



Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

KINGFISHER NEWS

Issue 55 Winter 2010



Advanced Premier Club



Reading League and Cup Winners and Maidenhead League Winners 2008/9

Editor's Comments

When you read Rogers Ramblings this time you will find the startling news that Roger is stepping down as Membership Secretary after many years of hard work.

I am sure that I join all other Members in thanking him for all the good work that he has done. He will be very hard to replace but hopefully there is someone out there that will step up to try and fill his trainers.

The good news is that he will be continuing with his Ramblings which shows this sport of ours from a different perspective albeit slightly warped!

This issue makes no apology for the many articles on it's Juniors. These are the future of our sport and deserve all the support they can get.

**Chris Pusey,
Editor**

MIXED FORTUNES FOR KINGFISHER IN THE BRITISH LEAGUE

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

Since the previous Newsletter in October, Kingfisher have played six more British League matches and secured two wins and a draw but suffered three losses. The team lie fourth out of eight teams with 8 points having beaten the team currently in third position . Whilst this sounds like a good position, the team are only two points from the bottom placed team. Things are very tight with 2 points separating the bottom five clubs!

The final series of four matches takes place on 13/14 March against two teams above us and two teams below us in the table so there is everything to play for. The team are determined to keep out of those relegation places.

Any member interested in watching some high class table tennis can come along to the final sessions. Any information required can be obtained from Colin Dyke on 01189 783770.

Colin Dykes' full match report starts on Page 7



Allan Bruton Wins Coaching Award from ETTA

The ETTA have awarded Allan Bruton Children's Coach of the Year 2009. The award was presented by Peter Charters to Allan at an ETTA ceremony.

Allan has been a licenced coach since 1981 and has now been regularly coaching on a Monday for 4 years. This runs from 4pm to 7pm split into two sessions and currently averages 16 players including children aged from 9 to 16 together with a few adults. Four of the youngsters currently play in the Reading League in the 6th Division and are pushing for promotion. A photo of 4 of the players in the team is shown with the team report on Page 12.

Allan gives his time freely and is of great benefit to the Club introducing new members and just as importantly, new players to the game. Non members play as a guest paying a guest fee. Six of the

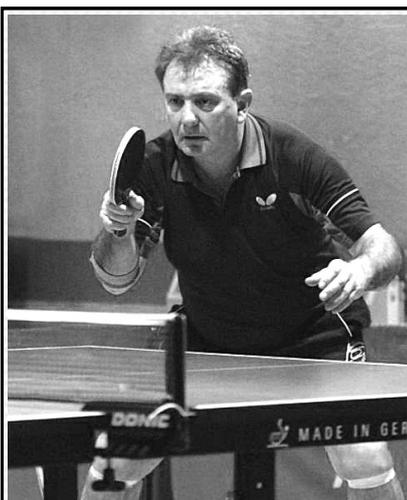
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juniors have even received junior umpire awards from the ETTA and probably know the rules of the game better than some senior players!

Well done Allan - keep up the good work.

Photo: George Dodd in one of Allan's coaching session at the club



Graham Outrim in action

Coaching

Some of the Juniors have now moved on to more advanced coaching sessions on Thursdays or Fridays run by Mandy Sainsbury and Graham Outrim respectively although many still attend Allans' sessions as well. Coaching with Mandy and Graham costs members £5 per session and is open to seniors as well if spaces are available.

Players interested in coaching on Thursday or Friday should contact the Coaching Officer, Jenny Andrews on 01189 891209.

BERKSHIRE YOUNGSTERS HIT NEW HEIGHTS by Roger Woolven-Allen

As the saying goes, "the old order changeth" - and this certainly applies to the world of table tennis. While the top senior players slowly but surely move towards the world of veteran table tennis and while the veteran players move into the world of simply "playing for fun", their places on the national stage are systematically taken by the up-and-coming brigade of youngsters. And nowhere does this apply more so than in our own county of Berkshire.

Wokingham's Richard Andrews, who plays for and at the Kingfisher Club in Woodley, has just returned from the Junior National Championships held in Sheffield. 17-year-old Andrews, who is ranked at Number Eight in the National Junior list, battled his way to the final of this event, but narrowly lost out to his sparring partner from London, Daniel Basterfield. However, to finish as runner-up in what is undeniably the most prestigious junior tournament in the country is an amazing achievement. In England's Under-15 cadet listings, brother and sister Jarred and Megan Knowles, who live in Tokers Green and also represent the Kingfisher Club, both appear in their respective national "top tens". 14-year-old Jarred, known to everyone as "JJ", has moved up to eighth spot in the boys' list and 13-year-old Megan appears in the girls' list at Number 10.

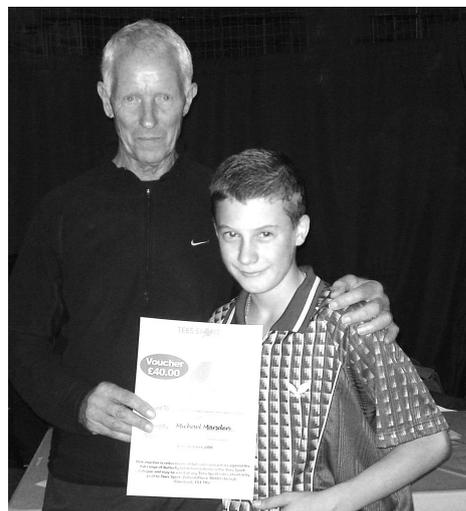


Photo: Jarred receiving his Winners prize for the 2009 4-Star Cadet event last October

It must be quite rare (if not unique) for a brother and sister to be ranked in England's top ten, in the same age group and at the same time - in any sport.

