G	21	14	66.67%
Dale Ballard	Tidmarsh B	36	23	63.89%
Nigel Maltby	SC&P C	36	22	61.11%
Pradeep Desh	OLOP C	30	18	60.00%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh B	30	18	60.00%
Malcolm Gregory	SC&P C	36	21	58.33%
Stephen Leggett	Kingfisher E	30	17	56.67%

that plus their mixed results has seen the gap between them and some of the chasing pack disappear. They had a good 7-3 win against promotion rivals OLOP 'B' but were held to a draw by Kingfisher 'E' and they suffered a shock 8-2 defeat to relegation threatened Kingfisher 'F'. The recent form of all of their players has been a bit mixed with some good performances and some not so good. This probably just reflects what a close division this is and that clashes of styles can throw up some results which are on paper surprising. With a number of bottom half teams still to play they still stand a reasonable chance of finishing

second but it's likely to be a very close thing

Prediction – 2nd
Best Recent
Performance - Brian
Meheux with an
excellent maximum
against OLOP 'B'.

Kingfisher 'G' have won three of their four matches since Christmas and this has given them an outside chance of contesting for a promotion place. Their one defeat was a slightly surprising 7 – 3 reverse against their



HAMID MOHSENI OF KINGFISHER 'F'

'E` team but their three good wins have given them a chance of promotion. Satej Jaywant is playing well and is on 67% and with three other players averaging over 50% and their worst average over 40% they should continue to record good results.

Prediction - 6th

Best Recent Performance – Savva Christodoulou beating Roger Pritchard 14-12 in the fifth when recording a great maximum against Kingfisher 'F'

Kingfisher 'E' have played well since the new year and have had a couple of good wins, a draw and two close defeats. Consequently, they have moved up the table but as they have played more matches than anyone else and have a points difference of -16 they could still end up in one of the relegation places. However, they have certainly given themselves a chance of avoiding the drop. All of their players have improved on their early season averages and they now almost always win at least one, and usually more, sets each match. They now have three players with averages of over 50% and two with around 33% and if they can keep up their improved form they should be safe.

Prediction - 7th

Best Recent Performance – Clive Gold with two three straight wins plus almost beating Danny Dockree in the match against SC&P 'D'

Tilehurst RBL 'B' have slipped down the table a bit partly because they have played fewer matches than most of the other teams but also because they have not won







BILL STAMATIOU OF TILEHURST METHS 'A'

since mid-November. Their recent form has seen them draw twice and suffer 7-3 defeats to Kingfisher 'G' and Tidmarsh 'B' but with matches in hand they should finish in a mid table position. Kate Maksimenko has continued to play very well and is averaging over 80% and your DFS is managing to win twice each time he plays.

Prediction - 7th

Best Recent Performance – Kate Maksimenko recovering from two down to beat Dale Ballard in five.

Kingfisher 'F' have lost three out of their last four matches although their win was a great 8-2 triumph over

SC&P 'C'. Captain Roger Pritchard has continued to play very well and recorded an excellent maximum in the SC&P 'C' match only dropping one game in the process. However, although two of their other four players are averaging over 40%, they are going to struggle to stay up as they have a points difference of -22 which is currently the equal worst in the division.

Prediction - 9th

Best Recent Performance – Roger Pritchard only dropping one game when recording fine maximum against SC&P 'C'

Tilehurst Meths 'A' have only played twice since Christmas losing both times although the matches were against the teams in first and third and the scores were fairly close. Eric Van Looy is on 94% and the team's fate probably still lies in his hands especially as they have continued to have player availability issues. However, if Eric plays in most of the matches and Bill Stamatiou also continues to be available they should just about do enough to avoid relegation.

Prediction – 8th

Best Recent Performance – Bill Stamatiou with good wins against Chris West and Darek Kaminski in match against OLOP 'B'.

