



READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

April 2011



How We All Managed

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Do start by reading **Mark Banks's brilliant account of the Div One final**. A supreme triumph for him. Few players had a season as good as that - but, let's admit it, we all love playing, even when the final score is against us! At the end of the season, **the seven DFS's have been vying with each other to bring all our individual triumphs back to life.**

Photographs - you may notice **about 50** of them, and they keep getting bigger (but still the newsletter is only 1MB!) I'm trying to show as many players as possible in action. Most of the photos are by me, but total credit to **Didier Garçon** in particular for capturing some stupendous moments, including **our cover photo - in which Hari Gehlot is receiving congratulations on his crucial hat trick from Mark Banks (top right)**. I have marked Didier's photos with an asterisk - another phenomenal one if his shows Hanson Xu in the Div 2 section.

There's a letter **from Graham Diplock on how to defeat long pimples; a rude photo from Martin Adams**, and (on page 32) a historic scorecard from an anonymous contributor.

Have a hilarious summer - but look through these pages first!

Derek



Kingfisher 'A' are the Table Tennis Champions of Reading again after the most dramatic season finale seen for many, many years. They only needed a draw in the final game of the season with 2nd placed YMCA 'A' to clinch the title and just managed to achieve that with a win in the final match after trailing 5-4.

The stage was set at a packed Kingfisher Clubhouse. I'm not kidding when I say there was standing room only. Supporters, photographers, video cameramen - the lot. The usual pre-match banter was taking place. Both teams had turned up and started warming up with full 4-man squads, who was going to play? what order would we be in? and was Ramesh just here for the Doubles and the Refreshments? And so, it was decided. Banks, Gehlot (H) and The Kid vs Misseldine, Reynolds and Chodounsky. The very same lineup that had fought out the very first game of the season back in September at the YMCA - a game that had ended in a 5-all draw. The omens were already there!

First up was Banks vs Misseldine. Andy started the brighter and should have won the first leg before Banks stormed back and robbed him at the end by 14 to 12. The 2nd went a similar way but this time with Andy coming back to win from miles back. 1 all. Banks won the 3rd close and then used all the luck in the world to win the 4th and put Kingfisher 1 up. Good start for the Champions.



ANDY MISSELDINE

Enter **Hari Gehlot & Tony Reynolds**. For pure quality this was to be the best match up of the evening. On all known form you would say this would be a shoo-in for Hari but Tony was having none of it. He came out of the traps absolutely firing. Backhands, forehands, smashes, the



THE KINGFISHER 'A' LINEUP: HARI GEHLOT, MARK BANKS, STUART ('THE KID') WILLIAMS AND RAMESH GEHLOT

lot. He won the first easily and then held on valiantly to win the 2nd. 2 legs up, playing brilliantly and a shock was on the cards. Hari's a fighter though. He came storming back in the 3rd and then took a nail biting fourth at 11-9 to set up a 5th leg decider. Tony was still playing well. They changed with Tony at 5-4 up but Hari just upped the stakes and a great period of powerplay gave him the game and the miraculous comeback was complete. A good start for the Champions became a Great Start! 2 nil.

The Kid had been selected for his fine form in the fixture first time around and he was now up against the YM No. 1. Martin Chodounsky who had very generously bought a crate of the Finest Czech lager along for all to enjoy. We were rather hoping he'd sunk 4 or 5 of them before playing but he's way too professional for that and started brilliantly in the first leg giving the kid no chance. Been playing well recently though has the kid and he proved it by levelling at 1 all with some super shots from both wings. The 3rd and 4th legs were quite similar. Martin took the 3rd to put himself in a strong position but the kid was up for this



HARI GEHLOT v TONY REYNOLDS

one and took the match to another 5th leg decider. A win here for Kingfisher and I don't think YM would have recovered from 3 nil but it wasn't to be. Martin was never behind and another great game had this time gone to YM. 2-1 and they were back in it.

The next 2 matches didn't live up to the previous 3. Andy looked as though the luck that had gone against him in the first was still on his mind and Hari didn't fancy another 5 set-ter after his heroic comeback against Tony. Hari won it convincingly 3 zip and the Champions were 3-1 up meaning YM needed 5 out of the last 6 to take the title. Surely they couldn't win it from here? Banks started confidently against Chodounsky. 8-2 up, was it 9-5 up? 10-6 I think? but credit to Martin - he kept on in there nicked it at deuce and never looked back after that and the match score was now Kingfisher 3 - YM 2. The next game (Kid vs Reynolds) was one in particular that we had pinpointed as crucial to our



MARTIN CHODOUNSKI (photo by Didier Garçon)

players like "hungry" Daniel Moses and Ramesh Gehlot had evidently put a dent in what was on offer but there was plenty to go round and much enjoyed by all. Thanks very much Colin & Martin.



STUART 'THE KID' WILLIAMS

chances and I guess YM had the same ideas. Both had played incredibly well earlier in 5 set defeats so something had to give and it was Tony who started the more confident as he took the first 2 legs with relative comfort. Back came the kid though. He raced away with the 3rd and was doing well in the 4th before Tony played some stunning stuff at the end to seal the deal and it was game on. 3 all.

Colin Dyke had provided some great refreshments and as it was evident that Martin hadn't touched a drop of his beer it was time for other people to help him out and players and supporters alike all took a much needed 15 minute break to enjoy the delights of what lay before us in the Kingfisher rest area. Sadly, non

Doubles next. In truth we had the opportunity to play Ramesh in it but against our better judgement decided to field me instead. It didn't work. Martin & Tony are a powerful combination and they were just too strong and won it with a routine 3 nil. And for the first time in the match YM were ahead 3-4. Ouch!!! Clash of the titans next. Hari vs Martin. We knew it was on the line here. If Martin were to win then our dream of another title was probably going to slip through our fingers. And he started well. Coming back from 9-7 down to put himself 1 up. Hari stormed back to take the 2nd but the 3rd followed a similar pattern to the first with Martin winning it close at the end. He was now 2-1 up and I glanced across at a smiling Pete Bradley, I could hardly watch. OK so Hari had already pulled off one fantastic comeback on the night but could he do it again against super Chodounsky? Yes he jolly well could!! Super stuff Hari, Real Captain's performance. He took the 4th and 5th by the same wide margin 6 and 6. Brilliant maximum just when we needed it. The match score was now 4 all and we were 1 away from the title but from our perspective Hari could no longer play a part - he'd done his bit and the 2 games that were left had both gone YM's way in the first fixture. We were gonna have to do it the hard way. Could it be more dramatic???



THE YMCA 'A' SQUAD: BOB SHAW, ANDY MISSELDINE. MARTIN CHODOUNSKI & TONY REYNOLDS

Kid vs Misseldine. The kid had played well all night but it just hadn't gone his way. Andy, for him, had seemed a little out of sorts - and one thing's for sure - as table tennis goes this was real squeaky bum stuff. The kid started the better. Winning the first convincingly but Andy's record speaks for itself and he came back strongly with that lethal mix of pimples and spin to win the next 2. I sank lower and lower into my chair. Pete Bradley's grin got wider and wider. Good pep talk from Hari at the change of ends and the Kid was back on it. Super stuff Kid and yet another game had gone to the 5th and final leg. It was nip and tuck in the 5th. Nerves, great shots, nets, edges it had the lot. The Kid was 8-7 up and we were just 3 points away from glory, so close but so far. Fair play to Andy, he hung on in there and took it away from him. The kid had lost nothing in defeat but YM were now 5-4 up. This fantastic long 7 month season had come down to the final game. It was Banks vs Reynolds for the title. Dunno how Tony was feeling but my own gut was in meltdown. Win, lose or draw I truly didn't want the season to end like this. The crowd did though - they were lapping it up. It had been a fantastic night and it was all or nothing time.

It was Colin Dyke who calmed me down. A couple of wise words in my ear that stayed with me throughout the entire game. Tony had been in fantastic form all night, could and perhaps should have beaten Hari and had seen off an inform kid. It was going to be a tough one and I was quite rightly worried. I started well, in truth more to do with Tony missing rather than me playing exceptionally. And in about 3 minutes I was one up. Relax, stay focused. The 2nd leg was similar to the first - a bit scrappy but there were small signs that Tony was just starting to settle down and play his



MARK BANKS

game a bit more. However 2 nil up and we were 1 leg away. I couldn't have wished for a better start in the 3rd leg. 5 love up and storming away with it. The title was going to be ours. I could almost reach out and touch the



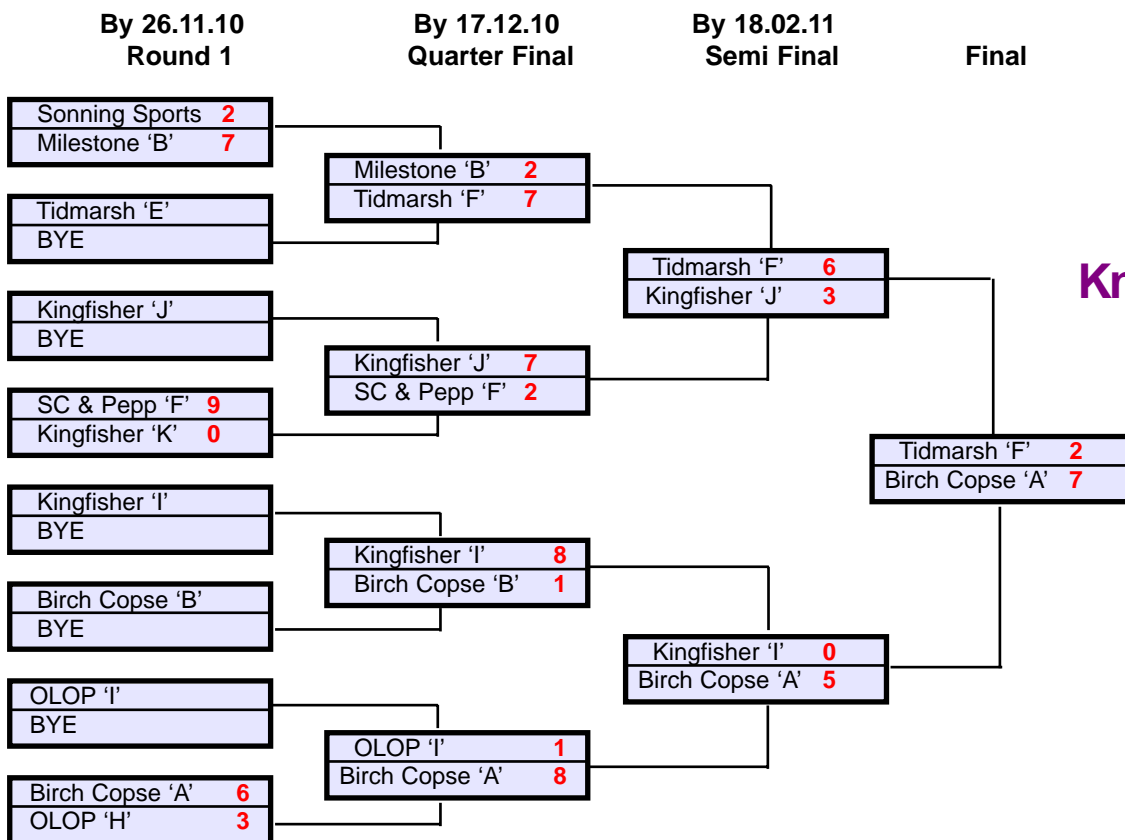
TONY REYNOLDS

trophy. But all credit to Tony. He came right back at me. 5 love was quickly wiped out, it was like he was playing Hari again and I couldn't cope with him anymore. He won, and in doing so let out a pumped up roar. Grrrrrrrr. 2 legs to 1. Hari and the Kid calmed me down again. They're good corner guys to have. Again, I built up a good lead in the 4th but again he kept on coming back. Fair play to Tony he never gives up. Crucially, however I got the luck at 8-6 and wasn't going to let it slip again. And I saw it home. We were Champions once again. The relief and emotion was there for all to see. 7 months of hurt. 7 months of living with a big fat zero in the first fixture. 7 months of waiting for the opportunity to try to put that right. It had been a long 7 months. The "way over the top" celebration was not for Tony or for any of the YM players, their club mates or their supporters. It did not even necessarily reflect the emotions of my fellow Kingfisher 'A' team mates. It was a massive personal self centred release of emotion that even I didn't realise was there. I couldn't control it. Yes, it's "only" the Reading League, yes there are much much much more important things than a game of ping. But for me, for that tiny little moment it was everything. Incredibly sad hey. And I fully admit it.

Bob, Tony, Martin, Andy, YMCA were a credit. You have been all season. What a night, What a competition. They can be comforted in the knowledge that whilst we are the champions, over 2 matches we couldn't beat them. Essentially it may all have come down to the fact that they lost to Polish and we scraped a draw after Hari came back from 2 nil and 7-2 down against Tony Stead. As Martin Chodounsky said on his way out - it's all ifs, buts and maybes. And he's right you know. He's right.

Kingfisher 'A' 5 YMCA 'A' 5 (H Gehlot 3, Banks 2, Williams 0)
(Chodounsky 2, Reynolds 1, Misseldine 1, Doubles)

SPECIAL COMPETITIONS *organized by Duncan Abbott*



Lower Divisions Knockout Cup 2010/2011

Birch Copse 'A' won a pulsating Div 5/6 KO Cup Final beating Tidmarsh 'F' 7 - 2.

In reality it was far from plain sailing. Bob Sunerton put Tidmarsh 'F' into a 1 - 0 lead with a superb victory over Div 5's top player Richard Green, coming back from 2 sets down. Jes Eassom restored parity with a good win over Steve Andrews; then Mike Williams put Birch Copse into the lead with a hard fought win over Pete Sinclair.

Tidmarsh 'F' looked set to hit back as Steve stormed into a 2-set lead over an out of sorts



BIRCH COPSE 'A' - RICHARD GREEN, JES EASSOM & MIKE WILLIAMS



TIDMARSH 'F' - BOB SUNERTON, STEVE ANDREWS & PETE SINCLAIR

Richard. However Richard wasn't Div 5 top dog by accident and he dug deep into his reserves with encouragement from his team mates to pull out an unlikely victory. The next game Mike went 2 sets to 1 up against Bob but the Tidmarsh 'F' captain was in superb form and hit back to win the game and reduce Birch Copse's lead to 3 - 2.

Jes was in top form as he stormed to an emphatic win over Pete. Then Mike clinched Birch Copse's first ever cup triumph by coming from behind to beat Steve 11-9 in the fifth set.

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 2011

by Nigel Maltby



DANIEL MOSES

The Reading Closed Championships were held over the weekend of the 12/13th March at the Cippenham Club, Slough.

Daniel Moses beat 12 year old Daniel McTiernan in the Final of the Mens Singles after Daniel's brother, Liam, suffered a shock quarter-final exit to Ollie Shaw. **Diane Taylor** picked up the Ladies Singles title after defeating **Jade Fudge** 11-6, 11-5, 19-17. Liam McTiernan and Daniel Moses teamed up to win the Mens Doubles after a thrilling 11-9, 11-6, 5-11, 10-12, 12-10 victory over Ian Cole and Julian Telford, while the Mixed Doubles crown went to Daniel Moses and Jade Fudge after their 11-4, 5-11, 14-12, 8-11, 11-6 win against Ian Cole and Diane Taylor.

The big shock in the Mens Singles came at the Quarter-Final stage as Ollie Shaw beat the N^o. 1 seed Liam McTiernan 10-12, 4-11, 11-4, 13-11, 11-9. Daniel McTiernan beat Jon Willis in 3 straight games and Daniel Moses beat Norman Swift in similar style while Eric Van Looy clinched his semi-final place after holding off Julian Telford 4-11, 11-5, 9-11, 13-11, 11-5.

In the semi finals Daniel Moses won 11-5, 10-12, 11-3, 11-5 against Eric Van Looy while Daniel McTiernan progressed to the final after he beat Ollie Shaw 11-7, 12-10, 11-4. Daniel McTiernan put up a good show in the final but Daniel Moses' few years extra experience helped him take the title this year with an 11-8, 13-11, 5-11, 11-5 victory.

Colin Dyke won the Over 60's event, beating Kingfisher club mate Eric Holmes 11-2, 11-13, 11-5, 5-11, 11-3 in the final. **Norman Swift** was in great form as he picked up

three titles, beating Colin Dyke in both the Veteran and Senior Veteran singles events and then holding off Ollie Shaw to win the Division 1 restricted title 11-7, 6-11, 11-6, 14-12.