RICHARD ANDREWS : PROFILE by Roger Woolven-Allen

NATIONAL OPEN TOURNAMENTS in any sport generally attract the best players in the world, and table tennis is no exception. The world-class 38th Safirs International Open and the Swedish Junior Open Championships are scheduled to take place in Orebro this February and it is, therefore, a great accomplishment on the part of Richard Andrews that the young player from Wokingham should be called up to play for England in both these major events.

Andrews has just returned from Grantham where he competed in the East Midlands Junior 4-Star championships. The 17-year-old member of the Kingfisher TTC reached the semi-final stage where he narrowly lost out to Derbyshire's Liam Pitchford, England's Number 2 Junior. To put this into context, Pitchford is now ranked in the top ten juniors in Europe. But Andrews is not far behind him!



Andrews is currently busy studying for his A levels at Winnersh's Forest School but still manages to find time to put in between 12 and 15 hours' table tennis training every week. This heavy schedule includes attending High Performance Training sessions twice a week in London. These sessions, set up by Reading's Peter Charters in conjunction with the ETTA, are especially designed for England's top level junior players. Here Richard and his fellow nationally-ranked colleagues receive high level practice with Chinese sparring partners that are acknowledged as being among the best players in the world. Andrews also attends Youth Training Camps with the national squad at England's Institute of Sport Centre in Sheffield.

Ordinary players (if the word "ordinary" can be applied to those who take part in Divisions 1 and 2 of the Reading League) may sometimes see Richard taking part in training sessions at the Kingfisher Club in Woodley. The teenager is coached by top England senior stars Gareth Herbert and Terry Young and the standard of play at these sessions often makes us mere mortals gasp with amazement.

But, long before Andrews reached his present level, he had to start on the ladder to success. Peter Charters, along with Richard's own uncle, Jim Stokes, must take a great deal of credit for the youngster's subsequent achievements. To reach the summit of a mountain, a climber has first to tackle and conquer the lower and intermediate slopes. It is unlikely that Andrews and many others before him would have progressed as they have without the help of these two dedicated coaches.



Andrews is Berkshire's Number One at both Senior and Junior level and he is currently ranked at 25 in the national Senior list and at 8 in the Junior list. His recent successes include Runner-Up in the English Junior Nationals; he won gold when representing England in the Six Nations British Championships; he and his team won gold when representing England South West in the UK Schools' Games; he won silver when representing England at the Senior Schools' International Championships, and he finished in fourth position at the prestigious English Junior Masters.

Mother Nature will soon push Andrews out of the Junior listings but the writer is confident that, in due course, the youngster from Wokingham will regularly represent his country at the very top level of the sport.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

by Colin Dyke, Chairman

As you will read in this newsletter, whilst the season is in full swing and you are hopefully all enjoying your league matches, tournaments, coaching and practice, there are numerous initiatives taking place to improve our Club conditions and status. I am indebted to our committee members and volunteers for their hard work in achieving all of this. The first and foremost priority is to secure our new lease (see below) and then find out if we still qualify for the grant for our new roof.

My thanks go to Allen Pack and his team of workers for arranging and installing the new lighting, which I hope all members agree is a vast improvement on our previous lights, which in themselves were still probably the best around. Now it's even better! Allen has money left over from the grant for the lights and has continued to busy himself with various upgrading works to the electrics.

Our coaching personnel are trying to restructure our coaching set up and we recently welcomed Mandy Sainsbury in to our fold to give this a boost. They are in need of a lot of assistance and I'm sure our Coaching Officer, Jenny Andrews, would be delighted to hear from anybody who thinks they could give a hand on both the coaching and administrative side.

Next season we have to incorporate provisions for all members to have Individual Membership of the ETTA and this will be a challenging task for us to resolve. If you have any questions or ideas to make the Club a better place, I trust you won't hesitate to contact me either by email colindyke@waitrose.com or by phone 0118 9783770.

CLUB ROOF AND LEASE UPDATE

by Colin Dyke, Chairman

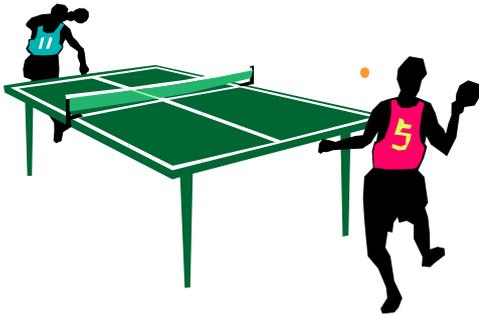
We are delighted to report that we now have the first draft lease from Wokingham Borough Council which we are currently discussing. Our response is due to be sent off shortly.

We are also pleased to advise that we have been given more time by the Foundation for Sports and the Arts to resolve the lease issue as this is key to continued discussions with them regarding the securing of the awarded grant of £29,427 towards replacing the Club roof. A good relationship has been built up with all parties and we hope that we will have some good news to pass on in the not too distant future. In the meantime Allen Pack is looking at further temporary measures to ensure the roof holds water out until all the outstanding matters have been resolved.

