

April 2013

READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

Martin Adams v Hari Gehlot. All photos are by Didier Garçon

CONTENTS

Please click on a heading or white ball to go where you require

Divisional report
page numbers:

1: [P10](#) 2: [P14](#)

3: [P17](#) 4: [P19](#)

5: [P22](#) 6: [P25](#)

Y: [P27](#)

[P4. Job Ads](#)

[P4. Law Test Station](#)

[P2. Reading Masters \(v\)](#)

[P5-6 Junior Reading Closed \(v\)](#)

[P8-9 Team Handicap results \(v\)](#)

[P29 National Cadet League success](#)

[P30 Liam Wins England U19 Title](#)

[P7 Sonning C&P Championship](#)

Click ALT + left arrow to return

END OF SEASON

Here is story-telling at its best as our DFSs roll out all the promotion and relegation battles. Sorry this issue is late - I had to do my best with a headache in place of a right eye.

Photos on almost every page, though - **64 is a record**, and most show our own TT in action. Not just the usual stars but league players and - this month - juniors. **Our Reading juniors have been a fantastic success**, in many divisions as well as tournaments.



Congratulations to Liam for achieving the impossible yet again. The pix are from photographer extraordinaire **Didier Garçon** - and he has supplied us with **videos** too - click on the miniatures. There are picture specials on 4 tournaments - some with videos.

Another new development - we have **adverts for key jobs**.

And we provide a free test station for you to **check whether you have the Laws right..** Which ones apply to you? It is rather vital to know, actually! Incidentally, congratulations to our President **John Freeman**, who advised on this section, for his recent Special Award from the ETTA!

Stay cool - Derek

THE READING MASTERS

by Nigel Maltby

The end of the Senior League season was completed by the Reading Masters tournament on Sunday 14th April with ten of the top Reading League players invited to compete. **Martin Adams** finished top of his group, and survived an epic semi final against **Hari Gehlot** before going on to take his **third Masters title by beating Daniel Moses** 9-11 12-10 11-6 11-6 in the final.

Adams cruised to victory in his group with wins over Tony Reynolds,



MARTIN ADAMS WITH HARI GEHLOT

Andrew Parker and Richard Rosinski. Reynolds claimed second spot with Parker beating Rosinski for third place. In the other group Daniel Moses was the clear victor, winning all four of his contests including a 5-11 11-5 11-4 11-9 win against Hari Gehlot. Gehlot recovered to claim second place, but only after surviving a huge scare against Neil Hurford before eventually beating his stylish



IAN COLE

opponent 11-7 11-6 8-11 6-11 11-7. Hurford had earlier managed good wins over both Ian Cole and Danny Ricks, while Cole won a good contest against Ricks 11-7 5-11 11-8 9-11 11-6 to avoid last place.

In the semi finals Tony Reynolds was in fine form as he took a shock 2-1 lead over Daniel Moses, however



TONY REYNOLDS - WITH NIGEL MALTBY UMPIRING

Daniel recovered to win 11-7 9-11 8-11 11-3 11-6. The other semi could have gone either way. Adams looked to have it won in their fifth game decider but Gehlot clawed back to level at 10-all after his shot clipped the edge of the table. In an exciting, tense finale Adams won through by the narrowest of margins 3-11 11-6 5-11 11-7 14-12.



TONY REYNOLDS v DANIEL MOSES

Gehlot took third place after winning his play-off with Reynolds 11-8 4-11 11-5 11-9, despite one stunning back drive on the run by Reynolds that was possibly shot of the day.

The final was a breathtaking exhibition between Moses and Adams with both players counter attacking each other in some stunning rallies. Adams looked particularly focused throughout which seemed to just knock the edge out of Moses' game. After a close first two games it was Adams who pulled clear in the next two to deny Moses a third successive title as he eventually won 9-11 12-10 11-6 11-6.



DANIEL MOSES CONGRATULATES MARTIN ADAMS

Videos:



RDTTA Committee Opportunities

The current Reading Association Chairman, Secretary and Minute Secretary is not looking for re-election at the AGM on Wednesday 5th June.

There is therefore an opportunity for anyone interested in any of these posts to put their name forward at the AGM. These are key posts in the running of the Association. Details of each job include:

1. RDTTA Chairman

- Chairing Committee Meetings
- Chairing AGM
- Awards Night organiser/host

Preferred Qualities: Authority, tact, businesslike approach and knowledge of local table tennis.

2. RDTTA Secretary

- Book venues for annual tournaments.
- Send letters to Club Secretaries re League entries, hand-book collection etc.
- Deal with general RDTTA correspondence / e-mails.
- Deal with ETTA correspondence including form returns.
- Prepare & issue AGM Notices

- Prepare Calendar for next season
- Provide Newsletter Items e.g. closing dates for entries.
- Arrange venue booking for Awards Night Presentation evening & publicise event to Club Secretaries etc.
- Prepare a ranking list of players based on the final season averages and allocate player handicaps for the next season.

Preferred Qualities: This job is a test of vision. The secretary is the person who makes the management team run efficiently and in harmony. A good working knowledge of table tennis as it is played in Reading is preferred.

3. Minute Secretary

- Take minutes at Committee meetings/AGM etc, type up and issue.

Preferred Qualities: A good working knowledge of Word and e-mail, ability to take efficient notes and availability to attend Committee meetings.

Further details on any of these posts can be obtained from Nigel Maltby (N.Maltby587@btinternet.com or Tel 0118 9463191). Nigel will also provide any assistance or training required.

LAW CHECK STATION

by Derek Wavell in consultation with John Freeman - a national authority on the Laws of table tennis.

These days a lot of us have fallen behind with our knowledge of the Laws. What are the realities?

Permitted rubbers: NO player, whether in the Reading league or beyond, is allowed to use a bat covering that is not on the current list of those authorised.

Changing your bat during a set* is never allowed unless the bat has broken in a genuine accident. One can, however, change to a new bat against a new opponent.

Both of these laws were added in recent years to the Laws of table tennis approved by ETTA, the 'Approved Laws'.

Every player in England playing competitive table tennis, who by his affiliation accepts ETTA jurisdiction, is bound by all the ETTA-approved Laws of table tennis. It is simply not true that local leagues can choose not to apply certain Laws. Nor can any Reading umpire or official, or the Management Committee itself, or the players by agreement **alter** the way the Laws are implemented.

I think confusion has arisen because there is a separate

list of '**regulations**' for Open tournaments and the British League etc that is more stringent than the Laws. The two Laws I mentioned above moved relatively recently into the 'Approved Laws' from the regulations.

The Reading Closed and Berkshire Closed tournaments are not 'open', so they are bound only by the Laws - as well as a few administrative conditions on their entry forms.

'Time outs' are sanctioned by the Open tournament regulations but not by the Laws - so they are not permitted in the Reading league.

Double hits are now permitted under the Laws as long as they are accidental - but not deliberate double hits. (I suppose that if the ball glances off a player's knuckle immediately before hitting the bat, that will be presumed to be accidental. Conversely, if a player flipped up the ball on his bat then made a separate stroke to smash it, that would be obviously deliberate, and therefore illegal.)

Both the Laws and the list of authorised rubbers can be seen by all on the ETTA web site - and anybody who is in doubt should look there

* as defined in our Handbook

The currently permitted list of rubbers (until June) can be found on

http://www.ittf.com/stories/pictures/LARC_33B.pdf.

It is the responsibility of every player (not just the umpires) to make sure he is using a legal bat covering. If your rubber doesn't carry the ITTF logo, it is likely to be illegal; and will be so if doesn't appear on the current list.

As for the Laws, they can be found on

<http://etta.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/Laws-ETTA-2012-13.pdf>.

JUNIOR READING CLOSED

by Nigel Maltby

The Junior events took place over the weekend of the 24/25 February. Late entrant **Daniel McTiernan** took the main honours with wins in the U21 singles



DANIEL McTIERNAN

In the Junior Boys singles Daniel defeated Josh Gallen in his semi-final 7-11 11-7 11-3 11-5 while Sam Liu reached the final after



SAM LIU AND JOSH GALLEN

and the Junior Boys singles, as well as teaming up with Sam Liu to take the Junior Boys Doubles title.

After the opening U21 group matches Daniel stormed to an 11-6 11-5 11-2 semi-final victory against Danny Ricks while in the other semi Sam Ricks held off a great chal-



DANNY RICKS

lence from Joshua Gallen to win 6-11 13-11 11-9 9-11 11-4. In the final Daniel just had too much for Sam as he won 12-10 6-11 11-3 11-6.



JON ABBOTT v GUS THOMIS

In the Cadet Boys event Sam Liu was the winner after he defeated Gus Thomis in the final 9-11 11-8 11-6 11-8, Gus having earned a fine semi-final victory over Jonathan Abbott 13-15 11-9 11-8 11-9. Thomas Perkins picked up the U13 Boys singles trophy after he beat Joseph Barraclough 8-11 11-9 11-8 11-5.



SIAD COLE, DANIEL McTIERNAN, JOSH GALLAN
AND SAM LIU

The Junior Boys Doubles saw Daniel McTiernan and Sam Liu survive a nail biting semi-final to defeat Siad Cole and Joshua Gallan 6-11 5-11 11-8 11-9 11-7 before going on to defeat Jonathan Abbott and Sam Ricks in a hard fought final 9-11 14-12 11-9 11-7.

In the girls events Katie Shepherd completed a double success in both the Cadet and U13 events as she beat Scarlett Jones, Katie winning both matches in five close games.

Finally Sam Liu won the Youth Division singles with victory over runner up Thomas Breslin.



SCARLETT JONES v KATIE SHEPHERD

VIDEOS - CLICK A THUMBNAIL TO PLAY THE VIDEO



Video of the
Under 21 Girls Final



Video of the
Cadet Boys Final



Video of the
Under 18 Boys Final



Video of the
Junior Doubles Final



Video of the
Under 21 Boys Final

Club News: Sonning C & P Championship

by Nigel Maltby

Jeremy Willis retained his Sonning Common & Peppard club championship singles title following a well fought competition on Sunday 24th March. Sixteen players did battle in the three events, Singles, Handicap singles and Handicap doubles.

In the Singles Jeremy Willis beat Derek Wavell and Nigel Maltby to reach the semi finals where he saw off a spirited challenge from young Danny Dockree to win 9-11 11-6 11-9 11-9.

In the lower half of the draw Carol Chiu performed excellently on her way to the semi's, beating Matt Stone 11-9 11-9 11-7. In the semi final she faced Paul Treadgold who had gained a surprise 1st round victory over fancied Keiman Chau. Paul beat Carol in a good contest 15-13 8-11 11-6 11-7. In the Final, Paul caused Jeremy plenty of problems with his excellent attacking shots, however Jeremy just held on to win his third successive singles title 11-8 7-11 11-4 12-10.

In the Handicap Singles, Danny Dockree won through to the final with excellent wins against Phil Turton, Jeremy Willis and Carol Chiu. There he faced Matt Stone who had recovered from 15-20

down in the third to beat Derek Maltby 17-21 21-19 23-21 before beating Paul Treadgold and then a tiring Tim Raby 13-21 21-10 21-10. The final was an exhibition of thrilling attacking play from both Danny and Matt. Danny's starting handicap of +4 saw him take the first 21-12, Matt hit back to take the next 21-18, however Danny produced an almost faultless deciding game to win 21-13.

Tim Raby & Paul Treadgold won the Handicap Doubles event, beating father and son partnership Derek & Simon Maltby (+4) 14-21 21-12 21-17.



JEREMY WILLIS



DANNY DOCKREE v PHIL TURTON

Special Competitions 2012-13

organised by Duncan Abbott

5th - 6th Division Cup:

The final was between Tidmarsh 'E' and Springfield 'B'. Congratulations to Bob Sunerton and the team on your success!! Despite going 1 - 0 down, Tidmarsh E won the next 4 sets, and although Springfield B hit back to make it 4 - 2 the partnership of Dave Reynolds and John Liddle overcame Paul Jenkins and Jim Lappin to clinch the trophy. Other players were Bob Sunerton for Tidmarsh E and Dan Mortimer for Springfield 'B'.