In the Junior events Daniel Moses & Liam McTiernan won the Junior Boys Doubles, although they needed five games to see off a gallant challenge from Daniel McTiernan and Hanson Xu in the final 11-9, 12-10, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7. Liam McTiernan beat Daniel Moses in the final of the U21 event 8-11, 11-5, 12-10, 11-4 and Liam also beat Daniel in the final of the Junior Boys event in a much closer contest 12-10, 8-11, 11-8, 2-11, 11-9. The Cadet Boys title went to Daniel McTiernan as he comfortably beat Sam Ricks 11-8, 11-5, 11-7, in the final and Daniel was also successful in the U13 Boys event, beating Leo Long 11-4, 11-4, 11-8. The U11 Boys singles was won by Christopher Johnson after he beat Lorcan Gallen 11-2, 9-11, 12-10, 11-3.

Jade Fudge won the Junior Girls title, beating Jodie Hayden 6-11, 11-4, 11-7, 11-4. Jodie however won both the Cadet Girls and the U13 Girls events, beating Jemma Stephens in the final of both, while Jemma was the winner of the U11 singles after she beat Grace Gardiner 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-5.

The Division 1 restricted singles saw two brilliant semi-finals. **Norman Swift** toppled Eric Van-Looy 8-11, 9-11, 11-7, 11-3, 11-9 while Ollie Shaw held off the challenge of Daniel McTiernan to win 9-11, 11-6, 13-11, 7-11, 11-9. Norman beat Ollie in the final in another close match 11-7, 6-11, 11-6, 14-12. Richard Fifield was the winner of the Division 2 event, beating Jon Willis in the final, while Jeremy Willis won a close Division 3 final against Steve Purchase 11-6, 21-19, 11-5. The Youth Division title went to Sam Ricks after he defeated Gus Thomis 12-10, 11-7, 11-9 in the final.



NORMAN SWIFT *



LADIES SINGLES: DIANE TAYLOR AND JADE FUDGE

DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

So there we have it then another season over, another title for Kingfisher 'A'. Does it get any better than that? Well, for us it certainly doesn't but I presume for the rest of you out there it's all rather boring. Maybe it's about time we gave somebody else a go? In any case I'm gonna take the summer off. At one stage this week I played Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday! I didn't even do that when I was 14 let alone at the ripe old age of 35! It aint great for the marriage. I phoned Ramesh and said I'm pretty sure I've even played more than you this week buddy. Don't be silly Banksey he said! At the bottom it was evident that the 2 relegated sides were always probably going to be the ones to go. They can be heartened by improved performances in the 2nd half though and I'm sure we'll be seeing them both again. Well played everybody, enjoy your summer and I'll see you all again come September unless you're Tony Brown in which case I'll probably see you this afternoon somewhere! I'm off to get some summer bargains in before Andy Yon and his best friend get in there first.

Love & Peace

Mark x

Another unbeaten season and another title then for us in **Kingfisher 'A'**. This time however it wasn't as straight forward as in previous years and we had to work harder than we'd ever worked before! Boy was it mighty close and fair play to YM for making it a real battle. They are to be applauded just as much as we are. Clearly we can't keep on expecting to win titles with Ramesh in the side so we're going to be looking to strengthen in the summer. Hari has been immense again all year. Comes up with the goods time and time again. Arrrrreeeeeeeeeeeeeeee! Bless Ramesh. It's been a big year for him too. He even turned down a knock to take his first holiday in 5 years. Dubai was the destination of choice and he had a fantastic time. Part of his holiday took him to the top of the tallest building in the world – The Burj Tower of Dubai. Sadly for the locals however, after his visit, they've now had to rename it the Leaning Burj Tower! Ha Ha. Sorry buddy but great season and your winners medal is again fully deserved – no need to thank me by the way. It was always going to be tough for The Kid to come in and replace Steve Munson but after a

slow start had a great 2nd half and contributed fully to the cause. Trust me playing with the G's takes some getting used to and he'll be wiser for the experience and even better next year when we win it again !

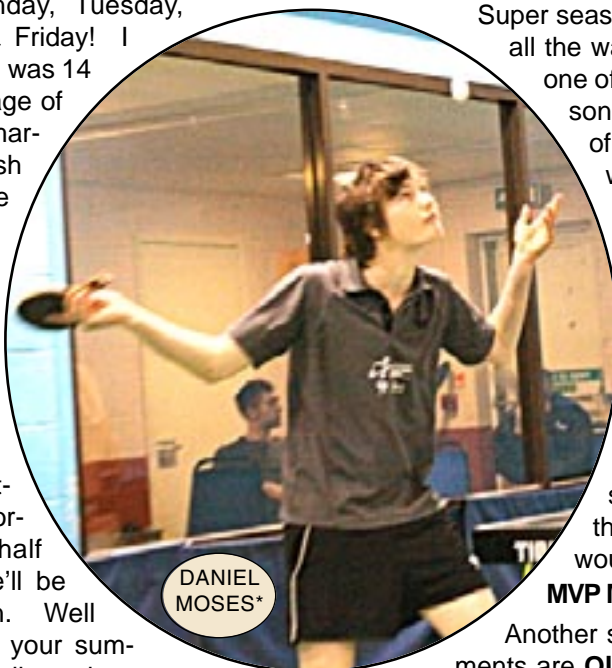
MVP Hari Gehlot

Super season for **YMCA 'A'** too. Pushed us all the way – and I mean ALL the way in one of the greatest climaxes to a season ever and can be mighty proud

of their achievements. Martin is one of the best we have and has been magnificently consistent all season. I can't remember an unexpected loss for him – so a great effort and YM will be keen to keep him in their ranks for next season too. Andy and Tony have obviously been in great form and haven't lost too many at this level and I've never seen Bob enjoying it so much. He's having a great time out there. Does he say sorry now Mark? Look, he's not enjoying it THAT much OK. Ha Ha. If they stay together (and I'm assured that they are) then they'll be all out to go one better and I wouldn't be betting against them doing just that.

MVP Martin Chodounsky

Another side who can be mighty proud of their achievements are **OLOP 'A'**. This was the year that we all thought would be the one where Daniel Moses really made his mark on things and he didn't let us down. He lost a tonne of weight by cutting down from 4 pizzas a week to just 3 and his form accelerated which ended with a career best win over Martin Adams. No longer a junior and about time he got a job so it will be interesting where his priorities will be but clearly an outstanding talent and let's hope he stays on and competes again in this next season. Big improvement this season from Ian Cole. Has established himself as a proper D1 player and his efforts are now reaping the rewards. Great first season



DANIEL
MOSES*

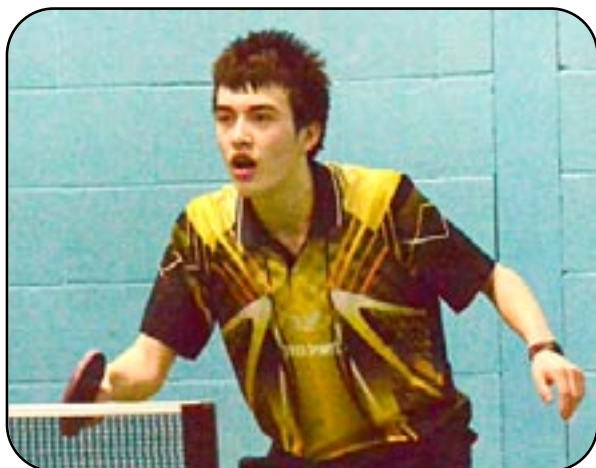


RAMESH GEHLOT, TRAINING WITH TEAM MATE STUART WILLIAMS

from **Norman Swift** too. Very handy on his day and has provided excellent support to Daniel on their journey this year. The Basingstoke posse haven't been out too many times this season but when they have they've done OK. Peter keeps the reports coming through thick and fast and Murgy must be around somewhere. Will be interesting to see what the OLOP Club do with their teams next season, clearly they have the players to challenge at the top – they just all play in different teams!

MVP Daniel Moses

It was effectively season over for **Polish 'A'** when Steve Dobbins picked up his arm injury and almost straight away they lost their long unbeaten record. Martin has again been in super form this year and without throwing away a 2 game to love lead on Daniel would once again have another 100% season to his name. Pity that but he's way too good a player to worry about minor blips like that and came storming back in the rematch the following week to put the record straight. Class act! The rest of them have done OK. Tony Stead plays a good game – still losing sleep buddy? And Richard & Nick whilst not as prolific as in previous seasons still do their bit when it matters most.



LIAM McTIERNAN

Good season then also for **OLOP 'B'**. **Liam's** form has been excellent all year and one can only speculate what would have happened if they'd thrown him into OLOP 'A'. Elsewhere, **Ollie Shaw** and Raphael Jack have gone on and improved again and newcomer Bradley King and old stagers Burrow & Telford have had their fair share of success too. Great effort to just finish outside the Champions League spots and must be well pleased with their achievements.

MVP Liam McTiernan

Somewhat overshadowed by their bigger brother, **YMCA 'B'** recovered well from a slow start to finish a respectable 6th. David Streak and Neil Hurford both right up there in the averages all season long and rolling back the years once again with some super stuff. Pete Bradley has done OK in recent weeks too getting his name on the scoresheet more often than not and Dave Gilham hasn't let himself down on the appearances that he's made. They're looking to strengthen again next season so if anybody of D1 standard or better (that



JULIAN TELFORD

rules you out Ramesh) fancies a fresh challenge at a new club and a season full of laughs then please contact David during the summer.

MVP Neil Hurford

Look forward to more Friday night table tennis next season folks – **Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'** will be back again. Tony Brown – Everywhere I go he's there. I take a holiday in Blackpool, he's there, I'm wandering around a sports centre in Crawley – he's there again! Either I'm stalking him or he's stalking me. Almost 70 years of age and still playing some exceptional stuff. Good guy too. No doubt I'll bump into you in Majorca in August buddy. Lee's form has been pretty solid again. Unfortunately the arm injury has hampered his progress somewhat but when he's been fit he's been a bit of a handful for some of you, I just hope most of you weren't on his dog tips this time around. John Barclay – the man with the lightest bat in the world. You know what they say – play with a featherlite bat and expect the nets and edges to go against you. And Duncan Groves

pretty much wins at least 1 every time he plays which is good going at this level. Sadly Dave wasn't seen too often this year. Hope to have him more regularly next season.

MVP Tony Brown

Solid stuff also from **Polish 'B'**. Will be well pleased still with the win over the A team and whilst his umpiring has deteriorated even further his form on the table has more than picked up and Graham Diplock the man who went into table tennis wilderness for over 20 years is now firmly established as a proper D1 player. Keith has been playing well too. Still misses Fenwick something rotten but that's not stopping him on the table and has picked up a couple of career best wins this season. Maria will continue to go on from strength to strength and is a better player now for the experience (and all



NORMAN SWIFT

MVP Martin Adams



OLLIE SHAW

the Gareth coaching). And Andy Yon. The fastest shot in the county. Been enjoying the County Vets scene with some notable victories and leaving red marks all over his opponents bodies in the process!

MVP Graham Diplock

Super Kingfisher 'B' have enjoyed their return to the top flight and pretty much held their own all year round. Eric Van-Looy started the season on fire and was topping the averages for some weeks. But again, injury hampered his progress somewhat but he can be more than pleased with his all round game. Geoff, Cliff & Colin will all remember their return to D1 fondly. All have played their part and each one of them has picked up at least one victory against a so called higher ranked opponent. And Megan Knowles, rather like Maria can only have improved from her experience and has picked up some fine scalps of her own. The Ramesh victory in particular was one of the most assured performances I witnessed all year. Well played again!

MVP Eric Van-Looy

Every year they flirt with the trap door and every year **OLOP 'C'** stay up by the skin of their teeth! And against those suntans what incredibly white teeth they are too! No Mark Hancock to save them this year – that particular task fell on the particularly young shoulders of **Daniel McTiernan** and didn't he do well in his first full season in the top flight. Brilliant stuff. Steve Smith & Neil Bird came over from Cippenham to help them out when the going got tough and with Barry, John & Clive still going strong the result was never really gonna be in any doubt was it. Grrrrrrreat. Another season of lost scorecards in the bottom of the bag for me again next year!!

MVP Daniel McTiernan

It was always going to be tough for **KFC**. They hadn't really strengthened the team from the last time they were in at this level and from the very first whistle they were always up against it. Fair play to them though. They never gave up. Dave Bishop in particular had a very good season with some pretty impressive wins, Trevor still punches the air in delight at every opportunity and was even rumoured to have played a backhand attacking shot in one match. Ivor has had his moments too with some pretty good performances here and there. And what about the man with the 2nd tightest shorts in table tennis. You won't be finding him on a table any time soon. Nope, our Rog now mixes his trade in the dangerous but exciting Kickboxing



DANIEL MCTIERNAN *

Dojos. I saw him recently after one particularly gruelling session – before you ask you should see the other guy, he said to me!

MVP Dave Bishop

Sad to see the end of **Tidmarsh 'B'** too. Again like KFC the writing was pretty much on the wall from the start but they can be mighty pleased with some of their 2nd half performances and were certainly not disgraced in any of it. I've know Squirrel for years and it was great to see him back. Same playing style, same haircut, same cheeky smile. I hope he makes it back again at some point in the future. Andy's form was up and down. The new gear has definitely helped I think and I'm still convinced he can do a job at this level. Sometimes it's more about belief than anything else and I'm sure he too will be back at some stage. And Barry. Plays every game, gives it his all, always with a grin and now has to sit back and watch to see if his beloved Wolves don't go the same way as his ping pong team! Ouch!

MVP Andy Stephens

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	22	19	3	0	177	43	41
YMCA 'A'	22	19	2	1	176	44	40
OLOP 'A'	22	16	1	5	148	72	33
Polish 'A'	22	13	3	6	130	90	29
OLOP 'B'	22	12	2	8	123	97	26
YMCA 'B'	22	12	1	9	114	106	25
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	22	9	2	11	99	121	20
Polish 'B'	22	7	3	12	87	133	17
Kingfisher 'B'	22	6	3	13	88	132	15
OLOP 'C'	22	4	1	17	70	150	9
Kingfisher 'C'	22	2	1	19	56	164	5
Tidmarsh 'B'	22	1	2	19	52	168	4

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	32	31	96.88
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	50	48	96
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	59	55	93.22
Martin Chodounsky	YMCA 'A'	59	53	89.83
Liam McTiernan	OLOP 'B'	29	25	86.21
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	53	43	81.13
Bob Davis	YMCA 'A'	44	35	79.55
Andy Misseldine	YMCA 'A'	33	26	78.79
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	45	35	77.78
Graham Watts	Polish 'B'	9	7	77.78
Neil Hurford	YMCA 'B'	54	41	75.93
Tony Reynolds	YMCA 'A'	44	33	75
David Streak	YMCA 'B'	60	44	73.33
Steve Dobbins	Polish 'A'	21	15	71.43

Team Handicap Competition 2010-11

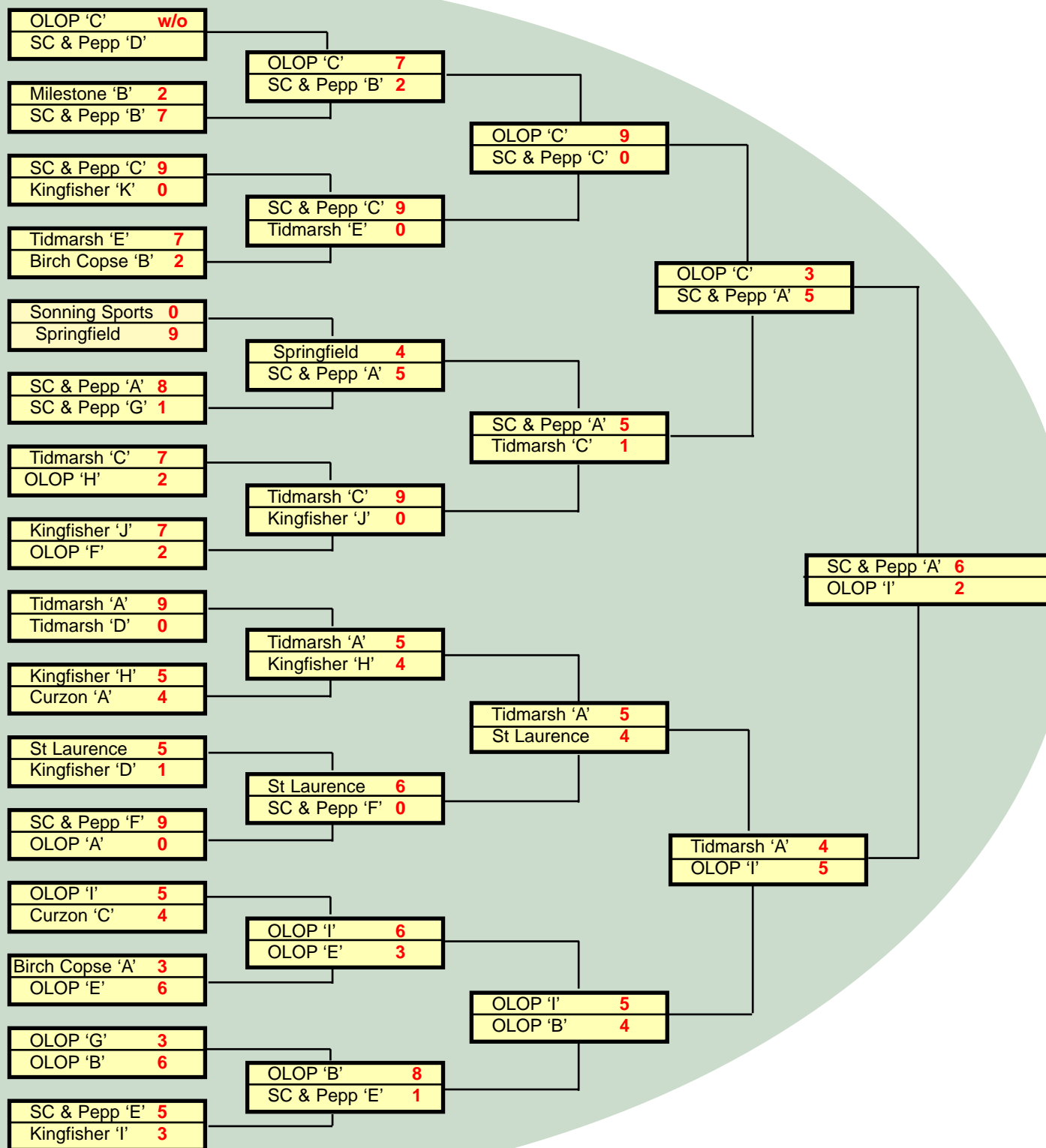
organised by Duncan Abbott

By 26 Nov 2010
Round 2

By 17 Dec 2010
Round 3

By 18 Feb 2011
Quarter Final

Semi-Final



TEAM HANDICAP FINAL *by Duncan Abbott*

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' emulated Birch Copse 'A's' achievement the previous night by completing a League and Cup double. The Division 2 champions beat Division 6 runners-up OLOP 'I' 6 - 2 in the final of the Team Handicap which was staged at the OLOP club.

