

November 2012

READING
& DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

Editor: DEREK WAVELL

12/13 Season Starts

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Well, the 2012-2013 season got off to a slightly shaky start, after all the excitements of the summer - but we still have six divisions, we haven't dropped down to five. No one club has established ascendancy yet - but a quick look at the divisional tables shows teams from **Kingfisher, Polish and sometimes Tidmarsh** looking quite good at the present stage.

We have plenty of down-to-earth details in our divisional reports - and some new features too.

We have a **new DFS for Division One - Malcolm Gregory** - with a lively account of the top division. **Turning the normal order on its head**, he starts with teams at the bottom of the division, and works his way up from there.

And Barry Carter, reporting on Division Two, is also experimenting - with a **week-by-week diary**.

In case you haven't noticed, **we now have a new web site** with a great many desirable features - see Nick Lean's article on page 10.

Another new aspect of life is that **schoolchildren are suddenly interested in learning table tennis**. See a report on page 6.

This newsletter as usual is full of **photos of our players** - taken at the annual awards ceremony in May. And there are **two videos to watch of some fine Reading play** - on page 2..

Have a good season!

Derek



Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

1. **Individual Handicap Competition** - This season's event will take place on **Sunday 6th January 2013** at the Kingfisher Club. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution and they are also available on the website, or from Nigel Maltby or competition organiser Duncan Abbott. Entries should be sent to Duncan at 39 Warborough Avenue, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 5LB by the closing date of Friday 28th December.
2. **Reading Closed Championships** - Entry forms will be available shortly on the website and a supply will also be sent to club secretaries. The championships will be staged over two weekends and will once again be at Reading - the **Kingfisher Club**. The Senior and Veteran events will be held on **Saturday/Sunday 9/10 February 2013**. **The Junior events will be held on 23/24 February 2013**. Please do try and support this worthwhile event. Entries have been low in recent years, which is very disappointing given that we have now managed to move the tournament back to Reading. Entry is free, so please try and enter this year - there are events for everyone and every ability.
3. **Date for your Diary** (Mobile phone!) Not many people have diaries these days but here are some dates you should be aware of:

Annual Awards Presentation evening - Tuesday 7th May 2013. The awards night will be at the OLOP club this season.

Annual General Meeting - The RDTTA AGM will be held on **Wednesday 5th June 2013** at the OLOP club. Any registered senior player is entitled to attend and vote. Clubs are obliged to send at least one representative.

I hope everyone is enjoying their table tennis this year. **We continue to struggle to maintain our team numbers, let alone increase them.** All divisions have at least one gap this year, but with a number of additional cup team competitions, including the recently revamped 5th & Lower competition, all teams should get more than enough game time.

Lastly I would like to pass on my best wishes to **our President John Freeman**. John suffered a stroke back in August and has been in hospital receiving treatment and rehabilitation for the past 8 weeks. I sincerely hope he will be back home soon.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

Your readers might be interested in some historical information I uncovered while researching the last time Mike (Bill) Maynard won a point with his backhand.

In the Reading Standard of October 1924 Park Institute beat Reading YMCA 13-3 (presumably Pete Bradley was playing for YM even then!); Newbury Templars beat Kings Rd. Institute 9-6 and Park beat Templars 10-5.

This suggests there were only 4 teams in the league and there were either 15 or 16 games per match.

Meanwhile, in 1925, the Berkshire TTA seemed to be running a handicap tournament at Park Institute and entries were sent to a Mr. Broughton, 113 Cardiff Rd.

In 1937 the BTTA ran an "American Tournament" with a 25 shilling prize via its president Mr. Frank Adlam. Entrants for this included the Palmer Club and the Castle St. Institute.

I wonder if anyone else can shed any light on Reading Table Tennis between the wars.

Geoff Johnson



LIAM McTIERNAN

Two Videos - of the Kingfisher Grand Prix

This year once again, Kingfisher club held its Grand Prix series of competitions, every Monday from May till the end of July. Every Monday there is a winner - and then there is a final winner of the series.

Both videos were taken on 30th July - the final evening. First the semi final - in which Daniel Moses is playing against Michael Childs. In the second, Daniel Moses plays Liam McTiernan (left). From this contest Liam emerged the winner - though as it happened, Daniel was the overall winner of the series.

Click on a thumbnail on the right to view some high quality table tennis.



R&DTTA Awards For 2011-2012

On 8th May this year, the Reading Association's President, John Freeman, presented our annual awards at the Curzon Club premises. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Nigel Maltby, our Chairman, announced the prize-winners.

NB - [blue links](#) show page N° of photo.

LIST OF AWARDS:

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

Mens Singles	Daniel Moses P3
Ladies Singles:	Wendy Porter
Mens Doubles:	Liam McTiernan & Daniel Moses P2
Mixed Doubles	Daniel Moses & Chris West
U21 Singles	Daniel Moses P1
U18 Boys Singles	Daniel McTiernan P4
U15 Boys Singles	Daniel McTiernan P4



NIGEL MALTBY



DANIEL MOSES - WINNER OF READING CLOSED AND MANY OTHERS *

U15 Girls Singles	Katie Shepherd P3
U13 Boys Singles	Jon Abbott P5
U13 Girls Singles	Katie Shepherd P3
U11 Boys Singles	Lorcan Gallen P4
Boys Doubles	Danny Ricks & Sam Ricks
Youth Division:	Sam Ricks P5
Veteran Singles:	Ian Cole P5
Senior Vet Singles:	Malcolm Gregory P8
Over 60s Singles:	Colin Dyke P10
Div 1 restricted:	Ian Cole P5
Division 2	Jeremy Willis
Division 3	Danny Ricks P23
Division 4	Carol Chiu P4



KATIE SHEPHERD



TIDMARSH 'C' - DANNY AND STEVE RICKS, BARRY CARTER AND PETER GALEA - WITH JOHN FREEMAN

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

Division 1 Champions:	OLOP 'A' P9
Runners-up:	Kingfisher 'A'
Division 2 Champions:	OLOP 'D' P8
Runners-up:	Sonning C & P 'C'
Division 3 Champions:	Tidmarsh 'C' P3
Runners-up:	OLOP 'F' P4
Division 4 Champions:	Tilehurst Meths 'B' P14
Runners-up:	Polish 'B' P14



OLOP 'F' - SAMI ALMABROK, MARK BULLION AND HARRY BROUGH,
WITH RDTTA PRESIDENT JOHN FREEMAN

- Division 5 Champions: **Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** [P16](#)
- Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'K'** [P15](#)
- Division 6 Champions: **OLOP 'J'**
- Runners-up: **Polish 'D'** [P20](#)
- Youth Div 1 winners: **OLOP Attackers**
- Runners-up: **Sonning C & P Tigers**
- Youth Div 2 Winners: **Sonning C & P Raiders**
- Runners-up: **OLOP Eagles**
- John Freeman Trophy Winner: **Daniel Moses** [P3](#)
- IMPACT Challenge Shield Winners: **OLOP 'A'** [P9](#)
- Runners-up: **Kingfisher 'A'**



DANIEL McTIERNAN



SONIA GALLEN, WITH HER SONS LORCAN AND JOSHUA



CAROL CHIU



IAN COLE, WITH RDTTA PRESIDENT JOHN FREEMAN



JONATHAN ABBOTT

- Team Handicap Winners **OLOP 'A' [P9](#)**
- Runners-up: **TIDMARSH B' [P3](#)**
- Lower Divisions Cup winners: **Kingfisher 'K' [P15](#)**
- Runners-up: **Post Office 'B' [P18](#)**
- Individual Handicap Winner **Daniel Moses [P3](#)**
- Runner-up: **John Evans**
- Reading Senior Masters Winner: **Hari Gehlot**
- Runner-up: **Martin Adams**
- Reading Junior Masters Winner: **Liam McTiernan [P2](#)**
- Runner-up: **Sam Ricks [P5](#)**
- Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner: **Ian Cole [P5](#)**
- Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior: **Joshua Gallen [P4, P13](#)**
- Best Junior Performance: **Sam Ricks [P5](#)**
- Alan Dines Memorial Trophy: **Wendy Porter [P5](#)**
- Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award: **Mick Gillard**



SAM RICKS



WENDY PORTER - WITH ALAN DINES'S SON AND

New Junior Coaching Initiatives by Derek Wavell

Sonning Common & Peppard Club

Since April, when we were all cynically or woefully remarking on the decline of table tennis in Reading, new players have been appearing - and particularly at the junior level.



JUNIOR COACHING IN FULL SWING AT SONNING COMMON & PEPPARD TTC

It's more than just the Olympics/TV boost. Back in June my own club, Sonning Common & Peppard, decided to revive a coaching programme that had been run by the late Alan Dines. I have to report general scepticism as to whether the kids would bother to turn up, particularly in the summer.

So we were ever so encouraged when 23 enthusiastic juniors turned up for the first one-hour Thursday evening session - and parents actually took this as a great opportunity for their children. So the one hour turned into two regular sessions, on Fridays. We charged £2.50 per hour. Our professional coach, Graham Outrim, was delighted at the good behaviour and keenness to learn of the Sonning Common children, and committed a big slab of his time to this project. We kept going through the holiday peak, sometimes on only six juniors per session. And we started adult coaching in the evening.

When term re-started, not only did all our students come back, but more parents rang up every week, and we started up a third one-hour session every Friday, for beginners. And we now have a fifth table tennis table - a generous donation to the club - which we always need because there are ten or more needing to play at the same time (28 or 29 in total each Friday).

Since September the coaching programme has continued to gather pace and breadth, with the encouragement of village newsletters. A variety of talented coaches have visited for one day at a time, and local schools have shown an interest in adding their efforts to ours, responding to the general upsurge in the sport.

Fortunately the Peppard War Memorial Hall, where the coaching takes place, is not needed by the main club on Friday evenings for league matches, so coaching has continued to grow undisturbed after the beginning of the season.

The Milestone Club

In July and August Milestone Club, not far away in Caversham Park Village, also had enquiries from children in nearby schools, to which they responded by getting a fourth table and their star League player, Hugh Crosfield, volunteered to coach a group.

Unfortunately, Hugh almost immediately broke his arm - but Wendy Porter, who runs OLOP's extensive coaching programme, somehow managed to find some time in her already crammed week, and rode to the rescue. A team of Milestone juniors joined the Youth League in September.

Whom to Contact

if you have children who want coaching:

Sonning Common & Peppard have sessions on Fridays at 4 p.m. (starters), 5 p.m. (mid) and 6 p.m. (advanced). Contact **Derek Wavell** on d.wavell@talktalk.net.

Milestone - contact **Gerard Thorp** on 01628 671965

Tilehurst Methodists - **Nigel Rowland** on 0118 9410822

And the two mainstays of coaching:

OLOP (Sunday mornings) - **Wendy Porter**: 0774 533 1743 (email: wendyasporter@gmail.com)

Kingfisher: Nick Heaps on nickheaps@hotmail.co.uk.