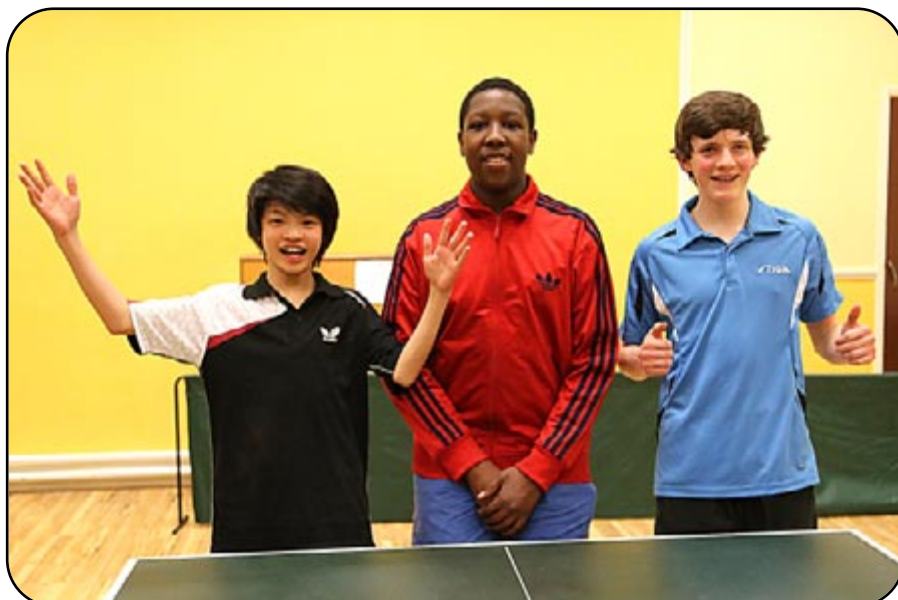
Tidmarsh 'E'	6
SC&P 'E'	3

Tidmarsh 'E'	6
Springfield 'B'	3

Springfield 'B'	5
Post Office 'B'	4

Team Handicap: (see next page for chart)

OLOP 'E' from Div 3 strolled home to a 7 - 2 success against Div 5 side Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'. Sam Liu, Josh Gallen and Said Cole went 3 - 0 up against Danny Dockree, Jim McClure and Mikey Legg. Sam then beat Jim to go 4 - 0 up before Danny hit back with a win over Siad but Josh's win over Mikey clinched it for OLOP 'E'. Jim defeated Siad but both Sam and Josh remained unbeaten for the eventual winners.



OLOP 'E' - SAM LIU, SIAD COLE AND JOSH GALLEN



VIDEO: DANNY DOCKREE v JOSH



VIDEO: JIM McCLURE v SIAD



VIDEO: DANNY DOCKREE v SAM



VIDEO: MIKE LEGG v JOSH

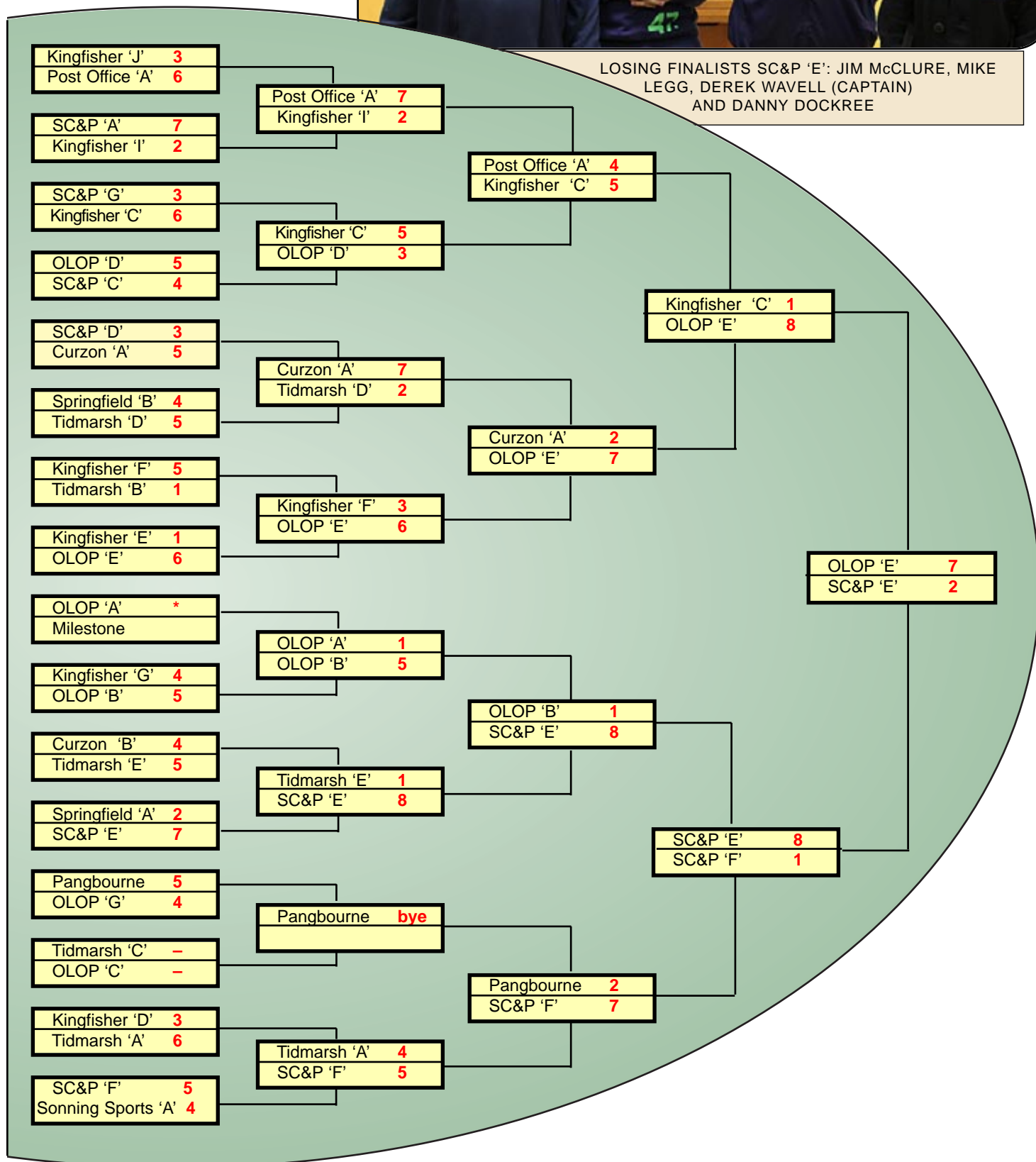


JIM McCLURE vs SAM LIU

Team Handicap Chart



LOSING FINALISTS SC&P 'E': JIM McCLURE, MIKE LEGG, DEREK WAVELL (CAPTAIN) AND DANNY DOCKREE



DIVISION ONE *by Malcolm Gregory*

Welcome to the last of my reports on the antics of Division One table tennis for the 2012 / 2013 season!

As you may have gathered by now my reports are usually rather unstructured, take ages to actually start and may be a bit waffly. Well, you'll be pleased to know I've just had a flashback from a communications course I attended many years ago. I was taught the most effective way to communicate is to tell 'em what you're gonna tell 'em, tell 'em, then tell 'em what you told 'em. So I'm going to do you all a favour and begin this report on the league in true corporate communication style: From the bottom up!



As it turns out - the final league table looks pretty much like it did after the first few matches. Early doors, a mini league formed at the bottom and involved Kingfisher 'A' & 'B' and Sonning Common 'A' & 'B'. Kingfisher 'C' found their level in the second half of the season and moved comfortably out of this mini league.

Then we have YMCA, and OLOP 'B' & 'C', occupying the mid table slots. Far too good for the teams at the bottom but not good enough to trouble the teams at the top.

Then we have Polish and Tidmarsh - both teams with large squads of players to pick from. Both squads containing top echelon players in Martin Adams and Sander De Reimer respectively. Both teams capable of upsetting the top sides when they fielded their strongest players.

(Interestingly, Martin Adams avoided playing our team both home and away. I guess this was purely to protect his average!!)

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	20	18	1	1	167	33	37
OLOP 'A'	20	17	2	1	150	50	36
Tidmarsh 'A'	20	14	1	5	130	70	29
Polish 'A'	20	11	1	8	118	82	23
OLOP 'B'	20	10	2	8	105	95	22
OLOP 'C'	20	10	1	9	102	98	21
Reading YMCA	20	8	4	8	91	109	20
Kingfisher 'C'	20	8	1	11	93	107	17
Sonning C&P 'B'	20	4	2	14	59	141	10
Sonning C&P 'A'	20	1	2	17	51	149	4
Kingfisher 'B'	20	0	1	19	34	166	1

But at the end of the day, Kingfisher 'A' and OLOP 'A' are up there deservedly and in my opinion both teams are a credit to our sport.

So let's start with the unfortunate **Kingfisher 'B'**. One solitary, measly, sad and lonely point from a whole season of toil. Five 10 - 0 thrashings, five 9 - 1 beatings but interestingly three 6 - 4 defeats - by all to the 3 teams just above them. Looking at past results, the derby versus their 'C' team must have been particularly galling when you see that they were 5 - 4 down when Geoff Civil stepped up to play Andrew Parker in the last game of the evening and lost 13-11 in the 5th. Just think boys, with just a smidgeon more luck you could have DOUBLED your points tally for the season!! If I had to award a prize to the most conscientious submitter of scorecards, Geoff would win this hands down. And if I were to draw up a league table of conscientious score card submitters for Division One, Daniel Moses would be right at the bottom. With minus points.

Sonning Common and Peppard

'A', I think its fair to say, have underperformed this season and must feel disappointed to finish in the bottom two. It is noticeable that Simon Berry did not play against any of the top 3 teams. Jason Roberts on the other hand played in 93% of the matches but will still feel disappointed with his 33% average. Frustratingly, they have had more than their fair share of 6 - 4 defeats and with a bit more support from Paul and Nigel, the story could have been different. One has to feel for our illustrious Chairman. Here is one of the nicest blokes in the world who has done literally mountains of work for our association over many years including getting copy to the Reading Post every week. But unfortunately Nigel did not experience the pleasure of one single victory all season and consequently did not seem to get much



MARTIN ADAMS AND DANIEL MOSES



NEIL HURFORD

enjoyment from playing our uniquely frustrating sport this term. I hope Nigel regains his zest for the game by dropping down a level. We need you firing on all cylinders Nigel!! Incidentally, our team had a really smashing game against Sonning 'A': Jason smashed his bat, Simon smashed a ball and I got smashed when I got home - celebrating another result against them!

So as Division One says "goodbye" to Sonning 'A' and Kingfisher 'C', it says "what the Dickens are you still doing here?" to **Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'**. I've probably said enough about our team already (yeah - all season long you boring old fart - I hear you say!). Suffice it to say that Keith Swain certainly found his level this year - his 43% average was achieved from playing every single match in the calendar (as did Brian and myself). Keith won many critical games, beat some very good players including Daniel McTiernan and Ian Cole and thoroughly deserves to retain a place in Reading's premier league. Brian Meheux also kept a really positive attitude throughout the whole season and as a result picked up some critical wins. All 3 of us have pledged to practice hard throughout the close season - knocking up until our fingers bleed and having lots of early nights to get ready for next season (and if you believe that you will believe anything!!)

A lovely team to share a night of ping pong with is **Kingfisher 'C'**. All four of their players; Niall, Steve, Andrew and Lisa have finished well up in the averages with Mr. Murgatroyd leading the way on 65% which shows what a quality player Steve is. Lisa has risen to the challenge and must be one of the league's most improved players. Wins over Nicky Heaps and Richard Rosinski at Polish and Neil Hurford at YMCA are testimony to the quality of play she is now capable of. Niall has been a bit of an enigma for me this season. Capable of playing the most unbelievable shots and with so much talent it's just ridiculous, I would have put serious money (about £1.50) on him winning two every week. This is based on my past experiences of receiving serious thrashings from Niall over the years in Division Two. All in all, if this team stays together I predict next year they

will be a force to reckon with.

If I may break away at this stage and just say that if any reader feels they want more information about scores, averages, doubles performances, all you need to do is go to <http://www.tabletennis365.com/reading> - the fabulous web site of the R&DTTA.

Then if you click on any individual player it will show you every single match they have played this season with scores for every game. Thanks go to the illustrious Mr. Dave West of Sonning Sports 'B' in Division 6 - a member and ex captain of our golf club - for pointing this out to me. Dave was featured in a recent newsletter as he is nearly 100 years old and started playing in the Reading leagues just after the first world war ended. Incidentally, I would urge you to have a look at my end of season game against Daniel Moses - an epic 5 setter in which Daniel didn't mess about or tease me one little bit!! (He did - a lot). Good lad Daniel - he's had a lot of (well deserved) stick from me this season but seems to take it in the humorous spirit it is meant.