Ian Cole had to turn out in a league match at Polish before joining the action at approx. 8.30. That meant it was down to OLOP's junior players to get them off to a good start, and stop Sonning Common building up an early lead.

Siad Cole (+8) was first up for OLOP against Nigel Maltby. Nigel's steady defensive play soon reeled in the handicap and he ran out a comfortable 21-13, 21-11 winner. Daniel Thorne (+12) tried hard against Simon Berry's resolute defence, but Simon won fairly easily 21-17, 21-16. Siad (+9) then produced some fine attacking rallies against Paul Jarvis, but Paul won through 21-16, 23-21 to put Sonning Common 3 - 0 ahead.

Daniel (+10) then played Nigel and quickly raced 14-1 ahead. However Nigel remained cool and steadily closed the gap to win the first 21-17 and he never looked troubled in the next,

winning 21-14 (4 - 0 to Sonning). Ian Cole then played Paul Jarvis (+1) and Ian showed his improved class this season with his high spin shots defeating Paul 21-12, 21-11. Siad Cole (+11) then took on Simon. Siad gradually grew in confidence during the match and played some fine attacking shots, particularly in the second game which he led 20-18 and 21-20, however he couldn't close the game out and Simon held his nerve to win 21-16, 23-21 to clinch the match for Sonning at 5 - 1 ahead.

Ian Cole then defeated Nigel (+2) 21-15, 21-8 with some good rallies from both players throughout and Simon then excelled by defeating Ian (+1) 21-12, 21-14 with a master class in defending and blocking to give an end score of 6 - 2 to Sonning Common.

So it's congratulations to Nigel Maltby's Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' team on their success, but a lot of credit must also go to young Daniel Thorne whose achievement in taking his young Division 6 team to the final of this very competitive event was quite remarkable.

FIN CUP 2010

Curzon's annual tournament

**Played at Our Lady of Peace Club,
on Tuesday 21st December 2010**

Group 1: Linda King +2, Geoff Johnson +1, Derek Harrison +2, Mick Maynard -3

Results:

Linda King v Geoff Johnson (1-0) 15-21, 6-21
Derek Harrison v Mick Maynard (5-0) 21-19, 16-21, 18-21
Linda King v Derek Harrison (0-0) 19-21, 9-21
Geoff Johnson v Mick Maynard (4-0) 21-19, 23-21
Mick Maynard v Linda King (0-5) 18-21, 21-18, 21-19
Geoff Johnson v Derek Harrison (0-1) 4-21, 18-21

Positions: 1st Derek Harrison, 2nd Geoff Johnson, 3rd Mick Maynard, 4th Linda King. Three-way tie: positions dictated on games average between the three players concerned. Derek 3 - 2, Geoff 2 - 2, Mick 2 - 3.

Group 2: Jim Brent +2, Nick Lean +2, Robin Lockwood +4, Tracy Maynard +1.

Results:

Jim Brent v Nick Lean (0-0) 12-21, 9-21
Robin Lockwood v Tracy Maynard (3-0) 21-11, 19-21, 15-21
Jim Brent v Robin Lockwood (0-1) 15-21, 13-21
Nick Lean v Tracy Maynard (1-0) 21-23, 21-11, 8-21
Tracy Maynard v Jim Brent (0-1) 21-19, 21-11
Nick Lean v Robin Lockwood (0-2) 21-14, 21-14

Positions: 1st Tracy Maynard, 2nd Nick Lean, 3rd Robin Lockwood, 4th Jim Brent. Tracy began like a rabbit caught in the headlights and didn't settle until a game and a half had been played. From there she went from strength to strength. 2009 winner Jim was under painkillers, and was a shadow of his usual self. Nick could have beaten Tracy two-

straight - that would have upset the semi finals to come.

Semi-final Winner Group 1 v Runner-up Group 2

Derek Harrison v Nick Lean (0-0) 19-21, 21-16, 21-15

Derek lost the first game after leading all the way. In the next two, Nick became more aggressive but erratic, Derek eventually getting a comfortable win.

Semi-Final (2) Winner Group 2 v Runner-Up Group 1

Tracy Maynard v Geoff Johnson (0-0) 19-21, 12-21

In the first game Geoff didn't take the lead until 19-all. After that it was plain sailing. Geoff's artful wiles (and plonker bat) seeing him home. Geoff and his bat would seem to have a mesmerising effect on the distaff side of the competition.

Final Derek Harrison v Geoff Johnson (1-0) 21-15, 21-14

CHAMPION: DEREK HARRISON

Derek was delighted to be told (eventually) that Geoff had beaten Tracy in the other semi-final, and his confidence was well-founded. As always Geoff fought every inch of the way, but Derek was not to be denied and won his fourth Fin Cup - the fortieth year it has taken place. It must be recorded that this year's participants mostly had colds, bad backs, bad wrists and elbow, toothache - in fact it was more like "Emergency Ward 10" than "our Lady of Peace Social Club". Staunch supporter (and reserve competitor) John Willcocks turned up and helped greatly with the umpiring, as did John Dykes during the early part of the evening. Our thanks go to Cedric Dyas and

his colleagues for their hospitality. The matches didn't last as long as in 2009 so the bar did a better trade on this occasion. Real ale was available: a welcome bonus. Lovely refreshments! All in all a most enjoyable evening.



AFTER THE JOUST, THE TOASTS - MEMBERS OF CURZON CLUB AT CAROUSAL

Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

The RDTTA Awards Presentation evening will be held at the **CURZON CLUB** in Oxford Road, Reading on **TUESDAY 10th MAY 2011**. Parking will be in the new Tesco's car park off Richfield Avenue. We would ask that attendees arrive by 7.30pm with the presentations due to start shortly afterwards.



As well as all the winners and runners-up **trophy presentations** from the league and the Reading Closed there will also be the annual awards for the **Best Junior Performance, Most Improved Junior** and the **Harold Larcombe Sportmanship Award** and many others. All recipients of trophies are asked either to attend or at least send a representative to collect their award on their behalf.

The RDTTA AGM will be held on **Wednesday 1st June 2011** at **OLOP**. Club Secretaries will be notified shortly. **Clubs are reminded that each must send at least one representative to the AGM.**

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



How to Beat Funny Rubbers

(In response to "Are Funny Rubbers Fair?" in February)

I do empathise with "Frustrated from Caversham" in that funny rubbers do make the ball come through differently and can require a change in approach in order to overcome them. Most players who use funny rubbers do so to make up for a deficiency in their own game, usually the lack of a decent backhand stroke and I'm sure that many players who use such rubbers probably win more games than they would otherwise, given their ability, especially in the lower divisions. Although this is unfortunate, it is not against any rules and as such we must all just learn how to play against them. It isn't a coincidence that very few of the world's top players use funny rubbers.

Contrary to Frustrated's view, I do not believe that you necessarily have to become a better player in order to overcome players using funny rubbers, you merely need to understand what spin is being produced by the rubbers in various situations. The key to playing funny rubbers is to realise that the spin that comes off a funny rubber often depends upon the incoming spin, i.e. the spin you've put on it playing the ball to them. Because of this you have to think very quickly when in a rally and it helps to keep the game simple. I would like to make it clear that I am not a table tennis coach, but I give a few simple rules that I use when playing Long Pimples (which seems to be the funny rubber which causes people most problems) in case it helps anyone struggling against them.

For Long Pimples

1. If they do the same stroke as you played to them, the spin will be the opposite of what normally happens with a spin rubber.

- Push to long pimples, they push it back – the ball will have (a little) topspin on it or no spin. It certainly won't be backspin as would be the case with a normal spin rubber.

- Topspin or drive the ball to Long Pimples and they block it back - ball will have (a little) backspin. It won't be topspin as with a normal rubber. The temptation here is to smash the return, but without compensating for the fact there will be backspin on the ball, you are likely to smash it into the net.

2. If they do the opposite stroke to the one you played the spin will be the same direction as you would expect, but will be increased.

- Push the ball to Long Pimples and they loop, drive or hit the ball – the ball will have topspin on it, just like a normal rubber. (Note the difference from if you had driven the ball to them).

- Loop the ball to Long Pimple and they chop it – the ball will have (a lot of) backspin on the ball – just like a normal spin rubber, only more backspin.

With these 2 rules, if you keep the game simple (forget any sidespin serves) you should always know what spin is on the ball from their Long Pimple returns. As such their advantage over you has gone and it's then a matter of practice, quick thinking and patience. If the above is too complicated then just remember this other simple rule which is "don't play the same stroke twice in succession to Long Pimples".

When I play long pimples, I play mainly to the opponent's long pimples (as it is usually their weaker side). I do simple chop or topspin serves and alternate my shots thereafter. I push (or chop) the ball, they push it back, it will have topspin on it. I roll (or drive) the ball to their pimples, they block (or even if they chop the ball) it back and it will have backspin on it. Hence I push the ball to their pimples, then roll (or drive) and so on.

Because most players using long pimples cannot attack with them, you don't necessarily have to keep the ball as low over the net as you would if they had a normal spin rubber thus giving you a higher margin for error. There is a danger they could run around and attack the ball with their normal spin rubbered forehand, but to counter this you can play the occasional shot wide to their forehand which, unless they are quick, will discourage them from running around their backhand side to play a forehand stroke. On the whole this push, roll (drive), push, roll (drive) approach works and the rally can go on for as long as it takes for them to either make an error or for me to get an attacking opportunity with a loop or a smash. Also once your opponent has realised you can keep the rally going forever, it will start to frustrate them, which is to your advantage as it will force them into trying to win the point, rather than waiting for you to lose it. This will force them into errors.

In conclusion, my advice is to not be afraid of funny rubbers, treat them as a challenge, one which you can overcome with the right approach and some practice.

Graham Diplock

DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2010/2011 campaign. As predicted way back in February, Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' ended up champions and rightfully take their place amongst the big boys again. After a shaky start they won 14 matches in a row to make an immediate return to division one. The runners up and also promoted were Kingfisher 'D' although they nearly threw it away with two defeats in the last four matches. Wokingham 'A' "choked" in the home stretch and unbelievably lost to three of the bottom four teams but beat fellow "chokers" Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'. At the bottom it's goodbye for a season to both Sonning Sports 'A' and to Kingfisher 'F' and it's also goodbye to the best player in the division as Frank Wiegand heads on to pastures new and a return to Germany...all the best for the future Frank. Also fellow Tidmarshian, Steve Calladine who is heading back to Manchester/North Wales after some hopefully good years at Tidmarsh...good luck to you, it's been good reporting on your matches for the past couple of seasons!

Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' romped to the championship and promotion back to division one at the first attempt



SC&P 'A' - NIGEL MALTBY, JASON ROBERTS & PAUL JARVIS

on the back of 14 successive wins. Promotion was confirmed when Simon Berry defeated Pu Zhang to give them a 6 - 3 lead and the two points that were needed. Earlier in the match they had found themselves 0 - 2 & 2 - 3 down before they finally won 6 - 4. Jason Roberts and Simon Berry both won two whilst Paul Jarvis managed a single win over Pu Zhang. The Sonning derby match was also a close affair as Nigel Maltby recorded a great win over Keith 'Keithy' Swain to get them going before Jason achieved his tenth maximum of the season in another 6 - 4 win. Sonning finished their campaign with a 7 - 3 win over Sonning Sports 'A' where Jason Roberts took on Frank Wiegand and despite leading 2 - 0, Frank just prevailed in a 11-8, 11-7, 7-11, 9-11, 4-11 encounter. Sonning C&P 'A' were the best team that actually wanted another taste of the delights of division one and I'm sure they will use the experience gained two seasons ago to help them achieve their goal of possibly suffering from second season syndrome. Good luck to you all next season!

Team Stat: Best home record, nine wins out of ten matches

Simon Berry - Only won braces and trebles in the season

Paul Jarvis - Didn't play in the team's only loss of the season

Nigel Maltby - finished season by winning seven braces in a row

Jason Roberts - didn't play in either of team's drawn matches

Doubles : 60%

Kingfisher 'D' claimed the second promotion spot rather by default as they slipped up less in the last few weeks than their major challengers did. Niall McGrane got his customary treble in the 7 - 3 win over their mates Kingfisher 'E', Carole Chard battled well to beat both Eric Holmes and Peter Goatly, whilst Lisa Williams picked up a single against Eric. There was a real battle in the match against Sonning C & P 'B' but they eventually ran out 6 - 4 winners thanks to another treble from Niall as he beat both Malcolm Gregory and Keith Swain on the way. Lisa also defeated Malcolm for possibly her best win of the season and Richard Fifield only won one, he might only have been a bit-part player this year but his performances have returned several crucial points. Good luck to you guys/gals next season too, if you decide to take up your place in division one.

Team Stat : All five of their losses were against different teams

Niall McGrane - won the most matches 3 - 0 on 31 occasions

Carole Chard - all 3 of her "duck" matches were on home soil

Lisa Williams - lost the most 5-setters on 11 out of 14 occasions

Richard Fifield - best registered player not to appear in averages as he played less than 50% of matches (79.2%)

Sharon Mitchell - didn't play against the same team twice

Doubles : 70%

Wokingham 'A' had a meltdown greater than Rory McGrath as they threw away a glorious chance of promotion by losing three of their final four matches and it was to three of the bottom four to boot! There was a bigger swing than in a general election as the same six players who played in the 9 - 1 win in December against Kingfisher 'F' played with the outcome a 6 - 4 defeat. Brian Chinneck was Mr Reliable as ever with a brace, Ian Fletcher defeated Tom Cannon whilst Jim Spencer lost all three for only the second time this season. The only victory in a rather surreal way came against Sonning C & P 'B' who were at the time battling for promotion as well. Brian had two fantastic wins over Keith and Malcolm, whilst Jim beat Malcolm and Brian Meheux. I guess the old adage about a clash of styles must be true. The other two results were a 3 - 7 defeat to Post Office 'A' (a result that guaranteed division two next season for Post Office) and a 2 - 8 defeat to Curzon Club 'A'.

Team Stat : Won ten out of eleven matches, then lost three out of last four. Most 6-4 wins

Brian Chinneck : Had the most five-setters (17 won 9, lost 8)

Ian Fletcher : Played in 19 out of 20 matches

Jim Spencer : Had the second most braces on an evening (9) behind Brian Chinneck

Doubles : 60%

Tidmarsh 'C' consolidated well during their first season in division two as they won their last five matches to take fourth place. It started with a 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'C' with maximums for François Durand, Mike Aistrop and Steve Calladine and ended with a 6 - 4 win over OLOP 'E' with a maximum for Steve Calladine. Steve finished his final season with Tidmarsh with three maximums in a row so will be sorely missed next season as they try to go two places further. François won a maximum in the 6 - 4 win over Curzon 'A' and he was well supported by Chris Webb with two wins over John Walker and Mick Maynard. Sonning Sports 'A' were the third victims in the winning streak as they succumbed 7 - 3 as Mike, Chris & François all won two each. François was involved in a tight match with Bob Woodmansee which saw him come through 11-9, 8-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-9 to avenge a defeat earlier in the season.

