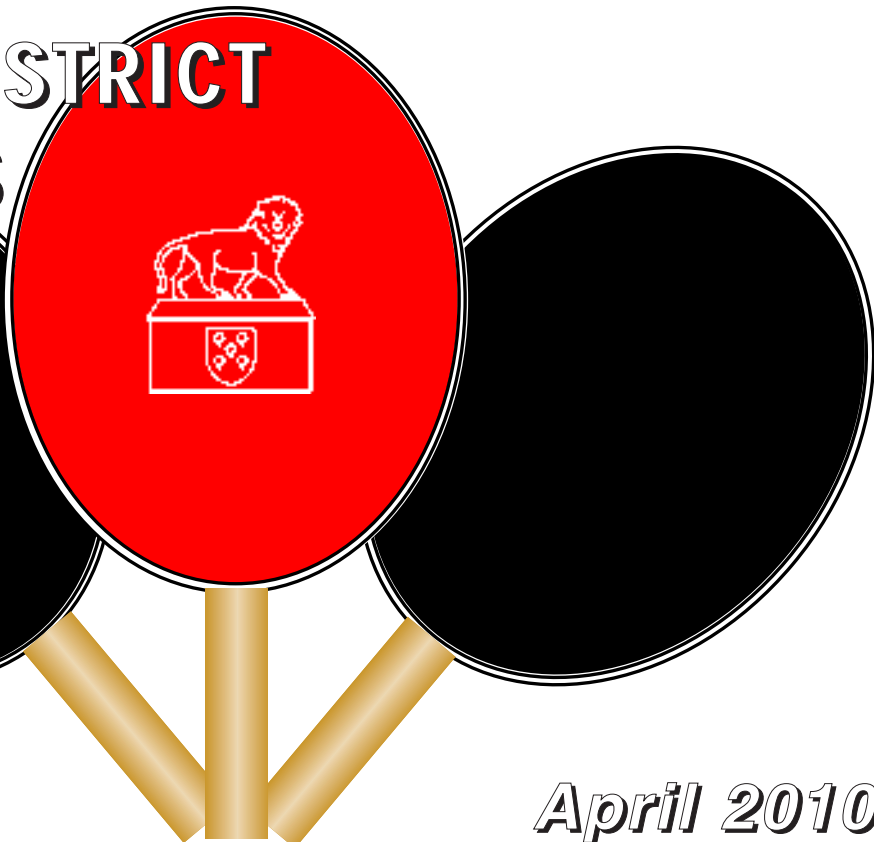


READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Editor: Derek Wavell

April 2010

Season's Winners

This is the issue to find the outcomes of all those close-fought battles. Not only in our eight divisions of the league, but two cup competitions and the Reading Masters and the Reading Closed.

The divisional secretaries have been following every twist and turn in their division, just waiting to pour it out onto the page. You might be interested to look in other divisions than your own - there's a lot going on. And Nigel Maltby, our Chairman and press officer, has excelled himself in bringing some of the important tournaments to life on the page.

Then there are all the triumphs of our talented juniors, towards the end of the newsletter - many of them with photos.

Are you thinking of moving to a new bat covering this summer? If so, you may like to look at some links to web sites (p22) with equipment reviews from players around the world.

Incidentally, though, you may find these links only work properly if you open the newsletter in your web browser (which happens when you access it on the web site).

Would-be coaches are also being offered some help, on the letters page. And maybe you would like to send in a letter to our next edition - or photos - we love to hear from you..

*Have a jolly summer,
Derek*



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**LATE EXTRA - RESULT OF DIV ONE RELEGATION BATTLE:
OLOP 'D' GO DOWN AFTER OLOP 'C' BEAT POLISH 'B' 6 - 4.**

Team Handicap Competition 2009 - 10

organised by Professor Abbas Syed

By 27.11.09
Round 2

By 18.12.09
Round 3

By 19.2.10
Quarter Final

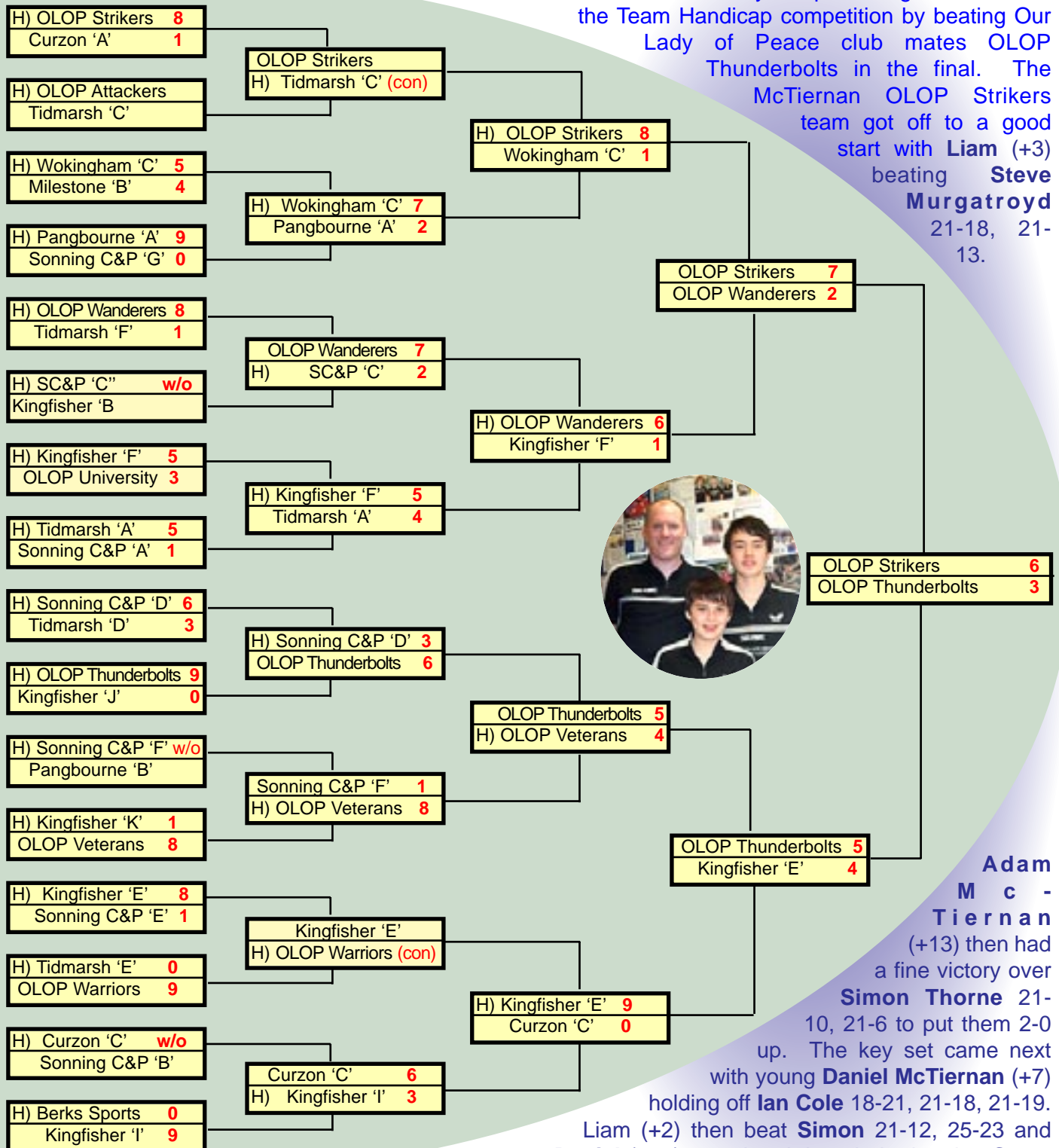
Semi-Finals

FINAL

Team Handicap Final -

OLOP Thunderbolts 3 - OLOP Strikers 6

The McTiernan family completed a great season in the Team Handicap competition by beating Our Lady of Peace club mates OLOP Thunderbolts in the final. The McTiernan OLOP Strikers team got off to a good start with Liam (+3) beating Steve Murgatroyd 21-18, 21-13.



Adam
M c -
Tiernan

(+13) then had

a fine victory over

Simon Thorne 21-

10, 21-6 to put them 2-0

up. The key set came next

with young Daniel McTiernan (+7)

holding off Ian Cole 18-21, 21-18, 21-19.

Liam (+2) then beat Simon 21-12, 25-23 and

Daniel (+10) completed the win by beating Steve

21-18, 21-12.



Reading Closed 2010

The Reading Closed Championships were held over the weekend of the 17/18th April at the Cippenham Club, Slough. Hari Gehlot retained his Mens singles title with a narrow victory against Martin Chodounsky in the final while young Maria Tsapsinos won the Ladies title, defeating Wendy Porter in the final.

In the early group stages of the Mens singles Jon Willis and Hanson Xu qualified from their group, Jon coming back to beat Hanson while Hanson needed 5 games to defeat Paul Treadgold. Jeremy Willis was the shock winner of Group 6, defeating Abhay Gehlot 12-10, 11-7, 11-5 and Oliver Shaw.

In the Quarter finals Hari Gehlot defeated Steve Murgatroyd in 3-straight, Ramesh Gehlot beat Oliver Shaw in a close tussle while Daniel Moses needed 4 games to finally end Jeremy Willis's great run and Martin Chodounsky breezed through against Eric Van Looy. Hari Gehlot was fully focused as he defeated Ramesh Gehlot in their semi-final, while in the other semi Martin Chodounsky was too good for Daniel Moses, winning 11-7, 11-4, 11-2.

In the final Martin Chodounsky made a determined start to go 5-1 ahead and kept his lead, a great back hand cross table drive giving him a 10-4 advantage before closing out the first 11-6. Hari recovered from 3-6 down in the next to level at 7-all, and he stepped in positively to win the last three points for an 11-8 victory.



DANIEL MOSES BEAT DANIEL MCTIERNAN TO WIN THE JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES FINAL.

In the third game Martin again started well, only for Hari to pull back to level at 8-all. This time however it was Martin who took the next three points with a Hari forehand drifting off the end of the table to give Martin the game 11-8. In the next Martin was really struggling to return Hari's serve while Hari was also struggling to find his top game against his quality opponent. A good tight Martin serve gave him a slender 10-9 advantage. However Hari survived this match point despite his forehand return catching the top of the net and he then took his chance to win the game 12-10.

In the deciding game it was anybody's all the way through with never more than two points between them. Hari hit back to level at 7-all from 5-7 behind and a good forehand shot down the middle of the table set up two championship points for Hari at 10-8 ahead. A lucky net cord took Martin back to within a point but another devilish tight serve from Hari saw Martin's return into the net to give Hari the title 6-11, 11-8, 8-1, 12-10, 11-9, 11-9.



The Ladies singles final was between Wendy Porter and Maria Tsapsinos. Wendy had already defeated Maria in the heats; but in the final, Wendy was carrying an ankle injury after a fall in the Mixed Doubles final, however she recovered well after losing the first 11-3 to take the next 11-8. Maria however then turned on the style with a highly focused performance to win the next two games 12-10, 11-8 to take her first Ladies Singles title.

In the Mens Doubles Final Ramesh and Hari Gehlot saved two championship points against Daniel Moses and Abhay Gehlot to level the match at 2 games all - but then went down to their young opponents in the fifth. It was a very entertaining match with some superb attacking play from all four players. The Ladies Doubles final went to Diane Taylor and Maria Tsapsinos against Wendy Porter and Jade Fudge.

In the Mixed Doubles Final Daniel Moses and Wendy Porter earned a surprise 14-12, 9-11, 11-8, 11-9 victory against Ramesh Gehlot and Maria Tsapsinos, despite Wendy taking a nasty tumble at the start of the third game, leaving her struggling with an ankle injury.

In the Division 1 restricted event Nigel Maltby scored a surprise 9-11, 7-11, 12-10, 11-4, 13-11 victory over Raphael Jack, but couldn't cope with Ramesh Gehlot in the semi-final and Ramesh ran out a comfortable winner. In the other half of the draw Steve Murgatroyd beat Daniel Moses to set up a meeting with Ramesh in the final. Ramesh seemed in control throughout and defeated Steve 11-7, 11-7, 11-5.

Eric Van-Looy picked up the Division 2 title after beating Jon Willis. In Division

3 Steve Ricks needed 5 games to beat veteran Mike Dorrington in Round 1 and made it to the final after seeing off Hanson Xu. Daniel McTiernan won a thrilling match with Jeremy Willis, recovering superbly to win 4-11, 7-11, 11-8, 11-2, 11-9 and he then beat Wendy Porter to set up a final against Steve, which Daniel duly won 8-11 12-10 11-9 11-8.

Steve Purchase won a 3-person group in Division 4, beating both Daniel Grover and Diane Taylor. Daniel finished as runner-up after he beat Diane. Alistair Richardson beat

Chris Moses to win Division 5, while Amol Karve won the Division 6 event after defeating runner-up Michael Houghton.

The Youth Division singles went to Daniel McTiernan, winning a high quality final against Hanson Xu .

There was a very poor entry in the veteran events this year. Hari Gehlot won the Veteran Singles title, beating his brother Ramesh 11-9, 11-6, 11-2 in the final, while Mike Dorrington won both the Senior Veteran singles and the Over 60's event with a win over Diane Taylor 11-5, 7-11, 6-11, 13-11, 11-7.

In the Junior events Maria Tsaptinos won the Junior

Girls, Cadet Girls and the Under 13 Girls singles events. Jemma Stephens won the Under 11 Girls. Jonathan Abbott won the Under 11 Boys singles, Daniel McTiernan won the Cadet Boys title, beating Leo Long. Daniel McTiernan also won the Under 13 Boys singles, while Daniel Moses beat Abhay Gehlot in the final of the Under 21 Singles and he also picked up the Junior Boys title after defeating Daniel McTiernan 11-3, 11-5, 11-7 in the final.

Daniel McTiernan and Hanson Xu won the Junior Boys doubles, beating Daniel Moses and Jonathan Abbott in the final

Thanks are due to Paul Jarvis for his substantial efforts in running the event over the weekend.

Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

Presentation Evening

The RDTTA Awards Presentation evening will be held at the **Curzon Club** in Oxford Road, Reading on **Tuesday 11th May 2010**. Parking will be in the new Tesco's car park off Richfield Avenue. We would ask that attendees arrive at about 7.30 pm with the presentations due to start at 8 pm.

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

AGM

The RDTTA AGM will be held on **Wednesday 2nd June 2010** at the Our Lady of Peace venue. Clubs are reminded that they must send at least one representative to the AGM.