OLOP 'C'have had some availability issues and have only played three times since the new year getting a draw but also two heavy defeats. Pradeep Desh has been playing very consistently winning twice each time he plays but with the rest of the team struggling a bit to win regularly they look like they may struggle to stay up. They also have a points difference of -22 so they will need some good all round team performances during the rest of the season if they are going to avoid relagation

Prediction - 10th

Best Recent Performance – Pradeep Desh recovering from two down to beat Nick Lean in five in match at Tilehurst RBL'B`

Secretary's Notes

The season continues to go well with lots of teams still very much in the hunt for promotion or battling to avoid the drop at the other end of the table. At the time of writing division 2 especially is very close with very few points between 2nd and 11th! Kingfisher A continue to have division 1 under wraps with Our Lady of Peace A now looking the best bet for runners-up. Division 2 continues to be a really tight affair from top to bottom - no match is easy here! Sonning Common & Peppard D look to have edged clear at the top with still loads of teams in with a chance of being runners up. In division 3 Pangbourne WMC and Springfield A

are the front runners with OLOP E still in the hunt, while in division 4 Tilehurst Methodists C, SC&P E, SC&P F and Tilehurst RBL C are in a 4- way battle for the two promotion positions.

The Reading Closed Championships are to be held on Sunday 5th March 2023 again at the Cippenham club in Slough - entries are available via the website.

Carry on enjoy your TT in 2023 and good luck to all in the run in! We will celebrate all our winners and runners up at the Awards night & AGM on the night of Wednesday 7th June 2023 at the Tilehurst British Legion Club.

Nigel Maltby (RDTTA Secretary)





Notes from our Chairman

Hello Evervone.

Up to now it is all going well and I can see that many issues are still all to play for.

The Individual Handicap has gone and I congrat-Eyup Odemis for winning it and Graham Stark for playing well in the final.

Next the Reading Closed is looming up so I hope you have got your entry in.

We have a great committee and I hope that they will all stand again next year when we will celebrate our 100th Birthday

Without these great officers, planning a season and keeping the records up to date would not be easy so I thank them on your behalf

Well, enjoy the rest of the season win or lose.

All the best

Derek Harrison

TEAM HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

by Louise Forster

he quarter finals of the Team Handicap tournament OLOP 'D' had a convincing 8 – 1 win, with Thereasa' were played in early January.

Quarter final 1 saw Reading FC meet Pangbourne WMC, with a good solid 7 - 2 win for Pangbourne and John Simmonds winning a hat-trick for Pangbourne.

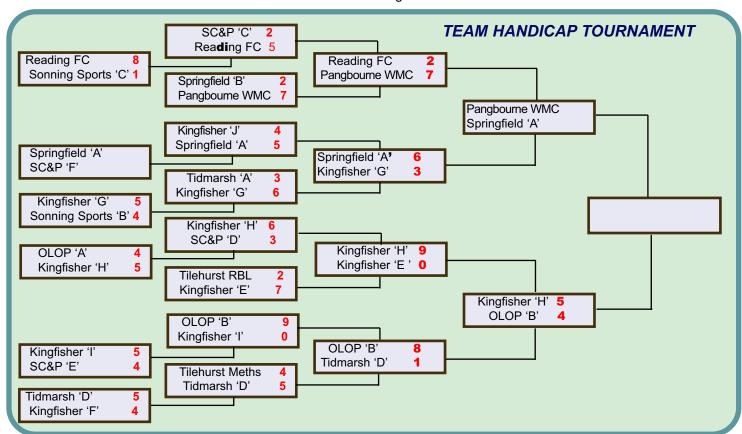
Springfield 'A' were up against Kingfisher 'G' in quarter final 2, this was a close fought match with Springfield taking the match 6 - 3.

The third quarter final was a local derby between Kingfisher 'H' and Kingfisher 'E'; the H team were all on top form that day and took the match with a sweeping 9 - 0.

OLOP 'B' met Tidmarsh D in the fourth quarter final,

Watson getting the one set for Tidmarsh against Parvin Baishkiyar.

This week is semi final week, and the first of the semi finals has taken place. OLOP 'B' met Kingfisher 'H' in what has probably been the closest match of the whole competition to date. The match was head to head the whole way through with Parvin Baishkiyar (OLOP) facing Eyup Odemis (Kingfisher) for the deciding match. These two faced each other earlier this year in the Individual Handicap tournament back in January. Once again Eyup recorded the win, taking Kingfisher 'H' through to the 22/23 Team Handicap final. They will meet either Springfield 'A' or Pangbourne WMC in the final.







DIVISION THREE by Huzeyfe Borazan

adies and Gentlemen, buckle up your seat belts, because the Division 3 season is getting wilder by the day! The title race has heated up like a chili pepper in a sauna, and it's getting harder to keep track of who's leading the pack. It's been a wild ride so far, with three different teams taking the top spot only to be knocked down by the next in line. But one team has remained a constant force, sometimes lurking in the shadows with games in hand - that's right, Pangbourne WMC! They're proving to be a tough cookie to crack and are the current frontrunners for the title.