FOR SALE

The Club has a few new royal blue butterfly, v-neck training shirts in small and medium for sale at just £5 each. Please contact Jenny Andrews on 01189 891209 for any information, but they will be sold on a first come first served basis.

ROGER'S RAMBLINGS : Hello again everyone!!



WELCOME to another dose of the dreaded *Ramblings!* I sincerely hope that the season is going well for you and that you are enjoying your “ping”. Talking of “ping”, I think it was some time last year that this word entered the vocabulary of the table tennis world and I vaguely remember that it was first used by top players at the London Progress Table Tennis Club. I may be wrong. But, like “gossamer”, “ping pong” and Uncle Boris’s famous “whiff-whaff” before it, “ping” seems to have already disappeared from usage. Or do you personally still use this word?

When I was a youngster at school (I know, I know, I’ve got one helluva memory), I used to play at the Manchester YMCA. I remember a row of tables and, during practice sessions, players chose tables that suited their own ability, sat by them and waited their turns to play. The tables were graded and, while I usually played somewhere near the bottom, the “top table” was invariably occupied by some of the best players in the country. Does anyone remember names such as Jeff Ingber, Jack Clayton, Kevin Forshaw and Derek Schofield? Ingber was Lancashire’s Number One at the time (and I seem to remember that he was also joint Number One in England, along with some bloke called Derek Harrison [or was it Ian Harrison?]) and Schofield, who many of you now know as President of the VETTS, was the top player in the neighbouring county of Cheshire. I rose as far as Number 463 (please don’t quote me on the exact number) in the Cheshire Junior list; failed to get any higher and shoved off abroad for the best part of 20 years, not playing at all. But I digress...

In those days, the majority of us played “table tennis”. Except for those ranked in England, that is. By the law of some kind of inverse snobbery, these mighty Olympian gods did not play “table tennis”; they (together with absolute beginners) played “ping pong”. I believe it was viewed in much the same way as the art of judo where (so I am told) a beginner wears a white belt. So does a mighty Seventh Dan - the absolute master. It is some sort of full circle. Go on, you sporting buffs, contradict me!



AS I WRITE THIS, Reading is suffering from some terrible weather. The bird bath in my front garden has 14 inches of snow on top of it! I know this for a fact, because I sent wifey Lin out to measure it.

My ex-team captain Niall McGrane rang me up to tell me that he had gone out fishing during the “big freeze” and, because of the sub-zero temperatures, had been obliged to cut a hole in the ice in which to push his line and bait. Niall sat there, his rod in his hand, patiently waiting for a nibble. After a while, he suddenly heard a deep, booming voice. “There are no fish under the ice!” exclaimed the mysterious voice.

“Who is that?” Niall asked.

“There are no fish under the ice,” repeated the voice.

Now Niall, who had not been to Mass for a couple of weeks, was frightened to death. “Is that you, God?” he asked.

“No,” replied the deep, booming voice. “This is the manager of the ice rink.”



I WAS at the Club one day, chatting with El Supremo (*aka* MOG, *aka* Brian Halliday) and we were reminiscing about the Good Old Days. When Brian worked for the Prudential in London, he organised and entered many table tennis tournaments in our capital city. I personally remember entering one or two of them myself, held at a table tennis venue called St Bride’s which, if I remember correctly, was created from a Victorian swimming pool. The water had been drained out, I hasten to add. The wall at the end of one of the tables I played on was clearly marked “FOUR FEET DEEP”.

“I worked for the Pru for 40 years,” said Brian.

“Was that your first job?” I asked.

“No,” replied Kingfisher’s erstwhile Chairman, “I worked for a bank in New Malden for a few weeks before that.”

“Was banking not to your liking?” I queried.

“It wasn’t that,” said Brian, looking anxiously round. “Please don’t tell anyone, but I got sacked for leaving the windows open.”

I just thought you’d like to know, but please don’t pass it on...



OUR NEW CHAIRMAN, Colin Dyke, sent me an e-mail detailing some wonderfully innocent remarks made by young children. He particularly liked one short letter, sent by a little girl to the Almighty and, I have to admit, it made me chuckle, too...

“Dear God,” it read, “Thank you for my baby brother but what I prayed for was a puppy. Joyce.”



I HAD THIS little story from Peter Bennett and both he and I thought it would be nice to share it with you.

One evening, Peter and wifey Gillian went out for a nice meal at a rather posh restaurant in Wokingham. Seated at an adjacent table were two people who, Peter tells me, looked as though they were in their 60s. They got chatting, as people do, and it turned out that their fellow diners, Mr and Mrs Smith, were celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Suddenly (and this is absolutely true) a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on the Smiths’ table.

“For being such an exemplary married couple and for being loving to each other for all this time,” said Tinkerbell, “I shall grant you each a wish.”

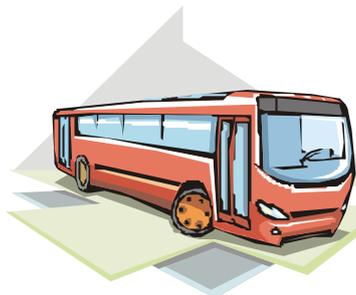
Peter and Gillian looked on in amazement as Mrs Smith answered, “Oh, I want to travel round the world with my darling husband.” Tinkerbell waved her magic wand and - poof! - two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands.

