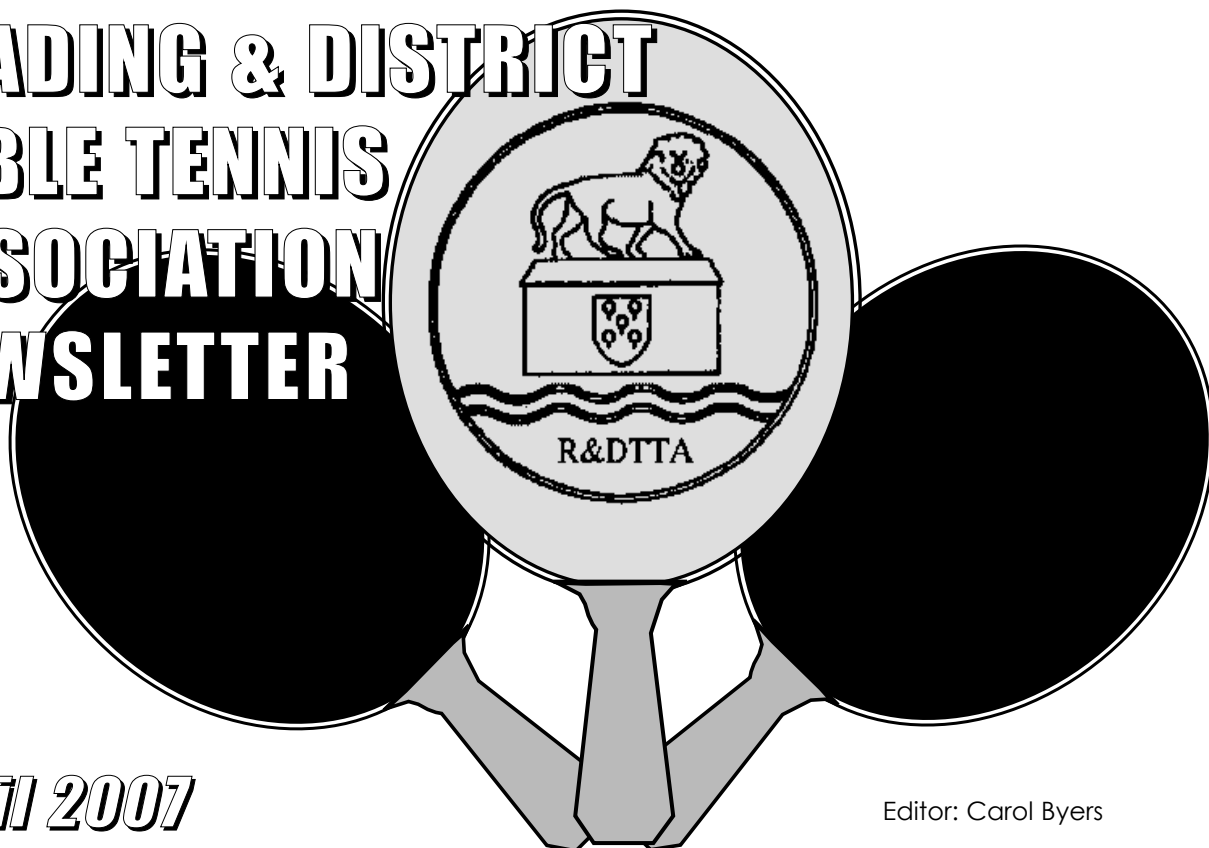


READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



April 2007

Editor: Carol Byers

Another Great Season Ends

CONTENTS

News	Pages 2 to 5
Reading Masters Report ..	Pages 2 and 3
IMPACT Trophy.....	Page 6
Handicap Cup	Pages 6 and 7
Knockout Cup	Pages 8 and 9
Division 1	Pages 9 - 11
Division 2	Pages 12 - 13
Division 3	Pages 14 - 15
Division 4	Pages 16 - 17
Division 5	Pages 18 - 19
Division 6	Pages 20 - 21
Youth Round Up	Page 22

Welcome to this bumper edition of the Newsletter - full of end of season results and reports. Sorry for the late publication of this issue, but it was decided in mid April to wait for the final relegation playoff result from Division 1 before finishing the issue.

This season has seen lots of new winners (and plenty of regular old ones!) - particular mentions must go to some of our younger players this time around. Firstly the Kingfisher B boys, who not only finished runners up in Division One, but also won the IMPACT Trophy - a fantastic performance from Richard, Tom, Sam, Abhay, Kuldeep and David, who all look set to make a real charge for the top spot next season.

Secondly, we must mention Melanie Farquhar, who won the National Junior Singles Championships in April.

Thanks as ever to all of the volunteers who run our various leagues and tournaments - and for my part special thanks to the DFS's, Nigel Maltby, John Cunningham and other contributors, without whose reports, we would not have a newsletter.

Have a relaxing summer!

Carol

The Late, Unforgettable Dave Jacobs

(1970-1971 Reading Mens Singles Champion)

Having known Dave for most of the time he spent in the Reading area, both as a team mate and work colleague, I thought some of the readers, especially those who knew him, might like one or two stories that I can relate about him.

The first was when we (Post Office A) had a match scheduled at MAFF (Coley Park). Our team consisted of the late Colin Finden, Dave and myself. On the day of the match both Colin and myself suddenly realised Dave was on the late shift at the Post Office, loading and unloading vehicles. Unable to find a replacement we told Dave we would have to play with two players which we undertook. Matches at MAFF were played in a room with large French windows at the rear covered by curtains. The match was in progress when Dave appeared from behind the curtains asking Dave Streak (MAFF captain) if he would mind if he played his 3 games straight away as he should be at work, much to mine and Colin's dismay. Dave S, being the sportsman he's always been, agreed so Dave played his 3 games and left as he had arrived - through the French Windows. On arriving back at the Post Office covered in perspiration he duly picked up a couple of mail bags to place on the next vehicle. When the inspector in charge came by and saw the state Dave was in he said "No need to kill yourself Mr Jacobs go and have a cup of tea," to which Dave replied "Good idea!" and to the amazement of the other loaders went off to the canteen with a big grin on his face.

Another story was the season after Dave won the Reading Mens Singles title I had the dubious honour of meeting Dave in the quarter final. Now being a teammate knew a lot about Dave's game and I thought I'm not in here without a chance if Dave is a little off form and I play my best. This duly happened and I came away victorious. However Dave soon took the shine off my win telling everyone he had been distracted by my wife sitting right in his view with a very short mini-skirt, which he thought was very good tactics on my part. He then jokingly said he was going to complain to the tournament referee John Freeman.

Those who knew Dave were fully aware that he carried quite a bit of weight and my third story surrounds this, although not to do with Table Tennis. Whilst employed at the Post Office Dave requested 6 months unpaid leave in order to cycle to India on a Post Office bike much to the amusement of his work mates. The leave was duly granted and Dave set off to a fanfare of waves and cheers. About 2

weeks later news reached us all in the Post Office that whilst Dave was partaking of refreshments at a roadside café somewhere in France a juggernaut lorry ran over his bike flattening it beyond repair. The true story eventually came out later that Dave found the cycling too strenuous with his physique so he threw the bike over a hedge and carried on by hitch hiking.

To round off my memories of Dave I remember a very funny episode of his stay in Reading when he rented a house in Tilehurst with Nicky Heaps. In those days the Reading Championships were held at Woodford Park Woodley (I remember the card games Derek, Jim and Geoff). The championships frequently finished quite late in the evening and after one of these late finishes a number of us left together - Nick and Simon Heaps, Bob and Geoff Davis, myself, Dave and others. We decided to stop for some fish and chips to take back to the house in Tilehurst. Dave decided on a Salami sausage and chips and after arriving home he disappeared to the cloakroom leaving his meal unattended. I will only say that with the likes of Nick, Simon and the Davis bothers around this was not a wise thing to do because it was bound to end up with hilarious results. I will end by saying that should you wish to know the full extent of the escapade, speak to Nick or Bob Davis. (Always fun when Dave was around)

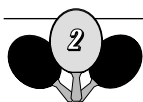
Rest in Peace Dave you will never be forgotten.

Eddie Cripps, ex team mate and work Colleague

READING MASTERS Sunday 22nd April

Martin Adams won the end of season Reading Masters title after a brilliant final contest against reigning holder Hari Gehlot. Adams last won the Masters event ten years ago, back in 1997, and he had to be on top form this time to see off a high class field that included Hari, Richard Andrews, Krasimer Ivanov and Tony Reynolds.

Adams began in group 1 where he opened up with an 11-5 11-4 11-4 victory over Krasimer Ivanov followed by an 11-3 7-11 11-3 11-8 success against a spirited Abhay Gehlot. Next up was Polish club team mate Richard Rosinski who he saw off in 3 games before ending his group campaign with an 11-7 11-6 11-5 victory over Kuldeep Gehlot. With Adams qualifying as group winner there was a terrific battle for runner-up. Abhay Gehlot beat Kuldeep Gehlot 11-5 9-11 11-6 11-9 as did Krasimer Ivanov who beat him 9-11 11-4 11-5 17-15 in a thrilling finish. The key contest saw Krasimer just edge out Abhay 11-9 12-14 8-11 11-5 11-3.



Reading Masters Report - Continued

In Group 2 Hari Gehlot won the group, beginning with an 11-6 11-5 11-6 success over Tony Reynolds and following it up with wins over Ramesh Gehlot and Lee Calcutt. Young Richard Andrews also won his opening three contests, although he needed a tense 5th game decider before clinching his semi-final berth by beating Tony Reynolds 11-9 11-4 3-11 7-11 11-7. Hari finished top after beating Richard in the final game of the group 12-14 11-2 9-11 11-7 11-7 in a high quality game.

In the semi finals Martin Adams then faced Richard Andrews and Adams rarely looked troubled on his way to an 11-8 11-4 11-7 victory to book his place in the final. In the other semi Krasimer Ivanov threatened to take both the opening two games but Hari saved a game point in the opener to win 13-11 and recovered to also win the second 11-7. Hari was showing a return to his best form with some stunning shots and he went on to take the third 11-8, despite Krasimer's best efforts.

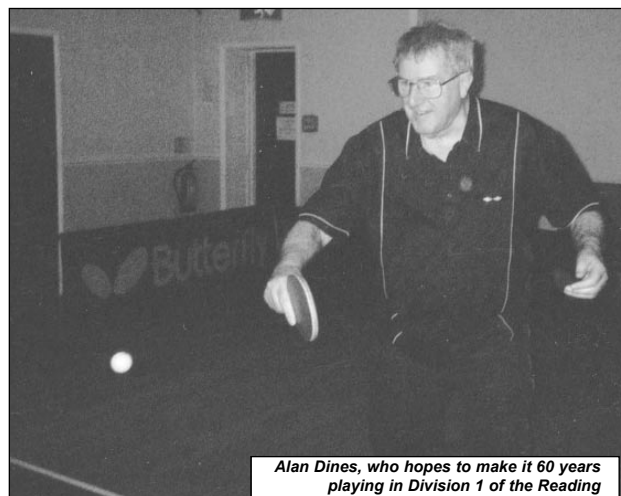
Richard managed to defeat Krasimer 11-7 11-8 11-8 in their third placed play off, leaving Martin and Hari to contest the final. Martin nicked both the opening games in deuce 12-10. Hari rallied brilliantly to take the next two 11-8, setting up a thrilling 5th game decider. Here Adams looked to step up a gear as he stormed 5-0 in front. Hari never gave up, despite an unbelievable back hand retrieval shot from Adams that saw him spin 360 degrees before going on to win the point a secure a 7-1 advantage. Hari closed to with four points at 8-4, but Adams took the next three point to clinch the Masters title 12-10 12-10 8-11 8-11 11-4 in breathtaking style.