Meanwhile, OLOP 'E' is on a hot streak, climbing up the table and entering the promotion race with their impressive performance. They're showing their commitment for the promotion by giving it their all and working their way towards the top. On the other hand, Tidmarsh 'C' is playing the field, keeping a consistent position in the table and proving their stability.

In the relegation zone OLOP 'F' are guaranteed to be relegated especially since their last defeat with 8 - 2 to their closest opponents, but with a few more games left, who knows, they might find the luck they need to get their first win! Sonning Sports 'B' is still holding on to their hope for the division and fighting for a chance to avoid relegation. And Tilehurst Methodists 'B', well they're just hoping to keep their calm and getting enough points to remain in Division 3.

Let's have a closer look at the recent performances and remaining matches.

PROMOTION RACE

Let's start with the top of the table, where we have **Pangbourne WMC**, the all-time obvious or invisible leader. They've been lurking in the shadows, with a match in hand,

PANGBOURNE WMC'S STAR PLAYER, CLIVE TAYLOR

waiting to pounce on their opponents. It's like they have a secret weapon, and they're ready to unleash it at any moment. Despite being second or third for a very short spell, they were always the leader as they had games in hand.

Recent Performance W D W D W W
Best Performing Player Clive Taylor
Remaining Matches OLOP 'D' (Home)

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' (Away)
OLOP 'E' (Home)

Sonning Sports 'B' (Away) Tidmarsh 'D' (Home)

Tidmarsh 'C' (Away)

Springfield 'A' had high hopes for the title, but they suffered a bitter defeat at the hands of Pangbourne WMC with a scoreline of 8 - 2. That's a tough pill to swallow, but it's not just a setback for the title - it could also cost them their promotion chances.

Recent Performance L W W W D W

Best Performing Player
Remaining Matches OLOP 'F' (Home)
Kingfisher 'H' (Home)
Tidmarsh 'C' (Home)
OLOP 'E' (Away)

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' (Home)

But wait, there's more! Tidmarsh 'C' and OLOP 'E' are hot on Springfield A's heels, and the race for promotion is now a three-way battle royale. The final match between Springfield 'A' and OLOP 'E' is shaping up to be an epic showdown, and you won't want to miss it.

OLOP 'E'

Recent Performance W W W W D W
Best Performing Player Parvin Baishkiyar



OLOP 'E'S STAR PLAYER, PARVIN BAISHKIYAR





Remaining Matches Tidmarsh 'C' (Home)
Pangbourne WMC (Away)
OLOP 'D' (Home)
Springfield 'A' (Home)
Kingfisher 'H' (Away)



HARRY BULLOCK OF OLOP 'E'

Tidmarsh 'C'

Recent Performance WDWDWW

Best Performing Player Ian Wu

Remaining Matches OLOP 'E' (Away)

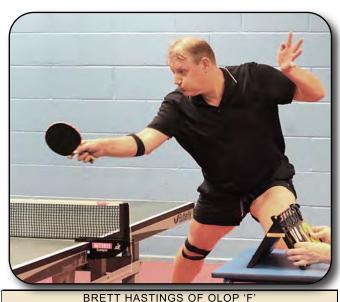
Sonning Sports 'B' (Home) Tidmarsh 'D' (Away) Springfield 'A' (Away)

OLOP 'F' (Away)

Pangbourne WMC (Home)

**DANGER ZONE

OLOP 'F'



In the relegation zone, OLOP 'F' is all but guaranteed to

head down to Division 4, but they're not going down without a fight. They're still searching for their first win or draw, and who knows, they might just pull off a miracle.

Recent Performance LLLLL
Best Performing Player James Evison

Remaining Matches Springfield 'A' (Away)

Tidmarsh 'D' (H<mark>ome)</mark> Kingfisher 'H' (Away) Tidmarsh 'C' (Home)

Sonning Sports 'B'

Sonning Sports 'B' is still holding out hope to avoid relegation, especially after their big win with a scoreline of 8 - 2 against OLOP 'F'. They'll have to keep their eyes on their matches and hope that Tilehurst Methodists 'B' slips up.