5th / 6th Divisions Knockout Cup 2009 / 2010

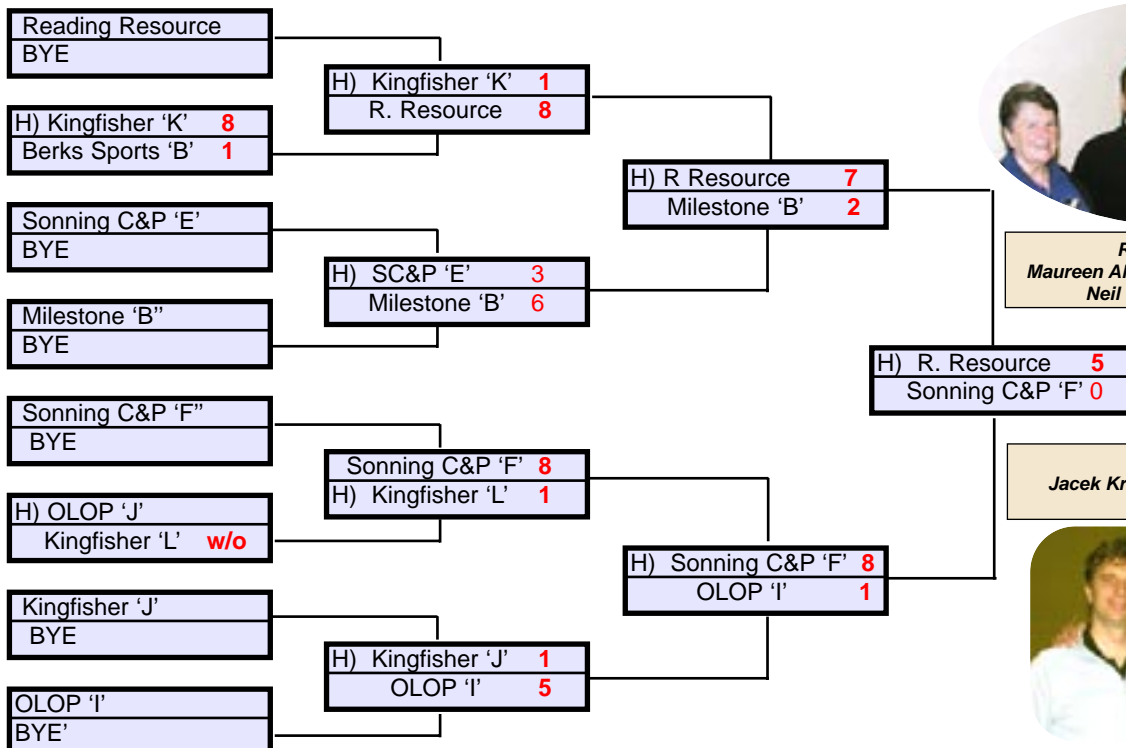
organised by **Professor Abbas Syed**

By 27.11.09
Round 1

By 18.12.09
Quarter Final

By 19.02.10
Semi Final

07.04.10
Final



Reading Resource:
Maureen Allchurch, Andrew Syed (cap),
Neil Havard, Matthew Syed

Sonning C&P 'F':
Jacek Krzyzanowski, Derek Wavell,
Anthony Reeve



Knockout Cup Final 2010

by Andrew Syed

The culmination of this year's table tennis season in divisions 5 & 6 of the Reading and District Table Tennis league was this year's Knockout Cup final held at the Warehouse. This final was one of the main spectacles in the local table tennis calendar and 40 spectators were treated to a great final between Reading Resource and Sonning Common and Peppard 'F'. The star attraction was three times Commonwealth Champion, Matthew Syed, playing for Resource. Derek Brooke-Wavell, the Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' captain said the rest of the team 'were dying for the chance to try their skills against Matthew' and welcomed his involvement 'not only to produce an attractive display of table tennis but to raise its reputation and draw more young people into the sport'. Paul Jarvis was the referee for the evening.

Resource captain and coach, Andrew Syed, fielded brother Matthew, Neil Havard and Maureen Allchurch and Sonning Common & Peppard 'F' captain Derek Brook-Wavell played alongside Jacek Krzyzanowski and Anthony Reeve.

The first match was Matthew against Jacek. Jacek, a tall attacking, stylish player who came from Poland 6 years ago has averaged about 75% in division 5. He performed with credit and played a succession of powerful smashes against Matthew's defence but lost in three games.

The next, which proved to be one of the defining contests of the match, was between Neil and Derek. This season, Neil has been stretched on many occasions in Division 5 of the Reading league and had been taken to 5 games on 9 different occasions and twice in the Knockout Cup. Earlier in the season Derek had achieved a five-game victory against Neil, using an unusually-shaped bat of his own design, but on this occasion it was not to be. Nevertheless

he played with distinction and pushed Neil very hard in the first two games losing 11-9, 11-9.

The third match was a big upset. Anthony, an orthodox defensive player who has averaged 75% in the league, was pitted against Maureen who has averaged around 40%. Both players traded push for push which made the game long and intriguing to watch. At 9-9 in the fourth game, the longest point of the match was contested which Maureen took. In the best match she has ever played for Resource, Maureen came out the surprising winner in four tight games, 11-9 in the fourth. This victory had the effect of Resource racing to a clear victory.

Game four saw Neil versus Jacek in a keenly contested match which Neil won in four sets. This was followed by Matthew winning against Anthony.

At this stage, Andrew introduced Matthew to the audience to take on all comers. After that they were treated to a quite magnificent challenge match between Matthew and 14-year-old Liam McTiernan. Liam is a rising star of Reading table tennis and is now No. 8 in the England cadet ranking list. The audience were enthralled by the remarkable rallies between the attacking style of Liam and Matthew's rock solid defence. Liam hit

balls all over the hall with Matthew retrieving. Matthew, in his heyday, was regarded as one of the best retrievers and lobbers in the world, and came through to win.

Derek Brooke-Wavell said that the challenge match would long live in the memory and congratulated Andrew on 'organising such an excellent evening - better than ever'.

Summing up, Andrew said he was 'delighted that the evening had been such a success and was especially pleased that Nigel Maltby, Chairman of the RDDTA was able to attend and also Alan Dines who was recovering from illness' and wished him a speedy recovery.



The Reading Masters

Hari Gehlot won a second successive Reading Senior Masters title after avenging an early group defeat to up-and-coming Liam McTiernan to beat his young opponent in an enthralling final contest 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8.

Hanson Xu picked up his first Master Junior title by defeating Danny Ricks in the final

The senior Masters saw two groups of five players, with the top two in each group qualifying for the semi-finals. In Group 1 both Hari Gehlot and Liam McTiernan qualified. In an often hot tempered group Hari opened his defence with an 11-6, 12-10, 11-7 victory over his brother Ramesh, before going on to beat Tony Reynolds 12-10, 8-11, 11-4, 11-2 and Phil Prady 11-7, 11-9, 11-7. Liam started with a very close and high quality contest against Tony Reynolds which he eventually won 13-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9 before going on to manage comfortable wins over both Phil Prady and Ramesh Gehlot. The final match in the group saw Liam win a classic match against Hari 3-11, 11-8, 11-6, 6-11, 13-11 to see him finish top and Hari second.

Phil Prady surpassed all expectations to finish 3rd, beating Ramesh 9-11, 6-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-9 and Tony Reynolds 11-8, 11-7, 5-11, 11-5, while Tony finished 4th ahead of Ramesh after beating him in another close contest 15-13, 10-12, 13-11, 11-7.

In Group 2 Martin Chodounsky and Mark Banks lived up to their billing to finish 1st and 2nd respectively. Martin, playing in his first Reading Masters, opened with an 11-8, 11-9, 11-7 victory over YMCA club team mate Bob Davis before going on to edge past an in-form Steve Murgatroyd 13-11, 11-9, 15-13. Mark also just held off Steve in his opener 11-13, 11-2, 11-7 11-9 before going on to clinch his semi-final place with wins over Bob Davis and Graham Diplock. Martin finished top of the group after recovering from a 6-10 fifth game deficit to defeat Mark 2-11, 11-8, 9-11, 11-4, 12-10.

Steve Murgatroyd always produces his best at the Masters and he finished 3rd in the group, beating Bob Davis and Graham Diplock in 4 games, while Bob managed an 11-9, 11-3, 7-11, 11-4 win against Graham to finish in 4th place.

In the semi-finals Liam McTiernan rode his luck at times as he defeated Mark Banks in 3 straight games 11-9, 11-8, 11-9. In the other semi-final Hari Gehlot took the first against Martin Chodounsky 11-7 only for Martin to hit back well to level, taking the next game 12-10. Hari re-established control to win the third 11-5 and was 10-6 up in the next with a final place in his

grasp. However Martin rallied to level at 10-all. Hari though held his nerve to close out the game 12-10.

The final then was a repeat of their earlier group encounter between Liam and Hari. Hari always had the edge in the first game, moving 6-2 ahead and holding that to lead to 10-6. Liam briefly closed to just 10-8 behind, but with Hari pulling his opponent wide with each return, he managed to close out the game 11-8. In the next a fantastic opening point went to Liam, but Hari then took control to lead 5-1 with some excellent play from both players. Liam clawed his way back to 5-3 behind and as Hari missed a couple of opportunities all of a sudden it was 7-all. A key point saw Liam grab a 9-8 lead and when Hari then served into the net Liam took his chance to snatch a game that had looked beyond him 11-8.

Hari again started well in the next game, quickly building a 5-2 lead. Liam again rallied briefly in the middle of the game to close to within two points at 8-6, but Hari pulled clear to take a 2-1 game advantage by winning the third game 11-7. Another stunning opening rally in the 4th game ended with Hari returning a ball off the top of the net and dropping dead on the other side of the table to give him the first point. From there he went 3-0 ahead, only for Liam to hit back well to level at 3-3 and then incredibly go 6-3 up after taking 6 points in a row. This time Hari upped his game to level at 6-all. In a gripping game Liam's serve drifted just a bit too high, allowing Hari to pounce for a 10-8 advantage giving him two championship points, which he duly took at the first attempt to win 11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8.

In the Junior Masters Hanson Xu won both his group matches to clinch his semi final place, beating Leo Long 11-6, 11-9, 2-11, 11-8 and Sam Ricks 11-8, 11-1, 17-15. Sam also made the semi-finals after a narrow victory over Leo. In the other group Danny Ricks finished top after he managed wins over Jonathan Abbott and Daniel Thorne. Jonathan also qualified for the semi-final after beating Daniel Thorne 11-1, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6.

In the semi-final Hanson proved too good for a spirited Jonathan Abbott, winning 11-2, 11-7, 11-7. In the other semi Danny Ricks beat Sam Ricks 13-11, 11-4, 11-7 to book his place in the final. The Final saw both players at their best, however it was Hanson who just had a little bit more quality in his attacking shots as he clinched the title 11-6, 11-6, 11-5. Sam Ricks took third place after beating Jonathan Abbott 11-9, 7-11, 12-10, 11-9.

DIVISION ONE *by Mark Banks*

So, another great season then guys, that is I guess unless you're from Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' who sadly find themselves slipping through the trap door and sinking back down into Division 2 for next season. The writing had been on the wall for the Sonning lads since pretty much the very first point of the season but to see who joins them in relegation is another matter entirely. As we go to publication and with one vital match still outstanding and just one point between them it is still uncertain as to whether clubmates OLOP 'D' or OLOP 'C' are going to make the dreaded drop! Obviously if it were to be OLOP 'D' at least that's one less team playing on Friday nights to worry about! Let's see if we can get Tidmarsh relegated next season! Ha Ha.

JOKE!!! That's a JOKE OK Lee! I always promise not let my personal preferences interfere with the pure unbiasedness (no way is that a word) that goes into the writing of this column! Indeed I made my very first ever venture over to Tidmarsh on a Friday night for the shield semi and thoroughly enjoyed it. OK. So the fact that we had it wrapped up by about half eight and I was able to make the pub 6 miles away with my mates (yes they do exist) in Reading in good time admittedly did help matters somewhat! Elsewhere, at the top of the table it was the fiercest title battle for a good couple of years with the OLOP young guns pushing us all the way before defeat at YMCA ended their brave challenge. It would be no surprise to see them going all the way next year and with Martin Adams likely to be back for Polish and the emergence in strength from the YM Club I cannot wait for the new season to start! I'm sad aren't I! Er, by the way, not as sad as one Mr Hari Gehlot though who, after 5 hours of tough competition at the recent Reading Masters - which he duly won of course - proceeded to ask everybody if they wouldn't mind staying back for a knock with him afterwards! Incredible. And not just the players. After understandable knock back after knock back, so desperate was the newly crowned champion to fine tune the big back hand that he even ended up asking the officials and spectators if they fancied staying! Poor Alan Dines had only just recently come out of hospital and Hari was even asking him if he'd brought his bat! I guess that kind of dedication is why he wins stuff and me, Murgy, Prady, Diplock and the rest of them don't! By the way, talking of a certain Steve Murgy at The Masters, I don't know about you but I've always found the guy to be one of the great gentlemen of the game, never seems to get involved in gamesmanship, shows the utmost respect to all his opponents, always says sorry after an edge (Bob Davis take note) and is always gracious in defeat - er, that is until now. Poor Graham Diplock, he had completely outplayed the Murgster in the first leg taking it easily from memory either 11-3 or 11-4. And then..... something happened that should not be repeated in any sports arena anywhere in the world. Now

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	22	21	1	0	187	33	43
OLOP 'A'	22	18	1	3	167	53	37
Reading YMCA 'A'	22	16	1	5	151	69	33
Polish 'A'	21	12	5	4	121	89	29
Kingfisher 'B'	22	10	3	9	112	108	23
Polish 'B'	22	10	3	9	104	116	23
Wokingham 'A'	22	8	5	9	107	113	21
OLOP 'B'	22	5	5	12	85	135	15
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	22	6	3	13	84	136	15
OLOP 'D'	22	4	4	14	81	139	12
OLOP 'C'	21	3	5	13	75	135	11
Sonning C&P 'A'	22	0	0	22	36	184	0

this is very much a family publication so I won't go into all of the gory details but let's just say that the smell not only stopped the play on their table but stopped play on ALL of the tables - including the junior Masters that was being played way down at the far end. Apparently an ASDA Chicken Korma the night before was Murgy's problem and in an act of pure desperation and complete ungentlemanly conduct he left it lingering for what seemed like ages down at Graham's end. Graham came up with some great headlines that I could use for this - "Too much Murg for Murgy" or "ASDA puts the Murg into Murgy's game" or even "ASDA's Murg proves to be Murgy's secret weapon" Ha Ha! But either way you won't need me to tell you that poor Graham (and poor the rest of us for that matter) understandably hardly won another point in the next 3 legs and Murgy's shocking tactic had worked a treat - if you can call it a treat that is! UGH! Anyway on that rather pleasant note - all that's left for me to say is very well played this season, thanks to all the exceptional captains for your incredibly prompt updates and write ups - especially Lee, Graham, Peter, David/Bob, it's been a pleasure doing business with you guys and I couldn't write this column without you, thanks to the rubbish ones also, I love you really and have a great World Cup Summer guys. COME ON ENGLAND!! Me? I'm off to buy my newborn some "buy one, get one free" boxes of pampers before Andy Yon and his shopping trolley get in there first (no, of course Andy Yon doesn't need nappies but trust me, that guy will buy ANYTHING if it's on offer!). Tony Reynolds/Mike Childs/Martin Adams - I suggest you very quickly do the same and Murgy - you should get in there too buddy before the Yonster pitches up and swipes away all of the 'on offer' Andrex from the shelves!



Oh sorry, and just one final thing before I forget, there's a probability that YMCA 'B' (remember them?) may seek to reform with a fresh new look and bid for a slot in Division One next season. Therefore if you are of D1 standard and



you are looking for a change of scenery (go for it Ramesh we don't mind!! Ha ha) or you know of somebody who is looking to join or break into a D1 side then please could you make your/their intentions known to Mr. David Streak ASAP. Merci.

Love & Peace

Mark x

Played 22, Won 21, Drew just 1 (we still haven't forgiven you Ramesh) are the very impressive season stats from the very mighty and completely unstoppable **Kingfisher 'A'**. I have to get all the "big us ups" in now because I have a feeling that next season is gonna be a whole lot tougher and we won't be having things quite our own way again. In truth it was great to be pushed pretty much all the way by the valiant OLOP 'A' this time around and but for the fine form of Hari & Steve with me & Ramesh doing our bits too we could well have been in trouble. We weren't though. We played great and we're proud to be Champions of Reading once again. Get In!!! That includes you too Bela who we unfortunately lost to the game of golf very early doors and who is still in touch when he's not on the course, down the driving range or supping a half of bitter shandy in the clubhouse. On behalf of the team I would like to dedicate our victory this season to him. This one's for you buddy! We love you. FORE!!