Team Stat : didn't lose a match by more than 3 - 7

Chris Webb - won games against all the teams he didn't win any against in 1st half .

Mike Aistrop - played in the most 4-setters (33, won 18, lost 15)

François Durand - whenever he won a brace, Tidmarsh 'C' won (3 occasions)

Steve Calladine - won more games in last three matches than in previous eight put together.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' suffered from an attack of the promotion yips as they won only two of their last seven matches to slump from second to fifth. Those pesky yips happen in the yip season which generally occurs around February and lasts until the end of March. The last four matches yielded just three points against OLOP 'E' where a Keith Swain 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 10-12, 13-11 win over Hanson Xu guaranteed them a point, earlier he had won against Steve Purchase and Wendy Porter. Malcolm Gregory had beaten Wendy and Brian (I've never known Brian to have such a bad season lost all three again). The win came at relegated Kingfisher 'F' as both Malcolm and Keith won maximums in a 7 - 3 win, amazing once the pressure of promotion is off the yips just disappear. Merril Massey played in the 3 - 7 defeat to Post Office 'A' but unfortunately she lost all three but did run Ray Webb, Simon Hopkins and John Simmonds close as she lost 10-12, 13-15, 9-11 in game three respectively.

Team Stat: won the most matches 7 - 3 - on six occasions

Malcolm Gregory - didn't get a duck all season

Keith Swain - whenever he didn't play, Sonning C&P 'B' lost

Brian Meheux - won the best comeback of the season v Steve



SC&P 'B' - MALCOLM GREGORY, BRIAN MEHEUX & KEITH SWAIN

Calladine (2-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-9)

Merril Massey - both her wins were by the 3 - 1 scoreline

OLOP 'E' proved how bad I am at predictions as they were my tip for champions looking back at my first newslet-



HANSON XU - Photo by Didier Garçon

ter report. I can't actually say my table tennis is much better at the moment either! OLOP 'E' also had a bad end to the season as they only picked up one point from the last four matches. The point came against Sonning C&P 'B' where without skipper Andy Johnson they called upon Steve Purchase and he returned an impressive brace as he beat both Malcolm Gregory and Brian Meheux. **Hanson Xu** won two as well in the match against Sonning and might have clinched a win but went down 6-11, 8-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-13 to Keith Swain in the final match of the evening. Andy Johnson returned his seventh and probably best maximum against Sonning C&P 'A' as he overcame both Simon Berry & Jason Roberts on the way to achieving it. Wendy Porter won two against Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard in the 9 - 1 over Sonning Sports 'A' whilst Pu Zhang had a disappointing end to the season as he lost all six of his last six games.

Team Stat : Used the joint most players, seven

Hanson Xu - Only treble came in 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'D' which included defeating Niall McGrane

Andrew Johnson - only lost one of his 12 matches 0 - 3
Wendy Porter - Only two of the 25 wins were 3 - 2
Pu Zhang - Both maximums came on home soil
Peter Galea - When he played OLOP 'E' never failed to win, (3 occasions)

Kingfisher 'E' won two and lost two of their last four matches which kept them in mid-table, somewhere they had been since Christmas. Their highest position was first which they achieved in week eight. The wins came against Sonning Sports 'A' where maximums from Phil Mead, Peter Bennett and Peter Goatly saw them to a comprehensive 10 - 0 victory. Peter Bennett had to work hard for his though as he was taken to five by both Nigel Goodman & Dave Chard. The other victory saw **Eric Holmes** return his second maximum of the season in the 8 - 2 win over OLOP 'E'. The two defeats they suffered were against the champions, Sonning C&P 'A' by a narrow 4 - 6 scoreline. Phil Mead made it three maximums in a row as he beat Nigel, Paul & Jason but unfortunately neither Eric or Peter B could support him.

Team Stat : won four of their matches either 10 - 0 or 9 - 1

Phil Mead - won 18 of his 21 matches 3 - 0

Peter Goatly - had the longest deuce v Ken Park (26-24)

Peter Bennett - won one match per evening on 8 occasions (joint highest)

Eric Holmes - won 15 out of his 17 matches 3 - 0 or 3 - 1



ERIC HOLMES *

Curzon Club 'A' finished on a high as they overwhelmed Wokingham 'A' 8 - 2 with a maximum from **Jon Willis** and two each from John Willcocks and Mick Maynard. They also picked up two draws against Kingfisher 'E' and Post Office 'A'. In the Kingfisher 'E' match Mick and Jon both won two each against Pete Bennett and Eric Holmes but they both lost to Phil Mead in three straight. John Walker was the other team member that night and he managed to take a game off Phil before he lost 13-11, 7-11, 4-11, 6-11. The other drawn match was an even tighter affair as four of the matches went the distance with it ending in Post Office only winning one of them and Curzon three. John Willcocks



JON WILLIS *

defeated John Simmonds 11-9, 7-11, 12-10, 6-11, 14-12 and Ray Webb whilst John S overcame Jon W 15-13 in the fifth. Curzon led the division from weeks 2 to 4 but a steady decline in the fortunes especially during the second half of the season where they didn't win until their last match against Wokingham 'A' meant they had to settle for eighth.

Team Stat : Most 4 - 6 defeats: on six occasions

John Willcocks - went the whole season without losing all three in an evening

John Walker - his only maximum came in the first game of the season against Kingfisher 'F'

Mick Maynard - on the five occasions he won two in an evening, Curzon didn't lose

Jon Willis - won 11 out of the 15 five-setters played, best percentage of all players.

Post Office 'A' finally found the form that took them to the brink of promotion a couple of seasons ago as they only lost one of the last six and that came against promoted Kingfisher 'D'. The other three results since the last newsletter were a win and two draws. They started off with a 7 - 3 win over Wokingham 'A' as John Simmonds continued his recent run of form with another treble, Simon Hopkins also won two and Ray Webb got the crucial win over Jim Spencer 3-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-4. In the clash with the bottom team Kingfisher 'F' they managed to hold out for a valuable point that guaranteed survival for another season. John won two, only losing to Chris Pusey and Ray Webb had another good night as he won two as well. Eddie Cripps making a guest appearance also won one, this time against Tom Cannon. If they are to mount a promotion challenge next season then the end of season form is needed throughout, not just when the relegation trapdoor beckons.

Team Stat : lost 1 - 9 on the most occasions, six times

John Simmonds - won 17 of his last 21 matches compared to 14 in the previous 30

Simon Hopkins - won 9 of 14 matches 3 - 0

Ray Webb - lost all 9 of the matches that went to five sets

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sonning C & P 'A'	20	17	2	1	148	52	36
Kingfisher 'D'	20	14	1	5	124	76	29
Wokingham 'A'	20	12	1	7	108	92	25
Tidmarsh 'C'	20	9	4	7	104	96	22
Sonning C & P 'B'	20	10	2	8	105	95	22
OLOP 'E'	20	10	1	9	107	93	21
Kingfisher 'E'	20	9	2	9	111	89	20
Curzon Club 'A'	20	8	3	9	108	92	19
Post Office 'A' (9)	20	4	4	12	70	130	12
Sonning Sports 'A'	20	3	1	16	67	133	7
Kingfisher 'F'	20	2	3	15	48	152	7

Sonning Sports 'A' find themselves having a dose of second season syndrome as they make an exit to division three. The writing was on the wall from the moment Frank wasn't going to be available for every match. The last four matches all proved pointless and they managed just one victory during the second half of the season. The matches against Tidmarsh 'C' and Sonning C&P 'A' were the best results of the last four as they both ended in 7 - 3 defeats. Dave Chard played what seemed his best table tennis of the season to come away from the "home of table tennis" with the scalps of Chris Webb (7-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9, 11-6) and François Durand in an even closer affair (11-8, 6-11, 5-11, 15-13, 14-12). Nigel Goodman was the only other victor on the evening as he defeated Mike Aistrop. Frank made a return to the team for one final time to pit his skills against the champions, Sonning C&P 'A' and he came away unscathed as he beat Simon Berry 11-7, 11-7, 11-9 then Nigel 11-8, 12-10, 11-9 before he was made to work extremely hard to protect the only 100% record left as he battled back from 0-2 down to finally win 11-4 in the fifth against Jason. There was only a Nigel victory over Andy Johnson to celebrate in the 1 - 9 defeat to OLOP 'E' and even less in the 0 - 10 defeat to Kingfisher 'E'.

Team Stat: lost the most matches 7 - 3: on four occasions

Frank Wiegand - only 100% record in the division with 19 of 30 wins being 3 - 0

Bob Woodmansee - Won singles matches on eight occasions

Nigel Goodman - On the two occasions he won two matches in an evening it resulted in wins

Dave Chard - 8 of his 9 wins were by the 3 - 2 scoreline

Kingfisher 'F' made a real fight of staying up in the end as they recorded one win, one draw and one defeat from their last three matches. The unlikeliest of victories came against high-flying, promotion seeking Wokingham 'A' (but then again Wolves did beat Manchester United as

well!) in the form of a 6 - 4 score that inflicted their only home loss of the season. Allen Pack was the man of the match as he returned his only maximum of the season with wins over Brian Chinneck (11-4, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6), Ian Fletcher (11-8, 11-6, 4-11, 12-10) and Jim Spencer (5-11, 11-9, 11-2, 11-9). Chris Pusey only lost to Brian in five whilst Tom Cannon only beat Jim. The draw came against Post Office 'A' where it was Chris's turn to achieve a maximum, but for him it was his second of the season, Dave Gostelow overcame Eddie Cripps and then they joined forces to win the doubles against John Simmonds and Ray Webb. The loss

came at home to Sonning C&P 'B' where the trio of Chris, Allen and Tom all defeated Brian Meheux in the 3 - 7 defeat.

Team Stat: went 16 matches without winning a doubles match, then won two on the trot.

Tom Cannon - won three out of four five-setters

Chris Pusey - 9 out of 16 victories were by the 3 - 1 scoreline

Dave Gostelow - On the two occasions he scored a brace the team didn't lose

Allen Pack - won the only time he scored a maximum

Well that is nearly the end of this marathon ramble, hope you've enjoyed reading some of the information contained. I have to admit some of the stats are a little tenuous but at least I tried. All the best to the teams that won promotion to division one, I'm sure you'll have a ball. Good luck to the teams heading through the trapdoor to division three, see you in a couple of seasons. Have a good summer and here's to... well there is no major summer sporting extravaganza to mention this year so I'll just wish Purley on Thames CC all the best instead!

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	L	%
Frank Wiegand	Sonning Sports 'A'	30	30	0	100.0%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'D'	48	44	4	91.7%
Simon Berry	Sonning C & P 'A'	44	39	5	88.6%
Phil Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	30	26	4	86.7%
Jason Roberts	Sonning C & P 'A'	50	43	7	86.0%
Keith Swain	Sonning C & P 'B'	48	40	8	83.3%
Andrew Johnson	OLOP 'E'	45	33	12	73.3%
Malcolm Gregory	Sonning C & P 'B'	51	37	14	72.5%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'A'	42	29	13	69.0%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A'	48	33	15	68.8%

DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

Congratulations go to Post Office 'B' who are Division 3 Champions and to Sonning C&P 'C' who are also promoted, while commiserations to the two Kingfisher teams who are both relegated.

POST OFFICE continued their season-long winning streak with a 9 - 1 over Tilehurst Meths, but then had to field a reserve from Div.5 and dropped their first points of the season as they crashed to a 3 - 7 defeat at Sonning C&P. After a match-free week their season finished with another dropped point in a draw with OLOP 'F', before finally beating Pangbourne 8 - 2. The dropped points were of no consequence to the Post Office squad as their work was already done and they leave this Division as worthy champions.

☆ **Man: Dave Mills - unbeaten on 21/21 having played all teams bar one in the early part of the season.**

SONNING C&P 'C' started 2011 in third place, but their push for promotion since the turn of the year continued with a 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher 'H' and an unexpected 7 - 3 win over a slightly weakened Post Office team. **Jeremy Willis**, Tim Raby and Paul Treadgold won two each which includ-



JEREMY WILLIS

ed an excellent win for Paul over George White 11-8, 7-11, 11-9, 9-11, 11-3. They dropped their first & only point of the second half of the season in a draw at OLOP 'G' as Jeremy won three and Tim two in some close matches, and with Paul coming back from 0 - 2 down only to lose in the fifth to Steve Purchase. However, the point from this draw was vital as defeat would have seen OLOP 'G' draw level in the table with just one match each remaining. Promotion was secured with a 7 - 3 win over Pangbourne, Jeremy & Tim both hitting maximums. A consistent team effort and almost faultless second half of the season, which saw them picking-up more points than any other team, ensured Sonning C&P's promotion to Division 2.

☆ **Man: Jeremy Willis - with 12 maximums**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Post Office 'B'	18	16	1	1	135	45	33
Sonning C&P 'C'	18	13	3	2	112	68	29
OLOP 'G'	18	12	3	3	111	69	27
Tidmarsh 'D'	18	12	0	6	122	58	24
OLOP 'F'	18	7	4	7	86	94	18
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	18	8	1	9	81	99	17
Springfield 'A'	18	5	3	10	80	100	13
Pangbourne WMC	18	4	1	13	71	109	9
Kingfisher 'G'	18	3	1	14	50	130	7
Kingfisher 'H'	18	1	1	16	52	128	3

A few weeks back, the promotion fight was a 4-way affair. **OLOP 'G'** just about ended any remaining hopes Tidmarsh 'D' might have had for promotion when they won 7 - 3 against a 2-man opposition. Steve Purchase won two and Harry Brough one, plus the three conceded sets and the doubles. OLOP 'G' then beat Pangbourne 9 - 1 with maximums from Steve and, strangely, from Chris Moses who was playing up from Division 5. There was a good win at Tilehurst Meths, despite having to play another reserve. But being held to a draw by Sonning C&P in their penultimate match all but ended OLOP's own promotion challenge. Steve had an off night, nearly lost all three, but held on to win one which helped his team hang in with a mathematical chance of still being promoted with just one match to go. But despite beating OLOP 'F' in their final match of the season, OLOP 'G' remained 2 points adrift of the promotion position.



☆ **Man Steve Purchase - with 11 maximums**

TIDMARSH 'D' remained slightly off the pace in fourth. They fielded an incomplete team at OLOP 'G', but despite Steve Barnes & Dave Reynolds winning three between

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Dave Mills	Post Office 'B'	24	24	100.0%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	44	51	86.3%
Richard Skellett	OLOP 'F'	31	36	86.1%
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'D'	30	36	83.3%
Steve Ricks	Tidmarsh 'D'	30	36	83.3%
Andy Walker	Post Office 'B'	25	30	83.3%
Steve Purchase	OLOP 'G'	44	53	83.0%
George White	Post Office 'B'	42	51	82.4%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	31	38	81.6%
Steve Barnes	Tidmarsh 'D'	29	39	74.4%

them, they couldn't recover from conceding three sets due to an absent third player. Based on the comments on the scorecard, I haven't a clue why Tidmarsh only turned up with just two players. (It would have been nice if an explanation had been provided.) They halted a run of 3 defeats with a comfortable win at Pangbourne, as **Steve Ricks** and



STEVE RICKS

Dave Reynolds each won three, followed by a two similarly comfortable wins over Springfield, which included a re-arranged match from earlier in the season, and finished with a win at Tilehurst Meths.

☆ **Man: Steve Ricks – 8 maximums from 12 matches.**

OLOP 'F' had been in danger of dropping into the relegation fight, but four wins on the trot propelled them well away from the relegation zone & into the top half of the table. They had an unexpected win at Springfield as Richard Skellett won three & reserve Dave Godfrey beat Ian Boaden, while Mark Bullion and Richard won the doubles, before Phil Burke's concession of the final set of the night gave OLOP the win. They then beat Kingfisher 'H' 6 - 4, with two wins for Pat & Richard and one for Mark, and then Kingfisher 'G' by the same score as Richard won three. Their regular season was completed with a draw with a weakened Post Office team, but it still needed a good maximum from Richard Skellett and a last gasp win for Mark over reserve Mick Grantham to gain the point.

Their two re-arranged matches were played in double quick time (thanks Mark) and despite losing to their club-mates, they beat Pangbourne 6 - 4 (two wins apiece for Pat and Mark) and finished the season in 5th place.

☆ **Man: Pat Daniels - played all bar 3 matches and improved his average to 53%**

TILEHURST METHODISTS 'A' had a second half much like their first and finished pretty well mid-table. Two wins each for Phil Jones, John Virgo & Jan Wright meant a 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'G'. Defeat at Post Office then a home defeat by OLOP 'G' followed, despite OLOP fielding a reserve. Phil was taken to 5 games by all three opponents at Pangbourne, but each time he prevailed as his team won

7 - 3. Their season finished with a 3 - 7 defeat to Tidmarsh, despite Phil winning all three.