Recent Performance WLLLL
Best Performing Player Harry Brough
Remaining Matches Tidmarsh 'D' (Home)
Tidmarsh 'C' (Away)
Pangbourne WMC (Home)

OLOP 'D' (Away)

	DIV 3	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Р
	1 Pangbourne WMC	12	9	3	0	86	34	86
2	2 Springfield A	13	9	2	2	82	48	82
(3 OLOP E	13	8	3	2	81	49	81
4	4 Tidmarsh C	12	7	3	2	77	43	77
į	5 Kingfisher H	14	7	4	3	77	63	77
(6 Tidmarsh D	12	5	1	6	69	51	69
1	7 OLOP D	13	5	0	8	63	67	63
8	B Tilehurst Meths B	13	4	0	9	52	78	52
9	9 Sonning Sports B	14	3	0	11	43	97	43
•	10 OLOPF	14	0	0	14	20	120	20

Tilehurst Methodists 'B'

Tilehurst Methodists 'B', on the other hand, are feeling pretty confident about staying in Division 3, but they have some tough matches ahead against Pangbourne WMC and Springfield 'A'. They need to keep the ball rolling and avoid big losses if they want to stay ahead of Sonning Sports 'B'.

Recent Performance L W L W L L
Best Performing Player Patrick O'Sullivan

Remaining Matches Pangbourne WMC (Home)

OLOP 'D' (Away) Tidmarsh 'D' (Home) Springfield 'A' (Away) Kingfisher 'H' (Home)

SAFE ZONE

And finally, **Kingfisher 'H', Tidmarsh 'D'**, and **OLOP 'D'** are cruising in the middle of the table, far from the chaos at the top and bottom. They're aiming to finish the season on a high note, and who knows, maybe they'll even make a run for the promotion spots. These teams may not be household names yet, but they're all fired up and ready to make a name for themselves in the title and promotion races.

The upcoming matches between Pangbourne WMC vs





DIV 3 LEADING AVERAGES Clive Taylor Pangbourne WMC 35 32 91.43% Parvin Baishkiyar OLOP E 17 15 88.24% Jason King Springfield A 35 29 82.86% Tidmarsh C 33 27 81.82% Ian Wu 32 John Simmonds Pangbourne WMC 25 78.13% Ray Webb Tidmarsh D 27 21 77.78% Tidmarsh D 24 18 75.00% Chris Webb 72.22% Terry Hardie Tidmarsh D 18 13 Simon Craig Tidmarsh C 21 71.43% 15 24 Richard Hudson Tidmarsh C 17 70.83% 32 22 Louise Forster OLOP E 68.75% Springfield A 35 Rob Wilkie 24 68.57%

36

33

35

33

24

21

21

19

66.67%

63.64%

60.00%

57.58%

OLOP 'D', Springfield 'A' vs Kingfisher 'H' and Kingfisher 'H' vs OLOP 'E' are definitely worth keeping an eye on. These matches will play a crucial role in determining who comes

Kingfisher H

Kingfisher H

OLOP E

OLOP D

out on top in the title and promotion races.

Pangbourne WMC vs OLOP 'D'
Springfield 'A' vs Kingfisher 'H'
Kingfisher 'H' vs OLOP 'E'

So sit back, grab some popcorn, and get ready for the remaining few weeks of this exciting Division 3 season. It's

going to be a wild ride, and we can't wait to see how it all plays out.



LOWER DIVISIONS KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT by Louise Forster



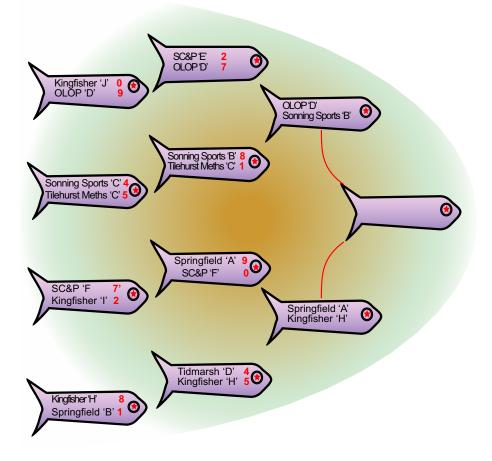
Eyup Odemis

Harry Bullock

Graham Stark

Huzeyfe Borazan

We are now at the semi final stages of the Lower Divisions Knockout Cup, and neither semi final has been played in time to make it to this newsletter sadly. We'll see OLOP 'D' meeting Sonning Sports 'B' and Kingfisher 'H' meeting Springfield 'A'. Both should be exciting matches. Results - including the final too - will be in the next report!







INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP TOURNAMENT

by Eric Van Looy

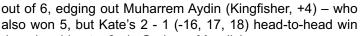
he 2023 edition of the RDTTA Individual Handicap Tournament kicked off nice and early at 9 a.m. on 7 January with 35 players on the roster, an

increase of 12 players compared to last season!

While we had 3 last-minute cancellations to process, we had great support from 3 top-class Division 1 players (Graham Mendick, Antony Baker, and Ian Cole) who were happy to regularly chase the pack with handicap deficits of 10 points and more.

The entry field was nicely spread out across the Divisions: 9 players from Div 1, 7 from Div 2, 12 from Div 3, and 7 from Div 4. They were divided over 5 round-robin groups of 7, giving everyone at least 6 sets, with 3 players per group progressing to the Last 16.





dropping him to 2nd, Graham Mendick (Kingfisher) - at -14 the highest rated player of the tournament – took 3rd spot with 4 wins out of 6, twice losing out after having started with a 15-point deficit (against Muharrem and Emrah Bulut (Kingfisher, +5)). Places 4 to 7 were taken by Qing Wu (OLOP, Scr), Wayne Alleyne (Reading FC, -3), Stephen

Reader (Sonning Sports, +3) and Emra Bulut (+5), with Qing, Wayne and Stephen taking points off each other, while Emrah played out of his skin to beat Graham 2-1 (4, -19, 11).





GRAHAM MENDICK

Top match in this group was Kate's 2-1 win over Qing, with a tight 29-27, 20-22, 21-18 scoreline.

Determining places 1 to 3 in Group B was a little less clearcut, with 3 players winning 5 times out of 6. After count-back, it was Parvin Baishkiyar (OLOP, -2) coming out on top over Bill Stamatiou (Tilehurst Meths, -3) and Tony Baker (Tidmarsh, -8). Players 4 to 6 all had 2 wins, with highestrated player Nick Sears (Sonning Sports, -11) on 4, Derek Wavell (Sonning Common, +5) – doubling up as tournament photographer – on 5 and Andrew Adair (Kingfisher, -3) on 6. RDTTA newcomer Pehej Vig (Kingfisher, +4) found it tough going at his assigned rating, but gave his all and hopefully made his accompanying family proud.

Top match in this group was Nick's 2-1 win over Derek Brooke-Wavell, giving away 14 points to win 21-16, 14-21, 23-21.

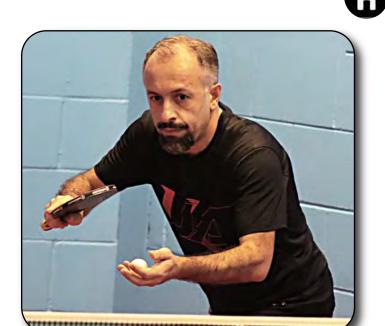
There were no players tied for the 3 top spots in Group C. Clive Taylor (Pangbourne, -3) was faultless throughout, although things could have been different had John Scott (Sonning Sports, +4) converted 1 more point in their matchup (20, -14, 20). Simon Brookes (OLOP, +2) only lost to Clive, but set aside all others in his group with a 2 - 0 scoreline, earning him 2nd place. Brett Hastings (Sonning Sports, +3) took spot nbr 3, only losing to Clive and Simon.Arek Ziolkowski (Tilehurst Meths) – one of 2 players at +7 – played well to finish 4th on 2 wins, equal with Harry Bullock (OLOP, Scr), while John Scott (+4) and top-rated player Paul Savage (Sonning Sports, -8) finished 6th and 7th respectively. Paul found the chase against lower-rated players quite tough, even though his single win came against Arek after a 13point deficit (21-16, 21-17). Top match of the group!