M.V.P. Hari Gehlot - Top Kingfisher Dog once again. Grrrrrrrrrrrr

Superb effort then from **OLOP 'A'**. They pushed us all the way and can be incredibly proud of their efforts. Unfortunately Mike Childs had to miss the season run-in and it definitely had an effect on the side - would they have won it if he'd been fit and available? - I'm not so sure but he would be missed in any team and it's a shame he wasn't able to see it out. If it was Daniel Moses who started the season fantastically then it was certainly Liam McTiernan who finished it in style. In the previous couple of seasons only Martin Adams has been able to dent Hari's remarkable record but reputations count for nothing when you're 14 years old and it was super stuff from the youngster to take him out 3 zip. Hari has since had his revenge but how long before Liam's results like this become the norm? I can answer that one for you. Er, not very long at all in fact! The multi-talented Daniel Moses managed to hang on to his MVP status to maintain his OLOP bragging rights over the summer. He almost let it slip at the end though and whilst these unprecedented losses should not tarnish what has been a fantastic season he needs to re-evaluate what he wants to achieve within the game and make a decision and make it fast. Quality player though and as I say will be well pleased for sure that he finished top of the OLOP 'A' averages. With Mike out of action, Simon Thorne has been more active in the latter stages and has begun to show glimpses of the form that made him such a bright young prospect a couple of seasons ago and talking of bright young prospects, Liam's younger brother Daniel has been getting a taste of D1 TT for the first time and has been more than holding his own and has already taken a few big name scalps in the process. Watch out for him next season when he plays a more prominent role in their fortunes. Smashing

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	14	14	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	60	58	96.67
Martin Chodounsky	Reading YMCA 'A'	27	25	92.59
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	62	53	85.48
Steve Munson	Kingfisher 'A'	27	23	85.19
Liam McTiernan	OLOP 'A'	59	50	84.75
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	46	37	80.43
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	35	28	80
David Streak	Reading YMCA 'A'	30	24	80
Graham Watts	Polish 'B'	30	23	76.67
Mike Childs	OLOP 'A'	36	27	75
Steve Dobbins	Polish 'A'	27	20	74.07
Mark Hancock	OLOP 'C'	18	13	72.22
Bob Davis	Reading YMCA 'A'	48	33	68.75
Tony Reynolds	Reading YMCA 'A'	51	35	68.63
Derek Wood	Polish 'A'	21	14	66.67

side are OLOP 'A', I like them a lot and I'm sure you're all with me when I say that I hope they can continue to progress in the same speedy manner that we have seen to date. Well played.

M.V.P. Daniel Moses - Very well played buddy in a tough team, just about held on from fast finishing Liam

Wow! Where did **YMCA 'A'** come from? 3rd place? Who would have predicted that after what can only be described as a simply dreadful start to their campaign? Us aside however, they were THE form team after Christmas and a thumping win late on over OLOP 'A' above them had us all standing up and taking note. Fantastic stuff. OK so much of the success has been down to new Czech sensation Martin Chodounsky. Clearly a player who has played at the very top level previously and whilst he's probably not the player he once was he's still gonna be way too good for most in this Division and it's fantastic that players of his calibre want to participate in this wonderful league of ours. Who else? Well Tony Reynolds finally remembered that he was a half decent player after all. Perhaps it was the challenge of having a new top dog in the side or perhaps it was down to the impending birth of his first but he raised his game to the levels that we know he can and played a pivotal role in the crushing OLOP defeat. And what about those Vets? David Streak (in his own words) can't get in the side anymore but when he does he wins. Simple as. Stunning. Remember, by the way, to let David know if you're interested in signing up to the new YM revolution next season. And Bob 'not so sorry' Davis. What a win over Daniel Moses that was. The whole team's on fire and what's more they're promising one or two surprises for next season too. Can it get any better? - well yes it can actually. They're probably just one decent player away from being proper title contenders and if they find him/her over the summer then things are gonna be very, very interesting indeed. I love it!

M.V.P. Martin Chodounsky - classy Czech

For them at least a rather lowly 4th place then for **Polish**



'A'. They do have the honour of being the only team to take a point off the champions though and I don't care if your name is Gehlot (er, not you Ramesh), Chodounsky, Moses, Munson or McTiernan yes, great players you all are and even greater players some of you may become but Martin Adams, who retired for the season before we'd even opened our Christmas presents (or present in my case), is still the man in this League and when he returns in September as I'm sure he will then once again he will be setting the standards for you (us) all to aim for. They brought in Steve Dobbins to strengthen the side and he's certainly done that. Good player is Steve, strong defence - just don't get an edge against him. The rest of the squad are all pretty evenly matched and have played well at different stages. They've struggled with availability and injury in the past couple of seasons though and with the league as strong as it's been for certainly 5 years as we have seen they are no longer shoo-ins for a medal. However, clearly if they keep Steve and with Martin back too then of course we would all expect a better showing and they would certainly be there or thereabouts again next season. Looking forward to the end of season beers again by the way!

M.V.P. Martin Adams - even more classy Pole

Hey! Look at you **Kingfisher 'B'!** If you'd told them at the start of the season they would finish just 1 place below Polish 'A' I'm sure they would have bitten your hand off - both of them in fact and your feet too. They've been playing exceptionally well of late hence the more than respectable 5th place and with it the coveted title of The Best of the Rest! How have they done it? Well it's mainly down to Trev's new dazzling pink t-shirt. Ha Ha. No. But seriously, JJ has had a massive impact in this Division. Not many players did the single over Steve Munson let alone the double - he did! Super stuff JJ. And what about the kid? Rubbish start - more than promising finish. Almost back to somewhere near his best even though he's on the opposite ends of the practice scale compared to somebody like Hari or Liam. Having said that who isn't compared to those guys? Andy Yon perhaps? The rest of them can be pleased with their performances too. Whether this side stays together next year still remains to be seen but let's not dwell on that for now. They've all played their part in what was a pretty successful campaign and can go and enjoy their summer with their heads held high.

M.V.P. Jared JJ Knowles - Great D1 season. Fantastic double over Munson. And more to come no doubt.

Ahhh for so long it looked as if the fairytale that was the **Polish 'B'** season was going to have them finish in 5th or even 4th place but in the end they've had to settle for the very final position in the top half but can be 'Oh so proud' of their efforts. Poor old Graham Diplock has already been on the phone to Tees Sports to see if Butterfly have any gas masks in their TT accessories range. Has done well though has Graham - you know, for a player who has been out of the game for over 20 years - ha ha! Gotcha! And as mentioned before he even qualified for the masters and will be reasonably proud of his efforts this term. The big

question on everybody's lips though is whether he will be able to hold the team together for next season? Kris Milerski has long since departed back to Poland and this team will certainly miss a big personality and good player like him - the post match bar bills will certainly be a lot cheaper though! Gosh, and I thought I liked a drink!! The other Graham - Mr Watts has been consistently good all season and finishes as MVP. Again though, availability issues mean that he hasn't been involved as much recently as they and I'm sure he would have liked. Good player though clearly and they will need to sign him up again quickly if they want to continue as a unit. And what can I say about Andy Yon? His sole ambition this season was to take somebody/anybody to deuce and then he goes and ends the season with 3 or 4 legitimate wins under his belt and even 1 or 2 dodgy ones too! Brilliant stuff Andy. Surely one of the most generous guys in our sport and I'm even told that he's gone full circle on Diplock's irritating umpiring and now insists that he umpires all of his matches. What a guy!! I will be incredibly sad if this team folds. They add a bit of character to our Division and a lot of the material I get for this is straight from them. Cheers Guys.

M.V.P. Graham Watts - well played hope to see more of you in D1 next season.

Talking of farewells - probably the biggest farewell of them all is saved for **Wokingham 'A'**'s Mr Fenwick Phillip Prady! The one thing I never thought I'd ever write about him, the one thing you just wouldn't associate with a straight talking, hard punching man's man like him, yes, trust me, it's true, the sappy old romantic git has only gone and fallen in love (yes, it's with a girl!) from back home (er, that's Newcastle for all of you lot who, like all the taxi drivers on the toon, still think he's a cockney) WAP!! And that's it folks. He's off, gone, au revoir, auf wiedersehen, adios, ciao, tot ziens, howay - the lot! What a waste! Ha Ha only kidding DK. And just as he was finally starting to play a bit better too! He hasn't got himself a moving date as yet though so anything could happen (and probably will knowing him) but if you haven't got your goodbyes in already I suggest you do so pretty quickly. Of course we're gonna miss him. Never a dull moment when that guy's around is there and Wokingham 'A' have a tough spot to fill - not so much on the playing side (after all let's face it, on the table he's just an incredibly loud glorified lobber) but personality wise he's irreplaceable. At least Keith, Rich, Steve & Ray will all get a bit of peace & quiet now hey! They will no longer have to sit there in multi table venues keeping their heads down as people keep looking over at them from other matches because of what Geordie Phil is up to! Nice one buddy. Hope it all works out for you back up there and on behalf of the Reading League I'm sure I speak for everybody when I say we're all going to miss you, you've certainly been one of the big characters down here and whilst all of our ears will finally be thankful that you've gone - that's just a tiny consolation for everything else that you bring to the party and we all wish you well. Good Luck! Er, Mark, and what about the other players in this team? Oh, yeah. Er, brilliant lads. You all played brilliant - 7th place. Top Work!



M.V.P. Fenwick Prady - who else and I don't care how many miles away you are, I'm still expecting my annual bottle of port

After Murgy's antics at The Masters I'm not sure I can bring myself to write any more about **OLOP 'B'**. Other than now we all know how his improved form has come about. I (and I expect you too) definitely preferred him when he was on the diet shakes! Elsewhere then and Peter seems to have turned his fortunes around too - albeit by more conventional methods and has been pivotal in ensuring that his team avoided the drop and retain their D1 status for another year. Well done you sir and you did it without the beloved Tim Pang too. Ian Cole has been hitting it as hard as ever and chipped in with some vital wins too in a good season all round especially in some of the big matches early doors. They too may also be looking to sign another player - preferably somebody who lost their sense of smell at a very young age so if you know of anybody then get in touch.

M.V.P. Murgy - Did you have to, did you have to let it linger?

Ouch! Bit of a freefall then for **Tidmarsh Integrallis 'A'** who finished off in an OLOP sandwich and were just starting to look over their shoulders a little bit towards the end. Much improved form on the table though this season from Lee "Jackpot" Calcutt. But more importantly than that off the table how many times has he done it now? Incredible stuff. Luck/judgement? A bit of both? Who cares. It's money in the bank and fair play to him and his connections (er, Dave Calcutt). John Barclay will be upset that he's only the 2nd unluckiest player in the league now behind Steve Dobbins. But after a slow start he's playing well again is John and a stonking career best win over Liam McTiernan certainly proves that. Ian Packford showed up just the once which is why they are as lowly as they are but both Duncan & David have proved that on their day they can still do some damage in D1 and they'll need to continue that and improve upon it if Tidmarsh are to be uninvolved in anything horrible next season. For now though they can all go off and enjoy their summer. For the Calcutts no doubt it's Barbados or somewhere equally as exotic. I know I would if it were me!

M.V.P. Lee "JACKPOT" Calcutt - If only you were as lucky on the table hey Lee

So what a dramatic finale then for **OLOP 'D'** who must have thought they were down and out with 1 point away from safety and just the mighty Polish 'A' left to play. Incredibly though they managed to defeat Polish 'A' (admittedly Polish only pitched up with 2) by 7 to 3 and now find themselves agonisingly awaiting the result of their clubmates OLOP 'C's final match versus - yep! you've guessed it Polish 'A', to learn their fate!! You couldn't make it up could you. Polish 'A', for years the best team in Reading and still up there with the best of them, now losing to relegation-threatened OLOP 'D'. We see crazy results in the soccer Premier League all the time don't we but shock results are usually few and far between on the TT circuit. Let's be honest, most of us could fill out a scorecard before the match has even started and be there or thereabouts with our prediction. If they do stay up then the improved form of Oliver Shaw is clearly a major factor. Super second half to the season he's had and if they do go down he will no doubt be asking (and deserving by the way) for a place in a different

OLOP side next term. Raphael too has had some great results over "more established" D1 players - Nick Heaps for one and he too may just be knocking on somebody's door for an OLOP D1 place if they do go. Elsewhere, you always know what you're going to get with Mike & Julian and they too have had their moments in what will be an amazing season if they do stay up.

M.V.P. Oliver Shaw - smashing 2nd half and you may just have pulled it off for your team

Surely **OLOP 'C'** must have thought their work was done and they had survived for another season before that astonishing Polish 'A' result happened. But happen it did and now Barry & co must pull off a similar victory against the same opponents if they are to survive for another season. A lot will depend on Mark Hancock. No pressure but if he can get 3 plus a doubles and Clive can get his awkward pimply blocks going then clearly they're in with half a shout. The table doesn't lie though and it's been another tough year for them. Barry, John and especially newlywed Sue (lots of broken hearts across the male tt community no doubt) have certainly had their moments but again have lacked consistency in what is now an incredibly tough league and if they do survive will need to up their games next term to maintain their status. Er, state the obvious again why don't you Mark! Ha Ha!

M.V.P. Mark Hancock - no pressure Mark but if you don't turn up then you're down I'm afraid

It was great having **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** around this season wasn't it - er, and before you say it I don't mean Yes, it was great just because you could all boost your averages you horrible lot! OK, so let's concentrate on the positives. Mmmmm, errrrr, Ha Ha. Only joking guys. Of course there were positives. There always are. Paul Jarvis, not only did he get a contract to be Hari's practice buddy (somebody has to I guess) he also made sure that Fenwick Prady goes back to Newcastle with his tail between his legs and a defeat in his last ever Reading game! Nice work PJ. Jason Roberts' highlight was a maximum against OLOP 'C' that "Oh so nearly" gave his team their one and only point which to be fair is nothing more that they deserved given the amount of effort that they put in. Andy Turton has found the going a bit hot but will come on for the experience and I presume other commitments limited Simon Berry's appearances to mainly the first half of the season. And what about our very own Chairman Nigel Maltby. Brilliant press reporting to keep you all updated as to what's been going on and don't lie - I know one or two of you found it a struggle against him and were mighty relieved to come off the table with a win and the 4.4444444444% average is shall we say a little harsh for the effort. I predict they will be back at some stage though and very welcome they will be too! Hard lines guys.

M.V.P. Jason Roberts - Great maximum vs OC - such a shame it didn't bag you a point.



DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Wow... what an amazing climax to a fantastic season. The second promotion spot behind runaway champions Kingfisher 'C' came to a showdown between Kingfisher 'D' and Tidmarsh 'B' (I thought these happenings only occurred in Hollywood scripts, Liverpool v Arsenal or even for the local fans Brentford v Reading matches with the winners [or drawers? in Tidmarsh 'B's case] being promoted. The outcome was always in doubt with Tidmarsh 'B' finally scraping home 6 - 4 at about 11:40pm to clinch their berth in the "promised land". It also stopped division 2 resembling the championship as it meant the two teams relegated from division one last season didn't go straight back up again. I



think this season has been the closest division I have played in with only six points separating second and eighth place, and all but a couple of teams not featuring in the dramatic run-in for promotion. Thanks to all players who played the season in such a great sporting manner (especially to the Kingfisher 'D' trio of Ivor, Trevor and John who congratulated us at what was surely a disappointing time for them) and to the

team captains who have managed to finish all the matches by the extended deadline.

Kingfisher 'C' continued their procession to promotion which was achieved with half a dozen games to play and they duly wrapped up the championship with four matches to go.... it was probably quicker than when Polish 'B' romped to the title last season. The quartet of Cliff Putterford, Eric Van Looy, Geoff Civil and Colin Dyke all feature in the top ten of the averages with Cliff actually topping them with 98% (or 47 wins from 48 matches). In the 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'D' they were actually challenged with four of the ten matches going to five but Eric won the two of his that went to five whilst Geoff also won the two of his that went to five. They also struggled to defeat Sonning C&P 'B' but finally overcame them 6 - 4 thanks to three from Cliff, one each from Roger Woolven-Allen and Geoff Civil. Eric and Colin were both taken to five by Mick Maynard in the 9 - 1 win over Curzon Club 'A'. The only real blemish on their perfect season came at the end of the last game when they were held to a 5 - 5 draw by Kingfisher 'E' that included Graham Outrim. Eric battled back from 0 - 2 down to defeat Lisa Williams 9-11, 10-12, 11-2, 11-9, 11-9 and was the only person to get an end off of Graham all night. Good luck in division one next season guys.

Barry's Prediction: 1st & Champions. Actual : 1st & Champions correct but not difficult).