JUNIOR COACHING PARTICIPANTS AT THE MILESTONE CLUB

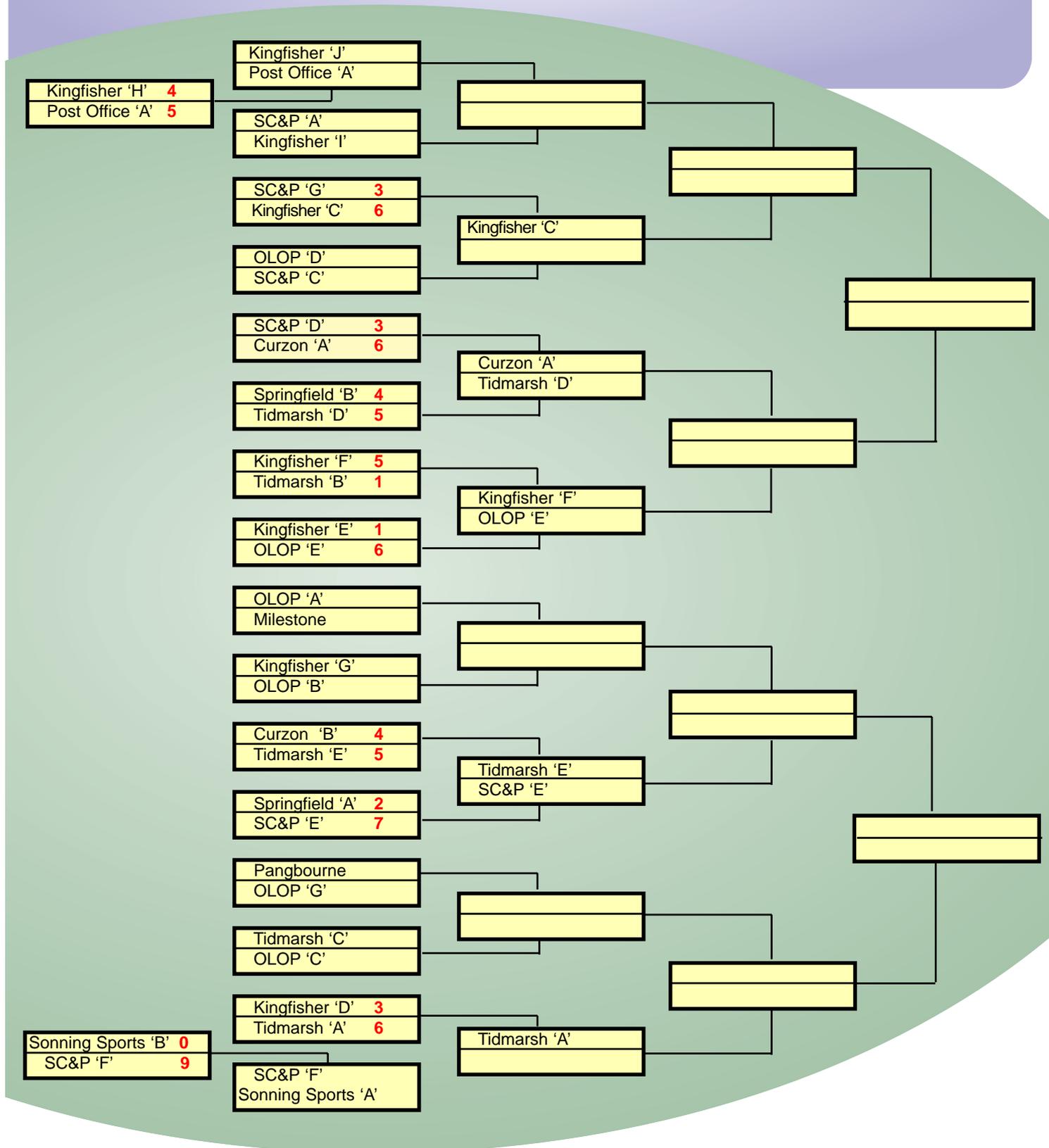
APPEAL FOR TABLES - If you have a decent indoor one you would be prepared to donate - or lend - to a coaching group, it could do no end of good. Please contact me on d.wavell@talktalk.net and I will put you in touch with the right people.

Team Handicap Competition 2012-13

organised by Duncan Abbott

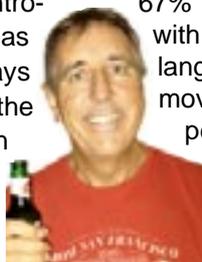
The Team Handicap is a knockout competition open to all teams in the Reading & District League. All players are given handicaps by the Handicap Committee based on their recent results. In a Team Handicap match the three players from one team play all players from the other team, 21-up, taking into account the relevant handicaps. There is no doubles contest.

Matches to be played week commencing 22 October 2012 if possible, or week commencing 19 November 2012.



DIVISION ONE *by Malcolm Gregory*

Welcome to my first DFS report! I should introduce myself – many people will know me as the fat ugly bloke with the big nose who plays for Sonning Common 'B'. No, not Keith Swain – the other one. I will try and resist the obvious temptation to write too much about myself. Born in 1955 and raised in Reading, Malcolm loves all sports but is married to golf – table tennis is his alluring mistress who he just cannot give up. He's played in the Reading league since 1972 and is looking forward to seeing a few old faces from the past this year. Polish away was a great night out for our team recently. We were all done by 10.30pm and straight in the pub with Messrs



67% average after 2 matches, and rightly so. However, with little or no support from his team mates Sonning 'B' languish at the foot of the table where I fear we may not move too far from this season. (I'm a "glass half empty" person, by the way).

Kingfisher 'C' are also pointless at the moment but I suspect once Niall gets his diary organised, they will climb up the table. A narrow 6 - 4 defeat to OLOP 'C' where no fewer than 5 sets went to 5 games suggests there is enough talent in the team for this level. Both Steve Murgatroyd and Niall McGrane will hold their own. Lisa Williams has already secured some great wins: Notably a 11-5 8-11 11-6 11-7 win against the legendary Nicky Heaps of Polish.



KINGFISHER 'C' - STEVE MURGATROYD, LISA WILLIAMS AND NIALL McGRANE

By all accounts the match between Kingfisher 'B' v. Sonning 'A' was a dog-fight. My old golfing mucker Jason Roberts starred with a maximum including a 5-game set against Daniel Grover. Two further wins over the unlucky Grover by Simon Berry and Paul Jarvis with the latter winning 13-11 in the 5th in game number 10, secured the first points of the season for each team in a 5 - 5 draw.

OLOP 'B' have a couple of early wins which has slotted them into lower mid table. A tight 6 - 4 team win against Polish saw contributions from Julian Telford

Heaps and Rosinski for much reminiscing and mirth, which was nice.

Anyway enough of that, let's have a look at what's been going on so far. Keith Swain was incredibly proud of his

(1) Bradley King (2) Krasimir Ivanov (2) and the doubles. Krasimir beat Graham Diplock in game number one: 11-13 11-8 10-12 11-9 12-10. What an exciting start to a match and who was to know that this close encounter

would prove so crucial?



NEW ARRIVALS: OLOP 'C' (STEVE PURCHASE & NEIL BIRD)

Bang in the middle of the table is YMCA. Neil Hurford is featuring strongly in the averages having won the first 7 out of 9 of his encounters and is clearly their "Number One". However, the YM boys got a good result against OLOP

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	6	6	0	0	51	9	12
OLOP 'A'	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Polish 'A'	6	4	0	2	40	20	8
OLOP 'C'	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Tidmarsh 'A'	5	3	0	2	34	16	6
Reading YMCA	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
OLOP 'B'	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Kingfisher 'C'	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
SC&P 'B'	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Kingfisher 'B'	5	0	1	4	11	39	1
SC&P 'A'	5	0	1	4	8	42	1



OLOP 'A' - LAST YEAR'S DIV ONE CHAMPS - IAN COLE, PETER MARTIN, MICHAEL CHILDS, NORMAN SWIFT AND DANIEL MOSES

'C' recently, without Neil, thanks to two wins apiece for the ever youthful Keith Winter and Dave Streak. Keith and Dave then teamed up for a very good doubles win; 12-10 11-5 11-7 against Daniel McTiernan and Clive Perry to secure a 5 - 5 draw.

And so we move into the top half of the table where we have players of the highest calibre – all of whom I expect to receive a damn good thrashing from over the coming months!!

For example Sander De Riemer at Tidmarsh has lost only one set in twelve. This included a 5 game thriller against Hari Gehlot. Sander ran out a 11-7 11-7 10-12 7-11 11-5 winner but this wasn't enough to stop Tidmarsh going down 6 - 4 to Kingfisher 'A'. Tidmarsh also went down to Polish 6 - 4 where Sander lost to Martin Adams 11-4 11-1 12-10 but, inexperienced as I am in this division, I have a sneaky feeling that Tidmarsh could cause a few upsets this year. Their team of John Barclay, Duncan Groves and Pete Matthews easily overcame Sonning 'A' 8 - 2 so they clearly have some strength in depth.

OLOP 'C' are another one of the 3 teams (at the time of writing) whom my team has played. We lost 7 - 3 and in Sean Pickin, OLOP have a player of class. It was a pleasure to be beaten by such a good all-round player who seems to have every shot in the book..

Danny Ricks looks like a young player of excellent temperament and a gentlemanly demeanour which sets a great example to some of us older players! Neil Bird has suffered some early season defeats but going on last season in division two where he was pretty awesome, I expect him to



MALCOLM'S COMRADE-IN-ARMS: KEITH SWAIN

gain ground as the season progresses.

Polish 'A' have a larger squad of players. If they played their strongest team every week they would be right up there. Martin Adams is yet to be beaten and Steve Dobbins has only lost once so far. In our match against Polish, Nicky Heaps won all 3 of his sets 3 straight with a particularly fabulous performance against Keith in a 11-8 11-3 11-5 win. Richard Rosinski, whom I have always admired for

his ability to play great attacking strokes with both wings, will maintain his 67% average. Andy Yon is one of two players in the division who are winless so far this season.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
M.Adams	Polish 'A'	12	12	100.00
D.Moses	OLOP 'A'	18	17	94.44
S.De Riemer	Tidmarsh 'A'	12	11	91.67
D.McTiernan	OLOP 'C'	12	11	91.67
S.Dobbins	Polish 'A'	9	8	88.89
P.Matthews	Tidmarsh 'A'	9	8	88.89
S.Pickin	OLOP 'C'	9	8	88.89
T.Reynolds	Kingfisher 'A'	9	8	88.89
E.Costa	Kingfisher 'A'	9	8	88.89
S.Williams	Kingfisher 'A'	12	10	83.33
H.Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	12	10	83.33
N.Heaps	Polish 'A'	6	5	83.33
N.Hurford	Reading YMCA	9	7	77.78

Polish are more than capable of upsetting either of the two teams currently at the top.

OLOP 'A' and Kingfisher 'A' currently lie 2nd and 1st respectively and there was not a lot between them in their first leg at Kingfisher. A great team performance from Kingfisher saw them home 6-4. with Mark Banks contributing 1, Hari Gehlot 2, Elson Costa 2 and Hari and Elson teaming up to win the doubles against Daniel Moses and Michael Childs. The star of the show was Daniel with a hard fought maximum; notably his win over Hari after losing the first two games 5-11 12-14 he came back to win a very close encounter 11-3 13-11 12-10. Michael supported Daniel with a good win against Mark Banks 16-14 in the 4th. In summary, the league table seems to be sorting itself into two mini leagues of 3 or 4 at the top who will slug it out for the title. Then there are 4 teams at the bottom who will fight it out to avoid the drop.

Meantime, I've just seen an advert in the paper "TV for sale £5 – volume stuck on full".

I have to go because I can't turn that down.

NEW WEB SITE *by Nick Lean*

We are in the process of moving to a new website for RDTTA: <http://www.tabletennis365.com/Reading>

This new one will eventually replace all elements currently available on our original website, but until we can complete this we will continue to run both websites, but avoiding duplication wherever possible.

At the moment, the details available on the new website are:

- Reading Clubs & Venues
- RDTTA Diary
- RDTTA Management Committee
- News Items
- 2012/13 Team fixtures
- 2012/13 League Tables
- 2012/13 Individual Averages
- 2012/13 Doubles Averages

Please continue to visit the "old" RDTTA website: <http://www.rdtta.co.uk/> which has details for:

- > Newsletters
- > Special Competitions / Tournaments
- > Rankings
- > RDTTA History
- > RDTTA Roll of Honour
- > Youth Division

The new website which is ETTA funded and produced by Table Tennis 365 is already being used by a large number of leagues around the country and the ETTA hopes will eventually be adopted by all local leagues, so it makes sense for us to move to it as well. The new website has a

number of good features, not just fixtures, match results, league tables and averages, but the individual game scores for each match as well. You can also see any player's results to date with the scores of each of their individual contests. These can be reached from the relevant Menu options or by clicking through from a fixture list, league table or a match result.

Please try it and let me know what you think of the new website.

One benefit of the TT365 website is that it's fully integrated with ETTA Connect, the online Individual Membership system. This helps with player registration and means that as soon as a player has been registered for a team in the Reading league this can be seen on the website.