My big regret this year was that I didn't get to play my old adversary from our days in division 5 - Dave Streak at **YMCA**. You always have a good open game against Dave but unfortunately he hasn't gotten to play much this year. His personal season has been shorter than Keith Winters haircut. Keith has had a rather strange season; For example, he scored an absolutely fantastic maximum over Polish with wins over Richard Rosinski, Steve Dobbins and Graham Diplock but against our team early in the season when he seemed devoid of confidence, he went away with a duck. Neil Hurford is clearly their number one player and has achieved a creditable average of 66%. Looking at Neils' results he seems to only lose to the best players in the league - in other words he wins all the games he would expect to win with no "silly ones". Dave Gilham is a player I had the pleasure of playing with, in a county veterans match this year. A good steady player and with an average for the season of 50% I hope he'll forgive me for saying this flatters him a little as most of his games have been against the lowly teams with the exception of OLOP 'A'. Pete Bradley howev-



DANIEL MCTIERNAN



MICHAEL CHILDS

er has played the vast majority of games with ten wins to show for it. The most memorable wins for Peter were impressive victories over Richard Rosinski at Polish and John Barclay at Tidmarsh. I get the impression that Peter feels he has had a frustrating season but one thing is for sure - he never gives less than 100%.

Moving smoothly and without any deviation to the mid table section we have **OLOP 'C'**. Daniel McTiernan is obviously a young man going places in our sport. His 78% average from 40 sets played is impressive and includes wins against players above him in the averages; Mark Banks and Elson Costa. Bearing in mind how young he is, it's scary to think how good Daniel can get over the next few years. Not far behind Daniel is Sean Pickin - a player who I paid tribute to in an earlier newsletter and one that oozes sheer class with a lovely all-round game to admire. I notice Sean hasn't played since January and I sincerely hope this doesn't mean he will not be gracing our tables in division one next year. Neil Bird and Danny Ricks have given good support to their team this year - both up in the 40 percents. A bit like Niall, Neil is a player who I expected to do better than he did this season in division one following his all conquering exploits in division two last year. But it just goes to show the gulf in standard between the two leagues.

OLOP 'B' achieved 5th place in the league table. A season that seems to have fizzled out for them in that they only managed to field 2 players in their last few fixtures. Consequently I don't have much to report on this team although I would like to say what a lovely player Krasi Ivanov is. An exponent of every shot in the book with a beautiful flowing style - sheer poetry in motion! Bradley

King, along with Krasi had a successful season, achieving a creditable 67% average compared to Krasi's even better 78%. With a bit more strength in depth, this team could challenge next year.

And so we move on up to 4th placed **Polish 'A'**. Always lurking and threatening to cause an upset or three and with the superb Martin Adams to call upon, it turned out that they weren't quite good enough to upset the cart containing the Pink Ladys. It all came to the crunch in the recent fixture with OLOP 'A'. Martin, having lost to Hari Gehlot in an earlier match v Kingfisher showed that he was not invincible after all. OLOP 'A' rocked up to Polish needing a win to keep their title hopes alive. OLOP literally scraped home 6 - 4. The critical games were Daniel Moses' defeat of Martin: 8-11, 11-6, 11-7, 11-9 and then an even more critical doubles where Michael Childs teamed up with Daniel against Steve Dobbins and Martin Adams to win by the narrowest of margins: 5-11, 11-6, 4-11, 11-7 and then 14-12 in the 5th. Our sport is one of very fine margins and if this final game had gone the other way, this would have more or less handed the championship to Kingfisher. As it turns out the encounter between OLOP 'A' and Kingfisher 'A' will now be the final crunch game that we had all been anticipating.

Tidmarsh 'A' finished third in the table and I would put this down to 2 things: the fact that Sander De Reimer played a lot of games for them and only lost 3 times - to Martin Adams, Daniel Moses and Ian Cole - and their strength in depth. They had no fewer than 4 players who achieved an average of 50% or better: Peter Matthews, Anthony Baker, Duncan Groves and John Barclay all clocked up consistent wins throughout the season. Probably their most "important" result was their 5 - 5 draw against OLOP 'A'. The highlight of this match was Sander's revenge defeat of Daniel Moses in the final set of the evening, 12-10 in the fifth; fine margins indeed!

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	60	57	95.00 %
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	33	31	93.94 %
Sander De Riemer	Tidmarsh 'A'	42	39	92.86 %
Hari Gehlot	K'fisher 'A'	43	38	88.37 %
Elson Costa	K'fisher 'A'	23	19	82.61 %
Mark Banks	K'fisher 'A'	35	28	80.00 %
Stuart Williams	K'fisher 'A'	30	24	80.00 %
Tony Reynolds	K'fisher 'A'	39	31	79.49 %
Krasimir Ivanov	OLOP 'B'	36	28	77.78 %
Daniel McTiernan	OLOP 'C'	40	31	77.50 %
Michael Childs	OLOP 'A'	54	41	75.93 %
Nick Heaps	Polish 'A'	20	15	75.00 %
Steve Dobbins	Polish 'A'	45	33	73.33 %
Sean Pickin	OLOP 'C'	24	17	70.83 %

So there we have it - the long awaiting fixture between **Kingfisher 'A'** and **OLOP 'A'** will be the title decider and at the time of writing it is yet to happen and I will be in Cornwall when it does. This is a shame as I would love to have watched this spectacle. By the wonders of technology, I will be reporting on the match from my hideaway in Tintagel. My money is on Kingfisher if they field Hari, Tony Reynolds and Mark Banks. Daniel could still win 3 but this might not quite be enough. Our editor will confirm that I wrote this prediction before the event. [Ed: confirmed!] If I'm wrong then I've just made myself look a proper twonk, but don't worry I'm used to that!

On a personal note, this has been my first excursion into the top flight for many years and I have to admit I was apprehensive. The gulf between divisions one and two has always been wide and I certainly didn't expect our team to

stay up, but stay up we have by winning our "mini league" of 3 teams down at the bottom of the table. On paper, our team probably should have finished second from bottom. Luckily the game isn't played on paper. For a start the ball wouldn't bounce very well and the playing surface wouldn't last five minutes - it would just be plain silly! The difference for our team has been team spirit. We have tried to be positive in every match even when we know we're in for a damned good thrashing - and we received a few of those I can assure you.

Anyway, for the time being until my stop press report on the "play off" - I have to go now.

I need to log on to www.conjunctivitis.co.uk - it's a site for sore eyes.



OLOP: MICHAEL CHILDS, DANIEL MOSES & IAN COLE. KINGFISHER: MARK BANKS, HARI GEHLOT & TONY REYNOLDS

By the wonders of technology, I am reporting following the division one "Play-Off" from not so sunny Cornwall. I predicted that Daniel Moses could win 3 but that this may not be enough for OLOP'A' to beat Kingfisher 'A' to clinch the title. Well, it turns out that Daniel Moses won a maximum but this was not quite good enough for OLOP 'A' to beat Kingfisher 'A' and win the title!

I must be psychiatric! (Adam Scott will win the Masters by the way).

What I want to know is how good is Daniel Moses?! For goodness sake, he beat Mark Banks and Hari Gehlot both 3 straight and neither player got more than 6 points in any game. Mark and Hari are players out of the very top drawer so my mind is boggling at Mr. Moses performance. Tony Reynolds did at least manage to take a game off Daniel in what looks like a close 4 game set; 9-11, 2-11, 11-9, 8-11.

But as predicted, Kingfishers' strength in depth proved just, and only just, too strong for OLOP.

Michael Childs gave good support to Daniel with fabulous wins over Mark and Tony - both in 4 games. It looks like there were two critical sets which decided this fixture; Ian Cole stole into a 2 game lead over Hari 11-6, 11-5. Ian then gained a 7 - 3 lead in the third only to see this lead slip away to the wily veteran and Hari took the final 3 games 11-8, 11-6, 11-2, 2 - 1 to OLOP instead of 3 - nil which would have become 4 nil with Daniel's set 4 win over Mark.

As it turns out, the as usual critical doubles encounter came with the scores level at 3 - 3. Kingfisher capitalised on this great comeback with a tight 5 game thriller in which Mark and Hari ran out 11-8 winners in the fifth over Michael and Daniel. 4 - 3 Kingfisher. Daniel once again levelled the scores with a surprisingly easy victory over Hari which was followed by an equally easy win for Mark over Ian. 5 - 4 to Kingfisher to set up a grand finale between Michael and Tony. In my view these are two similar players - both play with good attacking styles and looking at the scores, this may well have been the match of the evening. Michael showed his class to run out an 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9 winner to level the screws at 5 - 5.

A draw was never going to be enough to win the title for OLOP but at least they are a very worthy runner up and were just a gnat's whisker away from stealing the title from under Kingfishers noses.

Well done to all involved including the umpires for the evening - Paul Jarvis and Derek Crombie. This enabled the players to concentrate on their table tennis and entertain the crowd.

Congratulations to Kingfisher - in my opinion worthy champions - and also to OLOP for pushing them all the way.

DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to my last newsletter. The championship race went all the way to the last week of the season, before Curzon Club 'A's 5 – 5 draw with one of my pre-season favourites Kingfisher 'D' meant that Tidmarsh 'C' only needed to beat Wokingham 'A' - which they duly did 9 – 1 to clinch the title. At the bottom it was also a very close affair up until the last couple

Barry's team player of the year :- Andy Stephens

Curzon Club 'A' have finally made it to division one and how deserved it is, after so many times of being so close (Cardiff-like). They were unbeaten for the last eight games as they won seven and drew one (the last one...they obviously relaxed). The long awaited promotion to division one came as a result of a 6 – 4 win over third placed Tidmarsh 'B' (the result that confirmed our promotion too). Nerves looked to have got the better of them as they fell 0 – 2 down as John Willcocks lost to Lee and then Mike Maynard lost to Mike Aistrop but Jon Willis got the ball moving with an 11-6,11-4,11-7 win over Chris Webb, and they soon found themselves 1 - 3 down but singles wins for John & Jon and then a doubles win saw



	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	18	15	2	1	123	57	32
Curzon 'A'	18	13	4	1	110	70	30
Tidmarsh 'B'	18	9	4	5	103	77	22
Kingfisher 'D'	18	9	1	8	96	84	19
Post Office 'A'	18	8	1	9	82	98	17
OLOP 'D'	18	7	1	10	78	102	15
Wokingham 'A'	18	5	4	9	90	90	14
Sonning C&P 'C'	18	5	3	10	77	103	13
Kingfisher 'F'	18	4	3	12	68	112	10
Kingfisher 'E'	18	3	2	13	73	107	8

of weeks. Then Wokingham 'A' and Sonning C&P 'C' finally found some form to register wins and guarantee them survival. Unfortunately for Kingfisher 'E' and Kingfisher 'F' their form deserted them and an abundance of injury problems meant that they were relegated. A great season from my perspective, just need to perform a bit better in the promised land next time around than I did the last time... onwards and upwards (well for one season only!)

Tidmarsh 'C' wrapped up the title with a good performance against Wokingham 'A', I managed to beat Brian Chinneck for the first time in years 9-11,11-7,11-4,9-11,13-11 to give us a 1 - 0 lead and that led me to one of my few maximums of the season as I also beat Ken Park and Daryl Griffith. Peter Galea made the long trip from Bath to be part of the promotion party and played well to win against Ken and Brian, whilst Andy Stephens also won three. We had a hard fought 6 – 4 win over Kingfisher 'E' as Andy won all three, I won two and then we teamed up to win the doubles. Steve Ricks made his return after injury and was certainly rusty as he lost all three. In the derby match with Tidmarsh 'B' we battled back from 1 – 3 down to pick up a point and an equal share of the bragging rights. Sam Ricks played well in the first two ends against Dave Wise but experience came through as Dave battled back to sneak it 12-10 in the fifth.

them go 4 – 3 up, promotion was secured as Jon Willis defeated Mike Aistrop 11-4,11-8,11-9.

Barry's team player of the year :- John Willcocks

Tidmarsh 'C' can be pleased with their final position of third and if they can keep their squad together there is no reason why they can't be one place nearer next season. They were always within a shout of promotion and therefore a Tidmarsh double celebration until the last few weeks of the season as they only won twice in the last five matches which meant they finished eight points behind second spot. The two crucial matches were the defeats to Curzon where a fantastic Lee Calcutt hat-trick wasn't enough to



SAM RICKS

stop them losing 4 – 6, and then a surprise 4 – 6 defeat to Sonning Common and Peppard 'C'. Mike Aistrop won twice against Simon Hopkins and John Simmonds and François Durand once against Simon to help them on the way to a 7 – 3 win over Post Office that guaranteed a third placed finish. Chris Webb had a great start to the season but form certainly disappeared and he wasn't quite so good in the second half, he got close to winning several times.

Barry's team player of the year :- Lee Calcutt

Kingfisher 'D' were my pre-season favourites for promotion but just one win from their last five matches scuppered the bid. The only win came against relegated Kingfisher 'F' as two from Ivor Hardman, Colin Dyke and Trevor Organ saw them to a 7 – 3 win. Their only other point in the last five came against the resurgent Sonning Common and Peppard 'C'; Ivor was the star of the night as he bagged a maximum with wins over Jeremy Willis 11-8, 11-8, 9-11, 7-11, 11-6 followed by Matt Stone 11-6, 11-8, 11-8 and finished off with a 11-8, 11-6, 11-9 victory over Martyn Fenner. Colin Dyke had success over Matt whilst Sharon had a bad night at the office as she lost all three. The defeats came against Post Office 'A' (4 – 6), Curzon Club 'A' (3 – 7) and Tidmarsh 'C' (4 – 6).