Doubles : 18/20, 90% (the only team to beat them were Post Office 'A' who did the double)

Tidmarsh 'B' as mentioned above timed their run to perfection as they won four and drew one of their last five matches to clinch the runners up spot. The match against

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Kingfisher 'C'	20	19	1	0	165	35	39
2 Tidmarsh 'B'	20	12	2	6	104	96	26
3 Kingfisher 'D'	20	11	1	8	115	85	23
4 Wokingham 'B'	20	9	5	6	104	96	23
5 Kingfisher 'F'	20	9	4	7	106	94	22
6 Sonning C & P 'B'	20	9	4	7	104	96	22
7 Kingfisher 'E'	20	8	4	8	105	95	20
8 Post Office 'A'	20	7	4	9	95	105	18
9 Curzon Club 'A'	20	6	4	10	93	107	16
10 Berks Sports 'A'	20	3	1	16	57	143	7
11 Post Office 'B'	20	1	2	17	52	148	4

Kingfisher 'D' on April 6th was really tense and close and could have gone either way. Three of the matches went to five and two involved me as I let slip a 2 - 0 lead over Ivor Hardman before "re-grouping" in end five to win 11-4 and then the match that put us 4 - 2 up was an 11-9, 6-11, 11-9, 4-11, 15-13 win over John Morris. Earlier Andy Stephens had beaten both Trevor Organ 11-6, 11-4, 11-7 and Ivor 10-12, 11-6, 11-8, 10-12, 11-7. It was left to Nestor Ceron to clinch promotion as his 11-8, 11-5, 5-11, 11-6 win over Ivor gave us a 5 - 3 lead. Andy completed his maximum with an impressive 14 - 12, 11-9, 9-11, 11-6 victory over John Morris. The scary thing is that over the two matches with



Tidmarsh 'B': Nestor Ceron, Barry Carter and Andy Stephens

Kingfisher 'C' we lost 19 - 1 on aggregate (the worst pair of results in the division) and they were relegated from division one in 2008/2009... can't wait for next season (not). This may sound wrong but we are very fortunate to have finished second as seven of our twelve wins were 6 - 4's and this emphasised how close the division was, if all of those had been the other way around we would have fin-

ished one place above the relegation zone!

Thanks to Andy, Nestor and all the guys from the 'C' and 'D' teams who helped us out during the season... sorry the club can't afford to buy 9 extra trophies though.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 5th. Actual - 2nd & Promoted (Oops - wrong) Doubles - 9/20, 45%

Kingfisher 'D' also mentioned above missed out on promotion on the night of high tension as they couldn't gain the win that would have taken them above Tidmarsh 'B' and into second place, this was despite all of Dave Gostelow's support whenever they won a point. Ivor bore the brunt of some rather unfortunate luck at key points during the evening that heaped the agony a little more (although he hit the edge at 10-11 in the fourth when I was leading 2 - 1 in games). It was a shame that Ivor had to lose all three that evening as he had been the mainstay (he played in all 20 matches, the only player to do so!) during a really consistent season that saw him only win 0 on three occasions, twice against Kingfisher 'C' and the other against Tidmarsh 'B' (unless his mind was on his baby humpback whale that needed feeding). Trevor Organ also remained consistent to the finish as he topped the "Brace" chart, having won two games on 12 occasions. In the end it was probably player availability that cost them a return to division one at the first time of asking. The acquisition of John Morris three or four games into the season certainly helped them to their final position.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 2nd. Actual : 3rd. (Oops - wrong again) Doubles - 12/20, 68%

Wokingham 'B' had a nightmare run in that saw them favourites for promotion at one stage to end up fourth, still a good consolidation on promotion from division three last season. At the end of week 18, with 4 weeks to go Wokingham stood in third place, level on points with Tidmarsh 'B' but with two matches in hand but with only one win and one draw from those last five matches the promotion door proved too tightly shut. The result that begun the downward spiral was (in my opinion) the 6 - 4 defeat to Berks Sports 'A'. The other result on the 24th March, which was a total surprise was the 7 - 3 defeat to Curzon Club 'A', Brian Chinneck defeated both Mick Maynard (11-5, 11-9, 11-8) and Jon Willis (11-5, 12-10, 11-9) - but that was as good as it got as Martin Pugh and Ian Fletcher managed to lose all three. They picked up a useful point against Kingfisher 'F' as Brian won two once again, Martin won once as did Ian. The win came against Post Office 'B' where Brian and Martin both won three. The same could be said for Wokingham, that player availability cost them promotion as Jim Spencer only played once during the second half of the season (during the 1st his average was 67% from 7 matches!)

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 3rd. Actual - 4th. (Oops - Player availability contributed to this wrong prediction) Doubles - 8/19 - 45%

Kingfisher 'F' had a good finish to the season as they won three and drew one of their last four matches with Phil Mead producing his best form of the season to record 12 wins out of 12. Phil's treble coupled with two from Peter Bennett and one from Peter Goatly saw them to an impressive 7 - 3 win over Tidmarsh 'B'. Allan Bruton came back into the team after his trip down under and returned with all three as they held Wokingham 'B' to a draw. The draw was sealed when

Allan defeated Martin Pugh 11-8 in the fifth in game ten. They had a far more comfortable victory over Curzon Club 'A' as three from both Allan and Phil plus two wins by Peter Bennett over John Walker (11-7, 11-7, 11-6) and Mick Maynard (11-6, 15-13, 6-11, 9-11, 11-6) saw them to an 8 - 2 victory. The two Peter's (Bennett and Goatly) had solid seasons to finish on 56% and 48% respectively.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 6th. Actual 5th. (Very close - but wrong) Doubles - 6/20 - 30%

Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' had a rather inconsistent end to the season with three wins and three losses and it was the losses that finally cost them any chance of saving the 'A' team's status in division one. Their best performance of the season came against Kingfisher 'C' when they became the first team to take four games off them. Keith Swain and Malcolm Gregory both defeated Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen although Keith was taken all the way by Geoff before he finally won 12-10 in the fifth. The other wins came in yet another 6 - 4 as they beat Kingfisher 'D'. Keith and Malcolm once again won two each against Trevor Organ and Dave Gostelow and an 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'E' where Malcolm won three and Brian Meheux won two against Lisa Williams and Sharon Mitchell. One of the defeats came against Tidmarsh 'B' where we did the 6 - 4 double. It was revenge for me after 17 years of trying. I stumbled across two old scorecards played in division four from the 1993/1994 season. The summary for the two matches will hopefully follow this report in the newsletter if there is room.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 7th. Actual 6th. (Not bad for a novice pundit) Doubles - 14/20 - 70%

Kingfisher 'E' picked up nine points from the last six matches to pull clear of relegation and knock on the door of promotion, the addition of Graham Outrim in the final match of the season against Kingfisher 'C' galvanised the team to clinch a 5 - 5 draw and therefore end the 'C' teams hopes of a 100% winning record. Niall McGrane finished on a high note in the 5 - 5 draw as he beat both Geoff Civil and Colin Dyke to leave the match at 5 - 4 to the 'E' team. Graham had earlier won all three pretty easily only dropping one end and that was against Eric Van Looy. They enjoyed a comfortable 8 - 2 win at Post Office 'B' that finally saw them safe and in the process relegated both Post Office 'B' and Berks

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Cliff Putterford	Kingfisher 'C'	48	47	97.9%
Eric Van Looy	Kingfisher 'C'	45	39	86.7%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'E'	51	42	82.4%
Colin Hardman	Post Office 'A'	42	34	81.0%
Frank Wiegand	Berks Sports 'A'	36	29	80.6%
Geoff Civil	Kingfisher 'C'	36	27	75.0%
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh 'B'	42	31	73.8%
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher 'C'	36	25	69.4%
Keith Swain	Sonning C & P 'B'	51	35	68.6%
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher 'D'	60	41	68.3%
Trevor Organ	Kingfisher 'D'	54	36	66.7%
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher 'F'	39	26	66.7%



Sports 'A'. Sharon Mitchell won two on the evening against George White (in a battle of the weird rubbers... apologies if you don't play with a weird rubber anymore Sharon) and the second against Eddie Cripps 11-7, 11-8, 11-7. Lisa Williams also won two on the night and narrowly lost out on her first maximum of the season as she was defeated 11-4 in the fifth by George White. Lisa also had two titanic five-setters with Mick Maynard and Jon Willis as she won one and lost one in the 7-3 win over Curzon.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 8th. Actual 7th (Post Office 'A' dip in form responsible for this prediction).

Doubles - 13/20 - 65%

Post Office 'A' were left with a fixture pile up at the end of the season that saw them not win any of their last five matches as they slipped from the fringes of the promotion race to mid table safety. John Simmonds suffered a real dip in form as he only returned three wins out of the last fifteen matches he played in. John's three wins came as singles in the 6-4 win over Sonning Common where he beat Brian Meheux, the 5-5 draw with Kingfisher 'E' where he defeated Carole Chard and an 11-4, 9-11, 11-4, 11-9 win over John Morris in the 4-6 defeat to Kingfisher 'D'. By contrast Colin Hardman (when he has been available) has performed well with maximums against both Sonning Common and Kingfisher 'E'. Simon Hopkins had a good four set win over Dave Chard in the match against Berks Sports 'A' but although Colin won two it wasn't enough and they fell just short as they lost 4-6. Steve Hodder has had an injury and has missed the whole of the second half of the season...get fit soon Steve! In the end they will probably be disappointed with their overall position... better luck next season.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 4th. Actual 8th (John's sudden lack of form coupled with Colin's lack of appearances responsible for this way out prediction.)

Doubles - 13/19 - 68%

Curzon Club 'A' finished one place higher than last season's 10th and in the process saved themselves the prospect of re-election in the summer. Well done team and without the services of John Willcocks for most of the season too! They ended the season on a run of disappointing results where they only managed to pick up three points in the last five matches and a point of that tally came in a late night draw against Tidmarsh 'B'. Although to finish about 23:30 when the score was 2-1 at 21:30 was a great achievement, the major reason behind the long time was my match against Mick Maynard that seemed to go on for hours before Mick won 4-11, 15-13, 7-11, 12-10, 11-6. Mick made it a double with a 12-10, 11-8, 11-7 win over Dave Reynolds whilst he lost 11-9 in the fifth to Andy Stephens. John Walker showed some great form and was unlucky to lose all three, which included a 11-13, 11-7, 11-6, 6-11, 8-11 defeat to Dave. Jon Willis performed once again and came away with a brace. John Willcocks made a welcome return to the team in the re-arranged match with promotion chasing Wokingham 'B' that must have inspired his team mates as they ran out 7-3 winners with John winning all three. The result of this match ended Wokingham's hopes of promotion.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 9th and safe. Actual 9th and safe (correct)

Doubles - 7/20 - 35%

Berks Sports 'A''s resistance was finally broken as they were relegated despite a spirited second half display that

saw them win three and draw one of their last ten matches. The possibility of an immediate return to division two rests on Bob Woodmansee's contract negotiations with the RDTTA sub committee and Frank Wiegand, whose services may well be courted over the summer months by some yet un-named, newly promoted first division team from the west of Pangbourne (if only!). They finished their campaign with a tremendous 6-4 victory over Post Office 'A'. Frank Wiegand returned his eighth maximum of the season as he won against John Simmonds, Colin Hardman (three straight 11-7, 12-10, 11-8) and Simon Hopkins. It was Dave Chard who clinched the points for Berks Sports with a 12-10, 5-11, 11-8, 11-6 win over John Simmonds. Nigel Goodman finally showed some consistent form as he returned his first brace of the season as he beat both John and Simon Hopkins. The other four matches produced four losses as they were unfortunately against the sides that finished the season 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 7th. Frank returned three's in two of the three he played in. Nigel had a good win over Geoff Civil in the defeat to Kingfisher 'C' whilst Bob Woodmansee had a victory over Carole Chard in the 1-9 loss to Kingfisher 'E'.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 10th & relegated. Actual 10th & relegated (correct)

Post Office 'B' were always going to be up against it the minute Dave Mills became unavailable and the 'A' team beat them both times (only joking Eddie!). Their run-in started badly with the 2-8 defeat to Kingfisher 'E'. This was despite George White winning the first match against Lisa Williams 11-2, 11-5, 7-11, 11-13, 11-4 and Ray Webb defeating Sharon Mitchell 11-8, 17-15, 11-1 to put them 2-0 up. Ray came close to making it 3-1 but he fell to Lisa Williams in yet another five set match, this time 11-6, 11-5, 6-11, 9-11, 9-11. The match against Tidmarsh 'B' also ended in a 2-8 defeat as only two George White wins over Steve Rollason and Andy Stephens stopped the whitewash. Their final match of the season came against Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' where it ended in yet another 2-8 defeat, their third in a row. Ray "The Kid" Webb got the better of Brian Meheux, whilst George White won the other match. "Lucky" Ted Cripps couldn't respond to the coaching instructions of Felicks Ziemba and failed to win a single match... better luck next season. I will leave the final team report of the season with the words written on the back of the scorecard between Sonning and Post Office 'B' - "Our coach Felicks came along and he said in the words of General MacArthur 'We will return'" and I've no doubt that Post Office 'B' will return from division three, just like Tidmarsh 'B' will return from division one so that "Lucky" Ted Cripps and I can renew our long standing banter & battles.

Barry's newsletter 3 prediction - 11th and relegated. Actual 11th and relegated (correct).

Well there we have it for another season, hope you have enjoyed my rambles/reports over the past few months. Thanks to those captains who sent in comments both good and bad about my reports. The predictions with only a few games of the season to go were particularly poor with only 1st, 9th, 10th and 11th predicted correctly. The others, I have of course given a reason as to why they were so wrong. Keep reading for some interesting stats on division two and of course the scorecards from the two 1993/1994 matches between Tidmarsh 'A' and Sonning Common and

Peppard 'D'.

Bring on next season... enjoy the summer and here's to England winning the world cup in South Africa!

DIVISION TWO STATS:

Best Home Record	Kingfisher 'C'	95%
Worst Home Record	Post Office 'B'	20%
Best Away Record	Kingfisher 'C'	100%
Worst Away Record	Post Office 'B'	10%
Most 10-0 Wins	Kingfisher 'C'	2
Most 9-1 Wins	Kingfisher 'C'	9
Most 8-2 Wins	Kingfisher 'C', Kingfisher 'D' & Tidmarsh 'B'	4
Most 7-3 Wins	Kingfisher 'F'	4
Most 6-4 Wins	Tidmarsh 'B'	7
Most 4 -6 Losses	Kingfisher 'D'	6
Most 3-7 Losses	Berks Sports 'A' & Post Office 'B'	3
Most 2-8 Losses	Post Office 'B'	7
Most 1-9 Losses	Berks Sports 'A'	6
Most 0-10 Losses	Post Office 'B'	2
Most Maximums	Cliff Putterford (Kingfisher 'C')	15
Most Braces	Trevor Organ (Kingfisher 'D')	12
Most Singles	Brian Meheux (Sonning C & P 'B')	9
Most Ducks	Bob Woodmansee (Berks Sports 'A')	10
Best Doubles Record	Kingfisher 'C'	90%
Best Sequence of Wins	Kingfisher 'C'	19
Most Players Used in Season	Tidmarsh 'B'	13
Least Players Used in Season	Kingfisher 'D', Post Office 'A' & Curzon Club 'A'	4
Most Appearances in Season	Ivor Hardman (Kingfisher 'D')	20(100%)
% of 10 - 0 scorelines		4%
% of 9 - 1 scorelines		16%
% of 8 - 2 scorelines		21%
% of 7 - 3 scorelines		15%
% of 6 - 4 scorelines		29%
% of 5 - 5 scorelines		15%

SCORECARDS FROM THE PAST

18th October 1993:-
Tidmarsh 'A' 0 SC&P 'D' 10

Barry Carter v Brian Meheux	19-21, 21-14, 18-21
Eric Hasker v Tony Dobbs	11-21, 14-21
Bob Neale v Keith Swain	23-25, 13-21
Eric v Brian	12-21, 13-21
Barry v Keith	12-21, 13-21
Bob v Tony	21-19, 17-21, 18-21
Barry & Bob v Tony & Keith	18-21, 14-21
Eric v Keith	21-19, 18-21, 7-21
Bob v Brian	21-19, 11-21, 15-21
Barry v Tony	20-22, 14-21

7th February 1994:-
SC&P 'D' 10 Tidmarsh 'A' 0

Tony Dobbs v Eric Hasker	21-12, 16-21, 21-18
Brian Meheux v Bob Neale	21-9, 18-21, 21-9
Keith Swain v Barry Carter	21-13, 21-14
Brian v Eric	21-7, 21-23, 21-16
Tony v Barry	21-17, 21-11
Keith v Bob	21-19, 21-15
Tony & Keith v Eric & Bob	21-19, 21-14
Brian v Barry	21-16, 18-21, 21-8
Keith v Eric	21-5, 21-15
Tony v Bob	21-15, 21-12



DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

Well the last few remaining matches of the season have finally been played and as the results came in the promotion and relegation dramas slowly played out to a conclusion.