It also means we will have to be stricter with player registrations. So a new player will not be able to play in a league match until their full registration has been completed, for which we will need the player's full details and have completed his registration with the ETTA. This is because entering any match results online refers to the ETTA Connect - the player database, so if a player is not registered with the ETTA they will not be on the ETTA database, so the DFS has no visibility of that player and cannot enter the match result.

Using this new TT365 website also means it's VERY important that all match scorecards have all details clearly recorded for every game score and doubles pairings, otherwise the DFS cannot enter ANY of the match details onto the website.

We will be gradually moving the remaining contents of the old RDTTA website to the new one built by TT365, but there

are several aspects we specifically designed & built that are not currently available in the TT365 website. To get these added we will have to request changes then wait & see what gets included in subsequent releases by TT365. How quickly this happens will depend on requests from other leagues, the popularity of our request and the difficulty of producing it.

If you have any comments about or suggestions for the new website, please let me know.

Nick Lean

Website Administrator

Reading
Table Tennis League

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Tables > Senior 2012-13 > Division 1 > Match-Card

Week Number: 4
Date Played: 01/10/2012
Home Team: Kingfisher A
Away Team: Our Lady of Peace A

Match Card

HOME PLAYER	AWAY PLAYER	SCORE	RESULT
M.BANKS	D.MOSES ✓	7-11 11-13 7-11	0-1
H.GEHLDT ✓	I.COLE	11-5 9-11 11-5 11-5	1-1
E.COSTA ✓	M.CHILDS	11-5 15-13 12-14 11-6	2-1
H.GEHLDT	D.MOSES ✓	11-5 14-12 3-11 11-13 10-12	2-2
M.BANKS	M.CHILDS ✓	11-7 6-11 2-11 14-16	2-3
E.COSTA ✓	I.COLE	11-6 11-7 7-11 11-7	3-3
H.GEHLDT E.COSTA ✓	D.MOSES M.CHILDS	11-6 11-9 4-11 11-6	4-3
H.GEHLDT ✓	M.CHILDS	11-7 11-6 11-6	5-3
E.COSTA	D.MOSES ✓	11-5 8-11 9-11 10-12	5-4
M.BANKS ✓	I.COLE	11-5 11-4 11-5	6-4

MATCH CARDS SHOW DETAILED SCORES OF EVERY MATCH

DIVISION TWO

by Barry Carter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2012/2013 season and what a closely fought one it could be judging by the first few weeks! As is customary at the start of the season I will attempt to predict and therefore subsequently jinx those sides for promotion and give a bit of hope to those that I tip for relegation. The unfortunate duo for promotion are Kingfisher 'D' and Tidmarsh 'C' (jinxing my own team...idiot!) and at the bottom it could be any one from six. I have decided to change the format for the first couple of newsletters so will do it as a weekly report and have on popular demand ditched the stats...although they will return in a bumper Christmas edition. Good luck to all of you and here's to an enjoyable season.

Week 1:

Kingfisher 'E' started their season with a comprehensive 8 - 2 victory over Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' to top the table after week 1. Phil Mead, who if he plays every week will be the key man if they are to challenge for promotion won all three, John Morris who also won all three will be near to the top of the averages. Dave Gostelow battled well and enjoyed a single victory over Matt Stone. Sonning Common & Peppard 'C's reply came courtesy of Tim Raby's 11-7, 2-11, 12-10, 11-8 and Mark Corbett's 7-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-5, 16-14 wins over Dave Gostelow.

Kingfisher 'D' who came down from division one last season and are my favourites for the championship, started with a 7 - 3 win over dark horses for promotion, Wokingham 'A'. Ivor Hardman and Colin Dyke both won trebles. Sharon Mitchell chipped in with a useful 11-2, 11-4, 11-8 win over Tony Eames. Wokingham 'A' fought back with Brian Chinneck and Jim Spencer wins over Sharon and then they teamed up to win the doubles with a fine 9-11, 3-11, 11-9,

11-6, 11-8 win over Ivor and Colin.

The other match of the week saw **Tidmarsh 'C'** battle back from 3 - 5 down to snatch a point at Curzon Club 'A'. Peter Galea won all three for Tidmarsh which included a fine 11-5, 11-6, 14-12 over John Willcocks to give the away side a 3 - 1 lead but then Curzon hit back to lead 5 - 3 before Peter Galea beat Jon Willis in a terrific match 3-11, 8-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-9 and finally through I beat John Walker.

Week 2:



Tidmarsh 'B' finally kicked off their second season in division two with a draw at home to the youngsters of Kingfisher 'F'. New acquisition Lee Calcutt finished with a brace after wins over Michael Houghton and Anish Bahuguna and he helped out François Durand to win the doubles. Steve Callidine took Leo Long to five games before he was finally beaten 11-9 in the fifth, and François defeated Anish 11-9, 11-9, 11-7 for his win on the night. Leo Long was the man of the match with a fine

hat-trick of wins over Lee (8-11, 11-7, 11-9, 11-6), François and Steve. Anish chipped in with a win over Steve, and Michael also scored a good 11-7, 11-3, 11-4 win over Steve.

Tidmarsh 'C' won their first match of the season with a tight 6 - 4 win over Sonning Common & Peppard 'C'. Andy Stephens was the man of the match thanks to his hat-trick of wins over Carol Chiu, Kei Chau and Martyn Fenner (who had made the long journey from deepest Wales for the game and also for the Reading match... glutton for punishment, maybe!) Steve Ricks and I both claimed wins over Carol. Martyn had enjoyed wins over Steve and myself and narrowly lost 9-11, 11-7, 11-4, 3-11, 10-12 to Andy, whilst Kei had also had easy wins over myself and Steve. Carol was unlucky to lose all three.

Post Office 'A' also started their season a week after and they obviously took the time to practise as they came away from Kingfisher 'E' with a fantastic 7 - 3 win. John Simmonds got the ball rolling with an 11-6, 12-10, 11-9 victory over Allan Bruton. Simon Hopkins defeated Dave Gostelow to give Post Office a 2 - 1 lead. Denise was involved in a titanic battle with Dave Gostelow before she finally won 16-14 in the fifth to extend the lead to 4 - 2. The victory was wrapped up with a John Simmonds 11-9, 11-9, 11-4 win over Dave. Kingfisher 'E's response came via a Peter Bennett brace of wins over Denise and Simon and also an Allan win over Simon 11-7, 9-11, 11-9, 11-4.

The match between Wokingham 'A' and Curzon Club 'A' was the first to be played at the new Wokingham venue at Wokingham Cricket Club and judging by the scorecard it was fitting for the occasion. The match ended all square as Brian Chinneck won the last set of the night against Jon Willis 11-9, 13-11, 6-11, 8-11, 17-15. Brian had earlier beaten both John Walker and Mick Maynard to set up the point. Jim Spencer also managed to beat both John and Mick whilst Ken Park (playing up) narrowly lost out to John Walker 13-15 in the fifth. Curzon's victors on the night were Jon Willis 2, Mick Maynard 1 and John Walker 1. The other win came through a Mick & Jon 11-6, 9-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-5



COLIN DYKE - WHO WAS THE WINNER OF LAST SEASON'S OVER 60S SINGLES COMPETITION

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Kingfisher 'D'	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Curzon 'A'	5	3	2	0	29	21	8
Post Office 'A'	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Kingfisher 'E'	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Tidmarsh 'B'	4	1	2	1	20	20	4
Wokingham 'A'	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
Kingfisher 'F'	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
SC&P 'C'	5	0	1	4	17	33	1
OLOP 'D'	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

doubles victory over Brian & John.

Week 3 :

Kingfisher 'D' entertained Tidmarsh 'B' and ran out worthy winners as Ivor Hardman, Trevor Organ and Colin Dyke each won two against François Durand and Mike Aistrop in a 7 - 3 victory. Colin went to five in all of his matches and came out on top 11-4 against François and 15-13 against Mike as Trevor and Ivor won theirs quite comfortably. Lee Calcutt was the man of the match as he won all three of his games, the most difficult was the last one as he had to come from 1 - 2 down to defeat Colin 7-11, 11-4, 8-11, 12-10, 11-7.

How Tidmarsh 'C' escaped from Post Office 'A' with a victory is amazing, under the Wembley lights John Simmonds gave Post Office an early lead with a five-game win over me (the first of 6 that went to 5) Steve Ricks and Andy put us 2 - 1 up with wins over Denise Weller and George White before Denise levelled it up again as she nearly threw away a 10-2 fifth game advantage over me to win 14-12. John and George White gave Post Office the edge with a doubles win over Andy and Steve to lead 4 - 3 but that was as good as it got as Tidmarsh ran off the last three to win 6 - 4.

Kingfisher 'F' recorded their biggest win of the season so far, as they overwhelmed an OLOP 'D' side playing their first match of the season. Leo Long and Anish Bahuguna both went home happy with maximums and Michael Houghton can consider himself unlucky as he won only one of his three sets that went to five. Dan West and Chris West both defeated Michael in five, 11-9 and 11-7 respectively whilst Pu came up a little short 7-11 in his match against Michael.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'C' suffered their second defeat of the season as they lost 3 - 7 to high flying Curzon Club 'A'. Kei Chau gave them a good



BARRY CARTER
OF TIDMARSH 'C'

start with a 7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-9 win over Mick Maynard and when Tim Raby scored an impressive 11-7, 11-9, 11-8 win over Jon Willis and then Kei's win over Jon gave them a 3 - 2 lead, things looked promising, but it all turned sour as John Willcocks won his other set against Kei 14-12, 7-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-9, Mick Maynard picked up a useful win over Tim and Jon finally found some form to beat Matt Stone.

Week 4:

Hot on the footsteps of the previous week Curzon Club returned to the Oxford Road to entertain Post Office 'A'. Both teams had started the season well and look set for a possible promotion push. Curzon got the upper hand in this contest and ran out narrow 6 - 4 victors with John Willcocks and Jon Willis scoring hat-tricks, in reply for Post Office John Simmonds, Simon Hopkins and Denise Weller all won one each as John Walker had an off night.

Kingfisher 'E' and Kingfisher 'F' did battle in the first of the Kingfisher derbies to be played this season and the outcome was a comprehensive 9 - 1 win for the 'E' team, the only surprise came as Phil Mead lost his 100% record in a 9-11, 7-11, 11-3, 9-11 defeat to young Michael Houghton. Dave Gostelow recorded a good treble as he won games in four against Steve Woolnough and Michael Houghton, whilst Allan Bruton overcame Mike Dorrington 11-5, 7-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-4.

The match between leaders Kingfisher 'D' and newly promoted OLOP 'D' ended in an 8 - 2 win for the leaders although the trio of Ivor Hardman, Trevor Organ and Colin Dyke had to work hard to gain victories. Trevor had a really tight encounter with Sami Almbrok before he won 11-6, 13-15, 18-20, 11-8, 11-9. Dan also lost a five-gamer to Colin Dyke. The OLOP winners on the night were Chris West who defeated Trevor and Sami who won a four-game set with Colin.

The final match of the week saw Sonning Common 'C' lose 7 - 3 to Wokingham 'A'. Kei Chau won two against Daryl Griffiths and Brian Chinneck and for Wokingham Brian Chinneck won two, as did Jim Spencer and Daryl.

Week 5 :

Wokingham 'A' and Tidmarsh 'B' locked horns for the closest match of week 5 as they shared the points in a tight affair. Lee Calcutt gave the away side a good start with a routine 11-6, 11-7, 12-10 win over Brian Chinneck but Wokingham hit back to lead 2 - 1 as Jim Spencer and Daryl Griffiths had successes over Dave Wise and Mike Aistrop. Wokingham strengthened their grip on the match to lead 4 - 2 going into the doubles. The old 'A' team pairing of Dave Wise and Lee Calcutt joined



PETER GALEA
OF TIDMARSH 'C'

forces once again to inflict a rare doubles defeat on Wokingham to reduce the arrears to 3 - 4. Tidmarsh 'B' fought back from 3 - 5 through a Lee win over Daryl and finally a Dave Wise 1-11, 12-10, 11-9, 5-11, 11-8 victory over Brian.