☆ **Man: Phil Jones 64% - only 10% down on last season in Division 4.**

SPRINGFIELD 'A' had a bad second half of the season, picking up just 5 points. In the last group of matches, they lost 4 - 6 to OLOP 'F' despite the visitors playing a reserve from Division 5. Des Hele won two with Phil Burke & Ian Boaden one each, but Phil lost 10-12 to Richard Skellett in the fifth and then had to concede the final set of the night due to injury which meant his team slipped to defeat. Without Phil they lost heavily to Tidmarsh 'D', twice in one week as they caught up a postponed fixture, but ended the season with a 7 - 3 win over the youngsters of Kingfisher 'H' as reserve John Burke did well to win two and Des hit a maximum.

☆ **Man: Phil Burke - with 31/38 wins.**

PANGBOURNE only picked-up 4 points in the second half of the season which saw them suffer 7 defeats on the trot. They suffered a heavy defeat at OLOP 'G' with Pete Welch providing the only win in a hard-fought contest with Harry Brough (9-11, 11-4, 11-6, 5-11, 10-12) and further defeats at the hands of, well, everyone they played really. But despite this poor run, the points they had gained earlier in the season enabled them to remain just clear of relegation. Hopefully Leroy and his team will do better next season – I think they'll need to.

☆ **Man: Leroy Wilson 54% - 8% better than last season.**

KINGFISHER 'G' also picked up just four points in the second half of the season, which meant they were unable to catch up with Pangbourne. They had some brave performances, including two 4 - 6 defeats, but didn't do enough to avoid relegation. Steve Woolnough put up a great performance at Tilehurst winning his three singles, but couldn't prevent the team losing 4 - 6. His best performance was to defeat Phil Jones 15-13 in the deciding fifth game. After a 1 - 9 loss to Sonning 'C', their season concluded with a narrow defeat to OLOP 'F', in which Dann Mitchell won two and took Richard Skellett to 5 ends.

☆ **Man: Steve Woolnough – 4 maximums from 12 matches**

A rare appearance and a maximum from Allan Bruton was not enough to stop **KINGFISHER 'H'** losing 3 - 7 at Sonning C&P 'C', a result which unfortunately confirmed their relegation. This young team have shown great promise for the future & I'm sure they will be upsetting many opponents in the coming seasons. In a narrow defeat at OLOP 'F', George Dodd's three-straight win over Richard Skellett stands out as one of the performances of the season.

☆ **Man: George Dodd – the only player in the team under 60 (sorry Allan) to score a maximum.**

I suspect most of you will now put your bats away for the summer, as I do, until we start another new season in September. So here's a reminder for diaries – next season's league matches will start w/c Monday 12th September.

DIVISION FOUR *by Derek Harrison*

As of the week starting 21st February: we are now on the final straight with the promotion and relegation places still to be sorted out although St Laurence look pretty safe with either Milestone or Wokingham to join them. At the bottom it appears a 3 straight fight between the two Sonning sides and Curzon 'C' as to who goes down.

After saying that, **St Laurence** suffered their first defeat when they only had two players at Wokingham and went down 6 - 4. Dan W won two and Chris picked up a single. They had a great doubles win beating Tony and Richard 11-13, 11-6, 8-11, 8-11. It was business as usual against Curzon 'B' when they romped to a 10 - 0 victory. Dan G. Dan W, & Chris all helped themselves to hat tricks. By beating Sonning 'D' 10 - 0 they clinched promotion and the championship. Dan G, Dan W and Chris repeated what they did to us in their previous match. So on behalf of you all I congratulate Chris, Dan, Dan, & George on their success. I think you will do well in the 3rd division but I have to say your conditions leave a lot to be desired. In their vital game against Wokingham they had to share the points. Dan G obtained two nice wins by beating Tony and Ken and only went down 11-13 in the 5th to Richard while Chris beat Ken and Dan W beat Tony 14-12 in the 5th. In their final match at Tidmarsh they came away with their 6th 0 - 10 victory with Dan G, Chris and Dan W doing the business



Milestone 'A' dropped a vital point when they shared the spoils with Polish. Hugh & John T both won two each with John C picking up a single. They then brought forward their game against Curzon 'C' and sailed to a 10 - 0 win with Hugh, John T & John C all hitting the treble trail. They like playing against Curzon because in their next match they beat the 'B' team 3 - 7 thanks to a very good maximum from John T and a fine double from Hugh. John C did his bit by winning one. They then played Tilehurst Meths which was postponed last Dec because of the snow and won 9 - 1 which will give their goal difference a power of good. Hugh and John T both hit trebles with John C gaining a double. At Tilehurst they won 3 - 7 so at this stage Wokingham would have to win their last two games to pinch the runners up spot. On the night Hugh and John T both gained hat tricks with John C winning one by beating

Mal. It is now confirmed that they are promoted so I congratulate Hugh and his team and wish them well next season.

Season's record

Hugh 40 out of 53 = 75.5% 6 maximums, Best win Chris West

John C 26 out of 53 = 49.1% 4 maximums, Best win Jacek

John T 41 out of 53 = 77.4% 8 maximums, Best win Dan G

Doubles 13 out of 18 = 72.2%

16 points first half, 13 points second half.

As mentioned above **Wokingham** beat leaders St Laurence 6 - 4 thanks to a fine double by Tony who beat Dan 11-7, 11-7, 6-11, 11 - 4 and Chris 11- 4, 11-9, 11-9. Richard also did his part by beating Chris. At home to Tilehurst Meths they won in a canter with Richard and Tony picking up maximums. Mike playing in his third match of the season won two to help them to a 9 - 1 win. At Curzon 'C' it took a last game win for Mike over Terry to give them a 4 - 6 win. This completed his maximum and with Ken winning two and John Beardmore one this has put them one point behind second spot. At home to Sonning 'E' they just got home 6 - 4 with Richard & Mike winning two each and John Beardmore winning one by beating Anthony.

The doubles were important with Mike & Richard winning in 4 games. In the return match at St Laurence they only managed a draw and as a result need to beat Sonning 'D' 10 - 0 to gain a play off. On the night Richard picked up a very good treble by beating Dan W 8-11, 9-11, 9-11 Chris 2-11, 12-10, 12-10, 9-11, 7-11 and Dan G 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 8-11, 11-13. Well done Richard. Ken and Tony both won one each by beating Dan W and Chris respectively. For the players from Milestone who watched the game it must have been agony. At home to Sonning 'D' they won 8 - 2 which meant they were just two wins short of a play off. Tony did all he could do by winning all three and teaming up with Colin to win the doubles. Colin and Ken both

Season's record

Dan W 39 out of 44 = 88.6%, 10 maximums, Best win Tony

Dan G 40 out of 48 = 83.3%, 9 maximums, Best win Tony

Chris 46 out of 54 = 85.2%, 12 maximums, Best win John Tucker

George 5 out of 12 = 41.7%, 1 double, Best win John Crosfield

Doubles 16 out of 18 = 88.9%

The West brothers had the best doubles record in the league winning 7 out of 7.

16 points first half, 17 points second half.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Laurence	18	16	1	1	146	34	33
Milestone 'A'	18	14	1	3	123	57	29
Wokingham 'B'	18	13	3	2	121	59	29
Polish 'C'	18	9	3	6	91	89	21
Curzon 'B'	18	8	4	6	90	90	20
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	18	6	4	8	80	100	16
Tidmarsh 'E'	18	5	1	12	57	123	11
Sonning C&P 'E'	18	3	1	14	66	114	7
Curzon 'C'	18	2	3	13	65	115	7
Sonning C&P 'D'	18	3	1	14	61	119	7

gained doubles.

Season's record

Ken 30 out of 45 = 66.75, 6 maximums, Best win Dan W
John Beardmore 9 out of 20 = 45%, 1 maximum, Best win Nick
Tony 25 out of 29 = 86.2%, 6 maximums, Best win Dan W
Colin 6 out of 12 = 50%, 3 doubles, Best win Anthony
Richard 23 out of 26 = 88.5%, 6 maximums, Best win, Dan W
Mike 11 out of 15 = 73.3%, 1 maximum, Best win Derek H
John Belcher 2 out of 12 = 16.7%, Best win Andrew
Doubles 12 out of 18 = 66.7%
14 points first half, 15 points second half.

Marcin hit his first treble of the season by defeating Hugh 11-6, 13-11, 6-11, 7-11, 11-5 John T 13-11, 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8 and John C 11-7, 11-6, 11-9 which helped **Polish** gain a



POLISH CAPTAIN MARCIN KOLAT

great draw with Milestone. If only Jacek was playing they would have had both points. Darek did well to beat John C and also teamed up with Marcin to win the doubles.

At home to Tilehurst Meths they gained another draw with Darek winning two by beating Richard and Mal. Jacek and Marcin were the other single scorers. Darek and Marcin also teamed up to win the doubles 11 - 6 in the 5th. At Curzon 'C' they just got home 4 - 6 mainly thanks to a Jacek treble helped by a double from Darek and that very important single gained by Marcin. Against Sonning 'E' they managed a 6 - 4 victory with Darek, Jacek and Marcin winning two each. They should be pleased with themselves for finishing 4th after coming up from the 5th division.

Season's record

Jacek 31 out of 45 = 68.89%, 6 maximums, Best win Chris W
Marcin 20 out of 48 = 41.67%, 1 maximum, Best win John
Tucker
Darek 27 out of 48 = 56.25%, 3 maximums, Best win Richard
Lownsbrough
Doubles 6 out of 18 = 33.33%
9 points first half, 12 points second half.

Curzon 'B' suffered their second defeat in a row when they did not trouble the scorer in a 10 - 0 defeat at St Laurence. Alas make that 3 in a row when we went down 3 - 7 to Milestone. Geoff, Nick and Jim all obtained singles.

Jim had a fine three straight victory over Hugh while Nick and Geoff both beat John C.

We rounded off our season by winning 3 - 7 at Sonning 'D' with Geoff winning all three in 4 games each set. Nick won two besides teaming up with Jim to win the doubles who also picked up a single.

Season's record

Derek 22 out of 36 = 61.1%, 5 maximums, Best win Matt
Jim 15 out of 42 = 35.7%, 1 maximum, Best win Hugh
Nick 19 out of 42 = 45.2 %, 1 maximum, Best win Richard
Neville
Geoff 25 out of 42 = 59.5%, 4 maximums, Best win Matt
Doubles 9 out of 18 = 50 %
9 points first half, 11 points second half.

One further stat, I started playing in the Reading league in 1959 and so far have played in 994 league matches for my team so with a bit of luck I should make the magic 1,000 by Christmas.

Tilehurst Meths played one of their games in hand by winning 2 - 8 at Sonning 'E'. Nigel was on top form by winning all three with Richard and Mal both gaining doubles. Sadly for the team Nigel did not play at the in form Wokingham fixture and as a result they lost 9 - 1. Richard won the game by beating Mike 11-4, 11-6, 10-12, 10-12, 9-11. At home to Tidmarsh Richard obtained his first treble since the opening day of the season. Chris did very well in gaining his first double of the season by beating Bob 11-4, 11-5, 11-8, and Terry 12-10, 11-9, 11-8. Nigel picked up that important single to give them a 6 - 4 win. At Milestone Nigel was missing so the side went down 9 - 1 with Mal beating Richard. Nigel came back into the side against Polish and won two by beating Darek and Marcin and with Richard also winning two and Mal picking up a vital single this gave them a share of the spoils. In their final game they entertained Milestone and went down 3 - 7. Nigel and Chris won the singles games by beating John C. They also teamed up to win the doubles. Their partnership was the



DEREK HARRISON OF CURZON 'B'

best in the team winning 5 out of 7.

Season's Record

Nigel 28 out of 43 = 65.1 %, 4 maximums, Best win Dan W
Richard 23 out of 41 = 56.1 %, 2 maximums, Best win Dan G
Chris 9 out of 39 = 23.1 %, 1 double, Best win Terry H
Mal 8 out of 35 = 22.9%, 2 doubles, Best win Terry S
Doubles 8 out of 18 = 44.4%

9 points first half, 7 points second half.

Tidmarsh lost their local derby with Tilehurst by the same score line that they won first time round: 6 - 4.

Dave E had a good night by beating Nigel and Chris. After missing 4 games Terry came back and beat Nigel. The doubles was close with Bob and Dave beating Richard and Chris 12-10, 8-11, 9-11, 11-2, 11-13. At home to Curzon 'C' they went down 3 - 7 with Dave E winning two and Dave S one. By then beating Sonning 'E' 4 - 6 they made themselves safe from the drop. It was down to doubles from Terry, Dave E & Bob who all beat Derek and Anthony. At home to St Laurence minus Terry and Dave E they crashed to a 0 - 10 defeat. Nothing more to be said lads.

Season's record

Terry 17 out of 27 =63.0%, 2 maximums, Best win Nigel
Dave E 19 out of 45 = 42.2%, 6 doubles, Best win John Tucker
Bob 6 out of 30 = 20.0%, 1 double, Best win Hugh
Dave S 4 out of 24 = 16.7%, 4 singles, Best win Jim Brent
Mick 6 out of 33 = 18.2%, 2 doubles, Best win Matt
Doubles 5 out of 18 = 27.8%
7 points first half, 4 points second half.

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Dan West	St Laurence	44	39	88.6%
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	26	23	88.5%
Tony Eames	Wokingham 'B'	29	25	86.2%
Chris West	St Laurence	54	46	85.2%
Dan Grover	St Laurence	48	40	83.3%
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	53	41	77.4%
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone 'A'	53	40	75.5%
Matt Stone	Sonning C&P 'D'	48	35	72.9%
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Polish 'C'	45	31	68.9%
Ken Park	Wokingham 'B'	45	30	66.7%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	43	28	65.1%
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh 'E'	27	17	63.0%
Derek Harrison	Curzon 'B'	36	22	61.1%

Sonning 'E' lost one of their games in hand by going down 2 - 8 to Tilehurst Meths. Mark and Jon both picked up singles. At Wokingham came the performance of the season by a long way when 12-year-old Jon Abbott gained

a brilliant treble by beating Mike 14-12, 11-6, 9-11, 9-11, 11-13; John Beardmore 11-6, 4-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-13 and the best Richard 11-8, 12-10, 8-11, 8-11, 8-11. VERY WELL DONE JON. Sadly for his team this was not enough because there was only one more win when Derek beat John At home to Tidmarsh Jon hit another maximum

besides teaming up with Derek to win the doubles but again this was not enough because they lost 4 - 6. I gather from Derek that both sides had supporters namely Mick for Tidmarsh and Jim for Sonning and both did their share in the umpires chair. As for you Sue why did Jon miss the game against us at Sonning then I would be able to have had one of your cakes? Shame on you Derek for letting the secret slip and making me feel peckish and not playing Jon. Away at their 'D' team they gained a vital 3 - 7 win which means they could still escape

as shown below. Derek, Jon, and Anthony all obtained doubles. Young Jon could hardly keep awake but still did well.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Sonning 'E'	17	3	1	13	62	108	7 (before playing Polish)
Curzon 'C'	18	2	3	13	65	115	7
Sonning 'D'	17	3	1	13	59	111	7 (before playing Wokingham)

In that vital last game at Polish they only lost 6 - 4 and as a result sent Curzon 'C' down by 1 game!! Had it been 7 - 3 there would have been a play off. Anthony was the hero by gaining a great treble and also teamed up with Jon to win the doubles.

Season's record

Derek 15 out of 42= 35.71%, 2 maximums, best win Ken
Mark 10 out of 21= 47.62%, 1 maximum, Best win Chris West
Jim 4 out of 21= 19.05%, 4 singles, Best win Hugh
Anthony 15 out of 36= 41.67%, 2 maximums, Best win Ken
Jon 16 out of 36=44.4%, 2 maximums, Best win Richard Neville
Doubles 6 out of 18= 33.33%
3 points first half, 4 points second half.

Curzon 'C' went down 10 - 0 to Milestone which was their biggest defeat of the season. Sadly only one set went to five when Linda lost to Hugh. At home to Wokingham Terry did well to win two and also teamed up with Linda to beat John and Sandy! Linda picked up a single by beating John but sadly they lost 4 - 6. At Tidmarsh they gave themselves some hope by winning 3 - 7. Terry was in great form by winning all three and with Linda winning two and only a second win of the season by Mick Gillard gave them the two points. At home to Polish 'C' they lost 4 - 6 which means they have to rely on other matches to save themselves from being relegated. Terry did well to not only win two but teamed up with Linda to win the doubles. For her part Linda beat Marcin. I will miss playing against this team.