Tidmarsh 'C' did their best to delay confirmation of their promotion to Division 2, not only by recording their first defeat of the season, 4 - 6 at Kingfisher 'G', but by losing three matches in a row. Further defeats came at the hands of Tidmarsh 'D' (4 - 6) and at OLOP 'F' (3 - 7) before finally, in their last match of the season, Steve Callidine, Mike Aistrop and François Durand won two each to win 7 - 3 at Sonning C&P 'C'. This victory not only gave them promotion but also crowned them Division 3 champions, as OLOP 'F' could now only draw level on points but could not match Tidmarsh's sets difference of +98. (Doubles 12/20)

So congratulations to the whole Tidmarsh 'C' squad which includes along with Steve, Mike and François, Chris Webb, Marcus Wagner (who played once) and almost non-playing captain, Pete Sinclair.

OLOP 'F' had a slight dip in form as they lost 3 - 7 at Tidmarsh 'D' (a second defeat on the trot) before winning their last three scheduled fixtures to seal their promotion. In a hard fought match at Sonning C&P, Daniel McTiernan's hat-trick, plus two wins for Hanson Xu sealed a 7 - 3 win and these two repeated this performance to get the same result over the Champions elect and in so doing seal their own promotion. My congratulations to the whole OLOP 'F' squad; Wendy Porter, Hanson Xu, Dan McTiernan and Pu Zhang. Kingfisher 'H' were also defeated (8 - 2) and in the last match of the season against OLOP 'F', a very close 6 - 4 win brought them level on points with Tidmarsh 'C' at the top of the table, but a slightly worse games difference keeps OLOP 'F' in second place. (Doubles 14/20)

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

Kingfisher 'G' continued their good run of form to the end of the season with four more wins, including an impressive 6 - 4 defeat of Tidmarsh 'C'. This match saw Richard Fifield and Eric Holmes each win twice, with Megan Knowles beating François Durand in 3 straight for her single win of the evening. But despite being the form team of the second half of the season, with an almost perfect 17 points from a possible 18, Kingfisher 'G' have had to settle for third place, as they needed one of the

teams above them to drop points to stand a chance of gate-crashing the promotion party. Megan, Eric and Richard all had an improved average in the second half - the first two by 20%. So if this team sticks together next season and can continue the form they've shown since mid-November, they will be a force to be reckoned with come September. (Doubles 13/20)

Meanwhile, at the other end of the table, everyone knows that one relegation position had been filled some time ago.

OLOP (Uni) 'G' were unable to produce enough decent individual performances on the same night to secure a point in any of their matches, although they came within a whisker of doing so at fellow strugglers Milestone 'A'. Oli Grist won two with Dann Mitchell and Martin Woolcombe-Adams one apiece, but as often happens the doubles proved critical and was lost, 11-9 in the deciding game, as was the match, 4 - 6. The Uni team also suffered defeat at the hands of Sonning C&P 'C', but Oli Grist won two and came close to all three, when finally losing 8-11 in the deciding fifth game to Sonning's star player Jeremy Willis. (Doubles 3/20)

The fight for, or rather to avoid the second relegation place went on beyond the scheduled end of the season. With four matches that could affect the outcome still to be played, three teams sat on 13 points - OLOP 'E', Kingfisher 'H' and Pangbourne 'A' - while Milestone occupied the second relegation place, just a point behind and with two matches to play.

At this point, the new(ish) rule (12.12.5) came into play, stating that teams that finish level on points will have their final league position decided by sets difference. This meant



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	20	16	1	3	149	51	33
OLOP 'F'	20	16	1	3	136	64	33
Kingfisher 'G'	20	13	3	4	130	70	29
Tidmarsh 'D'	20	12	2	6	116	84	26
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	20	9	6	5	109	91	24
Sonning C&P 'C'	20	9	4	7	106	94	22
Pangbourne 'A'	20	5	4	11	70	130	14
OLOP 'E'	20	5	3	12	94	106	13
Kingfisher 'H'	20	4	5	11	82	118	13
Milestone 'A'	20	5	3	12	75	125	13
OLOP (Univ) 'G'	20	0	0	20	33	167	0

that OLOP 'E' were safe, as their sets difference was so much better than any of the other teams in this mini league and would remain so even if they lost their outstanding matches. OLOP 'E' had narrowly lost their last three matches 4 - 6, to Milestone, Pangbourne and Tidmarsh 'D', but a point from their first re-arranged match at Tilehurst Methodists was the critical one that saw them safe, thanks to two wins each for Pat Daniels and Ian Davis plus the crucial doubles. Ian and Pat also put up a good performance against their promoted club-mates, recovering from 1 - 5 against OLOP 'F' to 4 - 5 as Ian recorded good wins over Hanson Xu and Daniel McTiernan - plus only losing 9 - 11 in the fifth to Pu Zhang - before finally losing the match. (Doubles 8/18)

Kingfisher 'H' sat on the same points total but with all their matches completed, however they were not quite safe because although their sets difference was superior to enough of the other teams on 13 points, if results were to go against them they could be overhauled by Pangbourne or Milestone. However, the three points they captured during March may have been crucial to their survival. This began with a fight-back from 0 - 4 against Pangbourne to scrape a point from a draw, but was eclipsed by a fantastic 7 - 3 win over Tidmarsh 'D'. In this match John Creighton starred with a maximum, but was supported well by two wins for Dave Duncan and one for Chris Pusey (plus the doubles) which gave Kingfisher what may have proved to be a vital two points. (Doubles 9/20)

This left the remaining relegation battle between Pangbourne and Milestone. **Pangbourne 'A'** have been undefeated in their last four matches and put themselves in with chance of avoiding relegation thanks to wins over OLOP 'E' and OLOP (Uni) 'G' while getting draws with Kingfisher 'H' and Tilehurst Methodists. Leroy Wilson was man of the match as he hit a 3-straight maximum for Pangbourne at Kingfisher 'H' and a second successive maximum from Leroy, plus two wins for Howard Taylor and one for Roger Stevens ensured a 6 - 4 win over OLOP 'E'. Pangbourne now needed at least a draw with Milestone in their final, crunch match of the season to play their way to safety. (Doubles 6/20)

Milestone 'A' beat Kingfisher 'H' 6 - 4 for their first win of 2010 with Richard Woolven-Allen's maximum leading the way. Richard hit another maximum to help his team to a narrow win over OLOP's Uni team, then hit another (including the scalp of top player Jeremy Willis) to help his team take a point from a draw with Sonning C&P 'C'.

A tense relegation contest then saw Milestone take both points as they won 6 - 4 at fellow strugglers OLOP 'E'. This time Hugh Crosfield and John Evans won two each with just a single win for Richard Woolven-Allen, but taken with the

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	56	52	92.9%
Ray Yau	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	41	36	87.8%
Richard Fifield	Kingfisher 'G'	56	48	85.7%
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'C'	48	41	85.4%
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'D'	26	21	80.8%
François Durand	Tidmarsh 'C'	39	31	79.5%
Hanson Xu	OLOP 'F'	48	38	79.2%
Daniel McTiernan	OLOP 'F'	36	28	77.8%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh 'C'	42	31	73.8%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher 'G'	48	34	70.8%
Steve Callidine	Tidmarsh 'C'	42	29	69.0%
Steve Barnes	Tidmarsh 'D'	35	24	68.6%

doubles, it gave them two valuable points. However Milestone still need two further points from their outstanding matches against Pangbourne and Tilehurst Methodists to complete their "Houdini" act and survive for another season in this Division.

The first of the deciding matches saw Pangbourne secure their place in the Division with a battling draw, thanks to a terrific maximum from Leroy Wilson and two wins for Clive Taylor. Milestone were 0 - 4 but came back to win a valuable point thanks to two wins for Richard Woolven-Allen and one apiece for John Evans and Hugh Crosfield, plus the doubles, which brought Milestone level with Kingfisher & OLOP on 13 points with one match still to play - against Tilehurst Methodists. Milestone would need to continue their good run and take a point from this to avoid relegation and provide Kingfisher 'H' with some unexpected bad news.

The final match of the season, Milestone vs Tilehurst Methodists was quite a thriller. Tilehurst turned-up with a strong team which included Ray Yau, but in the first set Hugh Crosfield beat him in three straight. Richard W-A then beat Ian Cockling to give Milestone a 2 - 0 lead, before Tilehurst responded to bring the match score back to 2 - 2. Then Hugh won again & John Evans beat Ian to put Milestone 4 - 2 up and needing just one more set to avoid relegation. But getting this final win proved difficult as the doubles was won 11-8 in the fifth by Tilehurst, then John Virgo beat Richard W-A 12-10 in the fifth to level the match again. John Evans then succumbed to Ray Yau, which left Milestone 4 - 5 down and Hugh needing to beat Ian for Milestone to survive in the Division. Hugh went 2 - 0 up, but Ian responded to take the next two games and bring it all down to a final deciding end game. This finished 11-8 to Ian, so despite Milestone's brave efforts they are relegated by virtue of finishing with a weaker games difference than OLOP 'E' or Kingfisher 'H' who both finished on the same number of points. (Doubles 11/20)

Finally, in the middle of the table away from the strains of promotion or relegation are the three remaining teams.

Tidmarsh 'D' have recently picked up 10 points as they caught up most of their postponed matches and recorded excellent victories over the top two teams in the Division. Against OLOP 'F' after some very close contests, Tidmarsh found themselves 5 - 0 up and went on to win 7 - 3 thanks to an excellent maximum from Steve Ricks plus two wins apiece for Andy Jeffrey and Paul Harris. This was immediately followed by a 6 - 4 win in a very close match with the team who are now Champions, as Steve Barnes hit an excellent maximum supported by two wins from Steve Ricks and they paired up to win the doubles. But defeat at Kingfisher 'H' and points dropped earlier in the season means that this team finish a little way off the pace. Their last outstanding fixture (against Tilehurst & which had been originally stopped by the snow in January) could not be re-arranged, so as the outcome does not affect any other teams or league placings, the points have been shared. (Doubles 9/18)

Tilehurst Methodists 'A' currently remain in fifth place having picked up six points from two wins and a draw, but

still had two matches outstanding. They fought back well from 2-5 to earn a draw with OLOP 'E', Ray Yau and Ian Cockling winning two apiece with John Virgo also winning one, but must have rued missed chances as they lost three other singles contests 9-11 in the fifth game. The recent wins came over OLOP 'G' and a weakened Milestone while they snatched a draw at Pangbourne, despite having to play a reserve from Division 6. Whilst their outstanding matches will not have much effect on their position in the league table, the delayed match at Milestone might have determined the opposition's fate. (Doubles 15/19)

Sonning C&P 'C' have remained mid-table all season despite having the top player of the division in Jeremy Willis and picked up just 5 points from their last five matches. These came from wins over OLOP 'G' and Tilehurst Methodists, plus an end of season draw at Milestone. (Doubles 7/20)

Finally, thanks to all those captains who made my job easier, by completing all sections of the results cards and getting them to me promptly (either by post or email) and by keeping me informed of the matches that were being postponed, abandoned and re-arranged in this difficult season.

DIVISION FOUR by *Derek Harrison*

OLOP 'H' are the champions, so on behalf of you all I congratulate them and wish them well in the 3rd. Since my previous notes they gained 9 points out of 10. They started by blowing away Tilehurst Meths 3 - 7. Harry Brough came good by winning all three, with Steve Purchase winning two and Mark Kirton one. Away to Kingfisher, they won 2 - 8. Steve won all three, with Harry and Mark winning two each. They then dropped a point at Sonning without Steve. Alex Fear and Harry won two each, with Phil Mannion getting that important single by beating Simon. At home to Birch Copse they won 10 - 0. Mark., Steve and Dave Godfrey were the hat trick men. In their final match they beat St Laurence 3 - 7, thus gaining revenge for their 7 - 3 defeat first time round. Steve won 3 and Alistair won two, with Phil picking up a single.

**Doubles - 13/20: 65%. Alex 17/24: 70.8%
Phil 14/30: 46.6%.**

Springfield 'A' go back up to the 3rd at the first attempt - so well done, lads. They did have a setback on the way when they lost 3 - 7 to St Laurence. Phil Burke won two and Ian Boaden won one. At home to Curzon 'B' they just got home 6 - 4 thanks to a great hat trick from Phil and a nice double from Seth Martin which included an 11-9 win in the 5th against me. Phil and Des Hele both hit trebles in

their 7 - 3 win over Kingfisher. They then won 3 - 7 at Birch Copse with Phil again winning all three, and they were all three-straight. Ian played his part by winning two with Des winning one. In their last game of the season they beat Sonning 7 - 3. Phil as ever won all three, thus making him the top player. Ian with two and Des one completed the single scorers.

**Doubles - 15/20: 75%. Des 22/48: 48.8% Ian 18/36: 50%.
Seth: 17/39: 43.5%.**

Tilehurst Meths 'B' did well to finish in the third place. Against the champions OLOP they were without Nigel Rowland and went down 3 - 7 with Phil Jones winning two by beating Steve, and Mark and Jan also beating Mark. In their local derby they beat Birch Copse 0 - 10. Jan, Nigel and Phil all hit trebles. They then beat Curzon 'C' 1 - 9. Nigel and Richard both won three each with Jan obtaining a double. They had a great match with St Laurence which ended in a

draw. At no time did either team have a two-game advantage. Phil was on top form, winning all three by beating Dan 11-6, 11-7, 8-11, 4-11 and 15-13; Dan G 11-6, 11-8 and 11-2; and Chris 11-9, 11-9, 3-11, 8-11 and 11-6. Richard won two but sadly for the Meths, Nigel had a mare and lost all three. Nigel came back to form against Tidmarsh, when he won all three as did Jan. Reserve Mal Collis won two.



They must like playing at Curzon because they beat the 'B' team 3 - 7., Nigel was up for it by gaining another maximum, with Phil winning two and Jan one by beating Nick. Their final game saw them beat Wokingham 7 - 3. Nigel, Phil and Jan all won two each, by beating Colin and Ken.

Doubles - 14/20: 70% Richard 21/39: 53.8%.

I am sure that **St Laurence** would have gone up had they not been forced to play weakened sides in the first half of the season. One of their best performances of the season saw them win 3 - 7 at Springfield. Dan West won all three, which included a 13-15, 12-10, 11-9, 12-14, 9-11 win over Phil. Chris West has won two and Dan Grover one. In that win over Phil in the fourth end, when Dan was 2 - 1 down and 9-8 down he called one of his shots a side rather than an edge, which could have clinched the game for Phil if he had not spoken up. Well done, Dan, that was good sportsmanship, Phil tells me. They had a hollow 10 - 0 win over a one-man Tidmarsh side due to two players coming to the match and their car breaking down. At Tilehurst they drew, with Dan W winning two and Dan G and Chris winning one each. They then came away from Curzon 'C' with a 4 - 6 victory. Dan W won three and Dan G won two, besides the two of them winning the doubles. Although Rob Moorcroft did not win an end, he came away with a lot of credit, by playing the game with good spirit. At home to OLOP they went down 3 - 7. Dan G won twice and Dan W once. After missing two games, Chris came back against Wokingham and won two. Dan W won 3 and Dan G won one, which helped towards a 7 - 3 win.

Doubles - 15/19: 78.9%. Dan G 20/40: 50%.