In the Junior Masters event Kauldeep Gehlot and Daniel Moses qualified for the semi-finals from group 1, Kauldeep finishing top after beating Daniel 11-8 12-10 11-5. Simon Thorne eased to victory in group 2 with wins over Nick Johnson, Alistair Reed and Liam McTeirnan. Alistair finished second after his narrow 11-9 11-6 4-11 9-11 11-7 victory against Nick and his 11-9 8-11 11-6 11-7 win over Liam.

In the semi-finals Kauldeep comfortable beat Alistair 11-3 11-3 11-2 while Simon won an entertaining match against Daniel 11-8 7-11 11-4 14-12. Daniel beat Alistair 11-4 11-2 11-4 for third place, leaving Kauldeep and Simon to contest the final. Kuldeep won the first two games 11-4 11-7, but Simon played some terrific shots throughout and deservedly won the third 11-7. Kauldeep stepped up the pressure in the next to win the Junior title 11-4 11-7 7-11 11-5 against a gallant running up in Simon.

Thanks are due to Junior organisers Alan Dines and John Cunningham and to the referee on the day, Paul Jarvis.

60 years for Alan Dines?



Alan Dines, who hopes to make it 60 years playing in Division 1 of the Reading League, if he plays next season.

Letter to the Editor

Our season of woe - or maybe not!

Birch Copse 'A' have just finished their third consecutive season in Div 4. After a season of perfect parity in 2005/6 (20 points from 20 games, 100 points for and 100 against) this season we nosedived to relegation after winning just one game out of our final 12. Our cause wasn't helped by being without Pete Sheppard for all but three games and Roy Hull from mid-January onwards. This meant me as captain having to find reserves for all matches for the last two months of the season.

Now many would see such a season as a disaster. But as far as I'm concerned nothing could be further from the truth. Yes we all like to win our games but for me the greatest enjoyment comes from playing fantastic games of table tennis. That's what keeps me going and that's the reason I like to play in the Reading & District Table Tennis League. Thankfully the second half of the season produced quite a few of those. Games against Derek Harrison, Ian Ayres, Krystof Duma and the West Brothers from St Laurence are those that most readily spring to mind. I probably lost most of those but still came off the table feeling great about having played some really exciting table tennis and battling right to the end. The season was rounded off with a tremendous evening in the company of Mick Osbourne and his merry men from Tidmarsh. Always a laugh, always great company, always superb table tennis, and this season was no exception with every one of my games that evening being a classic.

But I think the real winners are Birch Copse table tennis club. It was a pleasure to play with all my team mates including those playing up from lower divisions, as they all played the game in the right spirit which made for some enjoyable evenings. I hope I will enjoy many more seasons playing for Birch Copse Table Tennis Club. Enjoyment, good banter and great table tennis.

That's what the game at this level is all about!

Duncan Abbott
Captain - Birch Copse 'A'

County Senior Premier - A question of survival

After promotion from Div 1 last season and having performed brilliantly to gain 4 out of 6 points from the first premier weekend to dispose of both Lancashire and Essex (100% for Melanie Farquhar), the Berkshire senior squad of Martin Adams, Dave Barr, Hari Gehlot, Lisa Sprackling and Sue Johnson travelled to Grantham wondering whether their 4 points and anything else they could pick up would be enough to retain their premiership status with the lower teams turning up with strengthened squads. Things didn't start too well, going down 9-1 to Middlesex, the only positive being Hari's win over Lisa's husband, James Sprackling.

The afternoon didn't improve too much either against a strong Derbyshire squad. Martin ground out a win against the Derbyshire no.1, Shaun Marples, whilst Dave found good form to beat Adam Frost 3-0. Hari's fine win over highly ranked Allan Fullwood was the highlight, but a 3-7 defeat and still no more points for the team.

Sussex, the eventual winners, were next up in the morning. Things started promisingly to go 2-0 up with wins for Martin over Nigel Eckersley and Hari over Peter Bartram. Unfortunately Sussex turned around the deficit to win 7-3, the only other win being for Martin to overturn Ritchie Venner for the first time in his playing career.

Fortunately other results had generally gone Berkshire's way and with one match to go, Berkshire only had to 'not get thrashed' by Yorkshire to avoid relegation. It was when the pressure was off that Berkshire showed their true colours (navy blue!) and pulled off an impressive 6-4 victory with Sue and Dave in the starring roles with great double wins.

It was thus a creditable 6 points and 5th place for Berkshire who lived to fight another season.

OLYMPIC BID BY GALEA

Our Lady of Peace table tennis player, Peter Galea gave himself a great chance of making the 2012 Olympics when he reached the quarter finals of the Maltese Ranking Tournament. Galea beat Kenneth Xuereb and Dennis Borg, both by 4-0 score lines, before losing 4-2 to David Pace in the quarter final. Galea, travels from Bath to play in the Reading League was unbeaten this season as his team won Division Three and looks forward to a more testing time in Division Two next season.

British League Update

SUPER SATURDAY FOR OLOP

The second weekend of the British Table Tennis League saw David Barr and Our Lady of Peace IMPACT team secure another five points as they took on the top teams in Division One at Cippenham Table Tennis Club. Hari Gehlot gave the side a good start in the opening match on Saturday against Elgre Nottingham. The OLOP Number Two beat Paul Wood by a comprehensive 3-0 score line. Barr's men soon roared into a 5-0 match position as their captain beat Stuart McIntyre and Wood then Adam Laws and Neil Wright stormed to straight set wins. The Nottingham side halted the slide as Eddie Crowdon-Fowler beat Gehlot in five. The fight back was short lived, however. Laws and Wright completed maximums as the Earley side cruised to a 7-1 win. Bedford Modern created few problems as OLOP achieved an 8-0 whitewash to complete a super Saturday.

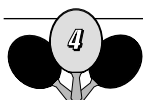
Sunday's first match against London Progress was, as expected, a close affair with the contest swaying first one way and then the other. A maximum from David Barr kept his team in the hunt and a good win from Adam Laws saw OLOP lead 3-2. Gehlot and Laws then lost in two close five game encounters as the London side went 4-3 up. However, cometh the hour, cometh the man, as Neil Wright stepped in to save the day and secure a vital point for his team.

Finally OLOP took on the current leaders and, with Gareth Herbert leading TTK Greenhouse, all but Division One champions. The result a 6-2 defeat for OLOP by a team who will not be out of place in the Premier League next season. All in all, however, it was a good weekend for Barr and his team who could well move into clear second place this weekend when they take on Oxford Fireplace and the home side Cippenham.

OLOP FINISH ON HIGH

David Barr and his British League Division One side completed their season on a high, winning three and drawing one to finish in a clear second place behind the TTK London side - lead by the England Number Six Gareth Herbert. Barr was undefeated as his team started day one at the Cippenham TTC by beating EBS Orange Westfield 7-1. Welsh ace Stephen Gertsen and Adam Laws also recorded maximums with Neil Wright the only loser at the hands of Steve Munson.

Elgre Nottingham were next to fall, with Barr, once again leading from the front, as OLOP IMPACT won by a 6-2 score line. Adam Laws was the star on Sunday morning beating Bedford's Kevin Grey and Andy Trott 3-0 and 3-1 respectively. Once again Barr was undefeated. The highlight being when he beat Martin Gray 3-2, 12-10 in the fifth to turn the



match in favour of his team. There were mixed fortunes for the Welsh duo - with Gertsen winning two and Wright losing out in two hard fought sets, 3-2 and 3-1, to Mick Harper and Kevin Grey. The weekend finished with a nip and tuck match against London Progress with Barr beating Tony Halling to give OLOP a dream start. Progress levelled the match as Ashley Stokes beat Gertsen, only for Laws to win a great five game set to put the Earley team in front. Yasa Mauthoor made it all square at the half way stage with a narrow defeat over Wright. OLOP took the next two as Barr completed his hundred percent weekend by beating Stokes. Laws edged out Tony Halling 3-2, thereby putting OLOP 3-2 up. Mauthoor - the player of the match - pulled one back for Progress with a 3-2 win over Laws. A 3-1 victory for Garth Kinluere over Wright snatched a draw for the London club.

All in all a great season for the OLOP IMPACT Division One side in a division where the strength of Gareth Herbert's side made the second place a target for the rest. Team captain David Barr gained two players of the match awards against EBS Orange and Elgre Nottingham, while Adam Laws was player of the match against Bedford. The team's two Welsh players - Stephen Gertsen and Neil Wright performed with credit throughout, while Hari Gehlot - unavailable for the final weekend - did his bit in the early part of the season.

The team are currently seeking sponsors for next season. Any individuals, companies or groups who would like to support Berkshire's top team can contact John Cunningham on 0118 9665907 for details.

MELANIE FARQUHAR WINS NATIONAL TITLE

Many congratulations to Melanie, who became the National Junior Singles Champion for 2007 earlier in April at the Dome, Doncaster.

Seeded number 2, Melanie beat the number 1 seed, Emma Vickers, in 4 sets in the final, to claim the title.

BETH MAKES NATIONAL DEBUT

While Melanie and Rachel Farquhar were making the headlines of the National ETA championships, Beth Wallace aged ten from Winnersh made her National debut. Beth who finished second in the Regional trials in Cippenham performed with credit - beating two higher ranked girls and going close against two others. This was a remarkable effort in her first championships against tough opposition. Beth attends St Dominic Savio School in Woodley, which Melanie and Rachel attended when they started their sporting careers.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

OPEN 'NEARLY' ALL HOURS

Who's up for this idea for a localised video production hatched up by Alan Dines and Ramesh Gehlot. Casting suggestions are as follows

Ramesh Gehlot as Arkwright - well he can provide the shop (no shop no show).

Granville to be played by Michael Burrow (perfect hair style for the part).

Wendy Porter as Nurse (no one else admits to having a nurses outfit). Some supporters for Mary Allan or Carol Byers on the basis that they would like to see them dressed as a nurse!

Suggestions for Granville's missing Hungarian father to be Dave Halfpenny or John Cunningham. Other possibilities Todor Spasov, Bela Hegedus, Richard Rosinski or Felicks Ziembra.

Nominations for customers(write your own parts or take your chances) -

Harry Brough, Dave Calcutt, Merrill Massey, Richard Skellett, Carol Chard, Steve Ricks, Sharon Mitchell, Ken Sherry, Chris Moses, Brenda Finnegan, Les Andrews, Ian Packford, Peter Bradley, Michael Childs, John Harris, John Freeman, Colin Byers, Ian Cole, John Millward, Mary Joyce, Tony Hatto, Krasi Ivanov, Ing Poh Hii, John Taylor, John Virgo, Derek Brooke-Wavell, Nick Heaps and Paul Treadgold

Potential girlfriends for Granville - Carol Byers, Mary Allan and Melanie Farquhar.

If any one has a large dog there is a potentially good scene.

Nigel Maltby has literary talent so should be Script Writer. Alan Dines is willing to be Cameraman. Beryl Cunningham is proposed for Musical Director. Do we have any theatrical people willing to volunteer as Producer, Director or other roles?

The next production could be 'Are You Almost Being Served'. Some interesting casting possibilities here!

Observations or suggestions to Alan Dines



IMPACT Shield

The youngsters of Kingfisher B gained revenge, for the first round defeat of their A team by OLOP A, with a resounding win in the final of the IMPACT Shield knock-out – held at Our Lady of Peace Community Centre.

Key to their victory was the order of play, which saw team manager Les Andrews, selecting in form son Richards Andrews to play sets 3, 5 and 7. The youngster, who attends Forest School – and is surely a candidate for the 2012 Olympics – produced a display of devastating table tennis beating Jared Smith, Michael Childs and Krasi Ivanov.

Earlier the Gehlot cousins Abhay and Kuldeep had done their bit with wins over Childs and Ivanov respectively. Childs started in confident mood beating Abhay 11-8 in the first. However, in a set that could have gone either way, the Kingfisher player fought back to win the next two and then held on to take the fourth 13-11 – winning 3-1 in the evening's best contest.