Lots of suspense in Group D, with -13 rated players lan Cole (OLOP) and Eric Van Looy (Tilehurst Meths) giving it a good go to overcome deficits of more than 13 points in half of their matches, but missing out on places 1, 2 and 3 as expected. Eyup Odemis (Kingfisher, +2) produced some great table tennis to win the group, only losing once to Luca



Group A was very tightly contested for the top-3 places: Ekaterina Maksimenko (TRBL, -6) took top spot with 5 wins





Bianchi (Kingfisher, -5) 21-16, 21-14. Graham Stark (OLOP, +3) took spot nbr 2 with 4 sets out of 6, losing to Eyup and (again) Luca Bianchi. James Smith (OLOP, +7) played his socks off to win 4 sets as well, all after winning the 3rd leg. Tim Raby (Sonning Common, -5) – who amazingly played 5 sets that went to 3, but losing one too many to go through.

EYUP ODEMIS



lan Cole took 5th spot, beating Eric and Luca 2-0, Luca came in 6th, while Eric Van Looy ended in last place, with a single win over Luca.



HAMID MOHSENI

What to say about Group E? While there was no doubt about the winner, Hamid Mohseni (Kingfisher, +3) with a 100% win record, 5 players were tied for the remaining KO spots, all on 3 wins! After count-back (head-to-head, relative points, game difference, relative game difference), it was Denise Weller (Sonning Common, -3) in 2nd place and Louise

Forster (OLOP, +2) in 3rd place, leaving Akeel Mir (Kingfisher, Scr), Huzeyfe Borazan (Kingfisher, -2) and last year's winner Ryan Chung (Kingfisher, -13) in positions 4 to 6. And while Andy Stone (Tilehurst Meths, +5) didn't manage a win, his set losses against Huzeyfe and Ryan deuce in the third could have easily been different.

Top match of the group: Denise's 21-12, 21-10 win over Ryan with a +10 start.

So we went into the Last 16 with 3 Division One players (Graham M, Antony B and Denise W), 3 Division Two players (Bill S, Ekaterina M and Hamid M) and 9 Division Three players



(Brett H, Graham S, Clive T, HUZEYFE BORAZON Eyup S, Louise F, Muharrem A, Simon B, and James S).

Match-ups in the first KO round (last 16) were Ekaterina Maksimenko vs Brett Hastings, with Brett leaving the gap

between the two players (9) large enough to win 2 - 0 (21-18, 21-16). Hamid Mohseni beat Bill Stamatiou 2 - 1, overcoming a loss in the first leg (18-21) to win the next two 21-7, 21-15.

Graham Stark beat Antony Baker in a tight 2 - 1 win (21-12, 22-24, 21-19), while Graham Mendick managed to close the 11-point gap with Clive Taylor to win 22-20, 21-19.

Eyup Odemis won a scratch time against Louise Forster 21-17, 21-19, while Muharrem Aydin played well to maintain the 2-point gap with Simon Brookes and win 2-0 (21-14, 21-19). James Smith received a walkover after Denise Weller – only recently recovered from illness – decided to not push herself too far that day (only understandable after the epic battles in Group E!). Finally Parvin Baishkiyar received a bye into the Quarter Finals as winner of Group B.

In the Quarters, Brett H beat Hamid M in a topsy-turvy set with a bizarre scoreline. Starting from scratch, Brett won the first leg 21-19, only for Hamid to leave Brett with just 3 points in the second leg (21-3). Brett recovered from that blow to take the set home with a gutsy 21-18.





Reading & District Table Tennis Association Newsletter



VIG PEHEJ SINGH

Quarter-final 2 gave us the "Battle of the Grahams" when Graham Stark – benefiting from a 14-point lead – left Graham Mendick chasing ghosts with a first-leg 21-5 score. Graham M responded well in the second leg, man-

aging 18 points, but it was always going to be tough going, and Graham S ran out a 21-18 winner.

In another scratch game quarter-final, Eyup Odemis beat Kingfisher teammate Muharrem Aydin 2-0 (18, 15), while Parvin B convincingly beat James Smith, almost as if James' 9-point advantage did not exist (14, 14).

With both semi-finals occupied by Division Three players, it was no surprise that handicap ratings were going to matter very little. Graham S decide the scratch game between himself and Brett H in his favour with a 21-19, 11-21, 21-16 victory into the final, while Eyup O recovered from a

22-20 loss in the first leg – despite a 6-point advantage – to take it home against Parvin B (21-11, 21-14).

match-up in Group D, with Graham trying to reverse the result after his 2 - 1 loss in the group. And while he managed to win the first leg 21-18, Eyup again produced some great table tennis to come out on top with a 21-13,

21-17 score in the following legs. A very deserving winner! Commiserations to Graham S, but he had a great tournament, and "a result his wife would not be disappointed with as usual" [his words!]