I must say that when we come up against the better sides, **Curzon 'B'** are not good enough, so fifth place is all we deserve. In our first game since my previous notes we beat Tidmarsh 9 - 1. Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson both hit fairly comfortable trebles, with Nick Lean gaining a double. At Kingfisher we just got home 4 - 6. Geoff won all three, with Jim and I winning one each. The doubles was vital, with Geoff and I beating Steve and Ken 8-11, 11-5, 5-11, 13-11 and 11-13. That was after we were leading 4-10 in the fifth! At home to Tilehurst, we crashed to a 3 - 7 defeat. Geoff won two by beating Jan and Phil; Jim won one by also beating Jan. We then had a good game at Springfield, going down 6 - 4. Nick had a good night by beating Seth and Ian, Geoff and I also beat Ian. In the final match of the 4th Division season, we went to Sonning 'D' and lost 8 - 2. Nick won one besides teaming up to win the doubles with Jim.

Doubles - 8/20: 40%. Nick 23/44: 52.2%. Jim 19/44: 43.1%. Derek 17/41: 41.4%

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'H'	20	16	2	2	144	56	34
Springfield 'A'	20	14	4	2	124	76	32
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	20	13	3	4	133	67	29
St Laurence	20	13	3	4	128	72	29
Curzon Club 'B'	20	11	1	8	105	95	23
Wokingham 'C'	20	9	2	9	105	95	20
Curzon Club 'C'	20	7	1	12	87	113	15
Sonning C&P 'D'	20	5	2	13	78	122	12
Tidmarsh 'E'	20	5	2	13	67	133	10
Kingfisher 'I'	20	4	1	15	74	126	9
Birch Copse 'A'	20	2	1	18	55	145	5

Wokingham 'C' have done quite well and maybe if they could have played a settled side, they could have been in with a chance. However, at Sonning they lost 7 - 3, despite Richard Neville winning all three in great style. They bounced back by beating Birch Copse 6 - 4. John Beardmore was the star, gaining a maximum. I am sure this was the first for many a year at this level. Well done! For the record he beat Jes 7-11, 11-5, 11-5 and 11-7; Mike, 14-12, 12-10, and 11-7; and Roy 11-6, 11-9, 11-9. Ken won two besides the two of them winning the doubles. It then took a game ten win for Ken over Dave D to give them a 6 - 4 win over Tidmarsh. This win clinched a hat trick. Colin Field played his part by winning two. At Tilehurst, they came unstuck by losing 7 - 3. Tony Eames probably hit the best maximum of the season by beating Nigel 6-11, 10-12, 11-5, 11-7 and 6-11; Phil 11-7, 6-11, 7-11, 11-9 and 8-11; and Jan 8-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-5, 3-11. You got your money's worth that night, Tony! Ken and Colin both got ducks. For Ken it was the second of the season. I cannot remember the last time that happened. Ken bounced back by winning two against St Laurence, beating Chris and Dan G. Tony won one by also beating Dan G in their 7 - 3 defeat.

Doubles - 9/20: 45%. Ken 33/51: 64.7%. Mike 10/12: 83.3%. John Beardmore 7/24: 29.1%. Colin 4/24: 16.6%. Richard 17/21: 80.9%.

Curzon 'C' have pulled themselves clear of the bottom by winning 3 out of their last 4 matches. They started by going down to Tilehurst 1 - 9, with Linda King beating Jan 4-11, 11-4, 11-6, 11-7. At Birch Copse, Terry Spice playing against his old team came away with a hat trick and with Tracy Maynard winning two and Linda one; this helped towards a 3 - 7 win. Next came a narrow 4 - 6 defeat by St. Laurence. Terry won two and Tracy and Mike Gillard won one each. At Tidmarsh, Tracy hit a nice maximum with Linda winning two and Mike one. Tracy and Mike won the doubles to give them a 3 - 7 win. Their final game saw them beat Sonning 10 - 0. Tracy, Linda and Terry each won two against a two-man side. Linda

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Phil Burke	Springfield	51	48	94.1
Chris West	St Laurence	49	42	85.7
Dan West	St Laurence	52	44	84.6
Steve Purchase	OLOP	54	45	83.3
Harry Brough	OLOP	36	28	77.7
Tony Eames	Wokingham	33	25	75.7
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths	39	29	74.3
Mark Kirton	OLOP	30	22	73.3
Geoff Johnson	Curzon 'B'	48	35	72.9
Janet Wright	Tilehurst Meths	45	32	71.1
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths	51	35	68.6
Matt Stone	Sonning C&P	51	34	66.6

has asked me to thank Tracy for making a great team mate and also wish her well in her retirement from the game, a comment I endorse, so take care Tracy.

Doubles 12/20: 60%. Tracy 28/50: 56%. Terry 20/47: 42.5%. Linda 20/50: 40%. Mike 4/30: 13.3%.

Tidmarsh 'E' lost their last 5 games but had done enough previously not to be in any trouble. Their woes started with that 10 - 0 defeat at St Laurence, which was followed by a 9 - 1 loss at Curzon 'B' with Dave Edwards winning the game by beating Nick. Another good hiding came when they lost to Tilehurst 2 - 8. Mick Osborne had a nice win over Mal Collis with Bob Griffiths and Dave Smith beating Nigel and Jan in the doubles. Then at Wokingham, they did well but went down 6 - 4. Dave S won two and Mick and Dave E won one each. In their final game they lost 3 - 7 to Curzon 'C'. Dave E won two and Dave S won one. As ever it was a great evening, enjoyed by both sides.

Doubles 5/19: 26.3%. Terry 12/18: 66.6%. Dave E 24/45: 53.3%. Bob 11/42: 26.1%. Dave S 11/39: 28.2%. Mick 4/33: 12.1%.

Sonning Common & P 'D' secured a great 7 - 3 win over a good Wokingham side which in effect saved them from the drop. Matt Stone, Graham Streets and Simon Blake all won two each. Next came a great draw against OLOP, with Matt obtaining a brilliant maximum by beating Alex 11-7, 11-5 and 11-7; Phil, 11-5, 11-7, 8-11 and 11-4; and Harry, 6-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-6. Graham did well to also defeat Harry. Then came a move when they lost 2 - 8 to Kingfisher, with Matt and Simon beating

Diana. In their re-arranged match with Curzon 'C' they crashed to a 10 - 0 defeat. At Springfield they went down 7 - 3. Anthony Reeve playing up from Div 5 beat Des and Ian. Very good indeed. Graham won the other game. In their final game they entertained Curzon 'B' and won 8 - 2. Graham and Matt both hit trebles, with Phil winning two.

Doubles - 8/20: 40%. Phil 7/27: 25.9%. Simon 10/39: 25.6%. Jo 1/3: 33.3%. Graham 7/21: 33.3%.

Kingfisher 'I' have dropped through the trap door to the 5th but they did give themselves a chance when they beat Birch Copse 6 - 4. Steve Woolnough and Ken Robb won two each and Diana picked up that vital single by beating Roy Hall 20-18 in the 5th! At home to OLOP they went down 2 - 8. Steve and Michael Houghton won the games. They then found Springfield too good and went down 7 - 3. Steve, Ken and Derek Spicer all beat Seth. They had a close match with Curzon 'B', only losing 4 - 6. Steve won two and Diana and Ken won one each. In their last match they won 2 - 8 at Sonning with Steve and Ken both hitting trebles.

Doubles - 6/20: 30%. Sylvia 6.21: 28.5%. Ken 21/48: 43.7%. Steve 29/48: 60.4%. Diane 1-/51: 19.6%

Despite losing most of the time, **Birch Copse** have enjoyed their season and are a credit. Since my previous notes they lost 6 - 4 to Kingfisher. Jes Eassom did the business by gaining a great maximum ably backed up by Duncan Abbott, who won one. At home to Tilehurst they went down 0 - 10, but there were a few close games. At Wokingham Mike Williams won two and Roy Hull and Jes won one each, in a 6 - 4 defeat. In their final game they lost 3 - 7 to Springfield. Duncan won two by beating Des and Ian. Jes also beat Des.

Doubles - 4/20: 20%. Duncan 6/36: 16.6%. Roy 14/42: 33.3%. Jes 20/51: 39.2%. Mike 10/48: 20.8%.

Finally on behalf of you all I would like to thank Nigel for all the great press coverage, Derek for his smashing newsletter, which goes from strength to strength. Also to Nick for not only putting the 4th Division details on the web site but also for putting so much other great information there, which I have been seeing for the first time recently.

[Ed: thanks Derek - and well done yourself!]

Request from Curzon: If there is anyone who has not got a team or fancies a change and would like to play for Curzon in the 4th next season, could they ring Derek Harrison? His number is in the handbook under the 4th Division.

DIVISION FIVE *by Nigel Rowland*

As another season closes 2009/10 will remain in our memories for one of the worst winters in many years. Although many games were postponed during this period your hard work and help ensured all but two games were completed on time. Many thanks to all.

Congratulations go to Tilehurst Methodists 'C' who have been crowned title winners in what turned out to be one of the closest contests for many years. I must also congratulate SC&P 'F' who pushed Tilehurst Methodists up to the final week of the season. Considering Tilehurst Methodists were cruising to the title, in the final weeks SC&P came from behind to take top spot from Tilehurst Methodists as a result of number of games played. This left Tilehurst in a position where they could only afford to drop one point with four games to play in the run in to secure the title. They dropped a point against Polish 'C' with three games to play, but two close 6 - 4 wins against SC&P 'E' and then Tidmarsh 'F' sealed the title. It was also fitting that the inspirational Dave Jones won the title for Tilehurst in the final game of the final match of the season.

At the bottom of the table, commiserations go to OLOP 'J' and Reading Resource. Although the writing was on the wall for OLOP 'J' by Christmas, Reading Resource battled to try and gain some ground against Springfield 'B' but to no avail.

Congratulations go to the top three in the player averages, Neil Havard 43/44 with an incredible 13 trebles followed by Mick Grantham 44/49 with 11 trebles followed by Mark Corbett 35/41 with 8 trebles.

I should also like to mention three further players for various reasons in no particular order. I have watched these players grow in confidence and stature as the season has progressed. Linda Davis (Post Office 'C'), Maureen Allchurch (Reading Resource) and Darek Kamanski (Polish 'C').

Have a great summer and I look forward to writing about you all next season (if you'll have me).

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' finally made it as title winners. Their run in started badly losing 2 - 8 to Post Office 'C' as a result of fielding a weakened team. A 7 - 3 win against Reading Resource and 8 - 2 against Springfield put them back on track. The game against Polish 'C' resulted in a draw thanks to a game 10 win by Chris Taylor against Krys Szczygiel as Tilehurst managed to snatch a point. How little did they know how important this point would be. Then followed a 9 - 1 win against Milestone followed by a close 6 - 4 win against SC&P 'E' thanks to a game 10 win by Mal

Collis against Pete Harman to snatch both points. In the final game against Tidmarsh 'F' they won 6 - 4 thanks to a final game 10 win by Dave Jones against Bob Sunerton.

Mal Collis 29/50 including 2 trebles, Martin Wetherell 40/50 including 7 trebles, Dave Jones 33/44 including 5 trebles, Chris Taylor 30/39 including 5 trebles. Doubles 17/21.

SC&P 'F' very nearly made it to top spot but eventually ran out worthy runners up. They started the run in with two good 7 - 3 wins against Polish 'C' and Post Office 'C'; in the game against Post Office, Derek Wavell scored a vital treble. They then went on to defeat Milestone 'B' 8 - 2. Next they followed up with two crushing 10 - 0 victories against SC&P 'E' and Kingfisher 'J'. The game against OLOP 'J' was a conceded win. Their final game was against Springfield 'B' which was another crushing 9 - 1 victory.

Derek Wavell 28/38 including 6 trebles, Jim McClure 23/32 including 4 trebles, Anthony Reeve 27/35 including 5 trebles, Dave Aust 22/35 including 2 trebles, Jacek Krzyzanowski 33/43 including 5 trebles. Doubles 9/21.

OLOP 'I' had a brilliant run in to the end of the season, not dropping any points. As a result, they finished a strong third in the table. The addition of David Godfrey gave them good cover for Alan Dines. We were glad to see Alan return to playing towards the end of the season. They started with a 6 - 4 win against Springfield 'B' thanks to an Alistair Richardson treble, 7 - 3 against Tidmarsh 'F' and thumped Milestone 'B' 10 - 0. Then followed a tight 6 - 4 win against SC&P 'E' thanks to an Alan Dines game 10 win against Pete Harman followed by another tight 6 - 4 win against Kingfisher 'J' thanks to a David Godfrey treble. The games against OLOP 'J' were both won as conceded games.

Alistair Richardson 32/47 including 4 trebles, Chris Moses



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	22	18	3	1	161	59	39
Sonning C&P 'F'	22	18	2	2	158	62	38
OLOP 'I'	22	15	1	6	138	82	31
Polish 'C'	22	13	3	6	129	91	29
Post Office 'C'	22	10	2	10	123	97	22
Sonning C&P 'E'	22	9	4	9	111	109	22
Milestone 'B'	22	9	3	10	106	114	21
Tidmarsh 'F'	22	8	3	11	115	105	19
Kingfisher 'J'	22	7	4	11	90	130	18
Springfield 'B'	22	5	3	14	86	134	13
Reading Resource	22	3	4	15	83	137	10
OLOP (Rdg Uni) 'J'	22	1	0	21	20	200	2



25/54 including 2 trebles, Alan Dines 15/27 including 2 trebles, Fitzroy Licorish 2/3, Steve Yong 2/3, Dave Godfrey 18/23 including 2 trebles. Doubles 14/20.

Polish 'C' have also climbed the table to end up in a very creditable fourth position. Both Daniel Dzieciot and Darek Kamanski have to be commended for their winning trebles to help Polish 'C' gain their high position. They started off losing 3 - 7 to eventual runners up SC&P 'F' despite another Darek Kamanski treble. Then went on to thump OLOP 'J' and Springfield 'B' 10 - 0 and Kingfisher 'J' and Post Office 'C' 9 - 1. In the match against Tilehurst Methodists they took a point off the champions thanks to a superb treble from Darek Kamanski, a single from Daniel Dzieciot and a double from the same pairing.

Darek Kamanski 46/60 including 10 trebles, Krzysztof Szczygiel 18/45, Robert Prepolewski 1/3, Marcin Kolat 8/15 including 1 treble, Bob Walker 8/12 including 2 trebles, Joseph Wojcik 5/21, Daniel Dzieciot 26/33 including 5 trebles. Doubles 16/22

Post Office 'C' have had a very good first season in Division 5. Mick Grantham quickly settled into the division. Linda Davis has to be one of the most improved players in the division, ending up winning trebles towards the latter stages of the season. They started off with a thumping 8 - 2 win against title winners Tilehurst Methodists thanks to Mick Grantham and Ted Cripps trebles and Linda Davis gaining a single. Then came a 3 - 7 loss to SC&P 'F', Linda Davis gaining a double. There were wins against SC&P 'E' 8 - 2 thanks to Linda Davis and Mick Grantham trebles, and 9 - 1 against OLOP 'J'. But further losses against Kingfisher 'J' 4 - 6 despite another Mick Grantham treble and 1 - 9 against Polish 'C'. In the game against Springfield 'B' there was a share of the spoils thanks to another Mick Grantham treble and a Linda Davis single.

Linda Davis 25/41 including 3 trebles, Mick Grantham 44/49 including 11 trebles, Pat Davis 4/37, Ted Cripps 16/20 including 3 trebles, Barbara Gatward 5/31, John Gatward 5/11. Doubles 14/22.

SC&P 'E' ended the season achieving three wins, 10 - 0 against Reading Resource, a good 6 - 4 win against Tidmarsh 'F' thanks to a Tony House treble and a further win 7 - 3 and double over Tidmarsh 'F' in a rearranged game thanks to more Tony House and Mark Corbett trebles. Losses were 2 - 8 against Post Office 'C', 0 - 10 against SC&P 'F', 4 - 6 against OLOP 'I' despite a Tony House double and a close 4 - 6 against title winners Tilehurst Methodists 'C' despite a brilliant treble from Mark Corbett.