Barry's team player of the year :- Ivor Hardman

Post Office 'A' can be pleased with their season's work especially after last season where they narrowly

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
L.Calcutt	Tidmarsh 'B'	45	44	97.78
A.Stephens	Tidmarsh 'C'	45	42	93.33
P.Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	30	24	80.00
L.Long	Kingfisher 'F'	38	30	78.95
J.Willcocks	Curzon 'A'	51	40	78.43
D.Griffith	Wokingham 'A'	36	26	72.22
J.Willis	Curzon 'A'	51	34	66.67
I.Hardman	Kingfisher 'D'	39	26	66.67
J.Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	30	20	66.67
D.Wise	Tidmarsh 'B'	30	19	63.33
B.Chinneck	Wokingham 'A'	48	30	62.50

'F'. In the 'F' team match it needed a 12-10, 9-11, 11-4, 6-11, 11-6 by John Simmonds over Steve Woolnough to give them a 5 - 4 lead and then a Denise Weller 9-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-7, 11-3 win over Ashish Bahuguna to clinch the points. Earlier in the match Simon Hopkins had lost two of his matches to Michael Houghton and Steve Woolnough in five sets. George White defeated both Trevor Organ 10-12, 8-11, 11-4, 11-5, 11-3 and then Sharon Mitchell on the way to helping them win 6 - 4, Denise and John both won singles against Colin Dyke.

Barry's team player of the year :- John Simmonds

Our Lady of Peace 'D' suffered a fixture backlog at the end of the season that coupled with their scheduled fixtures meant that they lost their last five matches. I am sure they would have been higher up the table if Sami Almbrok had stayed all season but his departure for foreign climes dented their hopes considerably. Dan West still has a hoodoo over me, I can't remember ever beating him and that record was maintained as he won 11-7, 11-8, 11-13, 3-11, 11-6, the only set for OLOP in the 1 – 9 defeat to Tidmarsh 'C'. The match against Tidmarsh 'C' saw the introduction to division two for young Michael McAllister and he performed really well despite not winning a game, he has the potential to be a promising player in the future, well done Michael. After the confusion over the venue for the match against Curzon delayed the start for a while, OLOP got into their stride quickly as Dan West won his opening two matches and Pu Zhang one to give them a surprise 3 – 2 lead but that was as good as it got as they ended up losing 3 – 7.

Barry's team player of the year :- Sami Almbrok

Wokingham 'A' needed a good final quarter of the season and they managed to get it despite suffering from a small squad and injuries. They picked up seven points from the last six matches to save themselves from relegation. A win and a draw over OLOP 'D'



MICHAEL HOUGHTON

avoided relegation. Post Office 'A' had a mixed end to the season as they won two and lost two of the final four. The two wins came against Kingfisher 'D' and Kingfisher

was the catalyst for the final few matches. Brian Chinneck as always had a really good season and he scored yet another hat-trick with wins over Simon Hopkins, Denise Weller and John Simmonds in the 9 – 1 win over Post Office 'A'. It was Daryl's turn to score a hat-trick as he had good wins over Dave Gostelow, John Morris and Peter Bennett in the 8 – 2 win over Kingfisher 'E'. Tony Eames and Ken Park have played up for the successful division three 'B' team and played well. Tony enjoyed success against Dave Gostelow. Jim Spencer was the hat-trick hero in the 9 – 1 win over Sonning Common and Peppard 'C'. Wokingham should have finished higher than seventh but Daryl, Brian and Jim just couldn't all play well on the same night.

Barry's team player of the year :- Daryl Griffith

Sonning Common and Peppard 'C' finished the season with the sort of form that I hope the mighty Wolves have to escape relegation as they (Sonning, not Wolves) won three and drew one of their last four matches. The run started in the "four pointer" against Kingfisher 'F' where Kei Man Chau won all three, he was well supported by Matt Stone who won two and then Kei and Matt joined forces to win the doubles. In the end they ran out 6 – 4 winners and momentum and confidence followed onto the next match when they went to Kingfisher 'D' and picked up a point, Jeremy won twice against Sharon Mitchell and Colin Dyke, as did Martyn Fenner whilst Matt picked up an important win over Sharon to give them a least a point as they led 5 – 4. Their best performance was saved for Tidmarsh 'B' as Kei, Matt and Jeremy all won twice against Chris Webb and François Durand in a 6 – 4 win. Their final match of the season saw Carol Chiu win her set against Peter Manners-Smith to give them a 5 – 4 lead and Kei won set ten to win the match 6 – 4. If Kei, Martyn and Jeremy had played together more frequently then promotion would have been a possibility.

Barry's team player of the year :- Matt Stone

Kingfisher 'E' only picked up one point from the last eight matches and unfortunately that was relegation form (same as Reading). They did salvage a bit of pride in their last match of the season against promoted Curzon Club 'A' as they snaffled a draw mainly thanks to another three from Phil Mead (playing a pushing game rather than his normal loopy style because of a bad shoulder). The other two games were won by John Morris as he defeated John Willcocks and Mick Maynard. The week previous it was the turn of the champions, Tidmarsh 'C', to see the "new" Phil Mead but this time he only managed a brace as he was beaten by a determined Andy Stephens 9-11 in the fifth, earlier John Morris and Peter Bennett had beaten Steve Ricks to give them hope of a win. Injuries to key players certainly didn't help their chances of survival but if they do go down then I'm sure they will be division three champions next season.

Barry's team player of the year :- Phil Mead

Kingfisher 'F' chances of survival also suffered at the hands of injury and illness (never known a season for so many injuries), they lost for long periods of time Steve Woolnough, Ashish Bahuguna and Mike Dorrington which hampered their survival hopes. Leo Long is a very, very



LEO LONG

good player and he finished fourth in the averages with 30 wins from 38 matches and an average of 79%, I'm sure I'll be playing him in division one next season. Michael Houghton had a disappointing end to the season with only three wins in his last three matches and they came against Carol Chiu, Simon Hopkins and Trevor Organ whilst in the same period he lost games that he probably shouldn't have. Ashish will be a good player again next season, hopefully he will get over his shoulder injury; he had good wins over John Simmonds and Denise Weller at the end of the season and it was only his injury that prevented him from doing the double over me. Steve Woolnough won two matches all season and bizarrely they were against the same person so obviously an Indian sign is hanging over that pairing.

Barry's team player of the year :- Leo Long

Well that's it from me, after a long, hard season. I hope you have enjoyed my ramblings over the course of the season, apologies for the lack of stats this season, I got behind with them and couldn't make it up. I am already doing 100 lines for the late submission of this report (only joking Derek). Here's to a summer that sees England retain the Ashes, a football club in the West Midlands to still be in the championship and a West Berkshire cricket club to have a good season. I've also got to tap up the treasurer at Tidmarsh to invest but suspect I'll have as much joy as the Curzon treasurer

I must submit report on time

I must submit report on time...

Have a good summer

Barry

DIVISION THREE by Nick Lean

So another season has come to an end and, despite the efforts of several teams, the recent promotion and relegation battles have not changed the important positions in the Division 3 league table.



Congratulations to **Milestone 'A'** who are Div. 3 champions despite some end of season jitters. They finished the season with four close matches which culminated in defeat to Polish 'B'. In these matches Robin Benwell had 4 more maximums which included a recovery from 2 games to 1 down against Jacek Borysiuk to win the next games 12-10, 11-9 and so narrowly win the contest to be top player in the Division 3 averages with 92.6%. John Tucker (70%) provided the main back-up and had a good & consistent season with the same number of wins in each half, while John Crosfield (37%) had several essential wins for the team. It was good to see Hugh back on the table after injury, albeit for just the one match. Doubles: 14/18.

Congratulations also go to **Polish 'B'** who saw off the challenge to their long-held 2nd place and are also promoted. They remained undefeated in the second half of the season, only dropping points in draws with OLOP 'E' and Tilehurst Meths 'A'. The key match for Polish was in



SAM LIU OF OLOP 'E'

their penultimate fixture of the season against Milestone when they took revenge for their earlier away defeat to beat the new Division 3 champions 6 - 4 and effectively secure promotion. Jacek Borysiuk was their star player on 92.5% with Jacek Krzyzanowski (75%) providing reliable support and the two of them teamed up to make a formidable doubles pairing, winning 13/14 – their only loss being 10-12 in the 5th to Pangbourne. Darek Kaminski (54%) was a crucial part of the team on several occasions and finished the season with an excellent win over Phil Burke 10-12, 11-9, 9-11, 12-10, 12-10, while Marcin Kolat (29%) also had some important wins. Doubles: 15/18.

Good luck to both these teams in Division 2 next season.

Commiserations go to **OLOP 'E'** who gained more points in the second half of the season than any other team, but despite 8 straight wins (including over Milestone) fell short by just one point. The young lads all improved their averages in the second half of the season (so did Wendy!) and by the end struck fear into all their opponents, as was demonstrated when they subjected their clubmates in OLOP 'F' to a 10 - 0 whitewash. Sam Liu (91%) lost just once in the second half, as did Josh Gallen (90%) – both to the Polish No.1, while Siad Cole (57%) showed the best improvement, from 35% in the first half to 75% in the second. Wendy Porter (63%) marshalled her team well with sage words of advice & encouragement. Despite finishing third I have no doubt we will see Sam, Josh & Siad playing at a higher level next season. Doubles: 9/18.

Meanwhile the relegation writing has been on the wall for some time, with Tilehurst Methodists 'B' and Pangbourne both finding the going a little too tough at this level.

Tilehurst Methodists 'B' accepted their fate some time ago as they had to delve deep into their Club's resources to find at least one reserve player for each of their last 8 matches. This Tilehurst team were already



JOSH GALLEN OF OLOP 'E'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone 'A'	18	16	0	2	122	58	32
Polish 'B'	18	14	3	1	128	52	31
OLOP 'E'	18	14	2	2	132	48	30
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	16	9	3	4	91	69	21
OLOP 'F'	16	9	1	6	82	78	19
Kingfisher 'G'	18	7	1	10	92	88	15
Springfield 'A'	18	6	0	12	72	108	12
Sonning C&P 'D'	18	3	3	12	64	116	9
Pangbourne	18	2	1	15	53	127	5
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	18	0	2	16	44	136	2

struggling when illness & injury forced them to rely on finding and playing-up reserves for a total of 14 times during the season, but well done to their team captain Richard Lownsborough for keeping the team going in such difficult circumstances. This clearly had an effect on Richard's form as he dipped from 50% in the first half of the season to 25% in the second and his team were unable to pick up any points. This was despite some great doubles performances which saw the team win 6/9 in the second half, giving them 10/18 overall. Richard finished with 38%, with Melvin Lovegrove on 30%, Chris Taylor 7% and their various reserves won 4/42.

Pangbourne kept hope & fought to their very last match knowing a big win over Sonning C&P 'D' would see them safe at the expense of their opponents that evening. But they finally had to accept their fate as they went 0 – 4 down and eventually lost 4 – 6. Leroy Wilson's team only picked up two points in the second half of the season, which came from their match with Tilehurst Meths 'B'. The contest ebbed & flowed and saw half the sets going to a deciding fifth game before Pangbourne eventually came away with a 7 – 3 win. Leroy won all three, his only maximum of the season, with Pete Welch winning two and Roger Stevens one, while Richard Lownsborough won two for the home team. With 44% Leroy was the key player for Pangbourne, while their other players ended the season with similar averages; Roger Stevens 22%, Pete Welch 24%, Howard Taylor 27% and Clive Taylor 28%, while Colin "Taffy" Thomas made just one appearance at the end of the season. Doubles: 5/18.

Away from these teams, mid-table safety was maintained by the remaining teams in the division.