Season's record

Linda 24 out of 51 = 47.1%, 1 maximum, Best win Hugh
Terry 29 out of 54 = 53.7%, 2 maximums, Best win Hugh
Mick 2 out of 54 = 3.7%, 2 singles, Best win Chris Taylor
Doubles 8 out of 18 = 44.4%
3 points first half, 4 points second half.

Sonning 'D' crashed to a 10 - 0 defeat at St Laurence. According to my records over the last two seasons it was the first time Matt had failed to win a game. It now seems to be between them and their 'E' team who will go down with Curzon 'C'. Curzon 'B' did their 'C' team a favour by beating them 3 - 7. Matt won two by beating Nick and Jim. Phil also beat Jim 11-9 in the 5th. They then lost a crunch match with their 'E' team 3 - 7 with Matt winning two and Simon one. Sadly for the team they lost their final game 8 - 2 at Wokingham and as a result are relegated. Matt did well to beat Ken and Colin.

Season's record

Phil 6 out of 36 = 16.7%, 1 double, Best win Jim Brent
Andy 5 out of 24 = 20.8%, 1 double, Best win John Crosfield
Simon 7 out of 33 = 21.2%, 7 singles, Best win George
Matt 35 out of 48 = 72.9%, 6 maximums, Best win John Tucker
Graeme 1 out of 9 = 11.1%, only one win John Crosfield

Doubles 7 out of 18 = 38.9%

4 points first half, 3 points second half.

With the season now at an end the rule change that came into effect at the start of season 2008-9 has saved me from having to organize four play offs. One at the top and three at the bottom.

One extra stat, only 6 players played in every match. They were - Hugh, John T, John C, Chris W, Terry S and Mick G.

Now for a few thank you's. To Hugh, Linda, Derek and Phil for the great match comments. They were very informative. To Nigel for some. As for all the other captains black marks. I hope next season you can do better.

Finally on behalf of you all I would like to thank Nigel Maltby for the great press coverage and to Derek Brooke-Wavell for his fantastic newsletter which was the best ever. And to Nick Lean for setting up my spreadsheet and for all the helpful advice.

See you next season. Have a good summer,

Derek

DIVISION FIVE by Duncan Abbott

We've reached the end of what has been a fantastic season of table tennis in Division Five.

Birch Copse 'A' finished top of the pile with an incredible 33 points from 18 matches and an unbelievable game points difference of 104 (142 points won against 38 conceded). The team won its last 12 matches, 3 of them by the maximum 10 - 0 margin - the only team in the division to inflict a whitewash win on their opponents. The team also finished with a 100% record on home soil.

It was the first time a team from Birch Copse had won a league title for 13 years, and the first at Division 5 level. The top two players Richard Green and Jes Eassom finished 1st and 2nd in the final averages with 90%+ averages, and all other squad members had decent averages, Roy Hull with 77%, Mike Williams 69% and captain Duncan Abbott 62%. If the team did have a weakness it was in doubles play, their average of 61% being only the 4th best in the division.

Since the last newsletter report Richard, Jes and Roy teamed up to beat Polish 'D' 7 - 3 and Tidmarsh 'F' 8 - 2, Richard was unbeaten in both games and Jes suffered a rare defeat to Bob Sunerton at Tidmarsh. The next match was at home to Post Office 'C', a team fighting for their lives at the wrong end of the table, and if ever a match demonstrated the fine line between success and failure this was it. Five of the games were five setters, all of them were won by the home side, and in each case the final set went to deuce. Incredibly Mike won all his games with a 12-10 score in the fifth set (has this ever happened before?), and Duncan also



got in on the act beating Linda Davis 12-10 in the fifth set and Ted Cripps 13-11 in the fifth set! So an 8 - 2 home win could so easily have been 7 - 3 to the visitors! In the final match Richard, Roy and Duncan teamed up to deliver a 10 - 0 win at Milestone 'B', the only maximum win on their travels.

Joining them in Division 4 next season will be **OLOP 'H'** who finished only four points adrift in second place. This was an incredible achievement considering they had only a three-man squad for most of the season and dropped



DIV 5 CHAMPIONS BIRCH COPSE 'A' (DUNCAN ABBOTT, JES EASSOM, RICHARD GREEN, ROY HULL & MIKE WILLIAMS)

crucial points when they were forced to play a reserve. Dave Godfrey (90%) and captain Alistair Richardson (85%) both had fantastic seasons and their consistent high scoring often got the team the right result in tough matches – five matches were won by a 6 - 4 scoreline. Their regular third player Chris Moses proved to be a real enigma. He showed his undoubted potential when he played up for OLOP 'G' in Division 3 and won all three games! Sadly for his OLOP 'H' team mates he failed to achieve this feat once in the bread and butter of Division 5 table tennis, averaging 31% in the 14 matches he played. In January just prior to transfer deadline day Chris Bunn was brought into the squad but failed to make any real impact, winning two games in the 4 fixtures in which he featured. Their doubles average of 89% was the best in the division.

OLOP 'H' started their end of season run in with a 6 - 4 win over bottom club Springfield 'B', gaining revenge for the unexpected reverse by the same scoreline earlier in the season. Promotion was assured when third-placed Polish 'D' were defeated at Birch Copse but this disappointment failed to dampen the Poles' spirit as they fought tooth and nail with OLOP 'H' the following week, the result a 5 - 5 draw. Alistair scored a superb maximum in this fixture and Dave suffered a rare off-night, losing to Stephen Yon and Kris Szczygiel. They finished the season with routine 8 - 2 wins over Tidmarsh 'F' and Post Office 'C'.

Although they had the look of a powerhouse squad in this division Birch Copse 'A' will be looking no further than consolidation in the division above which in the past has been the highest level attained in recent years by any team from this small club in a remote part of Tilehurst. On the other hand OLOP is a club with vast resources of playing talent and it will be interesting to see if OLOP 'H' stick with the same squad or draw on some of those extra resources and mount a challenge for back to back promotions.

Polish 'D' had a superb season which included a run of six straight wins in mid-season which catapulted them out of the bottom two and into the promotion picture. There was an expectation that they might gate-crash their way into second place but sadly it never happened and their season ended with a whimper rather than a bang.

It is easy to forget however that this team were promoted as last season's runners up in Division 6. Stephen Yon and Grant Wheatley enjoyed very impressive seasons at this level with averages of 76% and 70% respectively. Kris Szczygiel with

44% also had his moments which included an impressive win over OLOP 'H's Dave Godfrey. Sadly the elevation in standard proved a step too far for captain Jan Polnik who won just 3 games in the 8 matches he featured in. Big question is what happened to Simon Ward? A star player in the previous season's promotion campaign he played two matches in the first half of the season recording a double against Post Office 'C' and a blank against OLOP 'H' and then disappeared from the scene! The doubles which normally featured Stephen and Grant proved a strong suit for them as they recorded the second best average in the division of 78%.

They started their final run in on the back of that 6-straight run of wins but they immediately lost the momentum after a surprise 6 - 4 defeat at home to struggling Kingfisher 'I'. They were without Stephen for that fixture but with home advantage and their opponents still missing their star player a win looked the most likely outcome. However the Woodley outfit had other ideas and this result realistically ended their promotion hopes which were finally put to bed with defeat at champions elect Birch Copse 'A'. After a hard-fought draw with eventual runners-up OLOP 'H' they featured in a rather bizarre match at Tilehurst Methodists 'C' which was brought forward a week. The golden rule is that if you're bringing a match forward make sure you have enough players available on the night and cover in case of last minute withdrawals. As it happened the Tilehurst Methodists 'C' team played their final home match of the season with only two players (which curiously didn't include captain Chas Dean) whilst the eager Polish 'D' team embarrassed them further by turning up with four players! Happily for the visitors not only did they win the match 8 - 2 but also had their full complement of games as they all took turns in playing "friendly" games against the mystery fourth Polish player (I wonder if that was Simon Ward?).

In their final fixture they fought out a draw with wooden spoonists Springfield 'B'.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' are the draw specialists of the division having drawn 5 of their 18 games. Both games against OLOP 'H' were drawn so they were the only team in the division not to be beaten by the Earley side.

Tony House and Dave Aust were their top players finishing with averages of 67% and 64% respectively, followed by captain Pete Harman (42%) and Mike Casserley (33%). Derek Maltby was the fifth member of the squad but played only one league match – in fact he played up for higher ranked teams more often than he played for his own side! Doubles average was 28%.

They were the first team to complete their fixtures, winning their final match 7 - 3 at Springfield 'B' on March 10th, two weeks before the last match of the season was played. Prior to that they lost 8 - 2 away to Tilehurst Methodists 'C' and beat local rivals Milestone 'B' 6 - 4 courtesy of Dave's fine maximum.

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' complete the top half of the table although they only finished above Tidmarsh 'F' on points difference. This was effectively the team that won Division 6 the previous season with the addition of Martin Wetherell and Dave Jones from the previous season's Division 5 champions.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birch Copse 'A'	18	16	1	1	142	38	33
OLOP 'H'	18	13	3	2	114	66	29
Polish 'D'	18	9	3	6	105	75	21
Sonning C&P 'F'	18	7	5	6	87	93	19
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	18	8	1	9	86	94	17
Tidmarsh 'F'	18	8	1	9	83	97	17
Milestone 'B'	18	5	4	9	78	102	14
Kingfisher 'I'	18	5	3	10	72	108	13
Post Office 'C'	18	4	3	11	71	109	11
Springfield 'B'	18	2	2	14	62	118	6

Martin again topped their averages with 82%, almost identical to his average the previous season. Bob Winter took the step up in class well and truly in his stride with 77% and Dave tailed off from his impressive 75% last season to 40% this time around, proving that Father Time does eventually catch up on you. Nevertheless if I can play even half as well as Dave when (or if) I reach his age I will be well satisfied.

Captain Chas Dean and Ryan Arch didn't adapt to the higher level quite as well as Bob, but rumour has it both are keen to return to Division 6 to form a new 'D' team so best of luck with that lads. Doubles average was 39%.

Chas's team started their final round of matches with an 8 - 2 win over Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' and a 7 - 3 success against Springfield 'B', Martin and Bob scored trebles in each match with Dave weighing in with a single in both.

Chas won't want me to remind him again of the Polish 'D' debacle as described above but Bob did score a nice double losing out only to Grant. Martin scored an impressive treble in their last match at Tidmarsh 'F' but this proved to no avail as the team lost 7 - 3.

Tidmarsh 'F' may remember this season for reaching the Division 5/6 KO Cup final where they face the tough task of beating Div 5 Champions Birch Copse 'A', because in the league their season was distinctly average. Perhaps their biggest problem was having six players in the squad which meant it was difficult to keep fluency and momentum in their play and keep everyone in the squad happy.

Pete Sinclair topped their averages with 88% but he played in fewer than half the fixtures - had he played more often then the promotion race might have been even more fascinating. Steve Andrews and captain Bob Sunerton finished with 58% and 51% respectively, Mike Bundy finished with 23% and Dave Humphrey 17%.

The experienced John Harland finished with 42% but from only 4 matches. Had he played more often I'm sure it would have spiced up their season. Doubles average was 39%.

In the first week of March they came up against an in-form Kingfisher 'I' boosted by the return of Andrew Talaga and lost 7 - 3. Then it was their cup final dress rehearsal against Birch Copse 'A' which didn't go according to plan with an 8 - 2 loss despite taking a 2 - 1 lead early on. They lost at OLOP 'H' by the same scoreline but Steve scored a nice double which included an impressive win over Dave Godfrey. At least they signed off on a brighter note as Dave, Bob and Steve weighed in with doubles in a 7 - 3 victory over Tilehurst Methodists 'C'.

Milestone 'B' had a season where they managed to steer clear of danger but always seemed to be looking nervously over their shoulders and were never assured of safety until the penultimate match of the season.

Like last season their main source of strength was the form of captain Gerard Thorp. His 55% average included 4 trebles which crucially transformed potential defeats into victories or draws, and the fact that he missed only one game shows how much the team relied on his leadership. On this occasion Oliver Bonser (58%) finished above him in the averages, his claim to

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Richard Green	Birch Copse 'A'	30	29	96.67
Jes Eassom	Birch Copse 'A'	42	39	92.86
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'H'	42	38	90.48
Pete Sinclair	Tidmarsh 'F'	24	21	87.5
Alistair Richardson	OLOP 'H'	48	41	85.42
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	45	37	82.22
Bob Winter	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	39	30	76.92
Roy Hull	Birch Copse 'A'	30	23	76.67
Stephen Yon	Polish 'D'	42	32	76.19
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'C'	45	32	71.11
Grant Wheatley	Polish 'D'	47	33	70.21
Mike Williams	Birch Copse 'A'	39	27	69.23
Tony House	Sonning C&P 'F'	39	26	66.67

fame this season was in being the only player to lower the colours of the division's top man, Richard Green of Birch Copse 'A'. John Simpson was the other member of last season's squad to feature and he finished with 33%. At the start of the season Milestone 'B' made two new signings in Geoff Gygi and Pratik Kothari. Geoff found the going tough and featured in only two matches, while Pratik had much more success, playing in 9 matches and finishing on 37%.

Very much an issue this season was their doubles play. Their first success was at the 13th attempt in their 7 - 3 win at Springfield 'B' in mid-January and they got the taste again at Kingfisher 'I' and Post Office 'C'.

The 8 - 2 win at Post Office 'C' proved decisive in their battle to beat the drop, had they lost this game they would be competing in Division 6 next season. Pratik was star of the show scoring his first treble which included an impressive win over the experienced Ted Cripps. They narrowly missed out 6 - 4 at Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' before completing their escape with an emphatic 9 - 1 success at fellow strugglers Kingfisher 'I', Gerard & Oliver both scoring trebles. The performance in the final game against Birch Copse 'A' was not their best but I'm sure they were just enjoying themselves with the pressure well and truly off.

In Woodley it's been a really up and down season for **Kingfisher 'I'**. They struggled at the start of the season because they were playing the stronger teams but they rallied before Christmas with an unbeaten run taking them to mid-table. Then in January disaster struck and top player Andrew Talaga was injured and ruled out of action until March. This hit Derek Crombie's team badly and coming up to the final run-in, things were looking very precarious. Then came what proved to be their result of the season.

Still without Andrew very few would have given them a chance of getting a result away to a Polish 'D' side that had won its last six matches and threatening to gatecrash the promotion party. But that night Derek, Maureen Allchurch and Phil Cunnington threw the form book out of the window and romped to a 6 - 4 win. Maureen was star of the show with a superb treble - interestingly she also scored a treble against Polish 'D' in the home match at the end of October, so when she plays against them next season she'll no doubt be looking to "Polish" them off once again!!

They followed up this win with another emphatic triumph, this time 7 - 3 against Tidmarsh 'F' thanks to Andrew's treble on his return to the side and Derek's double.

However after that their form deserted them once again and heavy defeats against relegation rivals Post Office 'C' & Milestone 'B' left them teetering on the edge. In the final week they were anxiously awaiting the result of Post Office 'C's match against OLOP 'H', where a win for the home side would have sent Kingfisher 'I' down to Division 6. Happily for Derek's team that result went in their favour and they survived at the death.

Andrew topped the team's averages with 60%, followed by Maureen with 50%, Phil 29% and Derek 25%. Doubles average was 39%.

Barbara Gatward's **Post Office 'C'** team were not so lucky and sadly fell at the final hurdle. They started like the proverbial train winning 3 of their opening 4 matches including an emphatic 9 - 1 win over pre-season favourites Tilehurst Methodists 'C'. But after that they fell away badly, winning only one of their last 14 matches and paying the ultimate price. They also had the problem of a 6-player squad and trying to keep everyone happy. Mick Grantham, Ted Cripps and Linda Davis were the strongest threesome while Barbara, Pat Davis and John Gatward found it tough going at this level. Mick was top man, scoring a very impressive 71% from his 15 matches. The vastly experienced Ted often used higher level expertise to great effect, but was unable to match Mick's consistency and finished with 45%. In my opinion Linda is a far better player than her 31% average suggests – she is a very hard player to beat as most players in this division will testify. Many of her games went to five sets and her fighting spirit was undoubted. Win or lose, players knew they had been in a match when they played against Linda. Their doubles record at 67% was the third best in the division.

In the final round of matches Post Office 'C' started badly, losing 8 - 2 at home to Milestone 'B' with Ted scoring a double. Then came an emphatic 8 - 2 win against Kingfisher 'I', Ted scoring a treble supported by doubles from Mick & Linda. The same threesome took to the table against champions Birch Copse 'A' and as mentioned above Lady Luck was not with them that night, losing five games to a fifth set deuce and finally succumbing to an 8 - 2 defeat, with Mick grabbing the only singles win by beating Duncan. They needed to defeat runners-up OLOP 'H' in the final match to stave off relegation but with Mick not being available this was always going to be an uphill task. And so it proved with another 8 - 2 defeat, Ted and Linda both recording wins against Chris.