Tony House 28/42 including 5 trebles, Pete Harman 2/17, Mike Casserley 22/56 including 3 trebles, Derek Maltby 2/24

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Neil Havard	Reading Resource	44	43	97.73
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'C'	49	44	89.8
Mark Corbett	Sonning C&P 'E'	41	35	86.36
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	50	40	80
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Sonning C&P 'F'	43	34	79.07
Daniel Dzieciot	Polish 'C'	33	26	78.79
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'I'	23	18	78.26
Anthony Reeve	Sonning C&P 'F'	35	27	77.14
Chris Taylor	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	39	30	76.92
Darek Kamanski	Polish 'C'	60	46	76.67
Dave Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	44	33	75
Derek Wavell	Sonning C&P 'F'	38	28	73.68
Jim McClure	Sonning C&P 'F'	32	23	71.88
Gerard Thorp	Milestone 'B'	51	36	70.59
Alistair Richardson	OLOP 'I'	47	32	68.09
Tony House	Sonning C&P 'E'	42	28	66.67
Pete Sinclair	Tidmarsh 'F'	15	10	66.67

and Mark Corbett 38/41 including 8 trebles. Doubles 6/21.

Milestone 'B' dropped down the table, only winning one out of their last five matches. The win against SC&P 'E' was a good one thanks to doubles from Gerard Thorp, John Simpson and Oli Bonser. From then onwards they lost their remaining games due to not being able to field strong sides. The losses were 2 - 8 against SC&P 'F', 0 - 10 against OLOP 'I', 3 - 7 against Tidmarsh 'F' and 1 - 9 against champions Tilehurst Methodists 'C'. On a bright note Lee Bainbridge won his first match of the season, beating Mal Collis in five sets. Against Polish 'C' they just lost out 4 - 6, once again Oliver Bonser shone with two wins. As a result of fielding a weakened team against Post Office 'C' they lost 2 - 8.

Gerard Thorp 36/51 including 8 trebles, Oliver Bonser 28/54 including 4 trebles, Lee Bainbridge 1/15, Stewart Venn 0/15, John Evans 14/15 including 4 trebles. John Simpson 9/24. Doubles 8/21.

Tidmarsh 'F' recorded two wins, a thumping 10 - 0 win against Kingfisher 'J' and 7 - 3 against Milestone 'B' thanks to trebles from Steve Andrews and Pete Sinclair. A precious point was taken against Reading Resource thanks to doubles from Bob Sunerton and Mike Bundy. Losses were 3 - 7 against OLOP 'I' despite a Bob Sunerton treble, a close 4 - 6 against SC&P 'E' despite a Bob Sunerton double, 3 - 7 in the rearranged match and a close 4 - 6 against Tilehurst Methodists, a rare appearance from John Harland who scored a treble.

Bob Sunerton 28/51 including 4 trebles, Mike Bundy 18/33 including 3 trebles, John Harland 14/18 including 4 trebles, Steve Andrews 23/39 including 5 trebles, Pete Sinclair 10/15 including 1 treble, Dave Humphreys 4/30. Doubles 8/21.

Kingfisher 'J' ended the season with a superb 6 - 4



win against Post Office 'C' thanks to doubles from Derek Crombie, Andrew Talaga and Philip Cunnington. Also a further conceded win against Reading Resource. Losses were 0 - 10 against Tidmarsh 'F' and SC&P 'F', 1 - 9 against Polish 'C' - Andrew Talaga getting the single - and a close 4 - 6 against OLOP 'I', Andrew Talaga scoring a double and Derek Crombie getting a single.

Andrew Talaga 23/53 including 1 treble, Philip Cunnington 6/38, Derek Crombie 16/47, Derek Spicer 10/30 including 2 trebles. Doubles 12/20.

Springfield 'B' made it through to the end of the season staying out of the relegation places. They picked up three points to just keep ahead of Reading Resource. They defeated OLOP 'J' 9 - 1 thanks to trebles from Dan Mortimer and Chris Speight but picked up an important point against Post Office 'C' thanks to Colin Jones and Chris Speight doubles and a single from Nigel Outhwaite. They lost 4 - 6 to OLOP 'I' Chris Speight getting a single, 3 - 7 against Reading Resource, 2 - 8 against Tilehurst Methodist 'C', 0 - 10 against Polish 'C' and 1 - 9 against SC&P 'F'.

Colin Jones 18/54 including 1 treble, Daniel Mortimer 14/46 including 1 treble, Chris Speight 21/49 including 3 trebles, Nigel Outhwaite 18/43 including 2 trebles. Doubles 10/22.

Reading Resource have gone down with a fighting spirit. Good luck in Division six next season. They had a brilliant 7 - 3 win against Springfield 'B' thanks to trebles from Neil Havard and a first treble from Maureen Allchurch. Third player Michael Stevens managed to take a set off Colin Jones and came close against Dan

Mortimer losing 11-13 in the first. In the doubles Neil and Maureen paired up to win in straight sets. They carried this form onto the Tidmarsh 'F' match drawing thanks to another superb treble from Maureen Allchurch who also won game 10 against Mike Bundy to snatch a point. Adrian Pacey also won an important game defeating Dave Humphrey in a five set thriller. Maureen and Adrian teamed up to win the all important doubles 15-13 in the fourth. In the game against leaders Tilehurst Methodists 'C' they went down 3 - 7 despite another Neil Havard treble. They then lost 0 - 10 against SC&P 'E' as a result of fielding a weakened team and conceded against Kingfisher 'F'. The game against OLOP 'J' was a conceded win.

Neil Havard 43/44 including 13 trebles, Maureen Allchurch 11/18 including 2 trebles, Adrian Pacey 7/42, Vernon Speed 2/26, Michael Stevens 1/26, Adam Sheen 0/3, Teresa Williams 0/15, Russell Ward 0/3. Doubles 6/20.

OLOP 'J' continued to struggle at the bottom of the table, conceding their last four matches against OLOP 'I' (twice), Reading Resource and SC&P 'F'. Then they played against Polish 'C' losing 0 - 10 but after that went on a run of losing 1 - 9 against Springfield 'B', Polish 'C' and Post Office 'C'. Wins were achieved by Damien Bello and Stephen Shenan (twice).

Gar Diu 3/30, Waseem Anwarchoudhri 3/12, Ian Thomas 1/6, Stephen Sheeman 2/15, Damaien Bello 1/6 and Tony Barnett 1/21. Doubles 3/13.

Time to Upgrade your Weapon? *by Derek Wavell*

“Never change your bat during the playing season”, they say - and it is good advice. The time to change it is in the summer break - i.e. now - while you have time to get used to it before the next season.

But how do you choose between all those new and exciting rubbers? They all look brilliant in the manufacturer's ad - but the adverts don't tell you much about playing characteristics. How can you compare rubbers without actually buying them all?

Fortunately there are a number of free web sites, which have dozens of reviews by other players around the world:

<http://oneofakindtrading.com.au/index.htm> (OOAK)

<http://www.tabletennis.gr/Table-tennis-equipment-ratings/> (Denis's Table Tennis World)

<http://www.pingskills.com/table-tennis-forum/question-1525.php> (Pingskills - scroll right down the page)

<http://forums.about.com/n/pfx/forum.aspx?folderId=6&listMode=13&nav=messages&webtag=ab-tabletennis> (About.com equipment forum)

And let me add another link - which is to a lot of YouTube table tennis videos - fantastic!:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf0Sw4zHR5c&feature=related> (YouTube)



DIVISION SIX *by Duncan Groves*

Tilehurst Methodists 'D' take the Title

As predicted in my last two reports (not terribly bravely!), Tilehurst Meths cleaned up the title, winning it with two weeks still to spare. The early season form of Kevin Harrop (who ended on top of the averages with 96.15%), plus the consistency of Bob Winter (91.67%) and Le An Guan (75%) made pretty light work of it in the end despite some fantastic table tennis played by Polish 'D' and Kingfisher 'L' in the latter part of the season.



The Meths only lost one match all season, going down 4 - 6 to Birch Copse when playing James Underwood in his one and only game and with Le An Guan out of form, winning only one singles.

Despite Bob's treble, Birch Copse sealed the points with an impressive three set doubles win for Bradley Fullbrook and Melanie Griffiths over Bob and Le An.

This proved only a minor hiccup as the league winners stormed back the following week to crush OLOP 'K' 9 - 1. The mysteriously absent Kevin Harrop was back for this one, retaining his early season form to earn another treble and seal the title.

After this the run-in was a formality and the title won by four clear points from Polish 'D'. Tilehurst Methodist players will forgive me for saying that their early season points tally proved ultimately to be their secret of success, since the form team post-Christmas has been Polish 'D'.

Polish 'D' Storm into Contention

With three players, Stephen Yon, Grant Wheatley and Simon Ward, all over 80% and in the top ten of the averages, this is a very different looking team from that starting the season. The arrival of Stephen Yon, in particular, seems to have triggered a rich vein of form which has carried both Grant and Simon up the averages. Having given Tilehurst such a head start, it was vital that Polish beat their rivals in their head to head in week 15. However, a treble from Bob Winter, the doubles, plus a remarkable 5-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-4, 16-14 victory by Le An over Stephen earned Tilehurst a draw and kept them on track.

Excluding this match, every result since Christmas has been a resounding victory for Polish 'D' and they can start Division 5 in a

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	22	19	2	1	165	55	40
Polish 'D'	22	17	2	3	154	66	36
Kingfisher 'L' *	22	14	4	4	142	78	32
OLOP (Impact) 'K'	22	14	3	5	140	80	31
Pangbourne 'B'	22	15	1	6	136	84	31
Kingfisher 'K'	22	9	4	9	115	105	22
Birch Copse 'B'	22	9	3	10	117	103	21
BBC Club	22	9	0	13	89	131	18
Springfield 'C'	22	5	1	16	68	152	11
Springfield 'D'	22	4	2	16	73	147	10
Berks Sports 'B'	22	3	3	16	69	150	9
Sonning C&P 'G'	22	1	1	20	51	16	3

confident mood, expecting to set the pace from week 1 of next season.

Young Kingfisher 'L' to get Div 5 Wildcard??

Now I have no desire to get into Nigel Maltby's bad books and I know that "rules are rules" and all that. But if common sense prevails, these young guys from Kingfisher 'L' would get a wildcard straight into Division 5 **where they deserve to be**. Finishing third does not normally represent promotion form but anyone who knows anything about table tennis can see that these guys - all of them juniors - are not only useful but are improving very quickly. With the close season practice these players are going to get from their excellent club, they are either going to rip the Division apart next year or go to the next level in their table tennis education.

Apart from a couple of heavy defeats to the league champions, their form has been consistent. Connor Manley seems to have taken the biggest strides forward in terms of improvement from the early season, but all seem ready for greater challenges. Finally, what a doubles record!! 86% success and leading the way in the division -well done to all of you.

No better than fourth for OLOP 'K'

The eight person squad of OLOP 'K' finished slightly below their early season aspirations due, mainly, to the emerging talents of the two sides above. Nonetheless, 14 wins and three draws represents a good return and OLOP know that they have some of the best talent in this division, if they chose to use it regularly. Amol Karve looked especially impressive during the season but played only nine times, recording 92.59%. Adam McTiernan and Tony Lee-White also looked useful but played even fewer times.

The policy to blood new young players at this level is hard to criticize though, when records show that two of the league's (and the country's) best young players, Liam and Daniel McTiernan, have both come through this division in recent years, competing with all the wily old "pros" for a season before stepping up to new levels.

While we haven't seen any OLOP stars of this calibre this season, I am confident that the OLOP club will bring the best out of all their youngsters going forward.

Another Great Season for Pangbourne WMC 'B's Stalwarts

Talking of wily old pros, those Pangbourne WMC stalwarts, John Taylor and Geoff Chivers, have enjoyed another fine season and both rank in the top 12 in the averages. John should derive particular satisfaction from his 4 from 6 record against Tilehurst Meths, including the double over Bob Winter, despite being on the

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Kevin Harrop	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	26	25	96.15
Chris Grzybowski	BBC Club	18	17	94.44
Amol Karve	OLOP 'K'	27	25	92.59
Bob Winter	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	48	44	91.67
John Burke	Springfield 'C'	24	21	87.5
Stephen Yon	Polish 'D'	31	27	87.1
Grant Wheatley	Polish 'D'	46	40	86.96
John Taylor	Pangbourne WMC 'B'	59	49	83.05
Nadine Randall	Kingfisher 'K'	48	39	81.25
Simon Ward	Polish 'D'	48	39	81.25
George Dodd	Kingfisher 'L' *	45	36	80
Geoff Chivers	Pangbourne WMC 'B'	42	32	76.19
Phil Peat	BBC Club	33	25	75.76
Le An Guan	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	60	45	75
Adam McTiernan	OLOP 'K'	23	17	73.91
John Scott	BBC Club	21	15	71.43
Tony Lee-White	OLOP 'K'	21	15	71.43
Michael Houghton	Kingfisher 'L' *	30	21	70

losing side on both occasions.

15 league wins during the season speak volumes for this team's consistency though the big challenges from the top four have proved a little beyond them collectively. This said, the third player issue has improved of late with both Colin Thomas and John Careless recording excellent trebles against Sonning and Kingfisher 'K' respectively.

Just the other day, I heard that both Geoff and John Taylor will be hanging up their table tennis boots now that the season is over. I do hope this is just a scurrilous rumour as there is a lot more table tennis left in both of them!

Kingfisher 'K' Head the Chasing Pack

A long way back from Pangbourne come Kingfisher 'K', winners of the "second tier" of Division 6 (but sorry no prizes!). What a topsy-turvy season it has been for them! Huge wins - four 9 - 1 wins or better - more draws than any other team, and some pretty horrid defeats make life in Division 6 nothing if not interesting for this team. So where to start?

Nadine Randall has been a terrific find this season with 81.25% and some notable scalps along the way. The other team members have had rather less success but still won a lot of games, if that makes sense? Sometimes it is about everyone hitting form simultaneously and converting those 4 - 6s into draws, and draws into narrow wins.

Two of this side's draws were earned in weeks 16 and 17, against Kingfisher 'L' and Tilehurst Meths no less. Nadine featured in both with 5 out of 6 singles victories, whilst Joaquin Munoz Sabater weighed in with a fine brace against Tilehurst.

Birch Copse 'B' Record Win of the Season

No one could have predicted the week 19 defeat of Tilehurst Methodists by Birch Copse but the home team of Tony Ross, Bradley Fullbrook and Melanie Griffiths were victorious over a team containing both Bob Winter and Le An Guan. If the four set wins by Bradley and Mel over Le An were not so surprising, given their strong individual records, the doubles win (11-8, 11-2, 11-6) was remarkable given that it was against one of the division's strongest pairings.

But Reading table tennis is a leveller and Birch Copse came down off their perch with a nasty bang, losing the following week to bottom-placed Sonning C&P 'G' by a 6 - 4 scoreline (representing Sonning's only win of the season!).

So highs and lows for this team but a very respectable seventh place overall.

BBC Club -My Tip for the Top

Phil Peat has enjoyed a successful season on a personal level, considerably improving his average from last year and ending up with 75.76%. Add to this the early season form of Chris Grzybowski (17 wins from 18) and the obvious talent of John Scott, and, bingo, you have a team to win next year's Division 6 title (simples). In fact here is a stat to back me up. With only one exception, when any two of these three players have played in one team together, BBC has won the match.

But wait a minute.....BBC Club has eight registered players of varying degrees of ability and won't ever win the title sharing matches around. So what I need to know is whether the player availability drives the selection or whether the lack of player availability drives selection?? Far be it for me to decide but could BBC select two teams from their squad (and fill the hole caused by Kingfisher 'L's unsanctioned promotion)?

But back to this season's table tennis and, in all honesty, it was a disappointing end of the season for BBC Club, just managing three wins - against the bottom three in the league - from their

last 11 fixtures. But well done to Phil on that average!

Springfield 'C' -"Must Do Better!"