Sonning C&P 'D' were unable to pick up any further points in their last few matches, apart from the re-arranged fixture at Pangbourne which brought their season to an end with a narrow win. Mark Corbett won all three in this match, his third maximum of the season and his second against Pangbourne, to end with 63% for the season, although he only played in just over half of the matches. However, the team did come within a whisker of taking a point off

Milestone 'A'. Young Jon Abbott defeated John Tucker to give the home team a 3 - 2 lead, which was pegged back by Milestone, then Sonning were two games up in the crucial doubles before losing games 3 and 4 both with a score of 10-12 and then losing the final game 5-11. Jon Abbott won his second contest to bring the match score to 4 - 4 only for Milestone to win the remaining sets and sneak a 6 – 4 win. It was a strange match in that all bar one of the nine singles contests were won in three straight. Paul Treadgold (30%) was ever-present for the season, while Jon Abbott (29%) missed just two matches. Ian Ayres (5/9) made only 3 appearances earlier in the season and Sonning C&P had to rely on reserves (7/21) on seven occasions. Doubles: 3/18

Springfield 'A' picked up their only points in the last quarter of the season from a 7 – 3 win over Sonning C&P. Des Hele hit a good hat-trick, for once over-shadowing Phil Burke who won two but was beaten by Mark Corbett for the second time this season. Phil Burke finished with 77%, with Des Hele on 41% and Seth Martin 19%. Ian Boaden played in 7 matches without a win, losing out in the deciding game on 5 occasions, including going down 11-13 in the fifth to Pat Daniels in his final match of the season. Doubles: 7/18

Kingfisher 'G' had more 4 – 6 defeats than any other team in the Division, six in total, starting with their first 4 matches, otherwise their results tended to go according to form. In their last few matches

they lost to OLOP 'F' and Polish, then beat Tilehurst Meths 'B' as Allen Pack and Carol Byers won 3 each and then beat Pangbourne, who were only able to field 2 players. Allen Pack 67%, Dave Duncan 55%, Eric Holmes 44%, Carol Byers 42% and Rogerio Albelo 33%. Doubles: 6/18

OLOP 'F' had a set of results in the second half of the



SIAD COLE

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Robin Benwell	Milestone 'A'	54	50	92.6%
Jacek Borysiuk	Polish 'B'	53	49	92.5%
Sam Liu	OLOP 'E'	44	40	90.9%
Joshua Gallen	OLOP 'E'	38	34	89.5%
Steve Miller	OLOP 'F'	24	21	87.5%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	39	30	76.9%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	51	39	76.5%
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Polish 'B'	44	33	75.0%
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	54	38	70.4%
Allen Pack	Kingfisher 'G'	48	32	66.7%
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	39	26	66.7%
Mark Corbett	Sonning C&P 'D'	30	19	63.3%
Wendy Porter	OLOP 'E'	27	17	63.0%
Harry Brough	OLOP 'F'	48	29	60.4%



JON ABBOT OF SC&P 'D'

season that almost exactly matched their results (if not the scores) from the first half, losing to the top three and beating just about everyone else. The exception to this was their fixtures with Tilehurst Meths 'A', neither of which was played. In the end the two teams felt it unnecessary to play either match as the results would not affect any other team in the Division. Although I know this OLOP team very nearly withdrew at the start of the season, it seems a shame that all matches could not be played, especially as the blanks in Div 3 meant that each team was already missing out on 4 league fixtures. Harry Brough 60%, Steve Miller 88%, Pat Daniels 49%, Saj Hussain 17%. Doubles: 8/16

The results for Tilehurst Meths 'A' were also mostly predictable, as they only lost to the top three (though not every time, having beaten OLOP 'E' and drawn with Polish earlier in the season). But recent matches went to form when they narrowly lost at Milestone, although Ian Cockling won two, both times needing five games before he prevailed. They were unable to repeat the earlier shock, this time going down 2 – 8 to an improved OLOP 'E', but had comfortable wins over Springfield and Pangbourne. Nigel Rowland 77%, Phil Jones 67 %, Ian Cockling 52%, John Virgo 27%. Doubles: 11/16

Overall the best doubles pairing was Sam Liu & Siad Cole as they played the most matches unbeaten, winning 4 out of 4. But the Polish Jaceks won 13/14 so should win the prize for the most consistent doubles pairing. Allen Pack and Eric Holmes take the wooden spoon, losing all 6 of their doubles contests.

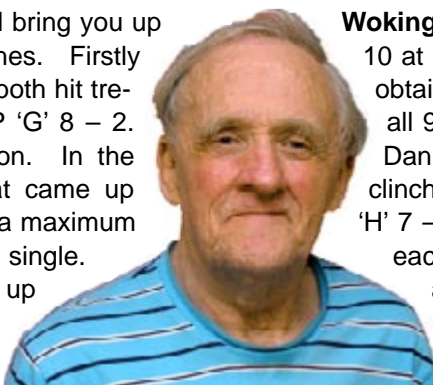
These stats, all individual match scorecards and much more besides can be found on the new RDTTA website which, if you haven't yet visited and explored I thoroughly recommend: <http://www.tabletennis365.com/reading>

Having filed this end of season report, I intend to step down from the role of Divisional Fixture Secretary having done the job for a total of 18 seasons. It's been an interesting and enjoyable experience, but I no longer have the spare time to do this job. So the Committee will be looking for a new volunteer to take over - come on now, don't be shy, is anyone interested?

DIVISION FOUR by Derek Harrison

Before I start my final report I shall bring you up to date on the postponed matches. Firstly Terry Hardie and Dave Edwards both hit trebles to help Tidmarsh 'D' defeat OLOP 'G' 8 – 2. For Dave it was his first of the season. In the Curzon derby it was the 'B' team that came up trumps to win 3 – 7 with Derek gaining a maximum and Jim winning two and Nick getting a single. In the doubles Nick and Derek teamed up for the first time this season and beat Terry and Linda. For the 'C' team Terry won two and Linda won one, avenging her defeat first time round by beating Nick. Tidmarsh then played Birch Copse and this time went down 4 – 6 with Terry winning two and Dave E and Mick both gaining singles. For Birch Copse Simon hit a great hat trick with Jes picking up a good double.

I feel at this stage I must mention our new web site and say it is top class and must thank Nick Lean for all of his efforts in keeping it up to date. Even for a novice like me I find it easy to go from page to page. Also Bob Woodmansee of Sonning Sports has asked if anyone has a table tennis table for sale that will be suitable for league play. Please could you contact him if you have one.



Wokingham 'B' maintained top spot by winning 0 – 10 at Curzon 'C' with Tony, Daniel and Richard all obtaining maximums. At Tilehurst Meths they won all 9 singles sets in their 1 – 9 victory. Richard, Dan and Aidan were the hat trick men. They then clinched the championship by beating Kingfisher 'H' 7 – 3 with Dan, Ken and Aidan all winning two each. So on behalf of you all I congratulate Ken and his team on their success. In their final match they showed no mercy to Tilehurst Meths by beating them 10 – 0 with Ken, Daniel and Richard all obtaining hat tricks.

KEN 20/30=66.7%, 4 TREBLES, BEST WIN - DAVE GODFREY
TONY 37/42=88.1%, 9 TREBLES, BEST WIN - BOB WOODMANSEE (TWICE)
RICHARD 32/36=88.9%, 8 TREBLES, BEST WIN - BOB WOODMANSEE
MIKE 6/12=50.0%, 1 TREBLE, BEST WIN - NICK LEAN
DAN 20/24=83.3%, 5 TREBLES, BEST WIN - SIMON CLARKE
AIDAN 12/18=66.7%, 1 TREBLE, BEST WIN - JES EASSOM
15 POINTS FIRST HALF, 17 POINTS SECOND HALF

Sonning Sports without Bob W just got home 4 – 6 at Curzon 'B'. Dave hit his second maximum of the season and also teamed up with Nigel, who won two, to win the doubles. By then beating Birch Copse 7 – 3 they have almost certainly clinched promotion. As ever, Nigel hit top form by winning all three with Dave winning two and Bob W gaining a single. Mind you Dave was fortunate against

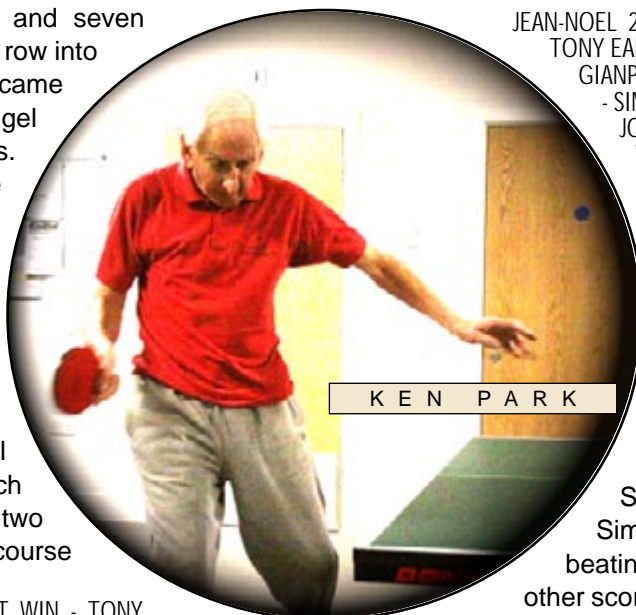
Mike because at two games all and seven points each Mike served twice in a row into the net! At Tilehurst Meths they came away with a 1 – 9 victory with Nigel and Bob W both gaining trebles. For Nigel they were all three straight. Bob S did well to win two. As a result they are well clear in the top two places and are promoted. I also congratulate Bob W and his boys and wish them well next season. Against relegated Curzon 'C' they had to rely on a set 10 win for Nigel over Oli to gain a 6 - 4 victory which gave him a double. Bob S also hit two with Dave gaining a single and of course they won the doubles.

NIGEL 38/42 = 90.5%, 10 TREBLES, BEST WIN - TONY EAMES

BOB W 35/45 = 77.8%, 9 TREBLES, BEST WIN - SIMON CLARKE

DAVE 21/39 = 53.8%, 2 TREBLES, BEST WIN - KEN PARK

BOB S 15/36 = 41.7%, 6 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - JES EASSOM
13 POINTS FIRST HALF, 17 POINTS SECOND HALF



K E N P A R K

JEAN-NOËL 29/29 = 100%, 9 TREBLES, BEST WIN - TONY EAMES

GIANPAOLO 9/30 = 30%, 2 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - SIMON CLARKE

JOAQUIN 10/27 = 37%, 3 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - TERRY SPICE

GABOR 13/36 = 36.1%, 4 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - DAVE CHARD (TWICE)

NILS 23/39 = 59%, 3 TREBLES, BEST WIN - DAVE GODFREY

14 POINTS FIRST HALF, 9 POINTS SECOND HALF

Birch Copse gained a draw at OLOP thanks to doubles from Jes and Simon and a vital single from Mike. At Sonning Sports they went down 7 – 3 with Simon getting two good wins by beating Dave and Bob W. Jes was the other scorer. They then went to Curzon 'B' and came away with a point thanks to a Simon

hat trick and a good single from Mike who also teamed up with Simon to win the doubles. They finished their season by beating Tilehurst Meths 6 – 4 with Simon getting another maximum. Mike did well to win two with Jes getting that important single.:

SIMON 37/48 = 77.08%, 8 TREBLES, BEST WIN - TERRY HARDIE

JES 29/51 = 56.86%, 4 TREBLES, BEST WIN - TERRY SPICE

MIKE 10/42 = 23.81%, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN - DAVE CHARD

11 POINTS FIRST HALF, 9 POINTS SECOND HALF

Curzon 'B' lost a close game with Sonning Sports 4 – 6 with Nick winning two which included a fine victory over Nigel. Jim and Derek both won one each by beating Bob S. Nick was in great form against Kingfisher 'H' by obtaining a three straight maximum. Jim picked up a double and Derek a single. Jim and Derek also won the doubles. At home to Birch Copse we had our first draw of the season with Nick and Jim both gaining doubles. I gained that vital single by beating Jes. Geoff returned to the side against Kingfisher 'I' and picked up a double; however Nick and Jim were only able to win one each so we went down 6 – 4. At Tidmarsh we won 1 – 9 with Nick and Geoff both hitting hat tricks. For Geoff it was his first of the season. Jim managed a double, with Geoff and Derek winning the



J E A N - N O Ë L T H E P A U T O F K I N G F I S H E R ' H '

Kingfisher 'H' were again without Jean-Noël and as a result were held to a draw by Tidmarsh. Nils and Gabor both won two each with Gianpaolo picking up that vital single. At home to Curzon 'B' their promotion dream ended when they went down 3 – 7 with Nils winning two and Gabor one. In the local derby with their 'I' team Jean-Noël hit yet another three-straight maximum and teamed up with Didier to win the doubles. Joaquin picked up that vital single. At champions Wokingham they went down 7 – 3 with Jean-Noël maintaining his 100% average by winning all of his sets three straight.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wokingham 'B'	18	15	2	1	137	43	32
Sonning Sports	18	14	2	2	120	60	30
Kingfisher 'H'	18	9	5	4	97	83	23
Birch Copse 'A'	18	7	6	5	94	86	20
Curzon 'B'	18	8	1	9	90	90	17
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	18	7	1	10	77	103	15
Tidmarsh 'D'	18	6	2	10	79	101	14
OLOP 'G'	18	5	2	11	78	102	12
Kingfisher 'I'	18	4	3	11	64	116	11
Curzon 'C'	18	2	2	14	64	116	6

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jean-Noël Thépaut	Kingfisher 'H'	29	29	100.0%
Nigel Goodman	Sonning Sports	42	38	90.5%
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	36	32	88.9%
Tony Eames	Wokingham 'B'	42	37	88.1%
Bob Woodmansee	Sonning Sports	45	35	77.8%
Simon Clarke	Birch Copse 'A'	48	37	77.1%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh 'D'	39	30	76.9%
Catherine Venning	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	36	27	75.0%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'G'	39	28	71.8%
Ken Park	Wokingham 'B'	30	20	66.7%
Nick Lean	Curzon 'B'	45	28	62.2%

doubles. And for the fourth season running we have finished in fifth place.