Post Office 'A' and Sonning 'C' also shared the points in a tight encounter. Curzon stormed into a 3 - 1 lead with wins by Jeremy Willis over John Simmonds and Simon Hopkins. Denise Weller pulled one back as she had a great win over Carol Chiu 7-11, 11-8, 8-11, 16-14, 11-5. Matt Stone then beat Denise to set up a 4 - 2 lead but back came Post Office again with a doubles win followed by a Simon Hopkins win over Carol, Jeremy gave them hope with a win over Denise before John claimed a point for Post Office with a 11-8, 3-11, 11-4, 11-5 win over Matt.

Kingfisher 'D' maintained their perfect start to the season with a 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'E'. Ivor, Colin and Trevor all managed to beat Dave Gostelow and John Morris but all tasted defeat against quality player Phil Mead. The doubles was a tight affair but it gave them a 5 - 2 lead as Ivor and Colin beat Phil & Dave 12-10, 6-11, 12-10, 11-9.

The match between Kingfisher 'F' and Tidmarsh 'C' saw five sets go to five games with Kingfisher 'F' winning three of them through Leo Long's battles back from 0 - 2 down against Andy Stephens and I and Anish Bahuguna nearly throwing away a 2 - 0 lead against me. The best performance of the night was by Steve Ricks who defeated Leo 11-9, 12-10, 11-6 to give us at least a point but Andy's win over Anish and mine over Steve Woolnough ensured a 7 - 3 result in Tidmarsh's favour.

Week 6 :

There was a top of the table clash this week that set the hearts-a-jangling as 100%ers Kingfisher 'D'; took on unbeaten second placed, Tidmarsh 'C'. It started brightly for Kingfisher as Colin Dyke defeated Duncan Groves 11-5, 5-11, 2-11, 11-4, 11-9 to give them an early lead but that was as good as it got as Tidmarsh stormed back to win the next nine to claim the points in a 9 - 1 scoreline. It was a bit hard on Kingfisher as the net & edge fairy smiled on Tidmarsh that evening. I was chuffed with my first treble of the season that included five-game wins over Colin Dyke 3-11, 11-5, 7-11, 11-6, 11-6 and Trevor Organ whilst Andy continued his good form with a hat-trick as well. Duncan added two with wins over Trevor and Sharon Mitchell.

Curzon took advantage of the above result to move level on points as they defeated Kingfisher 'F' 6 - 4 mainly thanks to another maximum from John Willcocks and two from Mick Maynard plus the all-important doubles victory as they teamed up to defeat Anish and Michael Houghton 14-12, 11-8, 11-7. In response Kingfisher 'F' won two through



SHARON MITCHELL OF KINGFISHER 'D'

Anish Bahuguna as he overcame John Walker and Mick Maynard.

Tidmarsh 'B' notched up their first win of the season with a 7 - 3 win over pointless OLOP 'D' thanks to Lee Calcutt and Dave Wise maximums against Sami Almbrok, Dave West and Chris West. Mike Aistrop appeared unlucky as he lost two of his three in five games, 10-12 to Dan West and 9-11 to Sami but he did beat Chris West quite comfortably. Sami was the OLOP star man with wins over Dave Wise and Mike Aistrop; unfortunately, though, the result leaves OLOP 'D' surprisingly bottom of the table after the first quarter of the season. I'm sure once they find some form they will be shooting

up the table and battling for promotion, as long as it doesn't start until after we have played them

Post Office 'A' kept up their good start to the campaign with another win, this time a 6 - 4 win over promotion candidates Wokingham 'A'. George White returned to Basingstoke with a treble, his first of the season after he had beaten Jim Spencer 12-10, 11-4, 10-12, 11-8, Brian Chinneck 11-7, 11-1, 1-11, 11-7 and Daryl Griffiths 11-8, 11-9, 11-5. John Simmonds and Simon Hopkins waded in with one each, coupled with the doubles. Wokingham went home empty handed even though they had all won one each.

That's the end of the first newsletter report for the 2012/2013 season, hope you've enjoyed it. I'll come up with some stats for the Christmas edition and now having written a "weekly" style report might revert back...let me know what you think.

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
J. Willcocks	Curzon 'A'	12	11	91.67
L. Calcutt	Tidmarsh 'B'	12	11	91.67
A. Stephens	Tidmarsh 'C'	12	11	91.67
P. Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	9	8	88.89
L. Long	Kingfisher 'F'	9	8	88.89
I. Hardman	Kingfisher 'D'	12	10	83.33
K. Chau	SC&P 'C'	9	6	66.67
D. Griffith	Wokingham 'A'	9	6	66.67
J. Morris	Kingfisher 'E'	6	4	66.67
A. Bruton	Kingfisher 'E'	6	4	66.67
G. White	Post Office 'A'	6	4	66.67
P. Bennett	Kingfisher 'E'	3	2	66.67
M. Fenner	SC&P 'C'	3	2	66.67
D. Groves	Tidmarsh 'C'	3	2	66.67

DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

Here we are six weeks into the new season and the teams in Division 3 are jostling for position as we reach the first milestone. So let's have a look at the teams, because many of them have changed personnel since last season - the exceptions are Springfield and Pangbourne who both have the same players registered as they did last season.



Back in March, Des Hele's Springfield 'A' finished one place above the relegation zone, but they have started the new season with 3 wins from 4 matches and currently sit in third place. Narrow wins over Tilehurst Meths 'B' and Kingfisher 'G' were followed by a 3 - 7 reverse to Milestone, but they bounced back with a 9 - 1 defeat of Pangbourne. Phil Burke has started the season well with 12/12 and has been supported by Des Hele 5/6 and Seth Martin 4/9, while Ian Boaden has yet to get off the mark.

Pangbourne WMC were originally relegated to Division 4 but answered the call to fill a space and so have remained in this Division, although Leroy Wilson & his team may now be regretting that. They started well enough with a draw at Sonning C&P, winning the all-important doubles when 2 - 4 down to keep them in the match. They then won two of the remaining three singles to clinch a point, Howard Taylor narrowly defeating Paul Treadgold in the fifth game of final set of the night to secure the draw. Since then Pangbourne have suffered four defeats, although this did include the current top three teams, but as a result they sit in 10th place.

OLOP 'E' have just one player from last season's team relegated from Division 2 and added three youngsters who are moving up from Division 5, 6 and the Youth Division.



JOSH GALLEN OF OLOP 'E'

They've had mixed results to date, drawing with Polish 'B', beating Tilehurst Meths 'B' and Kingfisher 'B', then narrowly losing at Milestone. Josh Gallen and Siad Cole did well to win two apiece against Polish, while Josh, Sam Liu and Wendy Porter all won three as they thrashed Tilehurst Meths 'B' 9-1. In a terrific last set of the evening and with the match already won, Josh fought back from two games down against Richard Lownsborough to complete his maximum 11-13, 9-11, 11-9, 12-10, 11-9. The narrow win at Kingfisher owed much to a five game doubles victory by Siad and Sam as it did to their two singles wins apiece and Wendy's early win. An unhappy evening at Milestone saw them quickly 1 - 4 down and they never recovered, despite Wendy and Josh finishing with two wins each.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone 'A'	5	5	0	0	34	16	10
Polish 'B'	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Springfield 'A'	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
OLOP 'E'	4	2	1	1	24	16	5
OLOP 'F'	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Sonning C & P 'D'	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Kingfisher 'G'	5	1	0	4	22	28	2
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	6	0	2	4	20	40	2
Pangbourne WMC	5	0	1	4	14	36	1

Sonning C&P 'D' have a new mix with two players from their 'C' team relegated from Div 2 and two others who were in Div 4 last season. A 3-straight maximum from Mark Corbett helped them take a point from a close match with Pangbourne, but they found Polish too strong and lost 2 - 8.

Ian Ayres won two in a hard-fought draw with Tilehurst Meths 'B' in which Paul Treadgold and Jonathan Abbott both won once, but against different opponents. These players recorded the same number of wins at Kingfisher, but this time lost the doubles as they went down 4 - 6.

Tilehurst Methodists have two teams in this Division; their 'B' team comprise most of last season's Division 4 Champions, while their 'A' team have boosted the majority of the personnel who finished 7th here with the top player from Div 4 last season (no pressure Nigel).

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' have three points from their first three matches. They started with a defeat at Polish in which Nigel Rowland won the only two singles sets, although they did win the doubles. When the two Tilehurst Methodists teams faced each other the atmosphere was described as "friendly but competitive" and by the end of the evening a draw was seen as fair reflection by both teams. For the 'A' team Nigel Rowland again won two, as did Ian Cockling, while Phil Jones won one. Against Kingfisher 'G' TMeths 'A' stormed to a 4 - 0 lead, but the visitors fought back to just 5 - 4 down before eventually Nigel Rowland beat Eric Holmes for his second win of the match to secure



LAST YEAR'S TILEHURST METHS 'B', NOW PROMOTED INTO III NIGEL ROWLAND (BACK) IS NOW IN 'A'; CHRIS TAYLOR, N BARNES, MARTIN WETHERELL AND RICHARD LOWNSBOROUGH ARE IN 'B'.

a win for his team. Phil Jones also won two while Ian Cockling won once and the two of them paired up to take the doubles.

Despite having played six matches already, Tilehurst Methodists 'B' have yet to win. Having lost their best player and needing to field reserves for half their matches to date, this is really no surprise. They started the season with defeats by Milestone, Springfield and OLOP 'E' before getting a point from the draw with their club-mates. In the narrow defeat to Springfield, five sets went to a deciding game but TM 'B' could only win two of these and so narrowly lost the match. Melvyn Lovegrove, who was involved in three of these, lost 11-13 in the fifth to Des Hele, then was 2 games to 1 up against Phil Burke but lost out 13-15 in the fifth, until finally defeating Ian Boaden 13-11 in their decider. This match was followed by a draw at Sonning C&P in which Richard Lownsbrough and Melvin Lovegrove won two each with Chris Taylor winning one, but they lost the crucial doubles so only came away with a point. Richard had two good wins against OLOP 'F' but this was



JACEK KRZYZANOWSKI OF POLISH 'B'

not

enough to prevent another defeat. This team really need to take something from their next three matches if they want to keep their heads above the relegation zone.

Polish 'B' were Div 4 runners-up last season and have boosted their team with a new signing Jacek Borysiuk, who has taken the Division by storm! The team have yet to lose a match, starting their season with a draw at OLOP 'E' then winning their next five matches with increasing ease. Jacek B has yet to lose a set, winning 15/15, and has only lost a total of 5 games to date (2 to Wendy Porter, 1 to Ian Ayres and 2 to Leroy Wilson). Jacek Krzyzanowski is also unbeaten in his three matches so far, while Darek Kaminski has won 5/9 and Marcin Kolat 5/12. Their doubles record is good too (4/5) so this team look well set to challenge for promotion.

The OLOP 'F' team that finished as last season's runners-up have remained in this Division due to numerous changes in several OLOP teams. In fact this

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
J.Borysiuk	Polish 'B'	15	15	100.00
P.Burke	Springfield 'A'	12	12	100.00
J.Krzyzanowski	Polish 'B'	9	9	100.00
M.Corbett	Sonning C&P 'D'	3	3	100.00
R.BENWELL	Milestone 'A'	15	14	93.33
A.Pack	Kingfisher 'G'	12	10	83.33
D.Hele	Springfield 'A'	6	5	83.33
S.LIU	OLOP 'E'	6	5	83.33
J.Gallen	OLOP 'E'	9	7	77.78
P.Daniels	OLOP 'F'	9	7	77.78
N.Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	9	6	66.67

team was very nearly scratched before the season started and has only continued thanks to some leeway granted by the Association's Management Committee and OLOP's hard-pressed Club Secretary being able to find two new, late signings. They have joined last season's mainstay, Harry Brough and Pat Daniels and have won two of the three matches where they have been able to field a team, all of which have been away fixtures. Pat fought hard to win all three at Pangbourne, while Harry won two and they paired up to win the doubles. Pat also starred with a three-straight maximum at TM 'B' and there were two wins apiece for Sajjad Hussain and Harry in a 7-3 win. But the Polish side were too strong and Pat came away with the only win of the night.