Mr Smith thought for a moment and then said, “Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I’m sorry, my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than I am.”

Both Mrs Smith and Tinkerbell were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish. So the fairy waved her magic wand and - poof! - Mr Smith was suddenly 93 years old.

The moral of the story, of course, is that men who are ungrateful wretches should remember that fairies are female...

It’s all true, honest...



YOU MAY NOT have believed the last story in its entirety but the following one is absolutely 100% genuine. I hope any war veterans or their families will not be offended by it, but it is as true as eggs is eggs and, despite the solemnity of the occasion, it tickled my dubious sense of humour.

Last Remembrance Day, wifey Lin and I were on a bus in Torquay and, fractionally before 1100 hours, the driver stopped by the side of the road and asked everyone to join with him in two minutes’ silence to honour those killed or injured in defence of their country.

The bus’s engine was switched off and we all sat quietly. At exactly 1101, an ancient gentleman sitting in front of me, complete with deaf aids in his ears, said to his fellow passengers in general, “This b****y bus broke down last Friday, as well.”



MY GOOD PAL Ramesh told me, in all seriousness, that he was anorexic.

“How on earth do you make that out?” I asked.

Replied my Indian friend, “Anorexics stare into the mirror and think they look overweight.”

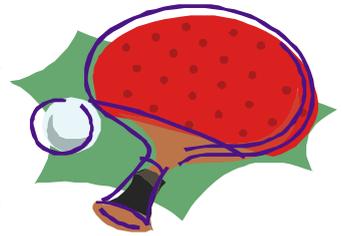
“So?” I persisted.
 “So do I,” said Ramesh.



AT A RECENT match at OLOP, John Morris was playing Raphael Jack. At one point, John was standing about 15 feet behind the end of the table and the ball was at net height. John hit the ball with the most amazing flick drive I have ever seen. In a blur of motion, the ball skimmed the top of the net, hit Raf’s side of the table, and disappeared into the corner of the room.

It was a shot that Martin Adams would only dream about. Opponents and teammates alike leaped to their feet and gave vent to thunderous applause. John looked a little embarrassed by the adulation, but it really was the shot-of-the-century.

As an irrelevant aside, Raphael won the game.



AS A POLITE reminder - and I am speaking with my Membership Secretary’s hat on - I’d be very grateful if, when members return keys (for whatever reason), they would be kind enough to check the dimensions and make sure that sufficient postage has been applied.

Because a recent envelope, received by me, had a thickness greater than the base rate of 5mm, a “Large” stamp should have been applied (but had not been) and a surcharge of £1.08 was consequently payable.

If you are unsure of the postal regulations, all the information you need is on the Royal Mail’s website and, of course, your local post office should also have a reasonable idea of the postal rates!

Thanks in anticipation.



AND NOW I have a great request to make. For personal reasons, I regret to have to announce that, come the next AGM, I shall not be standing for re-election as Membership Secretary. I have genuinely lost count of the number of years that I have held this post, but I think it is somewhere between 10 and 15. It is time for someone else to have a go.

When Christine Basden announced that she was going to vacate the post of *Newsletter* Editor, the more pessimistic amongst us thought that that would herald the end of this wonderful publication. But there was Chris Pusey, waiting in the wings, and the magazine has gone from strength to strength. Christine did a wonderful job and Chris is doing a similarly wonderful job.

But the Club could have survived without a newsletter. It cannot survive without a Membership Secretary or, at least, without someone who is prepared to tackle the Membership Secretary’s duties. Do you fancy having a go? Every June and July there is a lot of very rewarding work to do but, as we draw close to each new season, this workload diminishes until, in the middle of the winter, it falls virtually to zero.

I hasten to add that the *Ramblings* and the work I do in writing my Grand Prix rubbish for the *Evening Post* have nothing to do with being Membership Secretary. Any prospective candidate will NOT be lumbered with those two tasks!

If anyone is prepared to volunteer for this post, please contact me or, of course, any Committee Member. If we get dozens of applications, the usual short-listing process will apply (cough). We look forward to hearing



FINALLY, as always, on behalf of the general membership, I should like to welcome the following members who have joined our ranks since the last *Newsletter* was published: ADAM GLAZIER (my apologies to Adam; his name should have appeared in the previous issue), ALEX SQUIRE, COLLETTE WHEELER (re-join), GRANT WHEATLEY, HELEN SPARKS, MAHMOOD BEHROOZI, ALAN MONKS, CHRISTOPHER WARBY and MANDY SAINSBURY (re-join, but now as a Special Member).

It’s really great to have you with us, one and all!

Roger

BRITISH LEAGUE by Colin Dyke, Team Manager

DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS

A DAY-THREE DUCK FOR KINGFISHER

Kingfisher were without Tom Maynard for the second British league weekend at Cippenham TT Centre. Tom was called up by his Belgian club whose fixtures unfortunately clashed on this occasion. We however welcomed another newcomer to our team, Aled Howell from Llanelli in South Wales for the weekend's matches and he turned out to be the star of the weekend. But no matter how well he performed on the Saturday he couldn't prevent the team going down in both matches to the two teams at the foot of the table. Tom's absence meant that our players had to play up one position giving them tougher matches.