Springfield 'B' did very well the previous season by surviving Division 5 after being asked to move up a division having finished fourth in the 2008/9 Division 6 campaign. They opened up this season with three 6 - 4 defeats before losing 9 - 1 to Birch Copse 'A'. Then came their result of the season, a 6 - 4 away win against the then leaders OLOP 'H'. It was hoped that this result would prove the catalyst for an upturn in form and fortune. But sadly that didn't happen and it wasn't until mid-January that they put their next points on the board courtesy of a 7 - 3 win away to Post Office 'C'. Unfortunately that was to be their final victory in what was a very difficult campaign for Colin Jones and his team, although they did record

draws at home to Kingfisher 'I' (their only home point of the season) and away to Polish 'D' in the final week of the season. Despite their lack of success they played the game with enthusiasm and good sportsmanship and I wish them every success in Division 6 next season.

Colin has the distinction of being the only ever-present player in the division, which is very rare these days especially in a team losing most of its games. So well done Colin.

Another unwanted statistic was that not one Springfield 'B' player hit a treble this season. All the players hit doubles in some of their matches, Chris Speight being the most successful with a final average of 46%. Dan Mortimer started the season in excellent form hitting doubles in all his first three matches. Although he couldn't maintain this performance level he finished with a very respectable 41%. Both Colin and Nigel Outhwaite finished with 22%, and the doubles average was a relatively healthy 44%.

Not a season to remember for Colin and the lads but I'm sure their experience will stand them in good stead for next season. After all my own team Birch Copse 'A' had a similar experience in Division 4 last season and look at how well we've responded!

So take heart Colin, Chris, Dan & Nigel.

Once again a big thank you to all captains for getting scorecards to me on time. Have a really good summer and come back refreshed for next season!

Five set thrillers (double portion this time)

Week 18 :

Jan Polnik (Polish 'D') v. Phil Cunnington (Kingfisher 'I')

4-11,11-5,11-9,8-11,11-13.

Ted Cripps (Post Office 'C') v. Gerard Thorp (Milestone 'B')

4-11,11-6,4-11,11-7,13-11.

Week 19 :

Mike Casserley (SC&P 'F') v. Oliver Bonser (Milestone 'B')

8-11,11-5,5-11,11-9,14-16.

Joaquin Sabater (Kingfisher 'I') v. Mike Bundy (Tidmarsh 'F')

11-8,4-11,6-11,11-4,13-15.

Week 20 :

Grant Wheatley (Polish 'D') v. Dave Godfrey (OLOP 'H')

11-9,9-11,9-11,11-8,11-13.

Stephen Yon (Polish 'D') v. Dave Godfrey (OLOP 'H')

7-11,11-2,8-11,11-9,12-10.

Week 21 :

Duncan Abbott (Birch Copse 'A') v. Ted Cripps (Post Office 'C')

12-10,11-9,11-13,6-11,13-11.

Mike Williams (Birch Copse 'A') v. Mick Grantham (Post Office 'C')

8-11,13-11,11-7,10-12,12-10.

Week 22 :

Jan Polnik (Polish 'D') v. Nigel Outhwaite (Springfield 'B')

19-17,11-7,5-11,5-11,4-11.

Linda Davis (Post Office 'C') v. Alistair Richardson (OLOP 'H')

13-11,9-11,7-11,13-11,6-11.

DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

Congratulations to Kingfisher 'J' who are crowned as champions and to OLOP 'I' for gaining promotion as runners up. It was a close run thing for the runners up spot, OLOP 'I', Springfield 'D', BBC and Reading Resource were all in contention. As the season came to a close it came down to two teams, OLOP 'I' and Reading Resource. In the end Reading Resource ran out of steam leaving OLOP 'I' runners up by one point in the final week of the season.



Kingfisher 'J' lost momentum towards the end of the season, Polish 'E' were the first to take their 100% record closely followed by OLOP 'I' and Kingfisher 'K'. OLOP 'I' put in an undefeated series of results dropping one point in twelve to just keep Reading Resource's promotion challenge at bay.

At the bottom of the table Sonning Sports 'B' put up a creditable fight gaining six points to almost catch Birch Copse 'B', finally ending up with eleven points. In most divisions this would have resulted in being in the safety zone, it just shows how closely matched teams were in this division. The defining game was Birch Copse 'B' defeating Sonning Sports 'B' to maintain the necessary two point gap. Kingfisher 'K', Polish 'E', SC&P 'G', and Springfield 'C' all put in some creditable wins to maintain their mid-table positions.

The best doubles combination resided with Reading Resource having achieved a 76% win rate followed by Birch Copse 'B' with 63% and Springfield 'C' with 58%.

On an individual basis Jean-Noel Thepaut of Kingfisher 'J' managed to maintain his 100% record followed by Neil Havard of Reading Resource with 96% and Gabor Radnotti of Kingfisher 'J' with 92%.

Kingfisher 'J' are worthy champions having led from the beginning of the season to the end. They stuttered 5 - 5 against Springfield 'C' and thanks to a brilliant treble from Jean managed to secure a point. They failed to heed the warning signs as they lost their 100% record losing 4 - 6 to Polish 'E' despite a hard fought treble from Joaquin. Then followed two 7 - 3 wins against Birch Copse 'B' and SC&P 'G', both Jean and Gabor trebles helped secure the title. Having secured the title they then lost 3 - 7 to OLOP 'I' and went out with a whimper losing their final game 4 - 6 to Kingfisher 'K'. Stuart Mitchell 11/32 including 1 treble, Jean Thepaut 27/27 including 9 trebles, Gabor Radnotti 33/36 including 9 trebles, Joaquin Sabater 29/36 including 6 trebles, Didier Garçon 20/33 including 2 trebles. Doubles 11/20.

OLOP 'I' roared into second spot and managed to maintain their position to the end. They secured a good 7 - 3 win over SC&P 'G' thanks to Daniel and Siad trebles followed by an 8 - 2 win over BBC, again Siad scored another treble. Then followed a resounding 10 - 0 win over Springfield 'D', but they dropped a point

against Birch Copse 'B', Siad and Daniel scoring the important wins. Then came an important 7 - 3 win against champions Kingfisher 'J', Siad, Daniel and Phillip playing for their promotion credentials. In their final game of the season they had to fight hard against basement club Sonning Sports 'B' to just scrape home 6 - 4 to secure second spot. Daniel Thorne 41/54 including 5 trebles, Jade Fudge 2/32, Respice Kishari 10/14 including 1 treble, Siad Cole 28/37 including 5 trebles, Phillip Saunders 19/31 including 2 trebles. Doubles 11/20.

Reading Resource continued to climb the table but in the end ran out of steam to lose out on promotion by one point. They defeated Sonning Sports 'B' 7 - 3 thanks to Neil and Michael trebles and then defeated BBC 6 - 4, once again Michael and Neil securing the necessary wins. Further wins were against Birch Copse 'B' 6 - 4 and Kingfisher 'K' 7 - 3, Neil and Michael once again securing wins. A surprise 3 - 7 loss against Springfield 'C' proved costly, but, in the end they finished a creditable third. Neil Havard 47/49 including 13 trebles, Michael Stevens 25/43 including 5 trebles, Joyce Crockford 0/27, Adam Sheen 1/2, Theresa Williams 1/2, Russell Ward 0/12. Doubles 13/17.

BBC Caversham started the final phase of the season strongly, but then it all went badly wrong. They defeated Birch Copse 'B' 6 - 2 (yes, a correct result) and then crushed SC&P 'G' 9 - 1 thanks to Kyrill and Chris trebles. Then came a run of losses to end their promotion campaign, 4 - 6 to Reading Resource, 2 - 8 to OLOP 'I', 4 - 6 to Springfield 'C', 3 - 7 to both Kingfisher 'K' and Springfield 'D'. The only ray of sunshine was a comprehensive 10 - 0 win against a weakened Springfield 'D' team in a re-arranged game. Phil Peat 12/19, Dave Pearson 13/25 including 3 trebles, Gordon Ayres 7/24, John Lancashire 11/24 including 1 treble, John Scott 15/21 including 2 trebles, Jack Mitchell 11/27 including 2 trebles, Kyrill Dissanayke

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'J'	20	14	3	3	132	68	31
OLOP 'I'	20	12	3	5	120	80	27
Reading Resource	20	12	2	6	113	87	26
BBC Club	20	10	1	9	114	84	21
Springfield 'D'	20	8	5	7	102	98	21
Polish 'E'	20	9	2	9	93	106	20
Springfield 'C'	20	7	5	8	95	105	19
Kingfisher 'K'	20	7	3	10	85	115	17
Sonning C&P 'G'	20	4	6	10	89	111	14
Birch Copse 'B'	20	5	3	12	81	117	13
Sonning Sports 'B'	20	4	3	13	74	126	11

20/23 including 5 trebles, Chris Grzybowski 11/16 including 2 trebles. Doubles 10/19.

Springfield 'D' also lost their way towards the end of the season losing 4 - 5 to Polish 'E' (yes a correct result), 0 - 10 to both OLOP 'I' and BBC due to fielding weakened teams. They managed to share the points against SC&P 'G' thanks to wins from Jeff and Peter. A good 6 - 4 win over Birch Copse 'B' resulted thanks to Bob, Jeff and Peter wins. In their final game of the season Ray, Bob and Jeff gained a 7 - 3 win against a weakened BBC team. Ray Morrell 22/37, Bob Sibun 18/38, Jeff Morgan 23/50, Peter Greatorex 9/27, Doubles 9/20.

Polish 'E' had to hope results went their way to stand a chance of gaining promotion. In the end they finished a comfortable mid-table taking seven points from their remaining games. They also were the first team to end the champions Kingfisher 'J's' 100% record. Firstly a 5 - 4 win over Springfield 'D' and then a brilliant 6 - 4 win over champions Kingfisher 'J' thanks to Szymon, Jakub and Piotr wins. Then followed a crushing 8 - 2 win over Sonning Sports 'B' once again Szymon, Jakub and Piotr returned wins. In the final game of the season they shared the spoils with Springfield 'C' thanks again to Szymon, Jakub and Piotr wins. Szymon Szor 12/39, Jakub Langowski 38/56 including 4 trebles, Eddy Holweger 7/21, Piotr Wilczak 24/44 including 4 trebles, Ryseik Kacperczyk 0/3, Janka Cap 1/3. Doubles 9/19.

Springfield 'C' finished the season strongly to climb up the table. They took a point off champions Kingfisher 'J', Paul, Tim and John all recording good wins. Then they had a moment of madness losing 4 - 6 to basement club Sonning Sports, but redeemed themselves with a cracking 7 - 3 win over Reading Resource; Paul, Ashley and John all securing doubles. Then came good 6 - 4 wins over BBC and SC&P 'G' both Paul and John securing trebles in the process. In the final game of the season John recorded yet another treble to share the points with Polish 'E'. Paul Jenkins 29/45 including 2 trebles, Tim Carr 4/36, Alan Gould 12/42, John Burke 23/27 including 6 trebles, Ashley Jones 1/9, Derek

Edney 5/12. Doubles 11/19.

SC&P 'G' lost their way in the final phase of the season but managed to pick up sufficient points to remain mid-table. They lost 1 - 9 to BBC, 4 - 6 to Springfield 'C', 3 - 7 to OLOP 'I', and champions Kingfisher 'J'. A hard fought draw gained a point against Springfield 'D' thanks to Michael and Danny doubles. Then came a well fought 8 - 2 win over Sonning Sports 'B', Michael and Danny both scoring trebles with a single from Albert. In the final game of the season they lost 3 - 7 to Kingfisher 'K' both Adam and David recording wins. Guy Thurlow 7/15, Michael Legg 25/42 including 2 trebles, Danny Dockree 27/36 including 4 trebles, Albert Shephard 6/21, David Parkes 6/24, Adam Parkes 8/21, Matt Dean 1/6. Doubles 8/20.

Kingfisher 'K' maintained their mid-table position. They managed to inflict a 6 - 4 win over champions Kingfisher 'J', Derek Spicer being man of the match. Then two further 7 - 3 wins over BBC and SC&P 'G'. Derek scored another treble in the win over BBC ably supported by Gillian and Susan. In the win over a weakened SC&P 'G' Alex and Gillian scored important wins. They lost 4 - 6 to Sonning Sports 'B' and in the final game of the season lost 3 - 7 against Reading Resource, Derek and Gillian getting on the score sheet. Derek Spicer 32/38 including 7 trebles, Gillian Bennett 15/41, Alex Gurney 12/28, James Cummings 3/23, Susan MacDonald 5/17, Helen Sparks 3/9. Doubles 9/19.

Birch Copse 'B' managed an important 7 - 3 win over Sonning Sports 'B' thanks to trebles from Melanie, Jack and Tony. Also a brilliant 5 - 5 draw against OLOP 'I' resulted thanks to Jack, Elizabeth and Tony wins. Without these points they could have slipped below Sonning Sports 'B'. Losses included a 2 - 6 against BBC, 4 - 6 against Springfield 'D' despite Jack scoring a hard fought treble, 3 - 7 against champions Kingfisher 'J' and 4 - 6 against Reading Resource in the final game of the season. Melanie Griffiths 26/41 including 2 trebles, Josh Brown 5/18 including 1 treble, Jack Griffiths 21/41 including 2 trebles, Elizabeth Hull 9/41, Tony Ross 8/27. Doubles 12/20.

Sonning Sports 'B' fought to the season end and managed two well earned wins defeating both Springfield 'C' and Kingfisher 'K' 6 - 4. In the win over Springfield 'C' Tom scored a treble along with supporting wins from Derek and Suzanne. In defeating Kingfisher 'K' Suzanne, Dave and Tom all scored doubles. They lost 3 - 7 to Reading Resource, 2 - 8 to Polish 'E' despite getting a rare doubles win and 2 - 8 to SC&P 'G'. In the 3 - 7 loss against Birch Copse 'B', Dave and Tom recorded wins. They just lost out in a close 4 - 6 against promoted OLOP 'I', Suzanne, Dave and Tom all recording wins. Suzanne Brownhill 10/45, Dave West 15/45 including 1 treble, Derek Sommerville 11/39, Tom Gordon 23/36 including 3 trebles. Doubles 3/19.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher 'J'	24	24	100
Neil Havard	Reading Resource	49	47	95.92
Gabor Radnoti	Kingfisher 'J'	36	33	91.67
Kyrill Dissanayke	BBC Club	23	20	86.96
John Burke	Springfield 'C'	27	23	85.19
Derek Spicer	Kingfisher 'K'	38	32	84.21
David Pearson	BBC Club	16	13	81.25
Joaquin Sabater	Kingfisher 'J'	36	29	80.56
Daniel Thorne	OLOP 'I'	54	41	75.93
Siad Cole	OLOP 'I'	37	28	75.68
Danny Dockree	Sonning C&P 'G'	36	27	75
John Scott	BBC Club	21	15	71.43
Respice Kishari	OLOP 'I'	14	10	71.43

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Steve Ricks

The season has come to a close and congratulations go to Gus Thomis, Joshua Gallen and David Panter of **OLOP Strikers** who have been unbeaten since the last newsletter and finish the season 4 points clear at the top. It hasn't been all one way traffic though; they beat Hammers comfortably enough 4 - 0 but could then only draw against Attackers where Siad Cole was in top form. They then won 4 - 2 against Sonning Tigers in spite of 2 wins from Jon Abbott, before winning 4 - 1 against Trojans and finishing off in fine form with a 4 - 0 demolition of Thunderbolts. Gus has only lost 2 sets all season finishing on 89% with 17 wins out of 19 starts, Josh just behind on 73% with 11 out of 15 and David Panter 50% with 2 wins out of 4.

Runners up spot goes to **OLOP Attackers** whose mainstay this season has been Siad Cole. Siad was the star in their draw with the eventual league winners Strikers, managing excellent wins over both Gus and Josh. Siad again got a maximum in the 3 - 2 win over Hammers before going down 4 - 2 to Tigers with Siad and Michael McAllister winning one each. Their final match against Trojans was played without Siad, however on this occasion Michael managed to beat Tom Burrow and Kieran Morfill to earn a draw. Final averages: Siad Cole 77%, Michael McAllister 55%, Austin Ellerton 13%.

In third place are **SCP Tigers**. They have struggled to have all players available at times or I'm certain they would have been in top spot. **Jon Abbott** is unbeaten with Danny Dockree providing strong support and Tim Kenyon helping out near the end. This batch of results started badly, with Tigers losing 2 - 4 to club-mates Thunderbolts in spite of Jon winning both his games. Unfortunately Danny and Tim had a bad night and the team returned empty handed. The following week Danny managed to win one in the 3 - 2 defeat of Trojans. They then lost again, this time to Strikers with Jon again winning both games to no avail. They then defeated Attackers 4 - 2 without Jon, this time Danny was in form, winning 3 games including the scalp of Siad Cole. In the

final match Jon and Danny combined to hand out a 5 - 0 thrashing to Hammers. Final averages: Jon Abbott 100% with 10 out of 10, Danny Dockree 71% with 12 out of 17 and Tim Kenyon also 71% with 5 wins from 7 starts.