DEREK 20/42=47.6%, 3 TREBLES, BEST WIN - KEN PARK

JIM 20/45=44.4%, 7 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - KEN PARK

GEOFF 13/30=43.3%, 1 TREBLE, BEST WIN - RICHARD NEVILLE

NICK 28/45=62.2%, 4 TREBLES, BEST WIN - NIGEL GOODMAN

8 POINTS FIRST HALF, 9 POINTS SECOND HALF

Tilehurst Meths went down 1 – 9 to Sonning Sports with Martin winning the game by beating Bob S 11- 8 in the 5th end and this was after losing the 4th end 2-11. At Birch Copse Catherine won two and Bob one in a 6 – 4 defeat. At home to OLOP they lost 4 – 6 with Catherine and Bob both winning two each. This defeat sent Kingfisher 'I' down. At Wokingham they lost 10 – 0 so I will not say who played but they were without their two top players!

BOB 22/45=48.9%, 2 TREBLES, BEST WIN - DAVE GODFREY

MAL 0/21

CATHERINE 27/36=75.0%, 3 TREBLES AND 9 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - NIGEL GOODMAN

MARTIN 5/30=16.7%, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN - DEREK CROMBIE

ALEX 10/30=33.3%, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN - KEN PARK

7 POINTS FIRST HALF, 8 POINTS SECOND HALF

Tidmarsh 'B' for the second time played a Kingfisher 'H' team without Jean-Noël and gained a draw with Terry repeating his efforts of first time round by hitting a maximum. Dave E won one and also teamed up with Terry to



DAN BUCKLE OF WOKINGHAM 'B'



AIDAN KILLIAN OF WOKINGHAM 'B'

win the doubles. Dave E managed a double against Kingfisher 'I' but with only a doubles to add they went down 7 – 3

At home to Wokingham Terry and Dave were the only winners in the doubles in their 1 – 9 defeat. At OLOP Terry was in great form by winning all three and with the two Daves winning one each, besides a doubles win, this gave them a 4 – 6 victory. At home to Curzon 'B' they went down 1 – 9 with Dave E beating Jim.

DAVE E 21/51=41.2%, 1 TREBLE, BEST WIN - DAVE GODFREY

TERRY 30/39=76.9%, 6 TREBLES, BEST WIN - RICHARD NEVILLE

DAVE S 4/27=14.8%, 4 SINGLES, BEST WIN - BOB SNELGROVE

MICK 3/21=14.3%, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN - MIKE WILLIAMS

10 POINTS FIRST HALF, 4 POINTS SECOND HALF

OLOP held Birch Copse to a draw with Alistair and Dave both winning two each and also teaming up to win the doubles by beating Mike and Jes. Next came Curzon 'C' which they won 7 - 3 thanks to Dave winning all three and Alistair gaining a double and Cedric a single. At home to Tidmarsh they went down 4 – 6 with Dave and Cedric both gaining doubles. By winning 4 – 6 at Tilehurst Meths in their last match they have avoided the drop. Dave was the hero by winning all three and also teamed up with Alistair to win the doubles against Bob and Catherine who lost for the first time. Cedric and Alistair both gained important singles by beating Mal.

ALISTAIR 19/48=39.6%, 7 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - BOB WOODMANSEE (TWICE)

CEDRIC 6/41=14.6%, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN - DEREK HARRISON

DAVE 28/39=71.8%, 4 TREBLES, BEST WIN - TONY EAMES

MARK 12/19=63.2%, 1 TREBLE, BEST WIN - BOB WOODMANSEE

5 POINTS FIRST HALF, 7 POINTS SECOND HALF

Kingfisher 'I' lost 3 – 7 to fellow strugglers Curzon 'C' with Derek, Ken and Andrew all beating Mike. They then beat Tidmarsh 'D' 7 – 3 to hurl themselves off the bottom and give themselves a chance of avoiding the drop. John Creighton returned to the side and won all three. Andrew and Ken both obtained doubles. Against their 'H' team, Ken and Andrew both gained doubles and Derek picked up a single by beating Gianpaolo. They then beat Curzon 'B' 6 – 4 thanks to a great hat trick from John and a double from Andrew who also won the doubles with John. In his game against Nick, John had to really work hard by beating him 11-13, when at one point he had been 1-8 down; 12-10 when he had been 8-3 down; 11-8 when he had been 6-1 down and then 11-5.

JOHN 15/18=83.3%, 4 TREBLES, BEST WIN - NICK LEAN
DEREK 5/35=14.3%, 5 SINGLES, BEST WIN - JIM BRENT
ANDREW 17/43=39.5%, 6 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - CATHERINE VENNING (TWICE)
DEREK S 1/18=5.6%, 1 SINGLE, BEST WIN - BOB SNELGROVE
KEN 16/35=45.7%, 6 DOUBLES, BEST WIN - NIGEL GOODMAN
4 POINTS FIRST HALF, 7 POINTS SECOND HALF.

Curzon Club 'C' moved off the bottom by winning 3 – 7 at Kingfisher 'I' with Linda King and Terry Spice both gaining maximums besides teaming up to win the doubles. In Linda's set against Ken four of the five games ended 11- 9 and in the final game she came back from 5-1 down. They then came down to earth by going down 0 – 10 to



GABOR RADNOTI

Wokingham 'B'. No further comment to make Linda.

At OLOP they went down 7 – 3 with Terry winning two and Linda a single. Sadly this result has confirmed their relegation. Terry Spice put in the performance of the season by winning all three at Sonning Sports but sadly the team lost 6 – 4. Terry beat Nigel 8-11, 11-4, 9-11, 9-11 then Bob S 7-11, 9-11, 6-11 and Dave 13-15, 4-11, 6-11. Oli in the match gained his best ever win by beating Dave 10-12, 7-11, 9-11. Well done Oli.

TERRY 28/47=59.6%, 3 TREBLES, BEST WIN - NIGEL GOODMAN

LINDA 26/45=57.8%, 3 TREBLES, BEST WIN - CATHERINE VENNING

OLI 3/32=9.4%, 1 DOUBLE, BEST WIN - DAVE CHARD

MIKE 0/35

3 POINTS FIRST HALF, 3 POINTS SECOND HALF

A further stat; Last season 5 players played in every match but this season only Dave Edwards and Jes Eassom played in 17 matches.

Finally I would like to thank Nigel for the great press coverage and to Derek for his superb newsletter. Also a big thank you to Bob Woodmansee and Linda King for their match comments which helped me with my notes. Perhaps next season the other captains could do the same.

That's it see you next season.

Cheers,

Derek

DIVISION FIVE by Duncan Abbott

The season is at an end and it's time to reflect on another fantastic year. Six wins out of six in the final five weeks meant a superb title success for **Polish 'C'** who made an instant return to Division 4 after just one season.

Those wins came against Polish 'D', SC&P 'E', Birch Copse 'B', Tidmarsh 'E', OLOP 'H' and crucially Springfield 'B' in the title decider. I mentioned in my last report that



VICTORIOUS POLISH 'C' WITH RUNNERS-UP SPRINGFIELD 'B'

points in the bag are better than games in hand but when you get a winning run together then that backlog of games can work in your favour. The team recorded 13 wins out of a possible 18 and the only defeats came away to Springfield 'B' earlier in the season and at Milestone 'B'.

Grant Wheatley was top scorer with 86% (42 wins out of 49) – another two wins would have seen him top the averages for the division. Stephen Yon finished with 61%, Krzys Szczygiel 51% and captain Jan Polnik 22%. Jan's moment of glory came in the home match against Birch Copse 'C' when he won all three sets and even outscored Grant!

Springfield 'B' were absolutely delighted with runner-up spot which means they join Polish 'C' in Division 4 next season. Two seasons ago such a feat would have seemed very unlikely when they finished bottom of this division, so to turn things around in two years is a fantastic achievement.



Wins against Birch Copse 'B', SC&P 'F' and Milestone 'B' meant they needed a draw against Polish 'C' to clinch the title. Unfortunately they found Grant, Stephen & Krys on top form that evening and suffered a rare 9 - 1 pasting (revenge for Polish 'C' after Springfield 'B's 8 - 2 win in early December).

John Burke recorded an 81% average but did not play after succumbing to illness in mid-January. I hope you get well very soon John. Daniel Mortimer recorded a best ever 66%, Chris Speight 52% and captain Paul Jenkins 46%. Jim Lappin played five matches in the first half of the season for a 47% average but he too suffered from ill health and was unavailable from January on.

For a long while it looked as if **Sonning Common & Peppard 'E'** would make a quick return to Division 4 but they fell just short at the end. Their 6 - 4 defeat at Polish 'C' proved crucial, and subsequent wins against Polish 'D', Tidmarsh 'E' (10 - 0) and a walkover against OLOP 'H' were not enough for a place in the top two. They suffered two defeats against the champions and one against the runners-up, but had they not lost to Milestone 'B' or turned the draws against Polish 'D' and OLOP 'H' into wins things might have been different.

Young Danny Dockree was playing in Division 6 last year but his 85% average indicates an exciting future. Anthony Reeve (67%), Jim McClure (63%), Michael Legg (53%) and captain Derek Brooke-Wavell (55%) are a team with strength in depth and if they can retain Danny or find a good replacement for him then next season could well be their year.

My pre-season title tip **Post Office 'B'** also fell just short of glory. Like the champions, they were beaten only twice all season, both by third-placed SC&P 'E'. Their four matches against the top two in the division were drawn, and they had a further three draws against lower placed teams. Their only win in the final few weeks came against strugglers Birch Copse 'B' (9 - 1) when they fielded what on paper was their strongest trio of Ray Webb (88%), Mick Grantham (76%) and Pete Sinclair. Pete averaged nearly 90% in his previous stint for Tidmarsh two seasons ago but injury problems meant he played in only two matches for his new team. Linda Davis averaged 46% and captain Ted Cripps (43%) was well down on last season's impressive performance.

Although they finished well behind the top four, a fifth

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Polish 'C'	18	13	3	2	115	65	29
Springfield 'B'	18	13	2	3	113	67	28
Sonning C&P 'E'	18	12	2	4	123	57	26
Post Office 'B'	18	9	7	2	117	63	25
Polish 'D'	18	6	5	7	82	88	17
Tidmarsh 'E'	18	7	2	9	71	109	16
Milestone 'B'	18	6	1	11	81	99	13
OLOP 'H'	18	2	6	10	60	110	10
Sonning C&P 'F'	18	3	3	12	64	116	9
Birch Copse 'B'	18	2	3	13	64	116	7



DANNY DOCKREE OF SCP 'E'

placed finish for **Polish 'D'** was a fantastic result for last season's Division 6 runners-up. Daniel Dzieciol was an addition to last season's team and he finished with a very impressive 83% and playing in all the team's fixtures. Italian Luca Bianchi joined the team in November and finished with a creditable 41%, Szymon Szor wasn't far behind on 36%. Captain Grzegorz Romek won one set and Eddie Holweger played in one fixture. They must love playing Tidmarsh 'E' as they won both matches against them by an 8 - 2 margin, their biggest this season.

Tidmarsh 'E' was the other of my pre-season promotion tips that fell short, good job I'm not a gambling man! They certainly looked strong on paper with ex-Division 3 players Dave Reynolds (88%) and Steve Barnes registered for them but as it turned out Steve failed to make an appearance for Bob Sunerton's team although Steve did play up in the higher divisions. Bob finished with a 43% average and other regular players were Mike Bundy (30%), Steve Andrews (27%) and John Liddle (27%). John Harland played in two fixtures winning three sets out of 6, and Dave Humphreys failed to trouble the scorers in seven appearances (surprising that because I thought he looked very useful when I played against him last season).

They beat both Birch Copse 'B' and Milestone 'B' home and away, and also recorded wins over OLOP 'H', SC&P 'F' and Springfield 'B' in September before the Twyford team hit form.

Milestone 'B' made a slow start but picked up well after the first month, finishing well clear of the relegation places. Their biggest win was 7 - 3 over Birch Copse 'B'

and their other wins against Polish 'C', SC&P 'E', Polish 'D', SC&P 'F' and OLOP 'H' were all by a 6 - 4 margin. The first two of those (against promotion chasing sides) were against the form book and ultimately saved them from a relegation scrap.