DAY 3 – 10th October – Not a good start

OLOP Impact I 6 Kingfisher 2

We almost got off to a sensational start when captain Mark Banks took the first against Dave Barr (England ranked 57). Dave took the second but when Mark led 9-7 in the third it looked as though an upset might ensue. Unfortunately a thin edge and an unreturnable net levelled the scores and Dave took the next two points. Whilst Mark hung on bravely in the fourth Dave took it at 11-9 and we were 1-0 down. Lloyd then lost some close games with Neil Wright and Aled lost his only set of the weekend going down to his weekly practise partner, Stephen Gertson, in three straight games. Three more losses and at 6-0 down there was only pride to play for. And what a magnificent match we witnessed. Andy Smith (ranked 445) against Neil Wright (ranked 86). Neil won the first two games easily and went 10-6 up in the third. Andy hung on by his

finger nails and pulled it back. In fact he played better and better until he clichéd the match at 11-6 in the fifth. A career best win which got him man of the match award. Aled then showed his class by beating Hari Gehlot in four games to make the match score a little more respectable.

Match details:

Mark Banks lost to Dave Barr 5 -5 -9 -9
 Lloyd Gregory lost to Neil Wright -6 -10 4 -9
 Aled Howell lost to Stephen Gertson -7 -7 -9
 Andrew Smith lost to Hari Gehlot -2 -3 -6
 Lloyd Gregory lost to Dave Barr -5 6 -2 -6
 Mark Banks lost to Stephen Gertson -10 -7 -2
 Andrew Smith beat Neil Wright -8 -4 12 9 6
 Aled Howell beat Hari Gehlot -9 9 7 8

Man of the match Andrew Smith

Kingfisher 3 Brighton City 5

This was a match we felt we could win but, to be fair, their league position belied their strength. Mark had a titanic struggle with Alex Ioannou just losing out 7 in the fifth after being 2-1 up and 6-2 up in the fifth. He missed an easy smash and then could gather only one more point as Alex turned up the pressure. Aled picked up two nice wins whilst Andrew also beat their No 4 but it was not quite enough to sneak a point.

Match details:

Lloyd Gregory lost to Cedric Scrivani -3 -8 -11
 Mark Banks lost to Alex Ioannou -4 6 7 -6 -7
 Andrew Smith beat Tim Holtam -7 5 -11 7 7
 Aled Howell beat Marc Burman 11 3 -8 8
 Lloyd Gregory lost to Alex Ioannou -7 -6 -14
 Andrew Smith lost to Cedric Scrivani -8 -7 -8
 Mark Banks lost to Marc Burman -8 -8 12 -6
 Aled Howell beat Tim Holtam 7 3 5

Man of the match Cedric Scrivani

BIG COMEBACK ON DAY 4

After yesterday's disappointing results, we now had to face 2nd placed Mossford and close rivals Guernsey. It seems that league positions mean very little in this tight division and with a much stronger team performance we picked up three out of the four points on offer. TTK Greenhouse seem to be in a class of their own but any of the remaining teams can beat each other.

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BRITISH LEAGUE (continued from page 8)

DAY 4 – 11th October – Much better

Mossford I 3 Kingfisher 5

Mark had to start against the No 1 and succumbed in three. Then Lloyd, playing nearer his best today won a terrific match against Matt Spiro at 10 in the fifth. Aled wins easy, Andy loses easy, 2-2. Then Lloyd is up against Didier Ngoma, their No 1, who looked class against Mark. With Aled's coaching skills to the fore, Lloyd pulled off a great 3-0 win which earned him man of the match. Mark then followed with a vital win over Keith Lesser to put us 4-2 up. Matt Spiro was too strong for Andy and it was left to Aled to secure the two points with a hard earned win over Raphael Marom.

Sportingbet Guernsey 4 Kingfisher 4

This was the first of the return matches and there were some terrific battles. A draw was probably a fair result at the end of the day. Guernsey had Gary Dodds at No 1 who had beaten both Tom and Lloyd in the first half. Mark tried valiantly to stop him but to no avail. Lloyd then had a battle royal with Olly Langlois, coming back from 2-0 down to win at 6 in the fifth. Aled made short work of Phil Ogier and then Andy excelled himself once again with a good win over Adam Langlois. Match score 3-1! Then Lloyd against Gary. What a match. Every game was so close until in the fifth Lloyd, having been 10-8 up, saw about four match points slip from his grasp (including a thin edge) before losing by the amazing score-line of 19-17. Mark lost easily to Ogier

Match details:

Mark Banks lost to Didier Ngoma -5 -9 -6
Lloyd Gregory beat Matt Spiro 7 5 -8 -5 10
Aled Howell beat Keith Lesser 8 5 4
Andrew Smith lost to Raphael Marom -5 -3 -7
Lloyd Gregory beat Didier Ngoma 9 5 7
Mark Banks beat Keith Lesser 7 -7 9 9
Andrew Smith lost to Matt Spiro -5 -6 -6
Aled Howell beat Raphael Marom 9 -10 3 12

Man of the match Lloyd Gregory

and then Andy played another spirited match against Olly Langlois before losing 8 in the fifth. We were 4-3 down. Aled however smoothly picked up his 7th straight win by beating Adam and our third point of the day was secured.