Thanks to all the players for their great sportsmanship, for helping out with the admin, volunteering to umpire, cheering the finalists, and leaving the venue nice and tidy! I hope everyone had a great solid day of table tennis, and am looking forward to seeing you all again next season.

Full results of the tournament can be found here:

https://www.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/draws.aspx?id =eb9b3c3b-0ee1-4647-817e-20279f351e28

Eyup and Graham met each other again after their first







DIVISION FOUR by Derek Harrison

ello everyone. We are now close to the run in so there could be some twists and turns to come yet to decide who goes up and indeed to who will finish bottom. So win or lose please enjoy your table tennis. I have missed playing but hope to make one appearance before the season comes to an end.

At this point I feel I should inform you that if two or more teams finish with the same sets won and lost,

their final position will be determined firstly on matches won and if they are equal then draws. If it is still equal then they will have to play off.

In a rearranged match Tilehurst Meths 'C' extended their lead at the top by beating Kingfisher 'J' 8 - 2. Andrew Stone hit a good maximum with Lewis Oke and Arek Ziolkowski both gaining doubles. At Sonning 'F' they lost their 100% record when going down 6-4. Lewis won two and Andy hit a single. I do not think that it helped that Rob had to play his 3 sets in a row. At O.L.O.P. 'G' they won 0 - 10 with 8 of the sets being in The hat-trick men were Andy, Steve Christelow and Lewis. At home to Sonning Sports 'C', doubles from Rob and Steve Wood and a single from Arek helped them to a 6 - 4 win.



Sonning 'E' had a very easy 1 - 9 win at O.L.O.P. 'G' with Ian Davenport and John Evans both hitting trebles. Derek Brooke-Wavell won two besides teaming up with lan to win the doubles. They then repeated that score by beating Springfield 'B'. This time Anthony Reeve and

Jim Warren both hit very easy hat-tricks. For Anthony they were all three straight, while David Riddle won two. At Kingfisher 'J' Anthony won all three straight with no player getting more than 7 points. John Evans won two and Derek gained a single. At home to Kingfisher 'I' they won 6 - 4 with Jim winning all three in straight sets. John hit a double and David managed a single.

> Sonning 'F' had a great 6 - 4 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C' with Graeme Streets hitting a first class hat trick by beating Rob James 5-



AREK ZIOLKOWSKI OF TILEHURST METHS 'C'

11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 11-4 then Andy Stone 11-4, 11-6, 11-7 and Lewis Oke 11-4, 10 -12, 11-7, 11-7. Gerry Bacon won two and Mike Casserley picked up an important single. Against Sonning Sports 'C' they recorded the first whitewash of the season, with Graeme, Gerry and Mike all hitting trebles. For Gerry they were all three straight, Gerry and Graeme also won the doubles.

	DIV 4	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Pts
1	Tilehurst Meths C	11	10	0	1	80	30	80
2	SC&P E	11	9	0	2	75	35	75
3	Tilehurst RBL C	11	8	2	1	73	37	73
4	SC&P F	11	6	2	3	67	43	67
5	Kingfisher I	12	3	1	8	56	64	56
6	Springfield B	12	4	2	6	55	65	55
7	Sonning Sports C	13	3	1	9	44	86	44
8	OLOP G	12	2	3	7	38	82	38
9	Kingfisher J	11	1	1	9	32	78	32

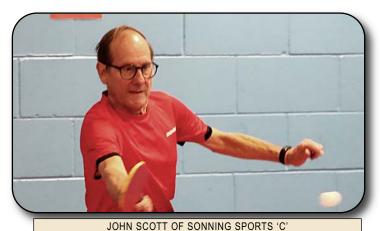
Tilehurst Royal British Legion 'C' were held to a draw by bottom side O.L.O.P 'G'. Paul Treadgold and





Geoff Johnson both won two while Linda King hit a single. Next came a 3-7 win at Springfield 'B'. Geoff won all three with ease. Paul and Jim Brent both hit doubles. At home to Kingfisher 'J' they won at a canter by beating them 9-1. Geoff and Paul both hit trebles. For Paul it was his first of the season. Linda played her part by winning two and teaming up with Geoff to win the doubles. That was the first time that Geoff had played in the doubles for over 3 seasons. At Kingfisher 'l' they struggled to win 4-6 with Linda and Jim both winning two each. Geoff won one besides teaming up with Linda to win the doubles.