Milestone 'A' finished 4th last season but have magicked an additional player out of thin air to cover for Hugh Crosfield's enforced absence through an unfortunate injury. (No, I'm not going to give any details – it's just silly! You will have to ask Hugh.) Their new signing Robin Benwell has been a major factor in their 100% record to date, winning 14/15 with his only defeat being to Phil Burke. Alongside him John Tucker has won 9/15 and John Crosfield 6/15 with Robin and JT also holding the best unbeaten doubles record in the Division. As Hugh watches from the side-lines

he must wonder how he is going to get back into such a successful team, who are surely going to keep up their challenge for promotion.

In Allen Pack and Dave Duncan, Kingfisher 'G' (5th last time out) have two of their main players from last season and have added further old and new players from elsewhere. This team have had the most consistent set of results so far, but unfortunately started the season with a run of four 4 – 6 defeats, before beating Sonning C&P 6 – 4. Allen Pack won two against Milestone and Springfield and then hit a good maximum against OLOP 'E', but all to no avail. The team came back well at TMeths 'A' as Carol Byers won two with Eric Holmes and Rogerio Albelo winning one each before eventually succumbing to another fourth 4- 6 defeat. Who knows what would have happened if Allen had played in that match. Finally Kingfisher 'G' claimed their first points of the season with a 6 - 4 win over Sonning C&P 'D' as they came from 2 - 1 down to win five

sets in a row to take a winning 6 - 2 lead. Allen Pack led the way with a battling maximum, but he needed teammates Carol Byers and Rogerio Albelo to win one each and with Carol won the crucial doubles.

You know, as I type-up this report it occurs to me that all the information I have given is available on the new website, not just the league tables and match results, but the individual game scores for each match as well. You can also see an individual player's results to date with the scores of each their individual contests. On the new website start at the Menu options "Team Results" or "Fixtures" or "Tables" then click on the team name, the Match Card or a player's name to get more details. Please try it and let me know what you think of the new website.

NOTE: Polish 'B' team captain Marcin Kolat's telephone number is wrong in the Handbook – it should be 07500 909735.

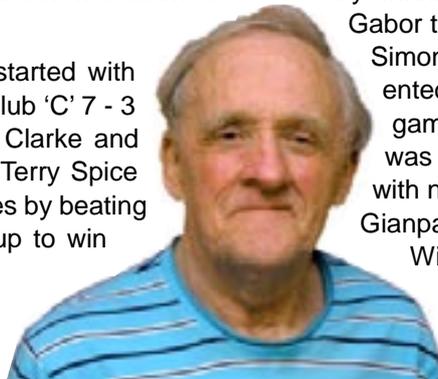
DIVISION FOUR by *Derek Harrison*

Hello everyone and welcome to a new season of my notes.

The first week of the season started with Birch Copse 'A' beating Curzon Club 'C' 7 - 3 thanks to hat tricks from Simon Clarke and Jes Eassom and for the visitors Terry Spice and Linda King both gained singles by beating Mike Williams besides teaming up to win the doubles.

OLOP 'G' then entertained Kingfisher 'H' and went down 3 - 7. Sadly Cedric Dias injured himself during the doubles and could not complete after that. Dave Godfrey played well by winning two for OLOP as did Nils Wedi and Jean-Noel Thepaut for Kingfisher. A full strength Wokingham 'B' beat Kingfisher 'I' 7 - 3 with Tony Eames and Richard Neville winning all three. For Richard they were all three straight, Ken Park won the other game by beating Derek Spicer. For Kingfisher Andrew Talaga and John Creighton both won one each. At Tilehurst Meths 'C' I probably had my easiest ever maximum by beating Martin Wetherell 3-11, 9-11, 2-11, Bob Winter 4-11, 4-11, 9-11, and Mal Collis 5-11, 2-11, 3-11. And with Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson winning two each Curzon Club 'B' came away with a 3 - 7 victory, Bob did well by winning two for the Meths.,

Kingfisher 'H' team - consisting of 2 Frenchmen, 1 German, 1 Hungarian, 1 Spanish, and 1 Italian - are well skippered by Didier Garçon and will probably go up for the second season in a row and they made it two wins on the trot by beating Sonning Sports 4 – 6. Jean-Noel had a great night by winning all three in straight games with Gabor Radnoti and Joaquin Sabater both picking up singles. Jean-Noel was again in top form against Birch Copse



by winning all three 3 straight besides teaming up with Gabor to win the doubles. Gianpaolo won one by beating Simon to give them a draw. It would seem with the talented Jean-Noel in their side they are certain of four games every match. At Tilehurst Meths Jean-Noel was not troubled by hitting a three straight maximum with no player obtaining more than 6 points. Gabor and Gianpaolo both won two each in their 2 – 8 victory. Without Jean-Noel they just got home against Curzon 'C' 6 – 4 with Joaquin and Gianpaolo both picking up doubles and Nils gaining that important single. Nils also won the doubles with Joaquin.

Sonning Sports 'A' are my choice to go back up although, as I understand it, Nigel Goodman might not play that often. They made a good start by winning 1 – 9 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard both gaining trebles. Bob Snelgrove did well to obtain a double which was I understand the first one he has got since joining the team, so well done Bob. I then get their next result



X AND Y OF KINGFISHER 'H'

when they went down to Kingfisher 'H' 4 – 6. The two Bobs both picked up two doubles. Bob S had a long battle versus Joaquin in set ten beating him 11-6 11-6 and then 20-18 which meant the drinking time was delayed. Bob W tells me they are a very talented side who will do very well and feels their number one Jean-Noel Thepaut will not lose many. At Kingfisher 'I' Bob W gained yet another maximum with no players winning more than 7 points. Nigel Goodman played in his first match of the season and also won all three which helped towards a 2 – 8 victory. I have now been told that Nigel will probably be available for the whole season so that will be good news for the team. They then played Wokingham who turned up rather late because they had gone to Sonning Common. So future teams, please do not make the same error! Perhaps you should check your handbook. Anyway when they did play, Sonning won 7 – 3 thanks to a great hat trick obtained by Nigel with Bob W and Dave both winning two each. From what I understand for the first time in 26 seasons the Sports supplied tea and biscuits brought in by Nigel so needless to say Bob and Dave were shocked. At OLOP they went down to the same team that we did; however they only lost 7 – 3 with Dave winning two and Bob W one.

Wokingham beat OLOP away 3 – 7 with Ken having a great night by winning all three. Tony Eames and new signing Aiden Killian both picked up doubles. At Sonning Sports Tony won two by beating Bob W and Dave besides teaming up with Mike Shore to win the doubles in their 7 – 3 defeat. Against Birch Copse Tony and Richard Neville both hit trebles to help them to a 7 – 3 victory. Mike won the other game by beating Melanie Griffiths.

Curzon 'B' beat their 'C' team 7 - 3 with Nick playing in his first match of the season obtaining a good maximum. I lost my 100% record when Linda beat me 7 - 11 in the 5th end of the 5th set but I did win two by beating Terry and Oli. Geoff won one and also teamed up with me to win the doubles. At OLOP we were well beaten



PROUD FATHER - ALI RICHARDSON OF OLOP 'G'

9 – 1 with Nick beating Alistair

Tilehurst bounced back by winning 4 – 6 at Curzon 'C' with Catherine Venning in top form by obtaining a very good treble and with Bob and Martin winning one each besides Bob and Catherine winning the doubles. This was enough to give them the two points. At Tidmarsh Catherine had a fine double by beating Steve 11-13, 5-11, 8-11 and Dave E 5-11, 12-10, 7-11, 8-11. She also teamed up with Bob to defeat Steve and Dave E in the doubles but despite this the team went down 7 – 3. Catherine did well against Kingfisher 'H' by beating Gabor and Gianpaolo but it was all in vain because they lost 2 – 8. They then went to Kingfisher 'I' and came away with both points by winning 2 – 8 with Bob obtaining a three straight treble. Martin and Catherine gave him good support by winning two each.

Birch Copse lost their home match to Tidmarsh 4 – 6 despite a great treble from reserve Richard Green. Jes had a good win over Dave Reynolds to complete the scoring, At Kingfisher 'H' good doubles from Jes and reserve Duncan Abbott and a vital single from Simon Clarke gave them a share of the spoils. They then defeated Kingfisher 'H' 10 – 0 with Richard Simon and Jes all obtaining three straight maximums. Despite the scoreline Jes said Kingfisher played with great spirit so he said thanks lads. At Wokingham they went down 7 – 3 with Jes and Simon both beating Mike and then winning the doubles..

OLOP gained their first point of the season by sharing the spoils at Kingfisher 'I' with Ali Richardson and Mark Bullion both picking up doubles. They also had a fine doubles win over Andrew and John. At home to a good Wokingham team they went down 3 – 7 with Dave



BOB WINTER AND CATHERINE VENNING, OF TILEHURST METHS 'C'

Godfrey winning two. He also teamed up with Alistair to win the doubles. In their next match I have to say, Are you looking, John Dykes and Robin Lockwood? - because your lads got a hell of a beating as Curzon 'B' crashed to a 9 – 1 defeat with Dave and Mark both winning three each. Alistair did well by picking up a double and he also teamed up to win the doubles with Dave. They then beat Sonning 7 – 3 with Ali, Dave and Mark all winning two each.

Tidmarsh 'D' had a hard first game when they entertained Sonning Sports 'A' and went down 1 – 9 with Dave Smith saving the whitewash by beating Bob Snelgrove. During the evening Dave S hurt his knee and Mick being ever helpful tried to put a support over it and the sight of Mick kneeling on the floor putting on the support that was far too tight amused Bob and his team. Bob said it had to be seen to be believed.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'H'	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Sonning Sports	5	3	0	2	31	19	6
Wokingham 'B'	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Tidmarsh 'D'	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Birch Copse 'A'	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
OLOP 'G'	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
Curzon 'B'	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Kingfisher 'I'	5	0	1	4	12	38	1
Curzon C	5	0	0	5	17	33	0

by winning all three with Derek Crombie and Andrew Talaga both picking up singles. At home to Sonning Sports, Ken Robb and Derek Spicer both beat Bob S in their 2 – 8 defeat. At Birch Copse they lost 10 – 0. Nothing more to be said lads. Andrew did well against Tilehurst Meths by beating Catherine and Martin but the team lost 2 – 8. I have to say that my old mate Derek C faces a very hard season.

Curzon 'C' went down 4 – 6 at home to Tilehurst Meths with Terry and Linda both picking up doubles by beating Bob and Martin. Linda played very well against the 'B' team in the local derby by beating Derek and Geoff and only going down to Nick Lean in the 5th end. Terry also beat Geoff in their 7 – 3 defeat. A mention for Oli who tried well without any joy but I have to say is improving. At home to Tidmarsh 'D' Linda had a great night by beating Steve 7-11 11-9 7-11 11-8 11-6 Dave E 11-3 7-11 12-10 8-11 11-3 and Mick 8-11 11-6 14-12 11-9. Well done Linda but sadly they lost 3 – 7. At Kingfisher 'H' they went down 6 – 4 with Terry and Linda both winning two each.

To sum up, it looks to be a three horse race at the top between Kingfisher 'H', Sonning Sports and Wokingham but perhaps keep a look out for Tidmarsh who have strength in depth and OLOP who would be a match for most when they play their best side. At the bottom I cannot look beyond Kingfisher 'I' and (sorry, Linda), Curzon 'C' for the drop.