Ivanov took the first 13-11 – narrowly losing the second 9-11 – but could not handle the razor sharp attack of Kuldeep Gehlot, losing the third 11-5. 2-7 down in the fourth, to his credit, Ivanov, fought back to 8-8, only for Kuldeep to edge up a gear to win 11-8 and secure a 3-1 victory. Then followed the crucial win over Smith by Andrews and Kingfisher were 3-0 up.



IMPACT Trophy Winners - Kingfisher B.

The hopes of the OLOP side rose however, as Ivanov played out of his skin to defeat Abhay Gehlot 3-0. But Andrews defeated Childs to give Kingfisher a 4-1 lead. Smith made it 4-2 by beating Kuldeep Gehlot 3-1. Cometh the hour and up stepped Andrews to defeat Ivanov making Kingfisher B the first winners of the IMPACT SHIELD. With the match lost Smith beat Abhay Gehlot 3-1 while Childs conceded the last set against Kuldeep Gehlot to make the final score 6-3 to the Kingfisher Kids.

The League would like to thank Alan Dines for sponsoring the competition, all the players for an entertaining evening's table tennis and Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club for hosting the evening.

Team Handicap Final Report

In one of the closest and best-contested Reading Team Handicap finals for many years IMPACT A defeated IMPACT B by a 5-4 score line. Ing Poh Hii, still carrying a leg injury, gave the A team a good start, beating Maltese star Peter Galea (-2) 17-21, 21-12, 21-16. The B team hit back to lead 3-1 as Daniel Moses (+12) stormed to a win over Hii. Chris Moses (+12) held on to beat Rachel Farquhar 2-1. Young Moses upset the form book to defeat Simon Thorne (+6) 21-16, 23-21 to leave his side in sight of victory.



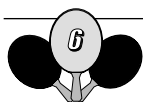
The Team Handicap finalists - left to right, Ing Poh Hii, Chris Moses, Rachel Farquhar, Alan Dines, Peter Galea, Simon Thorne and Daniel Moses

Set five proved crucial to the end result, however, as young Farquhar fought back after losing the first to Galea to win 2-1. When Thorne then beat Chris Moses 2-0 the match score was all square at 3-3. Daniel Moses completed his maximum with a 2-0 win over Farquhar and the pendulum swung back to the B team at 4-3. With a substantial lead Chris Moses eased to a 21-15 win over Hii but just lost the second 19-21 and in a nip and tuck decider succumbed to the all out attack of the Malaysian player losing again 19-21 to leave the match score 4-4 with one to play.

Division three team mates Galea and Thorne were in opposition for the first time and it was Thorne who came out on top winning 2-0 to snatch victory by 5 sets to 4.

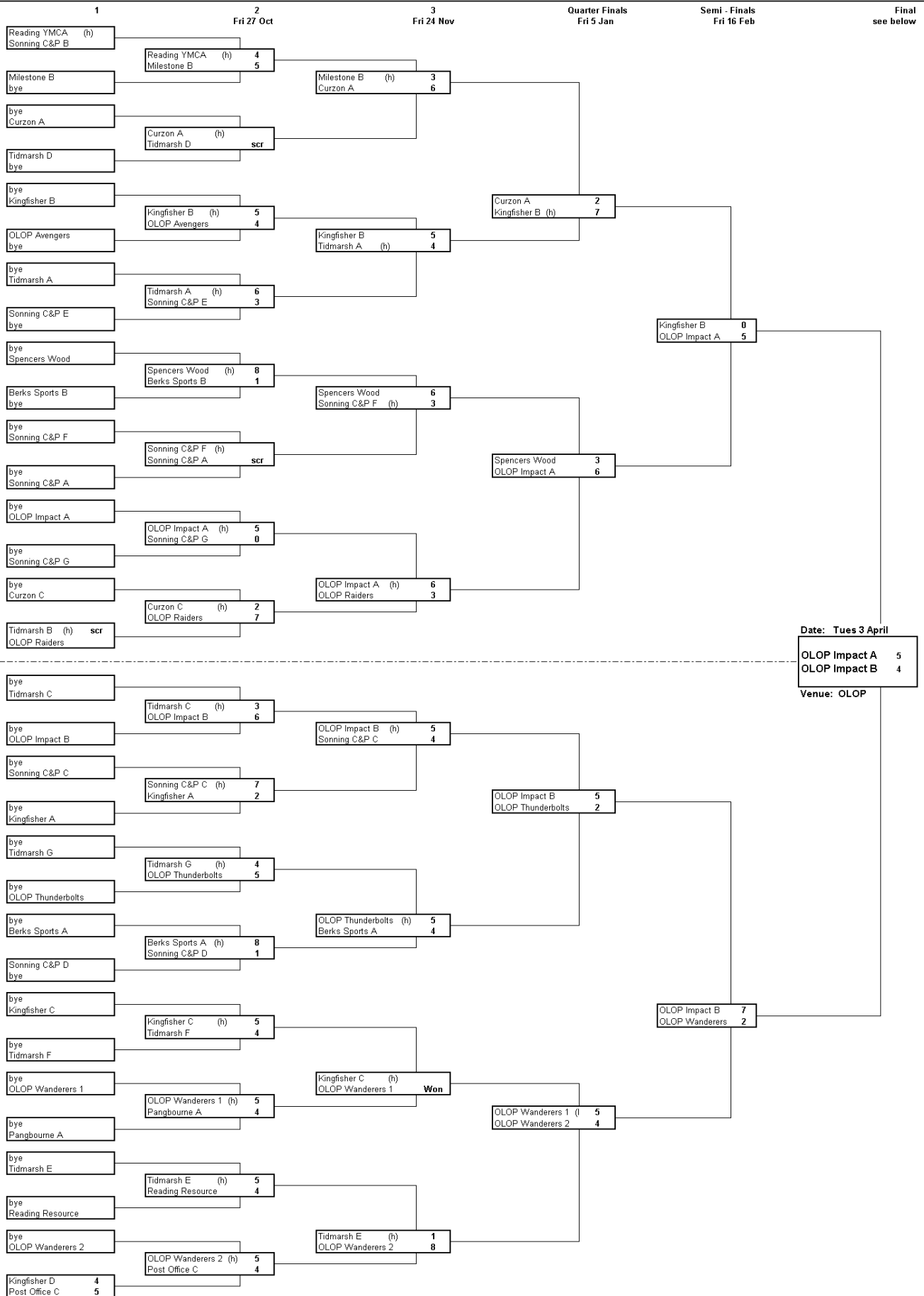
All the players contributed to an exciting final but they would not have been there if it were not for the contributions of Alan Dines and John Barclay for the A team and the B team's Michael Childs (-13) who made match winning contributions.

The players would like to thank Professor Abbas Syed for organising the Team Handicap, which stared out back in September with around 72 teams contesting the competition.



Team Handicap Competition 2006-07

organised by Professor Abbas Syed



Lower Divisions Knockout Cup 2006-07

organised by Professor Abbas Syed

An audience of over 70, an all time record in the history of Reading and District Table Tennis Association, saw **Reading Resource** beat **OLOP I** 5-2 in the Knockout Cup Final at the Warehouse in Cumberland Road. They were then treated to a thrilling challenge match between three times Commonwealth Champion Matthew Syed and the current Reading Men's Singles Champion Richard Andrews, who is one of the best young players in the country.



Resource, captained and coached by former England Champion, Andrew Syed, included Matthew Syed, Gerald Allchurch and Neil Havard, while Chris Sabourin, Mark Kirton and Phil Mannion represented OLOP I, who were coached by Ing Po Hi and captained by Steve Purchase.

The OLOP team welcomed the opportunity to play former England number 1.

Both teams had come through tough qualifying rounds: Resource beat Sonning Common and

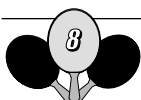
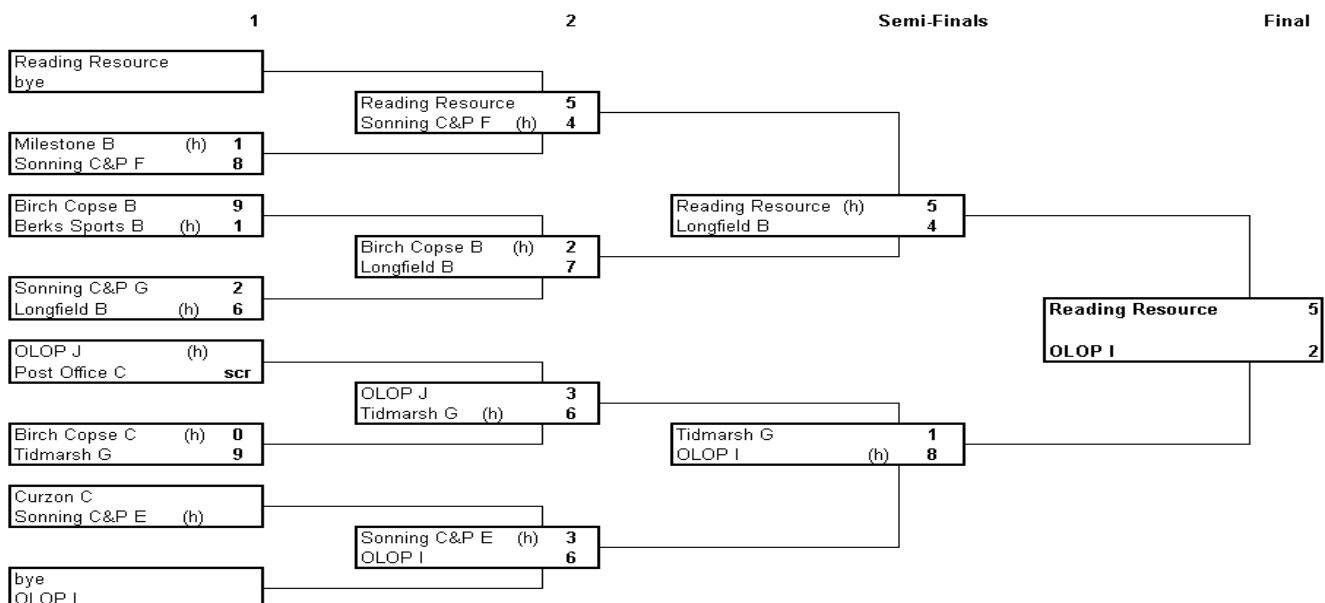
Peppard F 5-4 in the quarter final and a resilient Longfield B 6-3 in the semi-final; OLOP beat Sonning Common Peppard E 6-3 in the quarters and Tidmarsh G 8-1 in the semis.

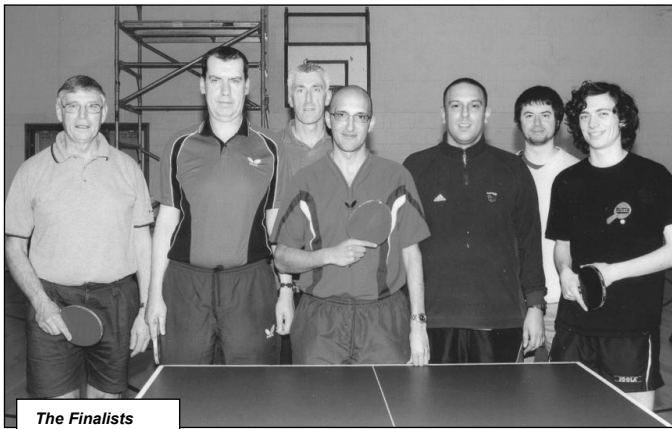
Chris Sabourin, OLOP's talented top player, got the match off to a good start, with a comfortable 3-0 victory against Gerald Allchurch, Matthew Syed levelled the match with a win against Mark Kirton.