Sonning Sports 'C' came back from 1-4 down and 3-5 down to gain a draw against Kingfisher 'J 'thanks mainly to Stephen Reader who won all three besides teaming up with Michael Byrne who won one to win the doubles.



What can I say about losing 0-10 to Sonning 'F'? Well both Michael and Linda had good games against Mike. Linda went to 4 games and Michael only lost in five while Mike Gautrey took a game off Graeme In a bottom of the table clash they lost 6-4 at O.L.O.P 'G' Mike, Stephen and John Scott all beating Susan. Despite a brilliant treble from Stephen they lost to leaders Tilehurst Meths 'C' 6-4. He beat Arek 3-11, 9-11, 8-11. Rob 8-11, 11-6, 9-11, 9-11, Steve 8-11, 11-13, 11-8, 12-10, 6-11. John won the other set.

Springfield 'B' lost 3-7 to T.R.B.L. 'C', Steve O'Connor did well to win two by beating Jim and Paul. At Sonning 'E' they crashed to a 9-1 defeat with Steve beating David 9-11, 12-10, 3-11, 6-11. At O.L.O.P. 'G' they shared the spoils with Rob winning two and Steve and Richard both obtaining singles. Rob and Steve had a nice doubles win over Pat and Fitzroy beating them 7-11, 8-11, 8-11.

Kingfisher 'I' played their first game of the New Year and only just lost 4-6 to T.R.B.L. 'C'. Walter Aldridge had a great night by gaining his first maximum of the season and Burak Yildirum did well to win one. At Sonning 'E' they had a close match only losing 6-4. Walter won two and Maksym Schipka won one besides the two of them winning the doubles.

O.L.O.P. 'G' did very well by drawing at TRBL. Fitzroy Licorish won two and Pat Daniels and Sue Daniels both gained singles. Sue had a nice win over Geoff Johnson

DUIA	LEADING	AV/EDACI	=
1111V 4		$\Delta V P R \Delta (s)$	

Player	Team	Р	W	%
Graeme Streets	SC&P F	18	17	94.44%
Jim Warren	SC&P E	15	14	93.33%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P E	27	25	92.59%
Lewis Oke	Tilehurst Meths C	21	18	85.71%
Ian Davenport	SC&P E	6	5	83.33%
Gerry Bacon	SC&P F	21	17	80.95%
Steve Christelow	Tilehurst Meths C	9	7	77.78%
Steven Wood	Tilehurst Meths C	12	9	75.00%
Geoff Johnson	Tilehurst RBL C	30	22	73.33%
Linda King	Tilehurst RBL C	24	17	70.83%
Michael Mitcham	Kingfisher I	17	12	70.59%
Mike Casserley	SC&P F	30	21	70.00%
Robert Atack	Springfield B	23	16	69.57%
Walter Aldridge	Kingfisher I	26	18	69.23%
Miguel Caballero	Kingfisher J	18	12	66.67%
Andrew Stone	Tilehurst Meths C	18	12	66.67%

beating him 11–6, 11–4, 9-11, 9-11, 12-14. Pat and Fitzroy also won the doubles. At home to Sonning 'E' Fitzroy was the only scorer in a 1 – 9 defeat by beating Derek. At home to Tilehurst Meths 'C' they crashed 0 – 10. Fitzroy did well to take Andy to 5 games. At home to Sonning Sports 'C' maximums from Pat and Fitzroy gave them a 6-4 victory . For Pat they were all three straight.

Kingfisher 'J' lost 2-8 at Tilehurst Meths 'C' 8-2 with Peter Bennett winning the two. At Sonning Sports 'C' Miguel Caballero and Chloe Kniep both won two each and Sue Parker obtained a single to help them to a draw. At TRBL 'C' they crashed to a 9-1 defeat with Rupesh Ahluwalia beating Linda. The surprise was that Peter did not win a set since losing all three in Dec 2019 against Tidmarsh 'C'. At home to Sonning 'E' Miguel won two and Chloe won one in a 3-7 defeat.



STEPHEN READER OF SONNING SPORTS 'C'

The leading P.O.M.s are:

Anthony Reeve 6 Geoff Johnson 6 Gerry Bacon
Grahame Streets

4

Finally enjoy the run in. Cheers,

Derek