Match details:

Lloyd Gregory lost to Cedric Scrivani -3 -8 -11
Mark Banks lost to Alex Ioannou -4 6 7 -6 -7
Andrew Smith beat Tim Holtam -7 5 -11 7 7
Aled Howell beat Marc Burman 11 3 -8 8
Lloyd Gregory lost to Alex Ioannou -7 -6 -14
Andrew Smith lost to Cedric Scrivani -8 -7 -8
Mark Banks lost to Marc Burman -8 -8 12 -6
Aled Howell beat Tim Holtam 7 3 5

Man of the match Cedric Scrivani

DAY 5 STARTS BADLY BUT ENDS WELL

Our team welcomed Alan Monks at No 4 for the first time in the one day section of the League and he proved to be an excellent acquisition. He is Head Coach for TTK Greenhouse on the Welsh Tonypany Programme but hasn't played very much competitively in years. If we can retain him I'm sure he will give us a big boost in the future. However he did suffer one surprise defeat - by a Kingfisher player playing for our opposition – more later.

Our team went through the full spectrum during the day – looking jaded at first and then picking themselves up when staring defeat in the face and all playing brilliantly.

(continued on page 10)

BRITISH LEAGUE (continued from page 9)

DAY 5 – 17th January

TTK Greenhouse 5 Kingfisher 3

Our opponents, led by Gareth Herbert, couldn't have been tougher as they were top of the League with a 100% record. However they were a man short giving us a 2-0 start and whilst they were still favourites, we felt we had a slight chance of a point. But we didn't play as we know we can and the advantage was soon lost. Alan Monks won our only set when fighting back from a poor start to defeat Fatlum Sadiku in four.

Match details:

Lloyd Gregory lost to Jide Owulabi -9 -4 -5
 Andrew Smith lost to Gareth Herbert -4 -11 -7
 Aled Howell walkover
 Alan Monks beat Fatlum Sadiku -3 6 7 7
 Lloyd Gregory lost to Gareth Herbert -4 -6 -3
 Aled Howell lost to Jide Owulabi -6 -8 6 -8
 Andrew Smith lost to Fatlum Sadiku -5 -6 -9
 Alan Monks walkover

Man of the match Jide Owulabi
 Greenhouse later in the day lost their unbeaten record losing to OLOP 2-6.

Cippenham II 3 Kingfisher 5

This match started where the other left off with Andrew and Lloyd looking totally out of sorts against opponents they would normally compete well against. Lloyd's loss was particularly one sided against an opponent, Owen Clutterbuck, he had beaten in the first half match. Then Alan came up against an inspired Steve Munson, who plays for our "A" team in the Reading League, and a cracking match ensued with Steve running out a 3-1 winner. It's games that count but as a matter of interest Alan was 39-35 ahead on points overall yet still lost! Match score 3-0 down and we were struggling.

Step forward Aled. A comfortable 3-0 win over Mark Jackson seemed to inspire the team. Or perhaps it was Mike Maynard's pep talk with Lloyd, who was a different player against Martin Gray, winning 3-1 and we were back in with

a shout. Who would have then put money on Andrew beating the inform Steve Munson, particularly after losing the first so easily. But Andrew's best attribute is his fighting qualities and he clawed his way to a five set win to put the team level. Surely this couldn't continue, but continue it did. Man of the match Aled cruised to a three straight win over Clutterbuck and Alan finished it off with a comfortable 3-0 over Jackson. What a great team win.

Match details:

Andrew Smith lost to Martin Gray -8 -6 -8
 Lloyd Gregory lost to Owen Clutterbuck -8 -3 -5
 Alan Monks lost to Steve Munson -8 -9 0 -11
 Aled Howell beat Mark Jackson 2 12 4
 Lloyd Gregory beat Martin Gray 9 10 -7 8
 Andrew Smith beat Steve Munson -3 8 9 -8 8

Current League Table 2009-10

<u>Div 1 S & M</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Pts</u>
TTK Greenhouse	10	9	0	1	57	23	18
OLOP IMPACTI	10	7	0	3	50	30	14
Mossford I	10	5	2	3	44	36	12
Kingfisher	10	3	2	5	35	45	8
Brighton City I	10	3	2	5	34	46	8
Guernsey	10	2	3	5	35	45	7
Cippenham II	10	3	1	6	33	47	7
Fusion II	10	2	2	6	32	48	6



MID SEASON TEAM REPORTS



Bracknell and Wokingham League (contact Peter Goatly on 0118 9782632)

Kingfisher "A" - Premier Division



Allan Bruton
(Capt.)

The team has an additional member in Phil Mead who is taking some of the pressure of John Willcocks's injury situation. A very middling season so far so with Phil on side I will hope to finish the season with a bit more of a flourish.

J. Willcocks; R. Woolven-Allen; J. Morris; G. Civil; M Harris

Kingfisher "B" - Premier Division



Peter Goatly
(Capt.)

Postponed matches have resulted in our team, which consists of Trevor Organ, Peter Bennett, Colin Dyke, Sharon Mitchell and me, being in an unnaturally low position. Hopefully things will improve as we get towards the end of the season.

T. Organ; P. Bennett; C. Dyke; S. Mitchell

Kingfisher "C" - Premier Division If you count our match



Chris Pusey
(Capt.)

last week against Wokingham "B" as our game in hand we are currently lying 3rd from bottom jointly with Kingfisher "B" with identical games for and against. A bit tight then! Having just lost to the "B" team 7-3 (thanks to Richard) we are going to have our work cut out.