A tight third game between Havard and Mannion could have gone either way but the Resource player eventually won 11-9 7-11 11-0 11-3. Allchurch then made the match score 3-1 to Resource by beating Kirton 12-10 11-3 11-5. Sabourin pulled a game back for OLOP by beating Havard 11-9 11-6 11-8. Syed restored Resource's advantage with a win against Mannion, before facing Sabourin in a classic encounter.

Sabourin's attacking style was a perfect match for Syed's more defensive play, and the OLOP player immediately went onto the attack. The match got off to an electrifying start as Sabourin fired down a blistering series of smashes that sent Matthew Syed scurrying to the back of the arena to retrieve the ball. But to the delight and amazement of the audience, the three time Commonwealth Champion and arch wizard of the defensive lobs seemed to defy belief and they eventually wore down his opponent, Syed running out the winner 11-7 12-10 11-5. This was enough to clinch the Knockout Cup for Resource.

John Cunningham, manager of the OLOP team, then presented a special Winners' shield to the Resource team.





The Finalists

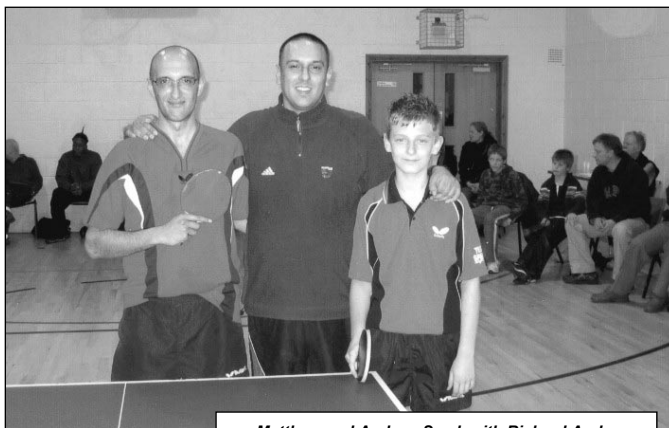
The special challenge match between Richard Andrews and Matthew Syed was a fitting climax to the evening. Andrews, a Kingfisher player, took a little while to settle against the more experienced player, and Syed had the early advantage. But Andrews soon found his form and power, sometimes leaping into the air to gain more leverage for his impressive smashes.

Syed, who perhaps wasn't expecting such a tough encounter, was forced away from the table by the power of the smashes and had to resort to his trademark lobs from the back of the hall to stop things drifting away from him. Some in the crowd thought he was a bit lucky to take the first two sets. But Syed's luck was about to run out in the third. A spot of inspired coaching seemed to turn things around, and Andrews came out fighting in the third set. His smashes started to penetrate Syed's formerly solid defence and it was no surprise when he won an exciting tie break against the former Commonwealth Champion. Syed was forced to up his game in the fourth set, resorting to his special high tossed serve to gain some advantage. In the

end, Syed's experience told and he ran out the winner 11-5 11-8 10-12 11-4.

Children from The Warehouse, players from all six divisions of the Reading league, a contingent from Kingfisher club and supporters of both teams made up the record crowd of over 70. Matthew Syed ended the evening by taking on all challengers.

John Cunningham, OLOP Manager said "We were proud to take part in the final. While all players made valuable contributions to a great evening, the efforts of Matthew Syed were outstanding."



Matthew and Andrew Syed, with Richard Andrews

Andrew Syed, who organised the event, thanked everyone for coming. He said "This is one of the most extraordinary evenings and the matches I've been involved in, with the tense and exciting final going the way of Resource. I am delighted with the way things went, especially the great sportsmanship of both teams and the fantastic support of the record audience."

DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

Phew. So that was the 2006/07 season then! Officially the longest season in RDITA history. A vintage year for Div 1 table tennis in this truly wonderful League of ours. Amazing highs, desperate lows but all in all a great season, some bloody good sportsmanship, some top quality play. OK so there's been some rubbish play too but lets face it we've all had some great fun along the way! Haven't we? Whether you're at the top, the middle or the bottom, each and every one of you have contributed to making my first year of being in charge a great one and I thank you all for that. For me personally it's been a roller-coaster of a year. By the time you read this my son Luis will already be into his second year (third year if the play offs don't happen soon!!!) and whilst he's amazing and all you out there who have had children will know that they're just simply the best at this age, it has been quite tough at times fitting everything in with the updates, the website and trying to keep fit enough to play a reasonable game myself. I think I've just about pretty much succeeded in holding it all together (apart from my completely fallen apart game that is) so thanks to all you captains out there for making the burden a little easier for me.

OK, so how did it all finish up then? Well, in a quite dramatic end to the season the final League placings are finally settled. All of you will know by now that Kingfisher "A" consisting of Hari Gehlot, Myself, Bela Hegedus, Steven Munson and of course the one and only Mr Ramesh Gehlot are Champions of Reading again. Get In!!! Actually in truth it was a slightly messy ending in the end with Tidmarsh "A" conceding a 10 nil against us to hand us the title but it was almost inevitable that the trophy was coming our way once again anyway and we finished off the season fittingly with victory against last year's champions Polish "A". We're obviously delighted to be crowned "Kings" of

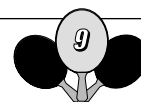
Reading again and long may our reign continue although these things are tougher sometimes to retain than win and we'll more than have our work cut out next season - I'm certain of that.

I think though that this year the battle at the top for once actually played second fiddle to what was occurring down at the bottom. Incredibly we ended up with a 3 way play off that was finally decided at the OLOP Club on Weds 17 May. How did it all end? Well, there was joy for YMCA "B" and OLOP "B" and heartbreak for Kingfisher "C" who are the unfortunate team to be relegated alongside OLOP "D". There's been a lot of talk about the Play Offs and whether or not indeed they should even have to occur but whatever your personal views are the Table Tennis in these 3 matches was pulsating, tense and top quality throughout and although there always has to be a loser Kingfisher "C" can hold their heads up high for contributing admirably to what turned out to be the most dramatic end to a season anywhere in our sport.

So as I round up my little intro, as you know, I like to do things a little bit differently if I can and this time I've come up with a number of completely unofficial end of season awards based on my own personal views and experiences of doing this job this year. You may agree, you may not agree but it's just a bit of fun really and as I say they are purely of my own making, are not sanctioned by those on the Reading Committee and therefore please do not expect to receive a trophy if your name is down for one. OK Mr Ramesh!

The Unofficial "Banksey" End of Season Division One Awards 2006/07

Player of the Year: **Martin Adams**



DIVISION ONE

Team of the Year: **Kingfisher "A"**

Best "One Off" Team Performance: **Tilehurst Meths "A"** 7-3 Away victory at a full strength YMCA "A" to secure Division One status.

Best Individual Comeback: **Tony Reynolds** 10-4 down in 5th versus Abhay Gehlot & **Andy Walker** 10-5 down in 5th versus Nick Heaps (Joint award)

Best Team Comeback: **Kingfisher "C"** 5-2 Down against Tilehurst to force the draw in their tense relegation battle.

Best Individual Performances (A joint award to all those below. Some of you get two!!)

MARTIN ADAMS vs Marco Essomba

JARED SMITH vs Martin Adams

COLIN WILKES vs Hari Gehlot

BOB DAVIS vs Hari Gehlot

BARRY MORTEN vs Tom Maynard & Abhay Gehlot both on the same night!

JOHN MILLWARD vs Tony Reynolds

DAVID STREAK vs Bela Hegedus

RICHARD ANDREWS vs Hari Gehlot

TOM MAYNARD vs Hari Gehlot

ROGER WOOLVEN-ALLEN vs Nick Heaps (Twice!)

NICK HEAPS vs Tom Maynard

LEE CALCUTT vs Abhay Gehlot

DAVE WISE vs Tom Maynard & Abhay Gehlot both on the same night!

BOB DAVIS vs Richard Andrews

RICHARD ANDREWS vs Jared Smith (Twice)

PETER MARTIN vs Tom Maynard

JASON ROBERTS vs Kingfisher "C" in the Play Offs

PHIL PRADY vs Polish "A" (OK so no Mr Adams but a maximum nonetheless hey Phil)

PETER MARTIN vs Krasi Ivanov

GEOFF CIVIL vs Gary Crick (The net was probably too tight for his usual game)

TOM MAYNARD vs Jared Smith

ANY VETERAN vs Ramesh Gehlot (read on)

Most Nets & Edges (For) **Gary Crick**

Most Nets & Edges (Against) Take your Pick. **Hari Gehlot** or **John Barclay**

World's Best Veteran (Yes World's Best!) **Ramesh Gehlot** (Apparently Ramesh is claiming this because he, er, beat Colin Wilkes, who beat Hari Gehlot, who beat Jared Smith, who beat Martin Adams, who beat Marco Essomba, who beat..... yup you guessed it. Current World Vets Champion Alan Cooke!)

Most visits to a pub **Tilehurst Meths "A"** & **Derek Wood (Joint)**

Best Refreshments **Polish "A"**

Longest time spent out with injury **Michael Childs**

Fastest ever miracle recovery from a back injury **Ramesh Gehlot** (UNBELIEVABLE! I'm still not talking to him!)

Best Signing **Marco Essomba**

Best Doubles Combination **Any 2 from OLOP "A"**

Worst Doubles Combination **Any 2 from "The Kids"**

Most Miserable Team **Kingfisher "A"** (According to Mr R Rosinski)

Worst Umpire **Kuldeep Gehlot** (Previous holders include David Steak & Ramesh Gehlot)

Best Non Playing Captains **Christine Basden & Les Andrews (Joint)**

Divisional Secretary's Best New Friend **Tim Pang**

Divisional Secretary's Friend No Longer **Ramesh Gehlot**

Worst Table Tennis Pets **The Andrews Family Fish**

And finally some credits for contributions this season - be it score-cards, emails or chats - In no particular order:

Geoff Civil, Lee Calcutt, John Cunningham, All of Tilehurst Meths "A", David Streak, Murgy, Les Andrews, Martin Adams, Peter Martin, Alan Dines, Ramesh, Hari, Pete Bradley, Christine Basden, Cliff Putterford, Barry Morten, Richard, Tom, Abhay & Kuldeep.

OK so thanks to all of you above and all those out there who may be due an award who I have forgotten about. It's been a pleasure to do this, this year, have a great summer and I look forward to seeing you all again come September where we'll be warmly welcoming some new faces to the Division from Tidmarsh plus some old faces returning from Kingfisher.

Love & Peace
Mark x

Well, the path to glory was, if I'm honest, just slightly easier than it could have been for my beloved **Kingfisher "A"** this season. If you take a look at the teams around us they all dropped points along the way by fielding weakened sides at key times and quite simply we just didn't do that (OK so we're obviously always slightly nervous when Ramesh pulls on a Kingfisher "A" shirt but actually the big fella only ever let us down in the doubles this year) and that was really the key to our runaway success. Hari once again topped our ratings despite taking time out in India and tinkering with his blades and rubbers even more so than normal. I did OK considering my lack of sleep and excess weight, Bela's played well all season in this and in other stuff but always seems to dodge the big guns! Funny that Mr H! Steve Munson looks a find and after a slow start he certainly started firing and the big cuddly one with the hot samosas continues to defy medical science with his healed up back! Will we win it again next year? Who knows? Lets just enjoy it while it lasts and long may that be. Champions of Reading - Again! You all hate me don't you?

Season M.V.P. Hari Gehlot

A one two then for the Kingfisher Club as **Kingfisher "B"** (no longer can they be called our B Team - Right Les) storm through to snatch second. They had to do it the hard way though by taking out the Champions followed by a super win over OLOP "A". In fact only a victory for Polish's Nick Heaps over Tom Maynard prevented the young ones from what would have been a super treble in the last 3 weeks against all of the other three teams around them. Amazing. Anyway, I've half promised Les, Mick, Rami and Hari that I'm not gonna big them up too much though. They all know what I think about them and they've had a super year both individually and collectively and everybody has had to sit up and take notice. I just hope they can keep up the progress that they've all made and if they do then quite simply we're all in for a very, very hard time. Well done boys. Well done Les for keeping it all together and when we in "A" finally become Kingfisher "B" I don't want any B Team jibes OK buddy or I'll be off to buy some fish of my own!