LINDA KING OF CURZON 'C'

Cheers

Derek

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES					
Player	Team	P	W	%	
Jean-Noel Thepaut	Kingfisher 'H'	11	11	100.0%	
Nigel Goodman	Sonning Sports	6	6	100.0%	
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	6	6	100.0%	
Tony Eames	Wokingham 'B'	10	12	83.3%	
Terry Hardie	Tidmarsh 'D'	5	6	83.3%	
Mark Bullion	OLOP 'G'	7	9	77.8%	
Catherine Venning	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	9	12	75.0%	
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'G'	9	12	75.0%	
Bob Woodmansee	Sonning Sports	11	15	73.3%	
Jes Eassom	Birch Copse 'A'	10	15	66.7%	
Linda King	Curzon 'C'	10	15	66.7%	
Simon Clarke	Birch Copse 'A'	8	12	66.7%	
Steve Barnes	Tidmarsh 'D'	6	9	66.7%	
John Creighton	Kingfisher 'I'	4	6	66.7%	
Nick Lean	Curzon 'B'	4	6	66.7%	

Away at Birch Copse they played two reserves: Dave Reynolds and Steve Barnes, who are quite good second division players. I am sure there is a good reason why they are registered in the 5th. Anyway they did not have it all their own way because Steve only won two and Dave only won one. Terry Hardie played in his first game of the season and also won two. Steve and Dave won the doubles which gave them a 4 – 6 victory. At Tilehurst Meths Terry was in top form by winning all three and with Steve and Dave E both gaining doubles this was enough to win 7 – 3. Away to Curzon 'C' they won 3 – 7 thanks to doubles from Steve, Dave E and Mick.

Kingfisher 'I' went 4 – 1 up against OLOP 'G' only to be pegged back to a draw. John Creighton was in top form

DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

Welcome to another new season of competitive table tennis. Division 5 promises to be one of the most competitive in years, with no fewer than four teams vying for top spot or a promotion slot.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'E'	6	4	1	1	32	28	9
SC&P 'E'	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Polish 'C'	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Birch Copse 'B'	4	1	2	1	23	17	4
Post Office 'B'	4	1	2	1	23	17	4
Polish 'D'	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Springfield 'B'	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
SC&P 'F'	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
OLOP 'H'	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Milestone 'B'	5	1	0	4	21	29	2

My pre-season tip for the title is **Post Office 'B'**. Last season's third-placed outfit really have a powerhouse squad this time around, with the experienced Ray Webb dropping down



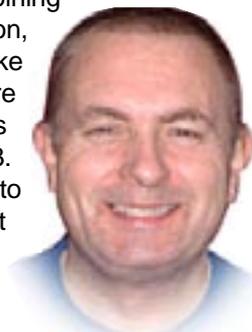
POST OFFICE 'B's TED CRIPPS AND MICK GRANTHAM (WHO LAST YEAR WON THE 5/6 DIV CUP)

from Post Office's Division 2 side to join last season's top three of Mick Grantham, Linda Davis and captain Ted Cripps. They have also made a shrewd signing in Pete Sinclair from Tidmarsh who averaged over 80% in this division two years ago, although Pete tells me he is currently struggling to overcome a shoulder injury.

They made a slow start losing 7 - 3 at home to Sonning Common & Peppard 'E', Mick scoring two and Ted one. However they zipped into gear with a 10 - 0 whitewash of Tidmarsh 'E', Mick, Ray & Ted winning all their sets 3-straight with Mick & Ray doing the same in the doubles. Ted asked me if this had been achieved before in the Reading League since the 11 point system was introduced. I'm sure Derek (Div 4 DFS) will be able to reel off a list but I do know Birch Copse 'A' did the same in Div 4 last week. The following week they came back down to earth with a 5 - 5 draw at Polish 'C' thanks to a maximum from Mick and a brace from Ray. Although

Ted's troops have had a mixed start results-wise all their matches have been against my other pre-season favourites so I expect a winning streak up until December! Having said that I've just received this week's scorecard and it was a 5 - 5 against Springfield 'B', two each and the doubles for Ray and Ted. Sadly Linda had to concede her last game because the club was about to close for the evening!

Tidmarsh 'E' are another side who have significantly strengthened from last season. Joining last year's quintet of Bob Sunerton, John Harland, Steve Andrews, Mike Bundy and Dave Humphrey are Steve Barnes and Dave Reynolds both dropping down from Division 3. They have also added John Liddle to the squad making a total of eight players to choose from – I'm sure Bob will relish the task of selecting a team each week from that list!



In the opening fixture at Milestone 'B' John H hit a maximum and Dave R a brace in a 6 - 4 win, and they followed this up with an 8 - 2 success away to two-man OLOP 'H', Mike & Steve each winning two and then pairing up to win the doubles. Next up were Springfield 'B' at home where braces from Bob & Mike and a debut win from John L gave them another 6 - 4 win. I'm sure Steve, Dave H & Mike will want to quickly forget their trip to Post Office 'B' but the team were back to winning ways with a 7 - 3 triumph over Birch Copse 'B' courtesy of a maximum from Dave R and braces from Bob and John L. The last match before the break resulted in a 5 - 5 draw away to Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', a treble from Dave R was backed up by a single from Steve and a doubles win from those two.

Also likely to be in the promotion picture are the following two sides who were relegated from Division 4.

Polish 'C' have kept the same squad as last season. Grant Wheatley and Kris Szczygiel both won twice in a 5 - 5



GRANT WHEATLEY AND EDDIE HOLWEGER OF POLISH 'C'

draw at Birch Copse 'B', with captain Jan Polnik also weighing in with a single, winning a very close set against Andy Cook. Grant and Stephen Yon were both unbeaten in a 7 - 3 win over Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', then came their epic 5 - 5 draw with Post Office 'B', Grant winning twice with singles from Kris, Stephen and a doubles win giving them a share of the spoils. The match against Milestone 'B' was probably closer than expected given recent form, but a treble from Grant and brace from Stephen gave them a hard fought 6 - 4 win.

Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' have added two players to last year's squad of Derek Brooke-Wavell, Anthony Reeve and Jim McClure. Both Danny Dockree and Michael Legg have moved up from Division 6.

Their opening three matches have all been won by a 7 - 3 margin. Against Springfield 'B' both captain Derek and Danny scored trebles and Jim a single; against Post Office 'B' Danny was again unbeaten, Anthony scored a brace and Michael a single; and in the club derby against the 'F' team Anthony, Jim & Danny all scored two apiece. However they slipped up against bottom club Milestone 'B' 6 - 4, Derek winning two and Anthony one.

The next three teams are those I expect to finish in mid-table.

Despite being officially relegated last season I don't expect to see **Sonning Common & Peppard 'F'** down among the dead men this time around. They have been boosted by the return to action of skipper Pete Harman, whose single against local rivals Milestone 'B' contributed to a good opening 6 - 4 win – Dave Aust and Mike Casserley also returned with two apiece. Their next opponents Polish 'C' proved a tougher proposition, with Mike, Dave and Phil Turton all beating Jan Polnik in a 7 - 3 defeat. Their club derby against the 'E' team drew a similar scoreline, with Tony House hitting two and Mike the other one. They were back at the Polish club against their 'D' team, but despite an impressive brace from Mike the team went down 6 - 4, Tony & Peter completing the scoring with one apiece. Finally they shared the spoils with Tidmarsh 'E' thanks to braces from Tony and Mike and a single from Dave.

Last season **Springfield 'B'** hit a rough patch with five defeats at the end which effectively ended their promotion challenge. Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' made it six by inflicting a 7 - 3 defeat at the start of this season, with Dan Mortimer and Paul Jenkins scoring singles and teaming up to win the doubles. That poor run finally came to an end with a welcome 7 - 3 success against Polish 'D' thanks to braces from Dan, John Burke and new signing Jim Lappin. Two wins apiece from Paul and Jim could not prevent a 6 - 4 defeat at Tidmarsh 'E' – sadly Chris Speight has yet to re-discover last season's impressive form. However they gained a good point with a 5 - 5 draw at Post Office 'B', Dan playing out of his skin to record his first treble of the season and John gained a good win over Linda Davis.

Milestone 'B' have spluttered out of the starting blocks with four defeats, albeit three of them by a 6 - 4 margin. Against Tidmarsh 'F' new signing Chris Collins was star man with two wins, backed up by singles from captain Gerard

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
R.Green	Birch Copse 'B'	3	3	100.00
P.Kothari	Milestone 'B'	3	3	100.00
J.Harland	Tidmarsh 'E'	3	3	100.00
N.Antell	OLOP 'H'	3	3	100.00
M.Grantham	Post Office 'B'	9	8	88.89
D.Dockree	SC&P 'E'	9	8	88.89
D.Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'E'	9	8	88.89
G.Wheatley	Polish 'C'	12	10	83.33
D.Brooke-Wavell	SC&P 'E'	6	5	83.33
D.Abbott	Birch Copse 'B'	5	4	80.00
R.Webb	Post Office 'B'	9	7	77.78
D.Dzieciol	Polish 'D'	9	7	77.78

Thorp and John Simpson. Last season's star player Oliver Bonser joined the party in fine style with a treble at Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', but sadly his only support that night was a win by Gerard over Pete Harman. Their only 7 - 3 loss was at home to OLOP 'H', Oliver winning two and Gerard one. They put up a fight at Polish 'C' with Gerard scoring two including an impressive 5-set win over Stephen Yon. Sadly though both Chris and Oliver could only manage single wins against Jan Polnik. However they upset the form book with a 6 - 4 win over promotion contenders Sonning Common & Peppard 'E' thanks to an impressive maximum from Pratik Kothari playing up from Div 6, two from Gerard and one from Oliver. Once again the doubles games are proving to be their Achilles heel, let's hope they can start turning that side of their game around - mind you they always win impressively against Birch Copse 'B'!

The following three teams I tipped to be in a relegation, although in the case of the first two teams that could be down to ignorance on my part because in their case my sole reason for doing so was because they were playing in Division 6 last season!

In the case of Div 6 champions **OLOP 'H'** I also figured that losing their star player Josh Gallen might have an adverse effect on them, but after their two man team of Kamran Samdani and Chris Bunn lost 8 - 2 at home to Tidmarsh 'E' (both players beat Dave Humphrey) they bounced back in impressive style to beat Milestone 'B' 7 - 3. Nigel Antell was the star man winning all three, Kamran won two and Chris one. Unfortunately they seem to be having problems putting out a team for their fixtures, although Kamran assures me this is a temporary problem which will be resolved by next month. This week they conceded their match at Birch Copse 'B' – this is something I do NOT like to see regardless of the teams involved. Although it was my team that benefited it gives me absolutely no pleasure to gain points in this fashion; so please, please try to get the fixtures played where humanly possible.

Polish 'D' have made a reasonable start with a win, draw and loss. Their loss came in the opening match at Springfield 'B', new signing Daniel Dzieciol scoring twice in a 7 - 3 defeat; Szymon Szor had an impressive win over John Burke and Grzegorz Romek failed to trouble the scorers. Despite

turning up at Birch Copse 'B' with only two players they came away with a very creditable 5 - 5 draw. Both Daniel & Szymon had two wins and teamed up to win the doubles. Daniel then hit a treble against Sonning Common & Peppard 'F', Szymon scored two and Eddy Holwegier failed to score on his Division 5 debut.

Finally my own team **Birch Copse 'B'** look to be in for a long hard season ahead. At first it didn't look as if yours truly would be able to play this season due to work commitments, but thankfully that situation has been resolved. My "replacement" Richard Green is only available for the first two months

of the season, and his only match so far was in the opening fixture against Polish 'C', where he scored an impressive treble in the 5 - 5 draw and teamed up with captain Melanie Griffiths to win the doubles. Melanie also weighed in with a single but newcomer Andy Cook was just edged out in a five-game thriller by Jan Polnik. My return to the table was against Polish 'D' where I beat both Daniel and Szymon to clinch a 5 - 5 draw for the team. Against Tidmarsh 'E' my brace and a doubles win with Melanie were not enough to prevent a 7 - 3 defeat – Elizabeth Hull played up from Division 6 on that occasion. Our only "win" was the walkover against OLOP 'H' which is documented above.