D. Duncan; J. Creighton; R Fifield; M. Dorrington

Kingfisher "D" - First Division

No report. Currently lying (surprisingly) 3rd from bottom but with a game in hand. A reasonable result there would see them move up a couple of places. Come on guys, stop messing about! Editor

S. Bruton (Capt.); J. Huggins; A. Pack; K.Robb; N. Lynch

Kingfisher "E" - Second Division

No report. There's only 6 teams in this division but the top 3 teams are all on 55 points including this team. Another tight division. Editor

D. Crombie (Capt.);
G. Bennett;
D. Taylor; P. Cunningham;
D. Spicer.

Maidenhead League (contact C. Dyke on 0118 9783770)

Kingfisher "A" - Premier Division

The team seems to be strolling comfortably to another Maidenhead League title. 8 wins out of 9 games, with one loss against Old Gords Vultures, a strong team with Mark Banks, Trevor Griffiths and Gary Crick. Against our team of Nick Heaps, Alan Cummings and Eric Van Looy, they comfortably won 7-3. All other games have gone our way with at least a 4-point margin, and if we continue to play as we have been in 2009, the title trophy could soon be Kingfisher's. We are 20 points clear of the current runners-up, with two games in hand. Our top players are Hari and Liam with a 100% record and Ramesh with only 1 loss, with good support from Nick, Alan and Eric.

E. Van Looy (capt.); R. Gehlot; A. Cummings; H. Gehlot; N Heaps; L. McTiernan;

Reading League (contact Sylvia Bruton 0118 901 9119)

Kingfisher "A" - First Division

No report. With 3 players in the top 5 averages it's not surprising that they're top but OLOP A and Polish A are not letting them get it all their own way. Editor

H. Gehlot (Capt); B. Hegedus; R. Gehlot; M. Banks; S. Munson

Kingfisher "B" - First Division

No report. Lying mid-table looking safe. Editor

A. Cummings (Capt.); S. Williams; J. J. Knowles; D. Bishop; T. Griffiths

Kingfisher "C" Second Division G. Civil (Capt.); C. Putterford; E. Van Looy; C. Dyke; R. Woolven-Allen

So far, so good, job half done. We're currently leading the division by 3 clear points and with two games in hand over second placed Tidmarsh B (who we play next). We're 4 points ahead of third placed Wokingham B, but with only one game in hand over them. Like many teams, our fixtures have been hit by the snow, and we have three matches to re-arrange. I've heard people say we will cruise to the title, but I don't see it like that, and I don't think we can be complacent. There are some very good players in Division 2, and any slight wobble on our part could be very damaging. Our mainstay has been Cliff who is as yet unbeaten after 9 outings. Roger has been very unlucky with match scheduling, with several of the few he was able to make being postponed. It means that, like myself, he's only had 3 games so far (I shouldn't go on holiday so often!). Cliff has been well supported by Eric, and Colin, who fortunately has overcome early fitness scares and is playing well.

Reading League (contact Sylvia Bruton 0118 901 9119)

Kingfisher “D” - Second Division

No report. After an average start they have gone from strength to strength with some good wins dropping only 5 games out of 40 in the last 4 matches played. They have 3 postponements against good opposition so moving up from their 7th spot is going to be tough but quite possible. Theoretically at least, they could even get 2nd spot!

No pressure! Editor

I. Hardman (Capt.); T. Organ; D. Gostelow; J. Morris

Kingfisher “E” - Second Division



N. McGraine
(Capt.);

No report. Joint 3rd from bottom with 2 other teams including Kingfisher D but well clear of the bottom 2 teams. Niall has an 83% average so has reason to smile.

Editor

C. Chard; S. Mitchell; L. Bosley; G Outrim

Kingfisher “F” - Second Division



We continue to have an iffy season with Peter Bennett the only real threat to our opponents, however I am off for a month at the beginning of February and when I did this last time they got to a runners up spot without me by the time I got back, so here's hoping the team can do it again.

A. Bruton (Capt.); P. Goatly; P. Bennett; P. Mead

Kingfisher “G” - Third Division

No report. This team seems to be getting stronger, particularly Megan who has averaged 9/12 in the last 4 matches.

Currently lying 4th but watch out - if this form continues they could just make 2nd spot.

Editor

S Knowles Capt.); R. Fifield; E. Holmes; M. Dorrington; M Knowles

Kingfisher “H” - Third Division



It's rather tight at the bottom of Division 3! Apart from OLOP (Uni) that have yet to score a point, our recent draw with Sonning Common means that we have moved “up” to 5th from bottom jointly with Pangbourne who have a game in hand.

Chris Pusey (Capt.) There are 3 teams within 2 points below us who also have a game in hand. Staying up is going to be tough but the saying is “when the going gets tough the tough gets going”.

Lets hope we live up to the saying!

D. Duncan; A. Pack; J. Creighton

Kingfisher “I” - Fourth Division

No report. Struggling joint second from bottom. Steve Woolnough is doing well so if the others can shake off the Christmas Pudding they might just move up the table. There are only 2 points in it with the 2 clubs above them.