Season M.V.P. Richard Andrews

A frustrating year then for deposed Champions **Polish "A"** who, despite having the league's greatest player, playing in every game bar one and effectively giving his side a 3-nil start before a ball has even been hit, couldn't match last year's heroics and finish out of the medals this time round in third. The team's "under performance" stems largely from the fact that they have been unable to consistently call on the services of number 2 Dave Reeves and Nick, Richard & Derek haven't been quite able to raise their games for the real "crunch" matches. Take nothing away though, these guys are all great players in their own right and whilst it didn't quite happen for them this time does not mean that it won't in the future. Oh and definitely one of the most sociable squads in this Division may I hasten to add. Cheers for the invite!

Season M.V.P. Martin Adams

For so long **OLOP "A"** looked like they would seriously be the ones who would cause Kingfisher "A" most concern in the battle for this year's title. Unfortunately for them they effectively lost the services of Michael Childs around Christmas time and rather tamely fell away after that. There have still been a lot of plusses in their season though. The emergence of newcomers Jared Smith and Krasi Ivanov has brought fresh quality to the league and are a real hand on the table to deal with. Arguably Jared's victory over Martin Adams was the best individual performance of the season and if the team stays together and Michael regains 100% fitness then they have to be there or thereabouts next year.

Season M.V.P. Jared Smith

Don't stop me now, I'm having such a good time, I'm having a ball. And haven't they just. What a year it's been for **YMCA "A"**. Like a fine wine getting better with age. And all of them have played their part. Led by David Streak (sorry for getting your average wrong buddy!) - what a season that guy's had. Surely one of his best for many a year. Nip and Tuck with Bob all year for top dog and he comes through in fine style to nick it at the end. I've just worked it out. It's because he doesn't have to do all of this anymore. He can just concentrate on playing his game!! It's not my son keeping me up all hours that my form has dipped - it's all this secretarial stuff!! Er, Nigel, a word please.....!! Bob and Colin too - super stuff guys. Bob beats Hari in the first half and Colin takes him out in the second. That is top quality form by anybody's standards and well worthy of a mention in the awards section. This team realistically know at the start of the season that they're not gonna be at the very top but they set out to do as much damage as they can and have won their own mini league for the second tier of sides and can be mighty proud of their achievements both individually and as a team. Very Well Played Indeed.

Season M.V.P. David Streak

Also a great year for **OLOP "C"**. They started the season brilliantly and were unbeaten for ages before the big guns finally caught up with them. Peter Martin has had many a good win this year, Andy Walker, whilst not turning out often has contributed too along with George, Sean from time to time and my old buddy Tim Pang! If there is a disappointing aspect to reflect on it would be the loss of former top man Alex Garlick's services. Alex is obviously a good player and they've definitely missed him in the second half. Without him they'll obviously have a harder job next season trying to emulate the efforts of this but let's not dwell on that for now. They've been a revelation this year and like YMCA "A" above them can be extremely proud of their performances.

Season M.V.P. Peter Martin

Ah. And so here I find myself at **Tidmarsh "A"**. No other side has given me more to write about in my first season in charge than the Friday night boys from Tidmarsh. It's hard to know where to begin. The signing? The Conceded Match? Ian Packford's broken wrist? Ian Packford's Audi TT? Ian Packford's red hair? Calcutt vs Gehlot (A) Wise vs Gehlot (A) and Maynard (T)? The scorecard comments? Jacqui Lovell? Hold On? Jacqui Lovell???? If I've been on a roller-coaster of a journey this year then this lot certainly have. One of the favourites for relegation before Christmas they rebranded themselves into potential Champions in January with the signing of Marco. And boy, Marco certainly played his part appearing in no less than 50% of the available games since he signed and only losing to Martin Adams. No danger of them being relegated then with that sort of commitment and average but it remains to be seen whether they are able to call upon his services in seasons to come. Elsewhere Ian was, by his high standards, a little off the pace this season but still chipped in with over 75% and David and Lee picked up tremendously towards



the end and both finished off with some super stuff. They're to be joined in the league by their clubmates and Div 2 Champions next year and Lee will be super keen to finish above them so with that in mind we should all really expect much, much more of the same.

Season M.V.P. Ian Packford

Well, well, well. It's a good job we didn't have a bet hey Jacqui! All along I predicted that **Tilehurst Meths "A"** were as safe as houses this season and did she believe me? Er, no! At one stage she even refused so serve me my favourite sausage in a roll at the Reading Closed as if it were somehow my fault that they were in danger of the drop! Unbelievable. Well who's laughing now! Actually, you all are!! This team really upped their game in the 2nd half. Geordie Phil's never played better, in one match Gary amazingly managed to win a leg without a single net or edge, Keith's been leading from the front and beat Bob Davis & Colin Wilkes as they all did in a super team performance away at YM "A", and Mary took a game off Marco (Sorry Marco, she made me put that one in!). This team, possibly more than any other in the Division, really pull for each other and I'm certain that the spirit (and not just the ones in the pub) is what has got them through the more trickier matches. Brilliant stuff guys and a credit to you all. Oh and by the way, no, it didn't take too much persuasion to get my sausage in the end. I went something like, "Tell you what Jacqui, how about a Gin and Tonic in the pub after the tournament?" "Oh go on then Mark, would you like some onions with it?!"

Season M.V.P. Gary Crick

So how often does this happen then? The team officially finishing in the higher place in the regular season go on and lose out in the Play Offs to teams below them. OK so Derby County recently went some way to putting that trend right but no such fortune for **Kingfisher "C"** who heartbreakingly for them at least find themselves relegated to Division 2 after two narrow (and I mean narrow) play-off defeats and with it inherit an unwanted new name - Kingfisher "D". Even without my Kingfisher hat on I feel for them I really do. Such a great bunch of guys with a super captain and no one team has contributed more to my scribbles this season. Murgy, Geoff, Cliff, Rog - you can all hold your heads high for contributing to a such super year, I love you all and I'm sure it won't be too long before you're all back. You had an awful run of ever such bad luck and not all of it was on the table and here's wishing you some ever such very good luck in 2.

Season M.V.P. Murgy

So if the boys (and girl) from Kingfisher went down it must mean the boys from **YMCA "B"** stayed up. WOW! OK, so their main man Tony Reynolds was obviously the pivotal reason for this but they must also thank a certain Mr Jason Roberts whose patchy form throughout the season gave no hint whatsoever as to how he would perform in the play-offs - particularly against Kingfisher "C" he was practically a completely new player and thus went a long way also to ensure that the YM Derby games are still very much on next year! Oh and it was great to see the YM "A" team show up at the play-off matches in full support of their club mates by the way. Next season though YM "B" are going to need to go some again if they're to remain in the top flight. If they aren't able to strengthen the squad but Jason picks up where he left off then they'll be more than OK and Pete will have a better season I'm sure. All in all well done lads for staying up and perhaps, just perhaps the future looks a trifle rosier methinks.

Season M.V.P. Tony Reynolds

LEADING AVERAGES

Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	98.36
Bela Hegedus	Kingfisher 'A'	89.74
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	87.5
Jared Smith	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'A'	85.45
Richard Andrews	Kingfisher 'B' *	83.05
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	80.95
Krasimer Ivanov	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'A'	80.77
Tom Maynard	Kingfisher 'B' *	78
Ian Packford	Tidmarsh 'A'	76.19
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	72.73
Tony Reynolds	Reading YMCA 'B'	70.83
David Streak	Reading YMCA 'A'	64.91

OK Barry, I take it back. You did it. You bloomin well did it. **OLOP "B"** defied all the odds and stayed up and thus avoiding an unwanted relegation 1-2 for the OLOP Club. Amazing. Two words are key here. Mark Hancock. Signed on at the start of the season he'd hardly showed his face until the business end of the season kicked in and then he became virtually ever present and lost hardly any in the run in that included the nery the play offs. He wasn't quite the only one though. Sue Johnson started playing some of the good stuff we saw from her early years and with Barry and John chipping in with at times vital contributions it made for a glorious comeback and sealed Div 1 status for another year. Phew! I'd like to say you all deserve a holiday but this team has had more of them than Chalmers & Llewelyn-Bowen put together so I won't! Seriously though well played when it mattered most. Let's see if we can avoid such drama next year shall we guys & gals?

M.V.P. Mark Hancock

In truth, from the outside looking in it was a messy year for **OLOP "D"** and they looked dead certs for relegation the minute Ali Subhan departed for warmer shores and Mel Farquhar was called up for England. They made some desperate signings at Christmas to try and stop the rot but it was never going to be enough and from week 7 they went 13 consecutive matches without picking up a single point before winning their final game of the season at Tilehurst. They used a huge number of different combinations of players in the process which tells its own story. This is a tough, tough League that takes no prisoners and everybody needs to be on top of their game to get anything out of it. Sadly that wasn't the case for OLOP "D" this year but hopefully John will be able to put a regular, reliable squad of players together to challenge the best in Div 2 next season. Good luck guys.

Season M.V.P. Richard Skellett

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	22	20	1	1	182	42	41
Kingfisher 'B' *	22	16	4	2	151	69	36
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'A'	22	17	1	4	154	61	35
Polish 'A'	22	16	3	3	148	74	35
Reading YMCA 'A'	22	9	4	9	112	108	22
Tidmarsh 'A'	22	9	0	13	107	113	18
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'C'	22	8	2	11	84	131	18
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	22	6	2	14	79	141	14
Reading YMCA 'B'	22	4	4	14	78	142	12
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'B'	22	5	2	15	67	153	12
Kingfisher 'C'	22	5	2	15	80	140	12
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'D'	22	4	1	17	68	152	9



DIVISION TWO

by Nick Lean

How many ways can you start an end of season report ? 'Another season draws to a close...', 'The last matches of the season were played out with a certain sense of inevitability...' However you say it, there are no more league matches until 10th September. Ah! Now there's a date for your diary. Why not get your premises booked now on the assumption that you're playing at home and you'll be ready for that first match.

Well, the contest for promotion from Division 2 was decided some time ago with the only two serious candidates getting the job done as expected. Congratulations to **Tidmarsh C**, crowned Division 2 Champions and completing what may be a unique feat of achieving promotion from Division 3 to 2, then 2 to 1 in successive seasons. (Does any RDTA archivist know whether this has been done before ?) Congratulations also go to **Kingfisher D**, who take the runners-up spot and bounce straight back to the top flight. Well done to both sets of players from these teams. And commiserations go to Kingfisher G and Longfield A who are both relegated.

So to the end of term report.

Tidmarsh C followed last season's Division 3 title with a remarkable unbeaten season in this Division which included 11 straight wins in the second half to take the Division 2 crown. Barry Carter, Dave Reynolds (Snr) and particularly Duncan Groves have all had excellent seasons, with Robert Hudson in the first half and Slawek Bielak in the second providing an unparalleled quality of 'back-up' players that other teams can only envy. Tidmarsh C clinched the Division 2 title with a comprehensive 8-2 win at Sonning C&P B. Needing just a point from this match to reach their target, the Tidmarsh players won 5 of the first 6 singles contests to achieve that, then completed the job by winning the doubles contest. (Check the Sonning C&P B report below for the relevance of that first singles defeat.) The question for next season is how much will this squad (have to) be changed to survive in the top flight?

Having been only just relegated from the top flight last season, **Kingfisher D** were much too strong for this Division, dropping only 3 points in the first half and two in the second. They are a strong all-round squad with 4 players finishing on 75% or more and their fifth player, Alan Cummings, achieving 66%. The strength of the top two was reflected in their doubles results, in which both teams fielded eight different pairings yet still won 17 and 18 respectively. Is the difference between this Division and the First so great that this squad will have to battle against relegation again next season ? (...answers on a scorecard to Division 2 DFS.)