They made a very useful discovery in Maidenhead-based Chris Collins who averaged 71% from eight matches. Captain Gerard Thorp (52%) was once again ever-present, but Oliver Bonser (52%) was well down on last season and John Simpson's 10% is well below what he is capable of. Arun Rajagopal played up four times from the 'C' team and won an impressive 7 sets out of 12.

For me **OLOP 'H'** were the most disappointing team of the season, not because of their performances but rather the number of times they were either short-handed or didn't show at all. They conceded four walkovers and turned out a few times with only two players. However on the flip side they won their relegation crunch match against SC&P 'F' by a 10 - 0 margin and recorded an impressive 7 - 3 win against Milestone 'B'. They were very unlucky to lose against champions Polish 'C' in the penultimate week of the season. Top player Nigel Antell (88%) won his opening game against Krys but then had to concede the set and withdraw from the match through injury. Kamran Samdani showed what he is capable of by beating Steve & Krys and his doubles win with Chris Bunn meant a 3 - 7 defeat. Who knows what might have happened had Nigel been able to carry on playing!

Kamran averaged 41% and Chris Bunn 38%. Paul Tuson played in four fixtures but failed to score. I'm surprised they didn't fill gaps in their team more often with their very impressive youngsters from the 'I' team. Mike McAllister won five sets out of six and Gus Thomis three out of three.



TONY HOUSE OF SCP 'E'

OLOP 'H' drew their final match with Polish 'D' to ensure safety.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' almost earned themselves a last minute reprieve. Their last week win over fellow strugglers Birch Copse 'B' seemed academic at the time, but this win combined with a draw against two-man Post Office 'B' might have saved them if it wasn't for OLOP's last-gasp draw.

They did a 7 - 3 double over Birch Copse 'B' and also beat Milestone 'B', but most of the time they struggled to avoid a repeat of last season's capitulation.

Tony House recorded a 54% average, and he was supported by Dave Aust (47%) and the ever-present Mike Casserley (39%). Phil Turton joined the team in mid-season and averaged 26% and captain Peter Harman weighed in with 13%.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	%
Ray Webb	Post Office 'B'	88%
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'E'	88%
Nigel Antell	OLOP 'H'	88%
Grant Wheatley	Polish 'C'	86%
Danny Dockree	SC&P 'E'	85%
Daniel Dzieciol	Polish 'D'	83%
John Burke	Springfield 'B'	81%
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'B'	76%
Chris Collins	Milestone 'B'	71%
Anthony Reeve	SC&P 'E'	67%

The odds were always against **Birch Copse 'B'** to survive in Division 5. Team problems at the start of the season almost caused the team to fold, but the return of Duncan Abbott did give them a fighting chance. Duncan finished the season with 62% (slightly down on last season) but he clearly lacked support as the only other regulars were captain Melanie Griffiths (13%) and newcomer Andy Cook (10%). The team's only win was 7 - 3 against two man Milestone 'B'. Draws were gained in the opening fixture against Polish 'C' thanks to a maximum from Richard Green in his only appearance; against two-man Polish 'D' and two-man OLOP 'H', and they were awarded the points courtesy of a walkover against OLOP 'H'.



JIM McCLURE OF SCP 'E'

DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

Congratulations to OLOP 'I' for remaining undefeated all season and title winners. Well done to SC&P 'G' who have worked their socks off to just pip Kingfisher 'J' into the second promotion spot. I was privileged to be in attendance to witness their final game and was impressed with their team camaraderie as all but one player was present to support the playing team. Even Derek was happy to surrender his spot in the doubles to aid the cause! So, commiserations go to Kingfisher 'J'. Having made the second spot running all season they ended up a creditable third place. Springfield 'C', Tilehurst Methodists 'D' and Birch Copse 'C' all played their part ending mid table.

The most fascinating battle was not at the top of the division but at the bottom. For the first time in many seasons wooden spoon specialists Sonning Sports 'B' finished a deservedly fifth from bottom. This season their team spirit translated into points which made all the difference to their confidence. All through the season five teams had their own battle: Sonning Sports 'B', Springfield 'D', Milestone 'C', BBC and Kingfisher 'K'; often there were no more than two points between them. Well done to all for participating in their fascinating 'mini' battle.

Three 80+yr old players came together when Tilehurst Meths 'D' met with Sonning Sports 'B' - could this be a first?

Well done to Mike McAllister and Gus Thomis of OLOP 'I' finishing unbeaten for the season and top of the individual averages.

The doubles partnerships show Phil Saunders partnering Gus Thomis and Mike McAllister (OLOP 'I') as the best combinations so far this season remaining undefeated in five.

OLOP 'I' - Jim, Jamie and Gus all scored maximums in their 10 - 0 win over Springfield 'D'. Gus and Michael with trebles plus a double from Phil teamed up against promotion rivals SC&P 'G' to inflict a 1 - 9 loss to win the title. Phil had a five game tussle with Matt Tarrant to win 16-14, 7-11, 9-11, 11-8, 10-12. Michael had a five gamer, winning 9-11, 12-10, 11-5, 6-11, 8-11 against Angus Jones. Jim came from two games down to win against Diane Taylor in their 10 - 0 win over Kingfisher 'J'. Gus, Jim and Phil ended the season with a 10 - 0 win over BBC.

SC&P 'G' Trebles for Matt and Angus resulted in a good 7 - 3 win over Sonning Sports 'B'. Steve had close sets all running to 4 games. Matt, Angus and Derek fought hard to get something from a crucial promotion decider against OLOP 'I' but still ended up with a 1 - 9 loss. The highlight was Angus recording a three straight win over Phil Saunders. Trebles from Matt and Angus with a double from Steve as they romped to a 1 - 9 win over Kingfisher 'K'. A priceless treble from Matt with doubles from Angus and Julian as they won 7 - 3 against BBC to maintain second place. The visit to Tilehurst Meths 'D' had to be a win to get second spot. Backed by their team mates Matt, Angus and



Julian they focused to achieve the necessary 7 - 3 win to take second spot. Tilehurst pushed them hard, Julian had to come back from two down to win against David Jones and Matt also triumphed in five against David. The doubles could have gone against them winning 8-11, 11-9, 19-17, 11-9 in a close fought contest.

Kingfisher 'J' Singles from Gill and Diane resulted in a surprise 3 - 7 loss to Milestone 'C' as they slipped down out of the promotion places. A Leigh treble with doubles from Diane and Andre gave them an emphatic 8 - 2 win over Springfield 'D'. Diane was the only player to go close to a win in their 0 - 10 loss to champions OLOP 'I'. Trebles from Leigh and Gill with a single from Andre gave them a sporting chance of promotion by defeating BBC 8 - 2. Gill had a hard fought five gamer recovering from two games down to win 10-12 in the fifth against Dave Pearson.

Springfield 'C' A Colin treble along with Alan and Tom doubles resulted in a good 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Ludo got an important double with singles from Colin and Alan to get a point against Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Ludo had a good win over Sam Will and Colin just lost out in a five gamer with Patrick O'Sullivan. Doubles from Colin, Alan and Ludo finished their home games with a 7 - 3 win over Milestone 'C'. Ludo just lost out 14-16 in a five gamer against Arun Rajagopal. A Ludo treble, Colin double and Tom single gave them a close 6 - 4 win over rivals Springfield 'D'.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' Sam and Patrick doubles with an important single from Chas gave them a share of the spoils against Birch Copse 'C'. Sam pushed Roy Hull to five games losing 8-11 in the fifth. A Sam double and Patrick treble, including a close set 10 win over Colin Jones nicked a point in their match with Springfield 'C'. Chas managed to take a game off Ludo Couillard. A brilliant evening's table tennis with six sets going four games or more as they defeated Sonning Sports 'B' 7 - 3. Patrick got a treble but

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'I'	20	20	0	0	191	9	40
Sonning C&P 'G'	20	14	3	3	128	72	31
Kingfisher 'J'	20	14	2	4	127	73	30
Springfield 'C'	20	12	3	5	112	88	27
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	20	10	3	7	111	89	23
Birch Copse 'C'	20	6	5	9	88	112	17
Sonning Sports 'B'	20	5	3	12	70	130	13
Springfield 'D'	20	5	1	14	76	124	11
Milestone 'C'	20	4	3	13	68	132	11
BBC Club	20	2	5	13	74	126	9
Kingfisher 'K'	20	4	0	16	55	145	8

had a battle with Dave West to win 11-6, 15-13, 12-10. David also recorded a treble just getting a win in four against Ken Stevens. Chas worked hard for his single, beating Dave West in four. Sam got a treble with a double from Dave; and a well fought single from Chas gave them a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'K'. Patrick, Sam and David teamed up to have a say in the final promotion spot against SC&P 'G'. Patrick managed a double with a single from Sam as they succumbed 3 - 7 to SC&P 'G'. David took both Matt Tarrant and Julian James to five gamers but alas, could not muster all his years of octogenarian experience to get the killer punch in.

Birch Copse 'C' Roy scored a treble, Chris with a single and the all important Roy and Elizabeth doubles win gave them a share of the spoils against Tilehurst Meths 'C'. Doubles from Elizabeth, Roy and a single from Chris gave them a hard fought draw against Milestone 'C'. Elizabeth had good wins over Tony Haden and Arun Rajagopal. They just squeezed home 6 - 4 against Springfield 'D'. Roy had to work very hard for his treble, Adam Sheen proving to be a thorn just losing 12-14, 11-5, 13-11, 13-11. Elizabeth got an important win over Tim Carr and Chris Dummett won against David Hampshire.

Sonning Sports 'B' Dave, Tom and Ken all recorded one apiece in their 3 - 7 loss to SC&P 'G'. Ken lost 10-12 in all games against Matt Tarrant. They bounced back thanks to doubles from Dave, Tom and Sue to defeat Kingfisher 'K' 7 - 3 in the bottom-of-the-table clash. Singles from Sue and Ken along with a close 8-11, 6-11, 11-2, 11-5, 12-10 doubles win resulted in a 3 - 7 loss to Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Sue had a brilliant 10-12, 11-7, 10-12, 11-4, 11-7 win over Chas Dean. Ken had his game of the season winning 7-11, 11-4, 7-11, 15-13, 17-15 over Chas Dean. Dave, Ken and Tom finished the season on a high winning 6 - 4 at Milestone 'C'.

Springfield 'D' David, Derek and Tim all lost in straight sets in their 0 - 10 loss to OLOP 'I'. A three-straight treble from Adam along with doubles from David and Nigel gave them a resounding 2 - 8 win over BBC. Adam's two were the only wins in a 2 - 8 loss to promotion chasers Kingfisher

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Gus Thomis	OLOP 'I'	45	45	100.00 %
Michael McAllister	OLOP 'I'	39	39	100.00 %
Phillip Saunders	OLOP 'I'	36	34	94.44 %
Jim McAllister	OLOP 'I'	45	42	93.33 %
Roy Hull	B.Copse 'C'	57	52	91.23 %
Leigh Mahoney	K'fisher 'J'	37	33	89.19 %
Pratik Kothari	M'stone 'C'	18	16	88.89 %
Matthew Tarrant	SC & P 'G'	53	46	86.79 %
Ashley Jones	Spring 'C'	18	15	83.33 %
Patrick O'Sullivan	T.Meths 'D'	46	36	78.26 %
Ludovic Couillard	Spring 'C'	30	23	76.67 %
Gheorghe Milea	K'fisher 'K'	17	13	76.47 %
Arun Rajagopal	M'stone 'C'	42	32	76.19 %
Angus Jones	SC & P 'G'	45	33	73.33 %
John Scott	BBC	21	15	71.43 %

'J'. Derek came close but lost out in a five 'gamer' against Andre Bartlett. Doubles from Adam with singles from Tim and David resulted in just losing out 4 - 6 against Birch Copse 'C'. An Adam double with singles from Nigel and Colin could not stop them from slipping to a 4 - 6 defeat to rivals Springfield 'C'.

Milestone 'C' A brilliant treble from Arun with a single from Ian gave them a hard fought draw with BBC. Ian had a 17-15, 7-11, 3-11, 11-3, 13-11 win over Dave Pearson and Arun a 11-4, 10-12, 17-15, 10-12, 11-7 win over Kirill Dissanayake. Trebles from Arun and Pratik with a single from Ian S gave them a brilliant 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'J' to leap from bottom to mid table. Pratik had a mammoth 10-12, 12-10, 11-7, 10-12, 13-15 win over Gill Bennett. Doubles from Arun and Ian along with the important doubles win gave them a precious point against Birch Copse 'C'. Arun recorded a good win over Roy Hull. A treble from Arun could not stop them going down 3 - 7 to Springfield 'C'. Arun finished the season off with another treble but could not stop them going down 4 - 6 to Sonning Sports 'B'.