Editor

S. Bruton (Capt.); K. Robb; S. Woolnough; D. Taylor; K. Marwaha

Kingfisher “J” - Fifth Division

No report. Currently joint 7th with 3 other teams or joint 3rd from bottom with 3 other teams. Take your pick! Derek Crombie has found some recent form and if Andrew Talaga can find his pre Christmas form they should be OK. Editor

D. Crombie (Capt.); D. Spicer; A. Talaga; P. Cunnington

Kingfisher “K” - Sixth Division

No report. Currently mid-table which would be my bet for their finishing place.

Editor

D. Garcon (Capt.); S Mitchell; G. Bennett; N. Randall; J. Sabater

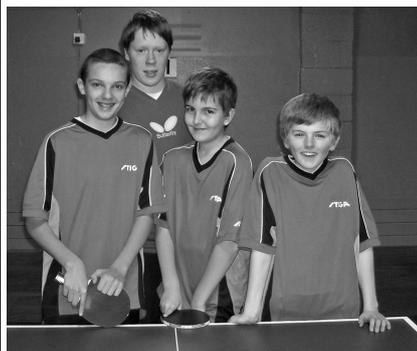
Kingfisher "L" - Sixth Division

D. Reynolds (Non Playing Capt.); C. Manley; L. Long; M. Houghton; J. Cummings; G. Dodd

Welcome to the first report of Kingfisher L, Division 6, up to the first half of the season. The team have won 7, drawn 2 and lost 2 which has put them joint 2nd with 16 points although Pangbourne WMC 'B' have a game in hand. Four of the five lads, George Dodd, Michael Houghton, Connor Manley and Leo Long are all in the current averages rankings, unfortunately James Cummings has yet to win but has only played twice due to other commitments. If the team continue to play as they have been, they still have a good outside chance of promotion.

The other positive thing, I would like to mention, is the good comments we have had from the other teams in the division, referring to the lads good sportsmanship on and off the table.

I would like to say a big thank you to Allan Bruton, for all his help and coaching, he has helped the boys come up to the level they are.



Finally I would like to thank the parents and grandparents who bring the boys each week for their help and support.

Well done everyone !

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NATIONAL VETERAN'S LEAGUE by Colin Dyke

Squad: Alan Cummings, Colin Dyke, Ivor Hardman and Eric Holmes

The first half of the Bribar Veterans National League took place in Blackpool over the weekend of 7th and 8th November 2009. Alan Cummings, Ivor Hardman and Eric Holmes made the long journey to represent the Club in this high level competition. And they certainly found it tough going losing every match 6-0 bar one. The one success came in the match v OLOP Merrow where a great win by Ivor Hardman over John Millward saved the whitewash.

Our team set off again for the second half at Swindon on 30/31 January determined to improve on their first half results. Anyone fancying their chances in this tough competition next season should contact me to find out more (01189 783770)

Results

Lost to Redlands Bats 2 (Steven Walker, Steve Fox, David Gascoyne) 0-6. This was closer than the score indicates with five of the matches going to five and Alan losing to Walker in the fifth.

Lost to Lillington (Ron Vose, Earl Sweeney, Phil Paine) 0-6. Only Alan took a game in this match taking Sweeney to 4.

Lost to OLOP Merrow (Andy Meads, Bippin Majithia, John Millward) 1-5. Ivor's 4 game success over Millward the only highlight here.

Lost to Colebridge (Graham Hoskin, Roy Prosser, Jeff Craighill) 0-6. A better display here with Alan and Eric taking games off Prosser and Ivor taking Hoskin to five after being 2-0 up.

Lost to Scunthorpe (Clive Mitchell, Andy Kelly, Darren Rush) 0-6. Another hard fought match with both Alan and Ivor being squeezed out in five by Mitchell.



The Kingfisher Table Tennis Club

The Kingfisher Club was inaugurated on 19th March 1987.

The Club is an accredited ADVANCED PREMIER CLUB bringing great benefits to the Club and its members. We also have SPORT ENGLAND CLUBMARK status. More information can be obtained from Sylvia Bruton on 0118 901 9119.

The Club aims to cater for all standards of play but actively encourages and trains younger players and has good links with Bulmershe School where the clubhouse is situated. Any information regarding coaching at the Club can be obtained from Jenny Andrews on 0118 989 1209.

The playing Membership of the club currently stands at over 120.

Teams are entered for all local leagues (Reading, Bracknell and Maidenhead Leagues) as well as National Junior and Senior Leagues. League play starts in September and ends late April.

During off season (late April to early September) various events are organised. These include:

- the Grand Prix held on every Monday night from May to early August over 12 weeks the results of each being published in the local press (30p to enter - prizes for the top 3 performers). Starts 7.30pm.
- the Club Knockout Tournament held in early May
- a pre-season group tournament limited to the first 16 players who enter
- Club night every Thursday evening from 7.30 - just add you name to the board and play whoever comes next

Articles, ideas, views, etc. can be published in this Newsletter by contacting Chris Pusey on 0118 966 4947. Any amusing information or stories in connection with the Club would be appreciated by Roger Woolven-Allen on 0118 947 8833.

Any membership queries should be directed to Roger Woolven-Allen on 0118 947 8833.

Any other queries should be addressed to the Hon. General Secretary, Les Andrews on 0118 989 1209

The Club AGM is held in May each year.

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the Web**

www.kingfisherttc.co.uk

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