Kingfisher E started the season so well they looked certain for promotion, but Alan Bruton's absence sparked their first defeats and as the season went on their challenge faded away. It's also noticeable this team suffered most of their defeats when star performer Phil Mead wasn't playing.

With 12 points won each half, this could be seen as a consistent season for **Tidmarsh B**. But the last few matches petered out with a draw, a defeat and a concession - not a good way to end the season. Perhaps the most notable performance in their matches was an excellent treble from Kevin Brooker, which included defeating Niall McGrane 13-11 in the deciding game

and helped Tidmarsh to a narrow win over Kingfisher F back in February. This is likely to be a much changed team next season as several of their current players move on and step aside for various reasons.

Sonning C&P B also notched-up 12 points in each half of the season, but might have done better as Malcolm Gregory and Merrill Massey both showed improved form in the second half, except that at the same time Keith Swain and Brian Meheux had their results fall away. However, Keith had an impressive end to the season as in the final match against the Division's champions he defeated Slav Beilak 11-4, 7-11, 8-11, 11-9, 11-9 to prevent his opponent from having a 100% record for the season.

"We're doomed, ..." says Cap'n. Carole, "...doomed!" **Kingfisher F** need to be more confident in their own abilities. Despite a poor start, I never had any doubts that they would rise well up the table and their points tally of 13 in the New Year was beaten only by the two promoted sides, when even Steve Barnes recorded a couple of wins! So Carole's team finish respectably in the top half of the table - it was the next four teams who were all in danger of being relegated.

The presence and eventual return to form of Mick Maynard, plus the ever reliable John Willcocks, turned what could have been a disastrous season for **Curzon A** into an acceptable one with a finishing position much better than we had feared. But Curzon need a stronger player to fill the #3 berth or will continue to flirt with the dangers of relegation next season. Curzon had more close matches than any other team, as 14 of our 22 contests finished 6-4, 5-5 or 4-6.

Once again, Dave Mills was the backbone of **Post Office B**, as his singles wins accounted for almost half of the total sets won by this team throughout the season. Their cause was helped by two 'surprise' wins in the second half over Kingfishers E and F, the latter featuring the only appearance from late signing Paul Rattue who hit an impressive straight games maximum. An end of season win over already relegated Longfield improved their position in the table, so while never actually in the relegation zone this season, this team may feel they're getting too close for (their) comfort.

Sonning C&P A picked up two crucial wins in their last few matches of the season as Nigel Maltby and Mark Jones both found some form at the same time. The points from these victories over the bottom two teams went with only two other points gained in the second half, but were enough to see them finish in a position of safety.

Post Office A finished in same position as last season, but with less points and a smaller gap between themselves and the nearest relegated team. Surely cause for concern. They needed John Simmonds arrival to kick-start their season, but performances and results tailed away towards the end and they only just had enough points in the bank to avoid the drop.

Kingfisher G struggled from the start, but despite an improved set of results in the second half, especially for their key player Trevor Organ, they had given themselves too much to do. Having the worst doubles record in the Division didn't help, winning just three times. This Kingfisher team may need a slightly different mix if they



LEADING AVERAGES

		W	P	
Slawek Bielak	Tidmarsh C	26	27	96.3%
Trevor Griffiths	Kingfisher D	47	50	94.0%
Phil Stafford	Sonning C&P A	14	15	93.3%
Robert Hudson	Tidmarsh C	19	21	90.5%
John Morris	Kingfisher D	33	39	84.6%
David Bishop	Kingfisher D	27	32	84.4%
Duncan Groves	Tidmarsh C	42	51	82.4%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher F	49	63	77.8%
Phillip Mead	Kingfisher E	35	45	77.8%
Keith Swain	Sonning C&P B	34	45	75.6%
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher D	27	36	75.0%
Dave Mills	Post Office B	44	60	73.3%
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh B	43	60	71.7%
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher E	36	54	66.7%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh C	34	51	66.7%
John Willcocks	Curzon A	44	66	66.7%

want to bounce back next season and stand a chance of later survival at this level.

12 months ago, the end of season Newsletter included the following for **Longfield A**: 'Perhaps there was too much reliance on one player – they only won twice when Richard Ambrose was absent.' Unfortunately this proved to be the case, as without him this season Longfield were a shadow of the team that finished third last time and they won just two matches all season. In their defence, no team had more 4-6 defeats, six in total, so they might feel a little hard done by. But with none of their squad achieving 40% for the season, Longfield need to re-group and re-build next season if they want to challenge at this level in the coming seasons.

Stat Attack:

Best turnout: only 2 players competed for their team in every league match; Carole Chard and John Willcocks.
Best doubles record (team): Tidmarsh C with 18/22.

Most consistent doubles pairing: McGrane & Chard – played in 21/22 matches.

Most players used: Tidmarsh B, with 5 registered & 3 different reserves.

Least players used: Kingfisher E and Kingfisher F both kept to their 4 registered players.

I know the scorecards don't reflect everything that goes on in any league match – they certainly don't contain the colourful language that often goes with a close contest, but here are a selection of some of the tighter and longer contests in Division 2 this season.

Andy Stephens v John Willcocks:
9-11, 13-11, 10-12, 11-8, **16-14**

Andy Turton vs Trevor Griffiths :
11-7, **15-17**, 3-11, 17-15, 11-4.

Colin Dyke v Steve Woolnough:
11-5, 11-2, **18-16**

Carole Chard v Malcolm Gregory:
10-12, 11-9, **16-18**, 11-5, 8-11.

Slav Beilak v Dave Mills: **21-19**, 8-11, 11-6,

7-11, 11-9. (Did someone need reminding that we play up to 11 ?)

DOUBLES AVERAGES

Tidmarsh C	18	22	81.8%
Kingfisher D	17	22	77.3%
Sonning C&P B	15	22	68.2%
Curzon A	13	22	59.1%
Kingfisher F	13	22	59.1%
Post Office B	11	22	50.0%
Post Office A	10	22	45.5%
Kingfisher E	9	22	40.9%
Longfield A	8	22	36.4%
Sonning C&P A	7	22	31.8%
Tidmarsh B	6	22	27.3%
Kingfisher G	3	22	13.6%

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh C	22	19	3	0	170	50	41
Kingfisher D	22	19	1	2	179	41	39
Kingfisher E	22	13	1	8	124	96	27
Tidmarsh B	22	10	4	8	114	106	24
Sonning C&P B	22	10	4	8	104	116	24
Kingfisher F	22	10	3	9	112	108	23
Curzon A	22	7	4	11	100	120	18
Post Office B	22	7	3	12	94	126	17
Sonning C&P A	22	6	4	12	93	127	16
Post Office A	22	5	5	12	82	138	15
Kingfisher G	22	4	4	14	75	145	12
Longfield A	22	2	4	16	73	147	8

DIVISION THREE *by Barry Carter*

Congratulations go to OLOP 'G' and Kingfisher 'I' who are deservedly promoted as they have been in the top two places for the last quarter of the season (Kingfisher were in the top two for 16 of the 22 weeks). There were two hard luck stories one at the top and another at the bottom. Berks Sports 'A' finished third for the third season running and Tilehurst Meths 'A' who were Burke'd at the end of the season in their four pointer with Springfield 'A' and were consequently relegated. Commiserations to Tidmarsh 'E' who were also relegated.

Week 17: Kingfisher 'I' win top of the table derby match

Kingfisher 'I' won the top of the table match with their 'H' team 8-2. Ivor Hardman proved too much for the 'H' team as he won all three, Mike Dorrington waded in with two as did Matt Sutatham. Chris Pusey stopped the whitewash with two good wins over Matt and Mike. The basement battle between Tidmarsh 'E' and Springfield 'A' showed resilience from Springfield 'A' as they came back from 0-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4 and 4-5 to snatch a point. The decisive match of the evening between Steve Ricks and Phil Burke had one close game which Phil edged 24-22. Tilehurst Meths 'B' picked up two valuable points against Tidmarsh 'B' mainly thanks to a John Virgo treble although Ian Cockling and Phil Jones also contributed. The other match saw OLOP 'G' draw with OLOP 'E' 5-5.

Week 18: Promotion hopefuls get attacks of the jitters!

Berks Sports 'A's' promotion hopes suffered a severe and unexpected setback against Tilehurst Meths 'B' as they lost 4-6. John Virgo was the main instigator with his second maximum in a row, the game ten win over Paul Scrivener clinched the points. Kingfisher 'I' only slightly capitalised as they were held 5-5 by under achievers OLOP 'E', Mike Dorrington rescued the point with a 11-3, 11-6, 11-6 win over Mark Bullion. In the other match OLOP 'F' saw off a spirited Springfield 'A' 8-2. Colin Byers and Stephen Purchase both recorded trebles.

Week 19: OLOP 'G' nearly there, Kingfisher 'I' nerves continue

OLOP 'G' made a huge step towards promotion with a 9-1 win over Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Chris Sabourin made his debut and starred with a treble although Phil Jones took him to five. Simon Thorne continued his good form with his seventh maximum in his division three debut. Kingfisher 'I' came up against a strong Tidmarsh 'D' team and appeared to be soundly beaten 7-3. It must have been case of ...if only for Tidmarsh 'D' as this was their best result of the season. Francois Durand won all three, Chris Webb two and Steve Andrews won one. At this stage Mike Dorrington was feeling the pressure as he said "We have got a lot to do to win or be runner up this season". Tidmarsh 'E' remained rooted to bottom spot as they were beaten 7-3 by OLOP 'E' despite a fine maximum from Dave Sheppard. In the other match OLOP 'F' confirmed theirs and Kingfisher 'H's' division three status for next season with a 9-1 win over them, Colin Byers and Harry Brough both recorded trebles. This result meant that Kingfisher 'H' couldn't be promoted.

Week 20: No inter team favours at Tidmarsh!

Tidmarsh 'D' condemned Tidmarsh 'E' to division four as they showed them no favours in an emphatic 7-3 victory. It looked good for the 'E' team as Steve Ricks overcame Pete Sinclair 11-3, 11-9, 11-13, 11-8 to give them a 1-0 lead but by the time Steve and Dave Edwards teamed up to win the doubles 11-9, 8-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6 they were 1-6 down. Chris Webb completed his hat-trick with a 7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 14-12 win over Steve Ricks. Berks Sports 'A' kept the pressure on with a 7-3 win over Springfield 'A' whose plummet down the table in the second half of the season was as dramatic as Wolves rise up the Championship in recent months. Nigel Goodman, Paul Scrivener and Dave Chard all won two. Phil Burke once again was Springfield's starman. OLOP 'F' defeated OLOP 'E' 9-1 with Colin Byers returning yet another maximum.

Week 21: Congratulations to OLOP 'G'

OLOP 'G's' promotion to division 2 was confirmed when Ing Poh Hii defeated Terry Haride 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 11-4 to give them the point they needed. Hii went on to complete his treble with an 11-6, 11-5, 11-5 victory over Dave Edwards. Chris Sabourin made it six wins out of six and young Simon Thorne won one. Dave Edwards continued his habit of beating really good players as he defeated Simon Thorne 7-11, 7-11, 11-8, 13-11, 12-10. Kingfisher 'I' put one step in the 2nd division after they defeated Tilehurst Meths 'B' 7-3. The result meant that Kingfisher 'I' needed two points for promotion and Tilehurst Meths 'B' would go to Springfield 'A' in week 22 knowing that a win would keep them up, a draw would mean a play off with Springfield 'A' and defeat would mean relegation. Berks Sports 'A' won

LEADING AVERAGES

Ing Poh Hii	Our Lady of Peace 'G'	29	26	3	89.7%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	42	35	7	83.3%
Simon Thorne	Our Lady of Peace 'G'	44	35	9	79.5%
Ian Davis	Our Lady of Peace 'E'	39	30	9	76.9%
Nigel Goodman	Berks Sports 'A'	42	31	11	73.8%
Dave Sheppard	Tidmarsh 'E'	30	21	9	70.0%
Matt Sutatham	Kingfisher 'I'	33	23	10	69.7%
Dave Chard	Berks Sports 'A'	42	28	14	66.7%
Mike Dorrington	Kingfisher 'I'	54	34	20	63.0%



again, this time 9-1 at home to Kingfisher 'H' to maintain their outside hopes of promotion.