Titanic Tussles

Danny Dockree (SC&P 'E') v Dan Mortimer (Springfield 'B'):	8-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-9.
Danny Dockree (SC&P 'E') v Paul Jenkins (Springfield 'B')	7-11, 11-6, 11-6, 10-12, 13-11.
Andy Cook (Birch Copse 'B' v Jan Polnik (Polish 'C')	12-10, 11-8, 8-11, 5-11, 10-12.
Dave Aust (SC&P 'F') v Gerard Thorp (Milestone 'B')	11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 10-12, 11-9.
Chris Bunn (OLOP 'H') v Steve Andrews (Tidmarsh 'E')	8-11, 11-9, 11-7, 6-11, 10-12.
John Liddle (Tidmarsh 'E') v Paul Jenkins (Springfield 'B')	11-6, 9-11, 12-14, 11-3, 9-11.
Grant Wheatley (Polish 'C') v Dave Aust (SC&P 'F')	6-11, 11-6, 6-11, 11-7, 11-9.
Jan Polnik (Polish 'C') v Mike Casserley (SC&P 'F')	7-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 12-14.
Stephen Yon (Polish 'C') v Gerard Thorp (Milestone 'B')	11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 11-13, 11-13.
Ray Webb (Post Office 'B') v Dan Mortimer (Springfield 'B')	11-7, 11-8, 2-11, 6-11, 9-11.
Pratik Kothari (Milestone 'B') v Mike Legg (SC&P 'E')	9-11, 12-10, 9-11, 11-6, 12-10.

DIV 5-6 CUP

by Duncan Abbott

Introduction

The Lower Divisions Knockout Cup is open to all teams registered in Divisions 5 and 6.

This tournament follows last season's format, with all 9 sets in each match being doubles contests featuring three players on each side. Please note that each set will be best of 3 (not 5) with games being up to 11 points as in the league.

The teams will be split into four different pools and matches played on a round robin basis. League points in each pool will be based on sets won - i.e. if Team A beats Team B 6 - 3, Team A will get 6 league points and Team B 3 league points. Each team will play each other once within the pool and at the end of three rounds of matches the winners of each pool will progress to the semi-finals to be played in February, and the winners of each semi-final will meet in the final. If two or more teams are tied at the top of the pool, the team that has won the most games will progress (same as last season).

Pool A

Springfield 'C'
SC&P 'E'
Milestone 'C'

Pool B

SC&P 'F'
Springfield 'B'
Sonning Sports 'B'

Pool C

Post Office 'B'
Kingfisher 'K'
SC&P 'G'

Pool D

Springfield 'D'
Tidmarsh 'E'
Kingfisher 'J'
Milestone 'B'

Matches w/c 22 October:

Springfield 'C' **0** v SC&P 'E' **9**
SC&P 'F' v Springfield 'B'
Post Office 'B' **9** v Kingfisher 'K' **0**
Springfield 'D' **2** v Tidmarsh 'E' **7**
Kingfisher 'J' v Milestone 'B'

Matches w/c 19 November

SC&P 'E' v Milestone 'C'
Springfield 'B' v Sonning Sports 'B'
Kingfisher 'K' v SC&P 'G'
Tidmarsh 'E' v Kingfisher 'J'
Milestone 'B' v Springfield 'D'

Matches w/c 17 December

Milestone 'C' v Springfield 'C'
Sonning Sports 'B' v SC&P 'F'
SC&P 'G' v Post Office 'B'
Springfield 'D' v Kingfisher 'J'
Tidmarsh 'E' v Milestone 'B'

DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

Welcome to all teams for another season.

We all extend a warm welcome to the new players to our division, some are returning to the sport and others are just venturing into league table tennis for the first time. I am glad to hear it's not just youth but also more senior players who are taking up the sport for the first time. I hope you all make our new additions feel very much part of the 'Reading' set up and give help and advice where necessary.



Jones (SC&P 'G') are all showing as the best combinations so far.

Kingfisher 'J' are currently top of the table with four wins and a draw. In their home derby they beat Kingfisher 'K' 7 - 3 thanks to a solid team performance from Diane, Phil and Gillian winning 2 apiece. They thumped SC&P 'G' 10 - 0 but had a fight on their hands from Derek Maltby - Diane had to come back from two down and Phil also just edged his game against Derek. Leigh scored a brilliant treble to help inflict a 7 - 3 win against Birch Copse 'C'. Leigh also dished out a rare defeat on Roy Hull. Diane, Leigh and André proved no match as they powered to a 10 - 0 win over Sonning Sports 'B'. Gillian, Phil and André got a severe testing as Springfield 'D' pushed them to a 5 - 5 draw, it was Phil's tenth-set win over Alan Goold that saved their blushes, rescuing a point for the team.

OLOP 'I' have sprinted ahead with five crushing 10 - 0 wins against Kingfisher 'K', Springfield 'C', Sonning Sports 'B', Milestone 'C' and Tilehurst Meths 'D'. The team consisting of Gus, Michael, Jim and Phillip have brushed aside any futile attempts to challenge them. Tilehurst Meths 'D' have been the only side to try and make a meaningful dent into a perfect start by pushing them to 3 five-game sets and 2 four-game sets.

Springfield 'C' have had a cracking start to the season with three wins, two draws and one loss. Alan, Tom and Colin were no match for leaders OLOP 'I', losing 0 - 10. A solid team performance from Colin, Ludovic and Alan resulted in a hard fought 6 - 4 win against BBC. Ludovic scored a brilliant treble along with support from Tom and

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'J'	6	5	1	0	46	14	11
OLOP 'I'	5	5	0	0	50	0	10
Springfield 'C'	6	3	2	1	30	30	8
Kingfisher 'K'	6	3	0	3	24	36	6
SC&P 'G'	4	2	1	1	20	20	5
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Springfield 'D'	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Birch Copse 'C'	6	1	1	4	23	37	3
Milestone 'C'	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
BBC Club	4	0	1	3	14	26	1
Sonning Sports 'B'	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

I hope you are all enjoying the new web site. Those of you who like the detail will know there is now nowhere to hide as the results cards are open to all for scrutiny.

Kingfisher 'J' and OLOP 'I' are showing signs that they will run away with the league, currently taking the two pole positions. The question is, will they be there at the end of the season? Then follow Springfield 'C', SC&P 'G', Tilehurst Methodists 'D', Kingfisher 'K', Springfield 'D' and Birch Copse 'C'. Milestone 'C', BBC and Sonning Sports 'B' are currently at the bottom of the pack.

The match of the season so far goes to SC&P 'G' v Springfield 'C', both sides sharing the points with neither side willing to give anything to each other. It sound like it was very near to getting the sleeping bags out as the match went on well into the night.

Mike McAllister, Gus Thomis and Jim McAllister (all OLOP 'I') are sitting on top of the individual averages and currently remain unbeaten. As in previous seasons, a special mention in the next news letter will go to any player who takes their scalp. I will also give headline news to the first team to take a set against OLOP 'I'.

The doubles averages show G Mila + S Lang (Kingfisher 'K'), P Saunders + M McAllister (OLOP 'I'), C Jones + L Couillard (Springfield 'C') and M Tarrant + A



PHILIP SAUNDERS OF OLOP 'I' - WITH PRIZES

Alan to take a point from high flyers Kingfisher 'J'. Once again Colin, Tom and Alan worked together to defeat Birch Copse 'C' 7 - 3. Ludovic, Ashley and Colin teamed up to share the points at SC&P 'G'. To finish with they had a good 7 - 3 win over Sonning Sports 'B' thanks to Ludovic and Ashley trebles with a single from Colin.

Kingfisher 'K' have had an indifferent start, winning three and losing three. In their local derby they lost 3 - 7 to Kingfisher 'J' despite a fighting treble from Gheorghe. They lost badly to Springfield 'D' and OLOP 'I' 0 - 10. Their fortunes change in their 7 - 3 win against Milestone 'C': Gheorghe got a superb treble with Simon and Jean in support. They followed up with a 7 - 3 win against BBC thanks to trebles from Simon and Gheorghe. Jean, Simon and Stuart proved too strong as they defeated Birch Copse 'C' 7 - 3.

SC&P 'G' have started well with two wins, a draw and one loss. In their first match Derek fought hard but they still ended up with a 0 - 10 clattering at Kingfisher 'J'. A solid team performance from Angus, Matthew and Julian gave them a good 7 - 3 win over Birch Copse 'C'. A brilliant Matthew treble with doubles from Julian and Steve resulted in an 8 - 2 win at Milestone 'C'. Matthew scored another brilliant treble and Angus a double to earn a hard fought point against Springfield 'C'.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' have started the season with two wins and two losses. Patrick and David scored trebles with a double from Sam to defeat Springfield 'D' 9 - 1. Patrick, Tim and Will tried hard to match OLOP 'I' but after three five-game sets and three four-game sets eventually succumbed to a 0 - 10 defeat. They bounced back with trebles from Patrick and Sam with a single from Chas to give them an 8 - 2 win over BBC. David, Sam and Tim again fought hard in their 3 - 7 loss against leaders Kingfisher 'J'.

Springfield 'D' have started with one win, a draw and two losses. A double from Adam, singles from Nigel and a set 10 win by David grabbed a draw against basement club Sonning Sports 'B'. Tim, Adam and Nigel all hit a rich vein of form as they thumped Kingfisher 'K' 10 - 0. Adam managed a single in their 1 - 9 loss against Tilehurst Methodists 'D'. A double from Adam and single from David could not stop a 3 - 7 loss to Milestone 'C'.

Birch Copse 'C' see the start of their season with one win, a draw and four losses. To start the campaign Roy got off to a treble with support from Elizabeth to secure a point at the BBC. A double and rare defeat to Roy with a single from Elizabeth resulted in a 3 - 7 defeat at Kingfisher 'J'. Another Roy treble but another 3 - 7 loss resulted at SC&P 'G'. Yet another 3 - 7 loss to Springfield 'C' but Roy had to fight

hard for his treble with a five game set win over Colin Jones. A brilliant double from Chris and a treble from Roy gave a close 6 - 4 win against basement club Sonning Sports 'B'. Despite another Roy treble a 7 - 3 loss resulted at Kingfisher 'K'.

Milestone 'C' have started the season with one win and three losses. A double from Arun and a single from Ian could not prevent a 3 - 7 loss to Kingfisher 'K'. The team of Ian, Tony and Arun fought hard but ended up losing 2 - 8 to SC&P 'G' - Arun scored a double though. A treble from Pratik with support from Ian and Arun reversed the fortunes with a good 7 - 3 win at Springfield 'D'. Like many other teams they were on a 0 - 10 hiding to OLOP 'I'.

BBC Caversham have started the season with one draw and three losses. That point came from a 5 - 5 draw against Birch Copse 'C' thanks to a solid team performance from Phil, Kyrill and Dave. John S scored a hard earned treble with a single from John L in their close 4 - 6 loss against Springfield 'C'. John L, David and Jack managed 1 game apiece in their 3 - 7 loss to Kingfisher 'K'. John L and Jack managed to record singles as they were overpowered 2 - 8 by Tilehurst Methodists 'D'.

Sonning Sports 'B' have started the season with one draw and four losses. This point resulted from a brilliant treble from Tom and a double from Dave at Springfield 'D'. Dave, Ken and Tom could not stop OLOP 'I' recording a straight-game 0 - 10 loss. Then followed another 0 - 10 loss to Kingfisher 'J', however Sue, Dave and Ken managed to get a few game wins on the board. Sue, Ken and Tom all recorded wins but just lost out 4 - 6 in their encounter at Birch Copse 'C'. Despite a hard fought double from Tom including a hard 5 game set win over Colin Jones and a single from Ken they lost 3 - 7 to Springfield 'C'.

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
M.McAllister	OLOP 'I'	15	15	100.
G.Thomis	OLOP 'I'	12	12	100.
J.McAllister	OLOP 'I'	12	12	100.
L.Mahoney	Kingfisher 'J'	11	11	100.
P.Saunders	OLOP 'I'	6	6	100.
J.Scott	BBC Club	3	3	100.
P.Kothari	Milestone 'C'	3	3	100.
R.Hull	Birch Copse 'C'	18	17	94.44
M.Tarrant	SC&P 'G'	9	8	88.89
S.Lang	Kingfisher 'K'	9	7	77.78
G.Milea	Kingfisher 'K'	12	9	75.00
L.Couillard	Springfield 'C'	12	9	75.00
P.Cunnington	Kingfisher 'J'	11	8	72.73
D.Taylor	Kingfisher 'J'	14	10	71.43

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Danny (son of Steve) Ricks

After a summer of little or no table tennis action, I'm sure everyone would agree that it's great to be back. With a new season, comes a new John Cunningham Youth division, and another opportunity to look at some of the youngsters that will undoubtedly light up the senior divisions in the coming years. This season promises to be full of surprises with many new players joining us from the likes of Milestone, Tilehurst Meths, Wokingham and Tidmarsh, as well as some old faces from OLOP and Sonning Common.