BBC Caversham A double from John S and Kirill with an important single from Dave resulted in a hard fought draw with Milestone 'C'. A double from David could not stop them losing 2 - 8 to a resolute Springfield 'D'. Dave came back from two down to win in five against Nigel Outhwaite. A double from Kirill could not stop them going down 7 - 3 against SC&P 'G'. Phil and Dave worked hard for their singles but went down 2 - 8 to a strong Kingfisher 'J'. Phil, John S and Dave ended the season with a predictable 0 - 10 loss against OLOP 'I', they all managed to win games but could not turn them into sets.

Kingfisher 'K' A Simon double could not stop a 3 - 7 loss to Springfield 'C'. Stuart just lost out in a five game thriller with Tom Berryman. Simon recorded a hard fought treble in their 7 - 3 loss to Sonning Sports 'B'. Glen and Peter managed to win a game each against Sue Brownhill. Jeff had the only win over Steve Knott as they succumbed 1 - 9 to a rampant SC&P 'G' team. A Jeff double & Peter single could not stop them going down 3 - 7 to Tilehurst Meths 'D'.



GUS THOMIS OF OLOP 'I'

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Steve Ricks

So after a hard-fought series of matches, the John Cunningham Youth League has come to the end of another season. The future of Reading table tennis is certainly assured, especially if the current interest is maintained and the present crop of players stick with it and continue to improve. This season was a particularly rewarding one, with 43 players registering to play. This is by far the most players we have had for many years and particularly pleasing is the fact that the numbers didn't really drop off as the season progressed – was this down to the London



Olympics?

We will probably never know, but if we can maintain this level of interest, some of this group of youngsters will undoubtedly go on to represent the town at Junior level (some already are) as well as at Senior level.

match score and the substitute players' games counted towards their personal average. This system worked well and in the vast majority of cases everybody that was available played.

As in the previous 2 years, the first half of the season saw each team play each other once. After the Christmas break the teams were split into two, the leading 6 teams in Division 1, while the remainder formed Division 2. We finished the first half with a small Christmas Party – thanks Wendy! In the second half of the season, each team played

the other teams in their division twice. With Week 1 in January snowed off, there was always some catching up to do and with the last scheduled date falling on Good Friday. Wendy and Jade did really well to get all the matches completed in time.

Division 1

The John Cunningham Youth League Champions this year are The **Eagles**, whose team comprised Chris Johnson, Jamie Liu and Jim McAllister – congratulations to them. All 3 players had a really good, consistent season, with total season averages being Chris – 92%, Jamie – 83% and Jim – 96% (how good will Jamie Liu be when he can see over the table?). Having 3 players scoring so highly in the averages coupled with excellent attendance is clearly what has seen this team through to the title. They have only been beaten twice, by a full strength **Strikers** team, who finished in second place and would probably have won the league had they had their best team playing consistently. This team boasts the only 100% record for a player who has played all season in Sam Liu, so congratulations to him. In second place in the averages is Michael McAllister who finished on 94% with Danny Dockree ending the season on 79% - very worthy runners up.



ALEX DUGGAN

For this season we ran 12 teams of 3 players

and in the interest of removing inter-club rivalry (some of the adult players know what I'm talking about), dropped the club names. However we were privileged to have representation from various Reading league clubs, namely, Milestone,



SCARLETT JONES

OLOP, Sonning Common & Peppard, Tidmarsh, Tilehurst Methodists, and Wokingham.

Obviously not all players could turn up every week so we utilised spare players who had registered after the season had started to help teams out who had players missing. Unlike in previous years these games were counted in the



NATHAN MCCAUGHERTY

DIV 1

Team	Pts	L
Eagles	79	20
Strikers	66	27
Raiders	44	50
Tigers	39	61
Trojans	32	67
Panthers	32	67

DIV 1 AVERAGES

	P	W	%
Sam Liu	25	25	100%
Michael McAllister	18	17	94%
Jamie Liu	18	17	94%
Chris Johnson	29	25	86%
Adam Gozzard	14	12	86%
Jim McAllister	24	19	79%
Danny Dockree	11	8	73%
Harry Munro	22	14	64%

In a creditable 3rd place come **Raiders**, a team made up of 3 newcomers: Ted Allpress, Adam Gozzard and Alex Duggan who have done really well to come third in their first season of competitive table tennis. All feature well in the averages with Ted on 59%, Adam on 86% and Alex on 38%.

Next come **Tigers**, a team made up of several occasional players including two of the three registered girls. Top of their team is Joe Barraclough playing in his second season and finishing on 47%, ably supported by Thomas Perkins on 37%, Scarlett Jones on 38% and Katie Shepherd on 23%. The Sayer Brothers Harry and Oli struggled in the second half of the season with the jump up to Division 1 probably happening too quickly for them and their performance suffering as a result.

In fifth place are **Trojans**; John Sampson, Harry Munro and Gareth Wheatley also had a really good run up to Christmas, made the cut into the first division, then found the going tougher. Harry was their top scoring player finishing



JOE BARRACLOUGH

them

progress into Division 1 at Christmas next year.

In second place were **Batmen**, whose mainstay was Joe Will who finished on 92%. Joe was one of only two players in the whole league to have 100% attendance over the whole season and this and his high average has resulted in his team gaining the runners-up spot. Joe was ably supported by Daniel Bernie on 70%, Oliver Scott on 61% and Aiden Collymore on 48%.

In third place and safely mid-table come **Spartans** comprising Bill Hayden on 77%, Camran Nesari on 66% and Callum McLeod on 40%. This is another team full of new players who will have benefited from this first year and will doubtless improve over the summer and next season.

In fourth place are **Lions**, with a mix of experienced and new players in their ranks. Pranav Prasad has been their top scorer with 40% and also only missed one session. He was backed up by Austin Ellerton with 29% and Amanvire Dhoot with 20%.

Fifth are **Attackers**, led by Saif Maher who finished on 33%. This is a radical improvement for Saif who has had 8 wins this year after a fairly barren 2011-2012. He was supported by Haasin Khan on 29% and Rosie Zhu on 14%.

In sixth place are **Avengers**. Raphael Thorne finished on 11%, but Euan and Tristan found their first season a little



KATIE SHEPHERD

on 64%. Gareth finished on 26% and to his credit was also one of only 2 players in the whole youth league to manage 100% attendance. John struggled with the Division 1 standard, but managed one win out of his 28 starts.

In sixth place are **Panthers**, a team who clearly enjoy their table tennis, with excellent attendance from all 3 players. Balazs Horanyi finished top of the averages for them on 40%, with Thomas Breslin on 33% and Tom Hobbs on 21%.

Division 2

Congratulations to Division 2 champions **Knights**, again showing that good play coupled with excellent attendance is the key to winning a youth league division. Jamie Filby and George Strong were joint top of the pile in Division 2, both finishing with an excellent 93% and both only missing one session each over the course of the season. They were well supported by Nathan McCaughty who missed the first half of the season, but having started didn't miss another match. He also had an excellent season finishing on 79%. With these averages and attendance figures, Knights finished well clear of the rest of the field and I would expect to see



THOMAS PERKINS

DIV 2		
Team	Pts	L
Knights	88	12
Batmen	71	29
Spartans	53	43
Lions	36	54
Attackers	20	69
Avengers	18	79

DIV 2 AVERAGES			
	P	W	%
George Strong	28	26	93%
Jamie Filby	28	26	93%
Joe Will	26	24	92%
Nathan McCaughty	28	22	79%
Bill Hayden	30	23	77%
Daniel Bernie	23	16	70%
Camran Nesari	29	19	66%

daunting and neither managed to record a win. A summer of practice and sticking with it next season will definitely see some improvement for them.

In the February half term, Adam McTiernan kindly ran the Alan Dines Memorial Handicap competition. The winner of

this event was Harry Munro, who beat Katie Shepherd in an exciting final. Special thanks go to Adam for organising and running this event.

Finally I would like to thank Wendy Porter for all the effort and hard work she puts into running the John Cunningham Youth League, not only for the table tennis, but making it a fun event for all the participants. I would also like to record thanks to Jade Fudge, Ian Cole, Phil Saunders, Sam Ricks and Danny for input and help throughout the season and finally to all parents for ferrying their kids backwards and forwards to matches and coaching sessions.

Have a good summer!



READING A: SAM LIU, LEO LONG, JOSH GALLEN

This year Reading sent several teams to the **National Cadet League** - and they performed with notable success.

Reading 'A' (Sam Liu, Leo Long and Josh Gallen) came first in Division One. Sam scored 100%; Leo and Josh 90% each.

In Reading 'B' (also Division 1) Gus got 90%, Chris 30% and Jim 20%



READING B: GUS THOMIS, CHRIS JOHNSON, JIM McALLISTER



READING C: TED ALLPRESS, JAMIE LIU, THOMAS BRESLIN

Reading 'C' was in Division 2: Jamie Liu scored 100%, Ted Allpress 40% and Thomas Breslin 10%

Reading 'D' was in Division 4: Gareth Wheatley scored 89%, Hassin Khan 55% and Alex Duggan 40%

Congratulations to all these dauntless competitors!



READING D: HAASIN KHAN, GARETH WHEATLEY, ALEX DUGGAN

NCL

ENGLAND UNDER 19 TITLE FOR LIAM

Seventeen year old Waingels College sixth former Liam McTiernan has won the English Schools Boys Under 19's title at the ESTTA Butterfly 40th National Individual Championships in Doncaster on Sat 20th April.



LIAM MCTIERNAN

Liam won the Under 16 title last year and this year represented Berkshire in the Under 19 event for those in years 12 and 13. He started the event as second seed and faced Group opponents representing schools from Cornwall, Merseyside, Birmingham and London West. He promptly won all four matches, dropping just one set in the process.

The Round of the Last 16 saw him playing Karim Khassal of London North and he struggled a little in the early stages but came through it a three-sets-to-one victor. The Quarter Final pitched Liam against Chinese born Ho Jin (John) Lee from London Central and a fantastic exhibition of table tennis ensued, which required him to use all his experience to keep the attacking Lee at bay for another 3 - 1 win.

Matches were now coming thick and fast with the semi final being played soon after against classy Luke Walsh (Hertfordshire) who had just disposed of the third seed and defending champion Michael Ho in straight sets. Liam started very well and never looked in trouble as he romped to a 3 - 0 victory to set up a final against the surprise player of the tournament Bryan Kwan who was representing East Sussex but had previously played internationally at Under 13 level with Hong Kong. Kwan had earlier put out top seed Danny Lawrence 3 - 2.

The final started at 9.30 p.m. and was incredibly the 815th match of the day, which started with the Under 11 event. In a fairly tight match it was Liam's clinical finishing which was the difference and once he got ahead there was

simply no stopping him and he took it in straight sets to become the English Schools National Under 19 Champion, the first from Berkshire Schools since Martin Adams in 1991. In doing so he became only the third Berkshire schoolboy to win at two different age groups in the 40 year history of the tournament - the other two being Andrew and Matthew Syed who attended Maiden Erleigh School.

In other events at the Championships, second seed Maria Tsaptsinos (Abbey School) had a successful day which she finished as Runner-Up in the Girls Under 16 Category. Maria had good wins over Emily Bolton (Cumbria) in the Quarter Finals and Yuki Wat (East Sussex) in the Semis. Unfortunately she couldn't repeat this in the final where she was up against the European Number 1 Cadet and top seed Tin Tin Ho (London East). Despite a spirited showing Maria lost 3 - 0. This was however her best performance at the championships to date and secured her a place (alongside Liam) in the England Squad for the Senior Schools International Invitation which takes place in June on the Isle of Man.

The other star of the day in Berkshire colours was undoubtedly nine year old Jamie Liu (The Hill Primary). He started as fifth seed in the Boys Under 11 event and won all five of his group matches in fine style against players representing schools in Cleveland, Dorset, London East, Staffordshire and South Yorkshire. In the Round of the Last 16 he faced seventh seed Sam Walsh (Merseyside) and with much support from the travelling Berkshire contingent he fought hard and played some good shots but could not overcome his more experienced opponent, losing an entertaining match by three sets to one. Nevertheless he gained useful experience and still has chances of winning this event as he is only in Year 4.

Waingels College Year 9 pupil Daniel McTiernan won his Boys Under 16 Group but also went out to a more experienced player in the Last 16 in the guise of David Thompson (South Yorkshire). Katie Shepherd (The Abbey) and Chris Johnson (Waingels College) represented Berkshire at Under 13 level and found the going tough but never stopped working hard and were unlucky not to pick up wins, both losing 3 - 2 when well placed.



LIAM WITH MARIA TSAPTSINOS AND HER FATHER DIMITRIS