Week 22, Monday: Kingfisher 'I' go up

Kingfisher 'I' clinched promotion in fine style with a 9-1 win over relegated Tidmarsh 'E', although it didn't start too well as Mike Dorrington became Dave Edwards third top ten victim with an impressive 13-11,11-9,11-9 win. That was as good as it got for Tidmarsh 'E' as Ken Robb and Ivor Hardman wrapped up the season by winning the next nine sets. Not sounding too smug but I did predict promotion for Kingfisher 'I' back in September.

Week 22, Wednesday: So near again for Berks Sports 'A'

Bob Woodmansee after an agonising, sleepless night found out by a text message that Kingfisher 'I' had got the points they needed to clinch the second promotion spot left himself out of Berks Sports 'A's last match of the season (a bit of poet-

ic license although it may have happened). It didn't matter as Paul, Nigel and Dave all won to end their season on a high but disappointing 10-0 win over OLOP 'E'. After tipping Berks Sports 'A' for promotion if I am DFS in division three next season I promise I won't tip you guys again!

Week 22, Thursday: Justice for Tilehurst Meths?

Springfield 'A' left out Ian Boaden and Seth Martin to bring in John Burke from division 5 for the all important relegation decider and it proved a masterstroke as he not surprisingly won all three, as did Phil Burke in their 7-3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'B'. John Virgo, Ian Cockling and Phil Jones all defeated Des Hele. In the other match champions OLOP 'G' lost to OLOP 'F' 6-4.

Well that's all from me for this season, hope you have enjoyed all my ramblings over the season. See you in September.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Our Lady of Peace 'G'	18	12	4	2	135	45	28
Kingfisher 'I'	18	11	4	3	104	76	26
Berks Sports 'A'	18	11	3	4	117	63	25
Kingfisher 'H'	18	9	2	7	86	94	20
Our Lady of Peace 'E'	18	8	3	7	89	91	19
Our Lady of Peace 'F'	17	6	3	8	89	81	15
Tidmarsh 'D'	17	5	5	7	74	96	15
Springfield 'A'	18	4	4	10	75	105	12
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	18	4	2	12	63	117	10
Tidmarsh 'E'	18	3	2	13	58	122	8

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DIVISION FOUR

by Derek Harrison

Curzon Club B are the champions so on behalf of you all I congratulate them. Having led from the start I feel we deserved it but I have to say it was all down to Jon Willis who was brilliant. In our first game since my previous notes we gained a fine draw at Polish with Jon winning all 3 with ease. I won two by beating Kris D and Bob. At home to Milestone A for a change it was me who came up trumps by gaining a very good maximum. For once Jon had a bad night and only won one as did Geoff Johnson, which gave us a draw. Then came a big shock we lost 4-6 against St Lawrence. Jon did his bit by winning all 3 and then teaming up with Derek to win the doubles. In our vital match at OLOP we gained a vital draw with Jon winning 3 and Derek 1. We also teamed up to win the doubles by beating Mike and Dave 5-11 7-11 11-6 2-11. Our last game of the season saw us clinch the title by beating Pangbourne 6-4 Jon and Derek both obtained trebles, I beat Leroy in game 10 11-3 11-5 7-11 11-8 to seal the victory.

Seasons Record Jon 58/60 97%, Derek 40/60 67%, Geoff 22/54 41%.

Doubles 12/20 60%

OLOP H and Polish B are locked together and have to play off to decide who goes up. I hope to include this result as stop press. Apart from their penultimate game against Milestone, which they lost 6-4 due to Alex Fear having to withdraw just before the game and only having two players they have done quite well. In that game Mike Burrow and Iain Greenwood both gained doubles. In their vital game at Polish they won 4-6, Dave Holt and Mike won two each. At home to Curzon they shared the spoils with Mike and Dave gaining good doubles while Iain defeated Geoff. At Pangbourne they stormed to a 2-8 win with Mike and Iain getting great hat tricks. Next came a 10-0 win over St Lawrence with Mike, Alex and Dave doing the business. Mike again on top form by winning all 3 against Sonning C, which helped towards a 7-3 victory. To help the cause Dave won two and Iain one.

Seasons Record Iain 17/36 47% 2 trebles, Alex 26/35 74% 4 trebles, Dave 32/41 78% 5 trebles, Mike 35/44 79% 8 trebles.

Doubles 13/20 65%

Since my last notes **Polish B** started with a fine draw with Curzon, Kris Milerski hit two while Bob Walker and Kris Duma both won one by beating Geoff. They then lost 4-6 to OLOP with the two Kris's both winning two each. At Birch Copse, which they won 8-2 Kris D and Kris M both gained maximums. Kris M hit a 3 straight treble, which helped them beat Pangbourne, Kris D won two and Bob one to give them a 6-4 win. Next came an away game at Tidmarsh, which they won 3-7 thanks to great trebles from Kris M and Kris D - Kris M and Bob won the doubles to complete the victory. In their final match they beat Sonning D to clinch the play off spot. Kris M hit a 3-straight maximum with Kris D and Bob winning two each.

Seasons Record Bob 10/33 30% 2 doubles, Andy 3/33 9% 3 singles, Kris M 50/54 93% 14 trebles, Kris D 39/60 5 trebles.

Doubles 15/20 75%

Sonning Com and P C had a good win at Pangbourne by a 2-8 score line. Jeremy Willis hit a superb 3 straight maximum, Paul Treodgold did almost as well by winning all 3 but none 3 straight, Grahame Streets managed a single by beating Leroy. Paul and Jeremy repeated their efforts against Pangbourne by doing it again in their match with Birch Copse. Ian Ayres won one to help towards a 8-2 win. Against their D team Paul and Tim Raby won two each to go with yet another Jeremy hat trick which gave them a 3-7 victory. At home to Tidmarsh Jeremy, Paul and Tim all gained maximums in their 9-1 win. At Tilehurst without Jeremy they went down 6-4 Grahame won two and Paul one. In their last game of the season they went down 7-3 at OLOP. Jeremy won two by beating Dave and Iain, Paul also beat Iain 7-11 15-13 9-11 13-15.

Seasons Record Paul 35/56 62% 4 trebles, Jeremy 39/42 93%

11 trebles, Grahame 20/30 67% 2 trebles, Iain 6/30 20%.

Doubles 6/20 30%

Pangbourne WMC A had a bad night when they lost 2-8 at home to Sonning C, Pete Welch and Roger Stevens both beat Grahame. They then entertained Tilehurst and won at a canter 8-2. Tom Johnson had his best game of the season by beating Jan 12-10 11-3 5-11 11-8, Chris 11-5 11-3 11-9 and Mal 11-3 11-5 12-10 Pete and Roger weighed in with doubles. At home again they lost 2-8 to OLOP Tom and Roger won one each by beating Dave. At Curzon they went down 6-4 Pete, Tom and Leroy Wilson all won one each by beating Geoff besides Leroy and Tom winning the doubles. They played Polish next and lost 6-4, Tom won two by beating Kris D and Bob and Roger picked up a single by also beating Bob. In their final match they crashed to a 2-8 defeat against St Lawrence with Leroy and Tom both beating Ben.

Seasons Record Leroy 27/51 53% 6 trebles, Roger 21/39 54% 1 treble, Tom 25/48 52% 4 trebles, Pete 19/36 53% 1 treble.

Doubles 12/20 60%

St Lawrence did well to finish 6th due to losing key players with work commitments. At home to Birch Copse they just got home 6-4 thanks mainly to a great Chris West hat trick. Dan West won two and Ralph Jack picked up that vital single. At home to Tidmarsh they shared the spoils with Chris and Ralph gaining doubles and Ben Clowney obtaining a single by beating Bob. Next they became the only team to beat the champions Curzon, Ben, Dan and Ralph all won two each. At Tilehurst they made it 4 wins out of 5 getting home 4-6. Dan and Ralph won two each by beating Mal and Dave and also teamed up to win the doubles. Chris won the other game by beating Mal. At OLOP they crashed 10-0. No further comment lads! In their last game they won 2-8 at Pangbourne Dan and Ralph both obtained trebles. For Ralph it was his first of the season.

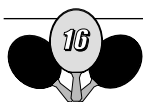
Season Record Ben 16/45 36% 1 treble, Chris 20/36 56% 3 trebles, Dan 30/54 56% 3 trebles, Ralph 17/36 47% 1 treble.

Doubles 9/20 45%

Tilehurst Meths averaged a point a game yet finished 7th. At home to St Lawrence they went down 4-6, Nigel Rowland played a blinder by beating Chris 11-6 11-6 12-10, Dan 10-12 11-9 11-9 5-11 11-6 and Ralph 11-7 11-6 11-8. Dave Jones won the other game by also beating Chris. Jan Wright won the only two games at Pangbourne in their 8-2 defeat. At Milestone they won 4-6 thanks to a great treble from Nigel and a good double from Jan besides teaming up to win the doubles. A good team effort saw them beat Sonning C 6-4 Chris Taylor and Mal won two each while Nigel despite being injured had to concede to Ian but still managed to beat Paul. At Birch Copse Jan (all 3 straight) and Mal both obtained trebles, which helped towards a 2-8 victory. In their final game they beat Sonning D 8-2 Jan with all 3 and doubles from Chris and Dave paved the way. Season Record Nigel 25/32 78% 6 trebles, Mal 10/33 30% 1 treble, Dave 17/33 51% 2 trebles, Chris 10/33 30% 4 doubles, Jan 24/36 67% 3 trebles, John 8/12 67% 1 treble.

Doubles 10/20 50%

Tidmarsh F were always doing enough to keep out of trouble with their well balanced side. At St Lawrence a good team performance saw them gain a draw. Terry Hardie obtained a double by beating Ben and Ralph, while Mick Osborne and Bob Griffiths won one each. The doubles was vital Bob and Terry beat Chris and Ralph 11-6 10-12 11-9 1-11 11-13. At Sonning C they crashed to a 9-1 defeat with only a doubles win to show for their efforts. They then bounced back by beating the luckless Birch Copse 6-4. Terry and Bob won two each with Mick winning one by beating Russell Moores. Against Sonning Com D they came from 4-1 down to win 4-6 Dave and Mick won two each with Bob gaining a vital single besides teaming up with Dave to win the doubles. Their mini winning run came to an end



when they went down 3-7 to Polish Terry, Bob and Dave all beat Andy. At home to a two man Milestone, Bob won two with Terry and Dave winning one each by beating John C to give them a 7-3 win.

Seasons Record Terry 18/35 51% 1 treble, Mick 13/36 36% 4 doubles, Dave 14/47 30% 4 doubles, Bob 25/50 50% 1 treble. Doubles 13/20 65%.