When players and/or team captains take the trouble to write comments on the back of their scorecards, it can add that gloss required by the DFS to write something just that more readable on the website or newsletter. One team captain never short of a word is John Burke and, before you accuse me of inappropriate sub-titles, the above quote comes from him. After seeing his team mates delivered a 9 - 1 thrashing by Birch Copse, I guess his words were justified. He added afterwards "the score says it all. Bye." A man of few words but generally wise ones and if John is mentoring the likes of Paul Jenkins, Richard Knight and Tim Carr, these players will undoubtedly improve.

Actually, to be fair, some improvement has already happened and Paul's tally of 21 wins is a solid return on a first season of table tennis. If Richard, Tim and Derek Edney can get to that level and John himself play more often, then a much higher position can be achieved.

The Double over 'C' but Springfield 'D' Still Finish Behind Rivals

Just a single point behind Springfield 'C' lie their clubmates, the 'D' version thereof. Let us hope that, in common with many football fans, their record in the "local derbies" is more important to them than their finishing spot! Victories by 8 - 2 and 7 - 3 over the 'C' team represent the highlight of their season, though an impressive 8 - 2 win over BBC Club also ranks highly.

Unfortunately, six straight defeats to end the season has left Springfield 'D' languishing in tenth spot and individual records show that no one has really "grasped the nettle" during the season. A lack of playing action for Ray Morrell (five wins from nine) has contributed and Jeff Morgan's average, while still comfortably the best in this team, has dipped slightly from last year's high.

Berks Sports 'B' - Most Improved Team?

Despite their 11th place finish, this has been a better season for Berks Sports than last. Now really competing in this league, the team has picked up three wins and three draws, with all these points bar one scored in the last 13 weeks of the season.

Tom Gordon has made a big difference since joining. His 53.6% average over 14 matches has given the opposition much to think about. Ashley Cutts has also won half his singles, though having played only eight matches during the season.

Derek Somerville and Dave West have taken steps forward since last season (sharing 23 singles wins) and all this without the assistance of previous team captain, John Fuller, who managed just one match as he attempts to recover from injury.

Sonning C&P 'G' Complete League Programme

Completing my summary are Sonning C&P who, at one stage of the season, didn't look as if they were going to complete their fixtures. Great credit to them for the big push to get matches finished (just one match concession all season) and congratulations to the team, especially Andy Alexander, for a superb end of season win over Birch Copse 'B'.

Andy's treble, including a great scalp in Bradley Fullbrook, set up victory and was backed by a brace from Michael Legg and an important sole singles win for Matt Dean over Elizabeth Hull.

This was the clear highlight of Sonning's season, representing their only victory. The only other point in the campaign came from a week 1 draw with Springfield 'D'. However, Andy's recent addition to the squad has provided a much needed boost; his average ending at a very respectable 66.7%

Conclusion

It only remains for me to congratulate Tilehurst Methodist 'D' and Polish 'D' on their well earned promotions and wish all the readers of this newsletter an enjoyable Summer break from table tennis.

This is probably the best forum for me to announce my "retirement" from the DFS role, at least for the time being. I have been Div 6 Secretary for four seasons (from memory) and enjoyed being a (small) part of the competition/fun but it is time to let someone with greater literary talents have a go.

A few thank you's are in order. Thanks to the Committee for putting up with me (non-attendance at Committee meetings was my pre-requisite for accepting the role). Thanks to the other DFS's who have guided me through the role (especially Barry Carter). Thanks to Derek who modesty prevents from admitting that, thanks to his efforts, the RDTTA newsletter is, by a margin, the best put-together table tennis newsletter on the planet. Thanks, finally, to all the team captains who, happily, need very little cajoling to get their scorecards in the post and often have very nice things to say about my reports.

John Cunningham Youth League

by Steve Ricks

Welcome to the final newsletter of the season and congratulations to Hanson, Danny and Daniel of **OLOP Strikers** who have not only won the division, but have done it unbeaten and also have two of their players unbeaten as well; a commendable effort. Since last time, Strikers have beaten SCP Tigers with Hanson winning two and Daniel Thorne one. Then they thrashed SCP Thunderbolts who were above them in the table having played a game more, 5 - 0 with Hanson and Danny winning two each.

The Runners-up position goes to **SCP Tigers**, who had a really good run in. Firstly though, they had to play Strikers and predictably went down 4 - 1, though Jonny Abbott did well to take the scalp of Daniel Thorne. Jon then won two more and Danny Dockree one to defeat OLOP Trojans 3 - 1. This meant that they finished level on points with clubmates SCP Thunderbolts. The play-off for the runners-up spot was a tightly contested affair with some really close games, however Tigers eventually ran out clear winners 4-1 with Jonny and Danny winning two each - congratulations to them.

Having led the table for a fair bit of the season, I expected **SCP Thunderbolts** to at least get second place, but



Youth League Division One Champions OLOP Strikers - Daniel Thorne, Danny Ricks and Hanson Xu.

they had a miserable last couple of games. Firstly losing 5 - 0 to Strikers, then losing the play-off to Tigers. When Max Sweetman, Guy Thurlow and Rowan Stacey all play well, they are a match for most teams, however it didn't happen for them in the second half; they finished third.

OLOP Hammers managed a win in their last match against Trojans to move off the bottom of the table into fourth place. Phil Saunders and Tian Savage won one each, then combined to win the crucial doubles to take the match 3 - 2.

OLOP Trojans finished fifth. Gus Thomis has put in sterling effort, winning the majority of his games, however he has not had much support. Wins were always going to be hard to come by at this level, and in spite of Gus winning one or two every week, Trojans have not actually won a match in the second half.



Congratulations to **SCP Avengers** who pipped OLOP Eagles into second place to win Division 2. Since last time they have defeated Attackers 3 - 2, lost to Panthers 3 - 1, then lost to league leaders Eagles 4 - 1! It seems inexplicable then, that they should tie with Eagles on level points at the end of the season and go on to defeat them 3 - 1 in the playoff for top spot. In truth these two teams were always clear at the top and it seems that when it came

DIV 1:	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLOP Strikers	4	4	0	0	17	2	8
SCP Tigers	4	2	1	1	14	8	5
SCP Thunderbolts	4	2	1	1	12	8	5
OLOP Hammers	4	1	3	0	4	17	2
OLOP Trojans	4	0	4	0	4	14	0
DIV 2:							
SCP Avengers	6	4	2	0	14	13	8
OLOP Eagles	6	4	2	0	19	11	8
OLOP Panthers	6	3	3	0	13	15	6
OLOP Lions	6	3	3	0	13	16	6
OLOP Attackers	6	2	4	0	15	15	4
SCP Raiders	6	2	4	0	13	16	4
SCP Spartans	6	2	4	0	11	19	4



down to "winner takes all" Avengers held their nerve in what was a tightly contested match - Well Done to Anieth, Elliot and Dan.

OLOP Eagles must be wondering how they came to lose first place, having led for the majority of the second half, they eventually surrendered the lead in the last couple of weeks only to get it back again. To get to this point they defeated Raiders 3 - 2, then Avengers 4 - 1 to set up the playoff. Tian finished with a 75% success rate ably supported by Joshua with 50%.

Third place goes to the girls of **OLOP Panthers**, who had Fiona Taylor unbeaten. She was supported by Jade Fudge who improved as the season went on and won a couple of games on the way.

In fourth Place come **OLOP Lions**. Chris Johnson has been their mainstay and Lorcan has contributed his first win in this half of the season. This team's success is a testament to having two players that turn up every week. On the occasion of their match against OLOP Eagles they won on the strength of Eagles only having one player. Chris and Lorcan both lost their match to Joshua, but Eagles had to concede the other 3 games.

The last three teams all finished on 4 points. In fifth place, on goal difference are **OLOP Attackers**. They have

Sam Ricks unbeaten and really should have been pushing for the top. Availability of players for key matches seems to have been their downfall. Siad has won 40% of his games and Austin won his first game in this half.

SCP Raiders are in sixth place. They defeated Attackers in the same manner mentioned above, by turning up with two players against a one-man team. This was enough to give them their second win of the season. Adam won 60% of his games and Marcus won exactly half of his.

In seventh place are SCP Spartans. Sam and Alex have found wins hard to come by in this half with Sam winning 2 out of 8 and Alex only managing one win out of 7.

Have a good summer, remember you can keep your hand in at the junior coaching sessions on Sunday mornings at OLOP and we'll see you all again at the start of next season.

AVERAGES		
DIV 1:		
H Xu	Strikers	100
D Ricks	Strikers	100
J Abbott	Tigers	78
D Thorne	Strikers	75
G Thomis	Trojans	66
DIV 2:		
F Taylor	Panthers	100
S Ricks	Attackers	100
T Savage	Eagles	75
A Singh	Avengers	66

More Youth Highlights

Daniel Claims Gold with England



Eleven year old **Daniel McTiernan** played a major role in England's victorious boys team at the Primary Schools International, held this year in the beautiful island state of Guernsey.

The St. Dominic Savio ace was in sparkling form, winning an amazing 11 out of 12 singles and 5 out of 6 doubles matches in the team event. His efforts were matched by those of his team mates, Hugo Pang (Bournemouth), Marcus Giles (Kingston-upon-Thames) and Matthew Leete (Grantham) as England Primary Schools regained the title from Scotland with wins against: Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man (all 10 - 0); Wales and Ireland (both 9 - 1); and Scotland 7 - 3.

In the Individual competition, Daniel won his group with three good wins included a fantastic 3 - 2 victory over the Irish No. 1 player, Jonathan Porter. After disposing of the Scottish No. 2 Alexander Duff in the first knock out round, he was defeated by defending champion, Christopher Wheeler of Scotland, in the quarter finals. England's No. 1, Hugo Pang, went on to beat favourite Christopher in the final to make it a clean sweep for both the England boys and girls teams.

Berks Schools Final

Liam and Timur Crowned County Schools Champions



Boys U13 Champion Timur Hashimi and runner up Leo Long



**Boys U16 Champion
Liam McTiernan**

Waingels College pupil **Liam McTiernan** and Langley Grammar pupil **Timur Hashimi** were crowned new Berkshire Schools Table Tennis champions at Cippenham on 10 February.

In the Boys Under 16 final, fourteen year old Liam played sixteen year old Maiden Erleigh pupil **Daniel Moses**.

The two Our Lady of Peace (Earley) club mates put on a fantastically entertaining display but it was Liam who finished the stronger to record his first ever competitive victory over Daniel by three sets to one (7-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-4).

In the Boys Under 13 competition, nine district qualifiers from years 7 and 8 competed in three groups. **Timur Hashimi** and St. Barts (Newbury) pupil **Leo Long** really excelled and reached the final without dropping a set. In a terrifically well contested match between two very promising young players, it was Timur who came through in the fifth and deciding set to win in thrilling fashion.

The sporting spirit displayed by all the boys was an absolute credit to them and their schools. A huge thank you is also due to Cippenham Table Tennis Club who very kindly hosted the event free of charge.

Both Liam and Timur will now represent Berkshire in the English Schools Individual Championships Finals at Doncaster in April. The following players will also represent the County at these Championships, with Daniel and Kiera having qualified in January:

- Boys Under 11 – Daniel McTiernan (St. Dominic Savio)
- Girls Under 11 – Kiera Frost (Beechwood)
- Girls Under 13 – Maria Tsaptsinos (Abbey)
- Boys Under 19 – Richard Andrews (Forest)

Megan leads Berkshire charge in Derby

Berkshire were well represented in the Bribar Derby 4 Star Open table tennis tournament in March with five exceptionally talented young players from the Kingfisher (Woodley) and Our Lady of Peace (Earley) Table Tennis clubs.

On the Saturday, **Liam McTiernan** shone in the Boys Cadet Open event. In the last sixteen, he just got the better of Kent's Gregory Kaddock by three sets to two (11-9 in the fifth end), before playing very well to beat his Berkshire team mate **Jarred (JJ) Knowles** 3 - 0 in the quarter final. Liam was unable to maintain this form in his semi-final where he lost to Yorkshire's inspired Eric Wan.

Maria Tsaptsinos also played well, reaching the semi-final

of the Girls U13 Open event, where she lost to the untouchable No.1 seed, Tin Tin Ho from Middlesex, in three close sets. She also pushed her Berkshire team mate, **Megan Knowles**, close in a pulsating five set match in the Cadet Open knockout rounds.

On the Sunday, JJ reached the Boys Junior Open quarter finals with a superb 3-2 last sixteen win over Saturday's Cadet winner, Helshan Weerasinghe from Sussex, clinching victory 12-10 in the final set. In the quarter final, JJ's opponent, Berkshire's No 1 **Richard Andrews**, proved too strong but he nevertheless made Richard work hard for his 3 - 1 win.

Richard fought back from a two nil deficit in his semi-final against Derbyshire's Daniel Lowe to reach the final, where he faced No.1 seed, Hampshire's David McBeath, eventually losing a hard fought four setter.

Megan Knowles enjoyed season best results with a brace of wins in the Girls Junior Banded event. Having won her group and early round matches without dropping a set, she beat No.2 seed Emma Torkington from Sussex 3-1 in her semi final and then No.1 seed Derbyshire's Isobel Ashley in the final, coming back from two nil down to win 12-10 in a nail biting final set decider.

Megan's superb and unexpected victory brought a very satisfactory weekend to a close for five of Berkshire's young stars, all of whom are ranked in the top ten in their respective age bands.

Regional Success for Jon, Daniel and Gus

Two highly talented eleven year old boys from Reading produced outstanding performances at the ETTA Southern Regional Championships in Southampton.



**Megan Knowles
(with Brian Halliday)**



Jon Abbot and Gus Thomis

Jon Abbott, who attends Sonning Common Primary, remarkably won all twelve of his matches to take both the Under 11 and Under 12 titles. St Dominic Savio pupil, **Daniel McTiernan**, won the Under 13 title in some style, winning all six of his matches by a 3-0 score line. Caversham based ten year old **Gus Thomis** also finished as runner-up in the Under 11 age group.



Berkshire Juniors League Champions

A young Berkshire county junior team (left) won the Junior County Championships Division 2D in some style at Cippenham on 20 February.

Victories in all five second round matches, against Buckinghamshire 2 (by a 10-0 score line), Cambridgeshire (9-1), Sussex 2 (6-4), Sussex 3 (8-2) and Essex 4 (10-0), secured the league title and promotion to Division 1.

The stars of the show were **Daniel Moses** (aged 16) and **Liam McTiernan** (14) who won all ten of their matches and **Megan Knowles** (13) and **Maria Tsaptsinos** (12) who only lost one of their matches.

Two players did well on debut, with **Hanson Xu** (14), a very late replacement for Jarred Knowles, winning seven out of ten and Newbury based **Maria Shazard** (14) picking up one win from her three matches, unluckily losing two at deuce in the deciding set.

Berkshire Table Tennis Association Secretary, Sylvia Bruton, passed on her warmest congratulations to the team. She also thanked Alan Dines, Brian Halliday and the parents for their support.

Adam McTiernan, Berkshire County Junior Representative.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Reading Half Marathon:

Just a brief note - thankyou for putting the info in the last newsletter - re the Reading half marathon 2010.

Can you just add in the next one :- 'A Big Thankyou' to anyone from the Reading Table Tennis leagues who sponsored me.

I made it round in 2 hours 15 minutes 07 seconds & raised nearly £600 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Best Regards
Jeremy Willis

Help for Would-be Coaches

It's amazing how fast some of the youngsters can improve, given a bit of encouragement and pointing in the right direction.

Maybe you're a parent or teacher who has been happy to help out with the juniors occasionally - but you don't feel confident you are teaching them the right thing, and you don't have the pieces of paper to do it properly.

Well, a little bird tells me that a new scheme is about to start up in Reading for people like you - bringing would-be coaches together and giving some useful analysis of the techniques and tactics of table-tennis. In the longer term, this project will aim to teach the rules, ethics and techniques of the sport to children, to nurture talent, and create a centre of excellence for table tennis - with the aid of a well-integrated coaching team.

If you'd like to hear more, please send me your details (to derekwavell@hotmail.co.uk) - and I will put you in touch.

Editor