This year the points system is slightly different, with each game being worth one point. This adds extra emphasis for players, as every game is crucial.

After 4 weeks of action, **Strikers** hold the slenderest of leads at the top of table. This team of Michael McAllister, Sam Sam Liu and Danny Dockree were undoubtedly favourites at the start of the season, and they have lived up to that billing with some impressive performances. In fact all of their players remain on 100%, with their only dropped points coming from forfeited games. They are currently on 37 points, having dropped 3 points due to Danny's absence against the Trojans.

The only team with a realistic chance of challenging the



DANNY RICKS

Strikers are the **Eagles**. They sit in second spot, just a solitary point behind on 36. Both Jim McAllister and Chris Johnson remain on 100% with 12 wins and 9 wins respectively. Jamie Liu has 11 wins out of 12, showing how much he has improved over the past year, and is certainly one to watch for the future.

After the top two teams, the division is much more closely packed with the teams in third and ninth place separated by just 4 points.

Four of these teams sit on 21 points. One of them is the **Batmen**. Their star player so far has been Joe Will, who has taken 10 wins from 12 matches, including a win over Jamie Liu (which is Jamie's only defeat of the year). He is being supported by Daniel Bernie and Joe Will who both have 4 wins from their 9 matches, and Aiden Collimore who has 1 win from 6.

Tigers have the largest squad in the league. They have 6 players registered, and all but one of them have made a contribution to their team this year. Joe Barraclough has been their most consistent player thus far, winning 7 of his 9 sets. Brothers Oli and Harry Sayer both have 50%, with 3 wins out of 6 sets. Thomas Perkins has chipped in with a couple of wins from his 9 sets and Scarlett Jones has managed 1 from 6.

Next up are the **Trojans**. This team of John Sampson, Harry Munro and Gareth Wheatley should comfortably achieve a mid table finish, with 4, 7 and 5 wins respectively from their 12 sets each.

The final team on 21 points are the **Lions**. Their stand out performer has been Alex Duggan with an impressive 11 wins from 12 matches. Austin Ellorton has managed 4 wins out of 9, but for a player who has been in the youth division for a number of years now, he may expect to win a few more than he is at present. Amanvir Dhoot has won 33% of his matches, taking 3 out of 9. Jamie Bridger has played 1 match, and managed to take 2 wins from 3.

Panthers currently sit in 7th place, but in my opinion have a decent enough chance of finishing in the top 6, and earning a place in division 1 for the second half of the season. This is because they have two strong players in Kieran Morfill and Thomas Breslin, both of whom have won 8 out of 12 matches. They would certainly be helped if Saif Maher could pick up a few more games than he is currently is, having taken just 1 win out of 9.

In 8th are the **Knights**. Much like Panthers, the Knights



SAM LIU

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts	Averages
OLOP Strikers	4	4	0	0	37	3	37	M Mcallister: 11/11 S Liu 11/11; D Dockree: 8/8
OLOP Eagles	4	4	0	0	36	4	36	J Liu 11/12; C Johnson:9/9 J Mcallister: 12/12
Batmen	4	2	1	1	21	19	21	J Will 10/15 D Bernie: 4/9 O Scott: 4/9 A Collimore: 1/6
SCP Tigers	4	2	0	2	21	19	21	O Sayer: 3/6 H Sayer: 3/6 J Barraclough: 7/9 S Jones: 1/6 T Perkins 2/9
Trojans	4	2	0	2	21	19	21	J Sampson 4/12; H Munro 7/12; G Wheatley 5/12
OLOP Lions	4	1	1	2	21	19	21	A Ellorton: 4/9 A Dhoot 3/9 A Duggan 11/12 J Bridger 2/3
Panthers	4	3	0	1	20	20	20	T Breslin 8/12;K Morfill 8/12 S Maher 1/9
Knights	4	2	0	2	18	22	18	J Filby 6/11 G Strong 6/11 R Zhu 1/11
SCP Raiders	4	2	0	2	17	23	17	T Allpress 6/12 A Gozzard 5/9 P Shyam Prasad 3/12
Spartans	4	1	0	3	14	26	14	B Hayden 4/9 C Nesari 4/12 L-Johnson Lay 0/9
OLOP Attackers	4	0	0	4	7	33	11	B Horanyi 6/12 T Hobbs 2/12 H Khan 0/6
Avengers	4	0	0	4	6	34	6	T Laurent 1/12 R Thorn 2/12 C Macleod 1/12 Euan?? 0/6

have two players coping fairly well, with both George Strong and Jamie Filby winning 6 of their 11 games. Rosie Zhu has struggled a little more, claiming 1 win in her 11 matches. However, it must be said how good it is to see some young females getting into table tennis, as there are certainly a lack of them up and down the leagues in Reading.

One point behind the Knights are the **Raiders**. Adam Gozzard has won 5 of his 9 sets and Ted Allpress 6 of 12. Pranav Sham Parsed is on 25%, taking 3 out of 12. Raiders may still harbour hopes of a higher placed finish then they currently occupy, having faced some of the stronger teams already.

Spartans are currently third from bottom. Bill Hayden appears to be their strongest player having won just under 50% of his sets. Camran Nasari has chipped in with 4 wins out of 12. Leo Johnson-Lay has found the going a little tough thus far, and continues to search for his first win (0/9.)

Second bottom are **Attackers**. Balazs Horanyi has taken 6 wins from his 12 sets. This accounts for more than half

of all Attackers points however, with Tom Hobbs winning just 2 out of 12, and Hassan Kahn yet to get off the mark after 6. The rest of their points have been gained through forfeit.

The bottom club **Avengers**, have been somewhat cut adrift of the rest of the pack. They seem almost certain to be playing in division 2 for the second half of the season, taking just 7 points so far. Raphael Thorne has won 2 from 12, with both Tristan Laurent and Callum Macleod taking just a solitary win each. Euan Macleod is yet to get off the mark, having played 6 matches.

The Youth division is run by **Wendy Porter**. I'm sure everyone appreciates the hard work Wendy puts in to make it run as smoothly as possible. She takes a lot out of her own time to do so, and doesn't often get thanked, so thank you Wendy!

I know that Wendy wishes to thank those who help her out, so thank you also to **Jade Fudge, Phil Saunders, Ian Cole, Steve Ricks, Sam Ricks and me!**

MORE YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS

Gallen brothers win first ever Tournaments

Two Wokingham based brothers, Josh and Lorcan Gallen, won their first ever tournaments last weekend.

In the Crawley 2 Star Tournament at the K2 Centre in Crawley, Lorcan who attends St Dominic Savio Primary in Woodley, won the Under 11's event.

With two groups of four players, Group 1 was won by 9 year old Anish Padalkar (Sussex) with Lorcan finishing second, having lost 3 - 0 to Anish. Group 2 was won by Chamika Weerasinghe (Kent) with Ollie Cann (Sussex) runner-up. In the semi finals Anish beat Ollie 3 - 0 & Lorcan beat Chamika 3 - 1 to set up a repeat of the group 1 encounter between Anish & Lorcan in the final. However this time the result was reversed with Lorcan showing grit & determination to win 3 - 1.

Older brother Josh, who attends Forest School in Winnersh, played in the U13 regional qualification for the National Championships, which was held at Crippenham TTC the very

next day. He won his group, dropping only 2 sets in the process and then went on to play his fellow Our Lady of Peace club mate Sam Liu winning 3 - 0. In the final, Josh found himself up against Artur Caltabiano and though Artur placed well, he was no match for Josh who won in three straight games to cap a perfect weekend for the Gallen family. Along with good friend Daniel McTiernan, Josh will be representing the Southern Region at Under 13 level in the Regional Squad Championships in Doncaster this weekend.



JOSH GALLEN

Ricks Storms to Cunningham Cup Victory

On the day the London Olympics officially ended, a festival of table tennis took place at the Our Lady of Peace Club (OLOP) as the fourth running of the annual Cunningham Cup took place – the traditional new season curtain raiser.

Twenty four players lined up with a wide range of ability and



THE LAST FOUR IN THE CUNNINGHAM CUP -
SAM RICKS AND JOSH GALLEN (REAR) WITH SAM AND JAMIE LIU

age, evened up by a handicap system that gives everyone an equal chance of success.

After some exciting morning action, sixteen players progressed through the group stages. The most notable of those to get knocked out were Division 1 player Bradley King (handicap of -12) and current Reading Junior champion Daniel McTiernan (-18) who unluckily went out on a points count back.

In the round of the last sixteen, no less than five juniors were successful, the highlights of which were the young Liu brothers, Sam (+2) and Jamie(+6), beating experienced league players Pu Zhang (-5) and Harry Brough (-7) respectively. The closest match of the round saw club coach Wendy Porter (-5) squeeze past Eric Wong (-2) deuce in third.

Into the quarter finals and it was again youth that prevailed. Despite losing the opening game, thirteen year old Josh Gallen (+2) was just too strong for Wendy Porter (-5). Another thirteen year old Jon Abbott (+2) was not so successful, going down 2-0 to sixteen year old Sam Ricks (-8).

The Liu boys were celebrating again though with Sam Liu (+2) superbly knocking out Chinese penholder Ken Wan (-2) and Jamie Liu (+6) subduing Danny Ricks (-6) who was one of the pre-tournament favourites and earlier conqueror of Reading Veterans champion Ian Cole (-15).

Four players remained totalling fifty years of age between

them. The first semi final saw Josh Gallen (+2) taking on eight year sensation Jamie Liu (+6). With just a four point handicap advantage it proved a tough ask against Reading & District most improved player. Nonetheless Jamie fought right until the end before going down 2 - 0.

In the second semi final, the two Sam's fought it out for a place in the final. This one was a much closer affair in which Sam Ricks (-8) had to overcome a ten point disadvantage against Sam Liu (+2) to progress. This he did coming back from one set down to overpower his younger opponent and win a tight encounter two sets to one.

The final pitted Reading's most improved junior, Josh Gallen (+2), against the winner of last season's best junior performer – Sam Ricks (-8). Again Sam had to give away a ten point lead against a fast improving player who will be representing OLOP in the third division of the Reading league this season.

Sam settled quickest and took maximum advantage of his fast spiny serves to take the first game 21-19. Josh bounced back strongly in the second game however. After an outrageous behind the back winner, he maintained a positive approach in the open rallies, forcing Sam back and ultimately taking it 21-17.

In the deciding game, Josh got two lucky breaks early on and quickly built a good lead. But from 14-7 down, Sam found the inspiration to win nine points in a row by attacking at every opportunity and forcing Josh into retreating into an unfamiliar defending game. Having gained the lead, he never relinquished it, winning 21-19 to secure the title with a hard fought 2 - 1 victory.

tory.

The Cunningham Cup was presented by OLOP Club President Beryl Cunningham, whose late husband John founded the Club in 1980 and built it into one of the biggest in the South East of England.

OLOP have teams competing in all six divisions of the Reading & District League this season.

Results of Closing Stages

Quarter Finals

Josh Gallen (+2) beat Wendy Porter (-5) 18-21, 21-10, 21-9
Sam Ricks (-8) beat Jon Abbott (Scratch) 22-20, 21-18
Sam Liu (+2) beat Ken Wan (-2) 24-22, 21-13
Jamie Liu (+6) beat Daniel Ricks (-6) 21-18, 21-9

Semi Finals

Josh Gallen (+2) beat Jamie Liu (+6) 21-17, 21-19
Sam Ricks (-8) beat Sam Liu (+2) 15-21, 21-18, 21-16

Final

Sam Ricks (-8) beat Josh Gallen (+2) 21-19, 17-21, 21-19