Fourth place goes to **OLOP Trojans**, a side with mixed fortunes throughout the whole season. They did manage to beat Hammers 2 - 4 with Sam Ricks winning both his games and Tom Burrow and Kieran Morfill winning one each. The following week against Thunderbolts Sam again won both games and teaming up with Tom to win the crucial doubles in a 3 - 2 win. They were then soundly thrashed by top team Strikers 1 - 4, only managing to win the doubles, then finished off with a draw against Attackers with Tom and Kieran winning one each. Final Averages: Sam Ricks 100% with 5 wins out of 5, Tom Burrow 13% with 3 out of 14 and Kieran 8% with 2 out of 15.



JON ABBOTT OF SCP TIGERS

Next come **OLOP Hammers**. Playing in the senior league has had a positive impact on Phil Saunders as he has had his best year ever in the youth league by a long way and with a bit more support they would have finished higher. They were easily beaten by Strikers 4 - 0, but were perhaps a bit unlucky against Trojans losing 2 - 4 with Phil winning both his games. They then lost out by the odd game 3 - 2 to Attackers with Phil and Maciej winning one each but losing in the doubles. They were then gifted a win when Thunderbolts only turned up with one player. Final Averages: Philip Saunders 59% with 10 wins from 17, Maciej Nadja 30% with 4 from 13. Nacho Vega-Escamilla no wins from 7.

Finally are **SCP Thunderbolts**. I'm at a loss to explain what has happened to this team over the past year. Two years ago they finished second and all their players featured high in the averages; last year they slipped a bit until

Y DIV 1 TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLOP Strikers	10	8	1	1	38	9	17
OLOP Attackers	10	5	2	3	29	23	13
SCP Tigers	10	7	3	0	29	24	12
OLOP Trojans	10	4	5	1	18	29	9
OLOP Hammers	10	2	7	1	19	32	5
SCP Thunderbolts	10	2	8	0	15	35	4

Y DIV 1 AVERAGES

		P	W	%
J Abbott	Tigers	10	10	100
S Ricks	Trojans	5	5	100
G Thomis	Strikers	19	17	89
S Cole	Attackers	13	10	77
G Thurlow	Thunderbolts	4	3	75
J Gallen	Strikers	15	11	73
D Dockree	Thunderbolts	15	11	73

finally this year they seem to have collapsed. They have struggled to put a full side out this season which hasn't helped but they're certainly not playing as well as they can. They lost 4 - 2 to their clubmates Tigers with Max Sweetman and Guy Thurlow both winning one set. They were then unlucky to come up against Trojans when **Sam Ricks** was playing, and although Max and Guy again won one each, they eventually lost the match 3 - 2. They were then soundly thrashed by top team Strikers 4 - 0. Final averages Max Sweetman 50% with 8 out of 16 starts, Guy Thurlow 50% with 5 out of 10 and Rowan Stacey 50% with 1 out of 2.



SAM RICKS OF OLOP TROJANS *

Division 2 has been fairly close at the top all season, and at the end it all comes down to points difference. Congratulations therefore go to Richard Lego and Daniel Jordan of **SCP Spartans** who just pipped **OLOP Lions** to the winning post. Both of these teams only lost one game each, both winning against each other.

Like most of the top teams Spartans have been assisted by other teams turning up under strength, and this is how they started this batch of results against Eagles with a 6 - 0 win, Richard, Daniel and Jodie Hayden all winning once. They then beat Avengers by a similar scoreline. The game against Raiders was a slightly tighter affair, but Richard managed to win both his games and Daniel one to close out the match 3 - 2. They then played Eagles again and this time Richard, Daniel and Jodie won all their games comfortably in another 6 - 0 win. Final Averages: Richard Lego 93% with 13 out of 14, Daniel Jordan 69% with 9 out of 13 and Jodie Hayden 80% with 4 out of 5.

Commiserations to Chris Johnson and Lorcan Gallen who had a really good season and were unlucky to lose out on winning the division on goal difference. They just sneaked a win 3 - 2 against Raiders with Chris and Lorcan winning one each then combining to win the doubles. Chris and Lorcan then won two each plus the doubles to defeat Eagles 5 - 0, before an identical result against Panthers. In their final match against Avengers, Chris won both his games and teamed up with Lorcan in the crucial doubles to win the match 3 - 2. Final Averages: Chris Johnson 82%

with 14 wins from 17 and Lorcan Gallen 47% with 8 from 17.

Third place in division 2 goes to **SCP Raiders** who have Adam Fearnside joint top of the averages. They have played Lions twice recently and on both occasions lost out by the odd game 3 - 2 in spite of Adam winning both his games. They then played a weakened Eagles team, Adam and Liam Ruiz both winning a game in the 5 - 0 victory before they were narrowly beaten by top team Spartans. Adam managed to beat Daniel Jordan and teamed up with Liam to win the doubles

but they both found Richard Lego too strong on the night and lost 3 - 2. Final Averages: Adam Fearnside 93% with 13 wins from 14 starts and Liam Ruiz 50% with 6 from 12.

In fourth place are **SCP Avengers** who have had mixed fortunes, particularly since losing key players during the transfer window. They have played Panthers twice in the last batch of matches and were fortunate to be gifted a walkover in the first. In the second Michael McAllister starred in a narrow 3 - 2 win. They were then soundly thrashed 5 - 0 by SCP Spartans before narrowly losing out to OLOP Lions 2 - 3. Both Michael and Gareth Bird managed to beat Lorcan but found Chris Johnson too strong on the night. Final Averages: James McAllister 31% with 4 from 13 and Gareth Bird 43% with 3 out of 7.

In fifth place are the girls of **OLOP Panthers**. They have found the going tough and points hard to come by, not helped by problems fielding a team most weeks. Alba Vega-Escamilla has had a couple of good wins and Jemma Stephens one, but they enjoy it when they play and if they continue to practice they will improve.

The same goes for **OLOP Eagles**. James Bridger and Conor Sutherland-Elmore have found it hard work at league level only winning one set between them, but if they stick at it and practice as often as they can the results will start to come.

I hope you've all enjoyed the season. Have a fantastic summer and here's looking forward to August when we start all over again.

Y DIV 2 TABLE

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
SCP Spartans	10	9	1	0	42	10	18
OLOP Lions	10	9	1	0	36	13	18
SCP Raiders	10	5	5	0	31	17	10
SCP Avengers	10	5	5	0	23	23	10
OLOP Panthers	10	1	9	0	5	38	2
OLOP Eagles	10	1	9	0	4	44	2

Y DIV 2 AVERAGES

		P	W	%
R Lego	Spartans	14	13	93
A Fearnside	Raiders	14	13	93
C Johnson	Lions	17	14	82
D Jordan	Spartans	13	9	69

MORE YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Liam and Megan Shine in Cheltenham

The sun wasn't the only thing shining in Cheltenham on the weekend of 9th-10th April as five of Reading's best Junior players competed at the 44th Cheltenham Cotswold Junior 4 Star Open Tournament.

It was thirteen year old Megan Knowles who shone brightest on the Saturday, finishing as runner-up in the Cadet Girls Open. On the Sunday it was fifteen year old Liam McTiernan who went one step further in winning the Junior Boys Open in thrilling fashion. Liam's younger brother Daniel (12) was also a losing semi finalist in the Under 13 Boys event.

Liam's victory is his best achievement in the sport to date and he was rewarded by prize money of £100. He is the youngest and lowest ranked player to win a 4 Star Junior Open this season and in doing so beat three higher ranked players in the process - Matthew Outhwaite (Warwicks), Bradley Tuttle (Herts) and James Ward (Staffs).

Having qualified through a potentially tricky group of Kester Pardre (Middlesex), Kevin Vandabona (Devon) and Joseph Lanham Ferreira (Surrey) losing only one set, he played a much improved Adam Reed (Middlesex) in the Last 32 Round, winning a tight match 3 -1. Next up in the Last 16 Round was Outhwaite, who he outplayed with some blisteringly fast forehands, winning 3 - 0.

Going into the Quarter Final full of confidence, Liam was pegged back by an equally in-form Reece Placid (Kent). After a shaky start he recovered well to win 3 - 1. His biggest test of the day then arrived in the form of Tuttle. In a titanic semi final, in which both players excelled in some tremendous loop to loop rallies, Liam eventually emerged victorious by three sets to two, having twice been behind.

In the final, Liam faced the top seed and winner of the last Junior Open Tournament, James Ward. After winning a close opening game, Liam never looked back as his determination overwhelmed Ward, beating him 3 - 0. His gallant opponent warmly congratulated Liam despite being well beaten.

Megan played very well in reaching the final, beating the impressive Letitia McMullan (Hants) in the Quarter Final and second seed Isobel Ashley (Derbyshire) in the Semis, winning both matches 3 - 0. In the final she faced the top seed Charlotte Carey (Wales) and at one set all, it was a closer affair than the final score line of 3 - 1 suggests. Nevertheless, a runners-up trophy was a just reward for another good day.

Megan has enjoyed a tremendous season in which she has successfully represented England twice in overseas Open tournaments at Cadet level and in the process risen to second in the English Girls Cadet Rankings.



DANIEL McTIERNAN ACHIEVED THIRD PLACE IN THE UNDER-THIRTEEN NATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the England Senior National Championships

It may be worth mentioning that Liam McTiernan and Daniel Moses made their English Senior National Championships debuts at Sheffield last month; they played

Paul Drinkhall (eventual Senior winner) and Darius Knight in the Under 21 rounds! Daniel took a set from Darius! Both boys won 2 out of four matches and lost one in the fifth end against far higher ranked players which is excellent. They also played in doubles together.

LATEST CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Nigel Maltby

READING MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP

A superb day's play saw Daniel Moses win the end-of-season Reading Masters title after a fine comeback win against the best player in the Reading league for many years - i.e. Martin Adams.

Martin survived some tough matches in his group, beating Stuart Williams 11-9 in the fifth, after Stuart had two match points, and beating Martin Choudounsky 11-9, 8-11, 11-9, 11-8 to eventually finish top of his group. Stuart Williams managed to finish in second place to reach the semi-finals too, despite an early 6-11, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8, 6-11 defeat against Bob Davis. A superb victory over Martin Choudounsky eventually proved crucial as both players won two of their group matches, Stuart beating Martin to second place after beating him by the narrowest of margins 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9.



TONY REYNOLDS DEMONSTRATES HIS TOPSPIN TECHNIQUE

In Group 2 Daniel Moses was on superb form throughout, winning all four of his matches to top the group, culminating in a 13-11, 11-6, 11-13, 11-3 defeat of Hari Gehlot. In a tight group Hari finished second after both he and **Tony Reynolds** finished tied on two wins each, Hari going through after his early 12-10, 11-9, 11-4 defeat of Tony. Dave Streak and Andy Misseldine both picked up one win apiece, Dave beating Andy while Andy picked up a notable win over Hari 7-11, 3-11, 11-9, 11-9, 12-10.

In the semi-finals Martin Adams had a comfortable 11-4, 11-4, 11-8 victory over Hari, while Stuart Williams did his best against Daniel Moses, but Daniel continued to put on the style with an entertaining 11-8, 11-7, 11-8 victory. Hari won the 3rd/4th play-off against Stuart, making the most of some good fortune throughout to win 11-4, 11-7, 11-6.

In the final Daniel started brightly, going 5-2 ahead but Martin quickly got into his stride to level at 7-all. Daniel was content to step back and defend, letting Martin go on the

offensive. Martin edged 10-8 ahead and after he missed one opportunity with his forehand his brilliant backhand blocking close up to the table saw him win the first game 11-9. Martin looked truly in the groove as he quickly went 7-0 up in the next, playing some awesome controlled table tennis and there was little Daniel could do about it. However four errors in a row from Martin gave Daniel a glimmer of hope at 7-4, but then a key rally went against him and Martin was able to close out the game 11-5.

It was not until early on in the third that Daniel edged 6-4 ahead and errors started to creep more and more into Martin's game. Another error off Daniel's serve put Daniel 9-6 ahead. A blistering backhand attack saw Martin close to 10-8 but his next return clipped the top of the net and dropped beyond the table, giving Daniel the game 11-8. Martin's game looked as if it had fallen apart in the next as

Daniel went 3-0 and then 8-4 ahead. An ambitious backhand from Daniel let Martin back in and Martin closed to 8-7 behind. A service error gifted Daniel a 9-7 lead. At 9-8 it was crunch time for Daniel and he won the next two points, stepping in brilliantly off the Martin serve to win it 11-8.

Daniel got off to a great start in the deciding game, going 3-0 and then 5-1 ahead. More uncharacteristic errors from Martin gave Daniel an 8-3 lead. A brilliant point saw him close to 8-4 but that soon became 9-5 and then 10-5 and on championship point Daniel's fantastic forehand retrieve from deep saw Martin's return drift off the end and Daniel had completed a remarkable recovery from two games down to win 3-2 to win the Masters title.

Sam Ricks won the Junior Masters title, defeating last years winner Hanson Xu in a great final. Both players won comfortably through their groups. Sam beat Leo Long in his semi-final 11-7, 12-10, 11-4 while Hanson needed four games to see off Siad Cole 11-4, 10-12, 11-9, 11-5. The final was a fine exhibition of table tennis. The much improved Sam Ricks stormed into a 2 - 0 lead after winning a tight first game 14-12. Hanson hit back to win the third game 12-10 and despite a good start in the next from him, Sam remained cool, playing some excellent back hand punchy drives a determined play throughout to win the title 14-12, 11-5, 10-12, 11-7.

IMPACT CHALLENGE SHIELD FINAL

YMCA 'A' won a superbly entertaining final against Kingfisher 'A' to win the Impact Challenge Shield as the two sides met again following their Division 1 championship decider last week. Each side was missing a player through sickness - Mark Banks from Kingfisher and Martin Choudounsky from YMCA.

Andy Misseldine got YMCA off to the perfect start with a

comfortable win over Ramesh Gehlot. Hari Gehlot then levelled for Kingfisher with victory over Bob Davis. Four terrific contests then followed. Tony Reynolds beat Stuart Williams 11-6 in the fifth with both players struggling at times to get used to the bounce on table at neutral Sonning Common. Hari levelled the match again for Kingfisher with a straight games defeat of Andy before Tony won another 5-game thriller, this time 13-11, 6-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-7 against Ramesh to put YM 3-2 up.

The next match was another key contest as Stuart faced Bob. Stuart took the first 18-16. Bob the next 11-5. Stuart

then started to play a more patient game before bringing in his good forehand topspin shots and he won the third 11-7. Bob dug deep to win the fourth 11-7 and in a breathtaking finale Bob won the decider 14-12 leaving YM needing just one more win for the trophy.

Hari was up next though and he completely dominated Tony to win 11-5, 11-3, 11-2. Next up was Andy against Stuart and Stuart faced another 5-game marathon with the scores level at 2 games all. A determined Andy seized the initiative in the last and with some good fortune near the end he won 11-5 to clinch a winning 5 - 3 margin for YMCA.

PHOTO CORNER

Several of the photographs in this newsletter have been sent in by our players, and here is one from Martin Adams, taken on the spur of the moment when passing through Folkestone. For some reason the shop sign "Tricky Trev's" suddenly made him think of home - and he wondered if we would be interested. These days everyone has a camera, and maybe other readers will find even more irresistible targets. If so, send them in and maybe we could have a regular corner for wicked photos.



MEMORABILIA

Some helpful soul was clearing out an old drawer and found this scorecard from the 1960s. And since we have a space left at the end of the Newsletter, here it is! No doubt these names will bring back memories for some. (Eh then, Alan?)

READING AND DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Division 1 Date 25/3/66

Home Team WOODLEY v. WOODLANDS 'A' Away Team

HOME TEAM	SCORE EACH GAME Home Player's Score Marked First				SCORE OF SETS	
	AWAY TEAM				Home	Away
	Singles	Singles	Singles	Doubles		
	FOSTER	ROBINSON	HOPKINS	FOSTER ROBINSON		
Singles LUINSKY	23-21 W 21-15	16-21 L 17-21	21-18 W 21-19	—	2	1
Singles DINES	21-17 W 21-15	21-9 W 21-9	21-9 W 21-17	—	3	0
Singles GILBERT	21-13 L 15-21 19-21	9-21 L 17-21	21-13 W 21-14	—	1	2
Doubles DINES LUINSKY	—	—	—	22-20 20-22 21-17	1	.
Post this Card Tonight					7	3
Signed [Signature]		Home Capt. [Signature]		Away Capt.		Match Total