Milestone A started the run in by getting a great draw at Curzon, John Evans obtained a double and become the first player to beat Jon Willis as did Hugh Crosfield who won one. John Crosfield also won one by beating Geoff. At home to Sonning D they stormed to an 8-2 win with John E winning 3 and Hugh and John Tucker winning two each. Hugh was missing against Tilehurst and the side lost 4-6, John C played well by beating Jan and Chris. In the game against OLOP Hugh beat Mike 11-5 11-9 11-8 and Iain 11-3 11-5 11-4 and teamed up with John E to win the doubles to give them a 6-4 win. Due to illness and holidays they could only play Hugh and John C against Tidmarsh and went down 7-3 Hugh won two by beating Terry and Dave. *Seasons Record, Hugh 36/56 64% 2 trebles, John E 15/29 52% 2 trebles, John T 6/39 15% 2 doubles, John C 19/45 42% 2 trebles.*

Doubles 10/20 50%

Sadly my old mate Terry Spice has been relegated with **Birch Copse A**. During their last 7 matches they have had a torrid time having to play reserves due to injuries to Pete Sheppard and Roy Hull. At St Lawrence Terry won two by beating Dan and Ralph while Duncan Abbott also beat Ralph but this was not enough because they went down 6-4. At Sonning Com and P C they lost 8-2 Terry and Duncan won one by beating Iain. Next came a 2-8 defeat to Polish, again Duncan and Terry gained singles. They then won their first match since they beat Sonning Com D on the 7th Nov by beating them again 6-4. This time Terry, Duncan and match reserve Matt Rowland all won two each. At home to Tilehurst Meths C Matt and Terry won one each in their 2-8 defeat. At Tidmarsh Terry gained his first maximum of the season but sadly Duncan could only win one so the side went down 6-4. Terry Hardie informed me it was a great match and hopes there will be a vacancy in the 4th next season. Well done Duncan for keeping the side going.

Season Record Terry 30/59 51% 1 treble, Duncan 13/53 24% 2 doubles, Ray 13/32 41% 1 treble, Pete 1/9 11%.

Doubles 4/20 20%

Sonning Com & P D have had a nightmare season but are still trying. At Milestone they lost 8-2 Roy Smyth won the two by beating Hugh and John Tucker. In their local derby with

LEADING AVERAGES

Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'B' *	58/60	96.67
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P C	39/42	92.86
Krystof Milerski	Polish B	50/54	92.59
Mike Burrow	OLOP H	35/44	79.55
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths C	25/32	78.13
Dave Holt	OLOP H	32/41	78.05
Alex Fear	OLOP H	26/35	74.29
Derek Harrison	Curzon Club 'B' *	40/60	66.67
Graeme Streets	Sonning C&P C	20/30	66.67
Krystof Duma	Polish B	39/60	65
Jan Wright	Tilehurst Meths C	24/37	64.86
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone A	32/50	64
Paul Treadgold	Sonning C&P C	35/57	61.4

their C they went down 3-7. Again Roy won two and teamed up with Pete Harman to win the doubles 6-11 5-11 11-1 12-10 12-10, against Paul and Jeremy. At Birch Copse without Roy they went down 6-4 Tony House won two and Pete won one. They then went 4-1 up against Tidmarsh F but still managed to lose 4-6. Pete and Tony did well to win two each, Derek Maltby keeps plugging away without reward. At Tilehurst Roy came back into the side and promptly beat Chris 3-11 11-4 9-11 6-11 and Dave 6-11 0-11 4-11 but alas no first point because they went down 8-2. At home to Polish they went 2-0 up with Pete beating Kris D and Tony beating Bob but alas lost the next 8.

Seasons Record, Pete 10/53 3 doubles, Alan 4/24 17% 1 double, Tony 10/41 24% 2 doubles, Roy 19/29 66% 1 treble.

Doubles 6/20 30%

Finally I would like to thank on behalf of you, Nigel Maltby for the great press coverage in the Evening Post and for keeping the website up to date. Also to Carol for her fine newsletter. Well done to you both.

.... Stop Press - Promotion Playoff

OLOP H 5 - POLISH B 5

Kris M hit a maximum to help Polish beat OLOP 19-18 in games to clinch promotion!

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curzon Club 'B' *	20	14	5	1	134	66	33
Polish B	20	14	2	4	117	83	30
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) H	20	14	2	4	139	61	30
Sonning C&P C	20	10	3	7	113	87	23
Pangbourne WMC A	20	10	2	8	105	95	22
St Laurence Church	20	10	2	8	92	108	22
Tilehurst Meths C	20	9	2	9	104	96	20
Tidmarsh F	20	8	3	9	86	114	19
Milestone A	20	4	4	12	89	111	12
Birch Copse A	20	4	1	15	69	131	9
Sonning C&P D	20	0	0	20	52	148	0

DIVISION FIVE *by John Harris*

The final few weeks of the season were an extremely busy time, with most clubs playing at least six matches. Most teams were playing these matches simply for the enjoyment of playing table tennis, but for others there were the questions of promotion and relegation. The race for the title went down to the very end: Sonning 'E' had to defeat Milestone in order to displace OLOP 'I' from the top of the division, a position which OLOP had held since the opening week of the season. At the other end of the table, Sonning 'E' defeated Milestone 'B', who, that night, were without the services of Gerard Thorp, and thus moved above Milestone.

OLOP 'I'

Although OLOP gained victories in five of their last six matches, they were defeated by Sonning 'F' in the crucial title decider. Had OLOP won or even drawn this match, they would have finished the season as champions. Mark Kirton and Phil Mannion beat Derek Brook-Wavell and won the doubles, but both players lost to Martyn Fenner and Tim Raby. Unfortunately, OLOP's third player, Ben Young, failed to arrive, having mistakenly gone to the Tidmarsh venue instead of Sonning's. Perhaps, with the benefit of hindsight, the team should have invited Chris Sabourin, the latest OLOP protégé, to play in this important match. Nevertheless, I would like to congratulate the OLOP players and wish them all success in Division 4 next year.

CURZON 'C'

Five of Curzon's last six matches have gone according to form. Linda King's team have beaten Sonning 'E' and Tidmarsh, drawn with Longfield, and lost to OLOP and Sonning 'F'. A surprise, however, came in the match with Birch Copse which Curzon lost by a margin of 6-4. I realise that Matthew Rowland has finished the season on a high, but I still expected Curzon to win this fixture. Predictably, Tracy Maynard has finished with a sound record, but she has been pushed all the way by Linda (37 wins from 57), while Mick Gillard, I hope, will

have been pleased with his performances during the season. Jim Brent also played a small part in helping the team to finish in the top half of the table. I do hope that Rod Clarke will be able to resume playing next year.

SONNING C&P 'F'

Congratulations on becoming Division 5 champions for season 2006-7! Malcolm Griffiths' team won seven of their last eight matches and clinched the title with the 6-4 defeat of Milestone in the final match of the season. They beat OLOP by 7-3 and Curzon 8-2 to win 58 of the 80 games played. The one defeat during this highly successful run was against Resource, when Andrew Syed's team ran out winners by 6-4. Clearly, the Sonning team owe much of their success to Martyn Fenner and Tim Raby, who should be more than capable of holding their own in Division 4 next year, but Derek Brook-Wavell (27 from 49), Jim McClure (18 from 35), Keith Allwright (8 from 14) and Malcolm Griffiths (1 from 3) all played their parts in the team's success. Good luck to you all next year!

LONGFIELD 'B'

For several weeks in the first half of the season I felt that John Belcher's team were capable of making a serious challenge for one of the promotion places. Unfortunately – or perhaps they will say fortunately – the challenge never really materialised and OLOP and Sonning 'F' were never particularly threatened. In fact, in the final few weeks of the season I had the impression that Longfield were happy with their lot and that to finish in third spot would be more than satisfactory. In the last six matches they recorded victories over Spencers Wood and Milestone, drew with Resource, Kingfisher and Curzon, and lost to OLOP. Undoubtedly, the combination of Ken Park, John Belcher (21 from 42), John Beardmore (29 from 44) and Rod Janes (4 from 38) is more than capable of mounting a challenge for honours – perhaps it will be next year!

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sonning C & P 'F'	20	16	1	3	135	65	33
OLOP 'I'	20	16	0	4	144	56	32
Longfield 'B'	20	10	6	4	113	87	26
Curzon 'C'	20	10	3	7	107	93	23
Reading Resource	20	10	3	7	104	96	23
Kingfisher 'J'	20	10	3	7	101	99	23
Spencers Wood	20	7	3	10	99	101	17
Birch Copse 'B'	20	8	1	11	89	111	17
Tidmarsh 'G'	20	8	0	12	90	110	16
Sonning C & P 'E'	20	2	2	16	60	140	6
Milestone 'B'	20	1	2	17	58	142	4



KINGFISHER 'J'

Last season Kingfisher were struggling for points close to the foot of the table, whereas this year they have been at, or about, the mid-table position throughout and have certainly never been regarded as an easy team to beat. If only my own team could have improved in the same way! Nonetheless, Jack Ridley's team have had a few rather odd results in recent weeks; victories have been achieved over Resource and Spencers Wood, the match with Longfield ended in a draw, and they suffered defeats at the hands of Sonning 'F' and Birch Copse. Pick the bones out of that if you can! Diane Taylor (26 from 42) and Sylvia Bruton (21 from 33) hold the best averages, but they have been well backed up by Derek Spicer (17 from 39), Jack Ridley (16 from 42) and Derek Crombie (15 from 24).

SPENCERS WOOD

Although there was never any danger of Brenda Finegan's team finishing at, or near, the foot of the table, their record of one victory and five defeats in the final six matches is, on the face of it at least, undoubtedly disappointing. However, although Brenda might have expected a more favourable outcome against Tidmarsh, defeats by Resource, Kingfisher, Sonning 'F' and Longfeld are by no means a disgrace. Martin Wetherell has once again shown himself to be their top player with 41 wins from 53 starts and he has been supported by Alan Clarke with 29 from 44. Brenda and Derek Chapman are a little behind and will, no doubt, be hoping for greater success next season. I understand that Derek has been suffering with a shoulder injury for part of this season and hope that he will be restored to full fitness for September.

TIDMARSH 'G'

Although Bob Sunerton's team won four of their last six matches, they have not progressed up the table and finish the season third from the bottom – admittedly, however, well clear of the bottom two! Victories, by the narrowest of margins and in some cases with the result hanging on the final game, were recorded over Spencers Wood, Sonning 'E' and Birch Copse. In fairness to John Smith, I must say that the net and table edges once again played significant roles in the match against Sonning 'E'; this time, I feel that the luck was – marginally – on my side! John Harland, with 16 wins from 23 games, finishes with the best average and, had he played in more matches, the team might have finished with more points. The team's other players may, I feel, be just a little disappointed with their own records. Bob recorded 17 wins from 38 games, John Smith 17 from 41, Dave Humphreys 5 from 21, and Alison Cheers 10 from 24. Finally, a warm welcome back to Mike Bundy who has returned after his injury.

READING RESOURCE

I think that Andrew Syed's team have finished the season in just the position he would have hoped for – mid-table. He has skilfully and sensitively selected his players for each match; for example, he promised that Syd Montgomery would play against each of the top four teams. In this way Resource have, over the course of the season, taken two points from OLOP, Sonning 'F', Curzon and Longfield, and have not, therefore, affected the relative placings of these teams. As there are too many players for me to mention them all, I will refer only to those who have played in several matches. Clearly, Neil Havard is exceptionally talented and would more than hold his own in a higher division, but Maureen Allchurch, 13 from 33, Stephen Lebens, 8 from 39, and

LEADING AVERAGES

			%
N.Havard	Reading Resource	43/45	96%
M.Fenner	Sonning C & P 'E'	32/35	91%
T.Raby	Sonning C & P 'E'	30/35	86%
K.Park	Longfield 'B'	41/48	85%
P.Mannion	OLOP 'I'	34/42	81%
M.Wetherell	Spencers Wood	41/53	77%
B.Young	OLOP 'I'	28/37	76%
T. Maynard	Curzon 'C'	29/42	69%
M.Kirton	OLOP 'I'	31/45	69%

Adrian Pacey, 9 from 30, have all played a part in the team's success.

BIRCH COPSE 'B'

Although Chas Dean's team have been without Jes Eassom for much of the season because of an injury, they have clearly found a new young star called Matthew Rowland. Matthew has matured during the last few months and, in recent weeks, has recorded maximums against Sonning 'E', Kingfisher and Curzon; he finishes the season with 34 wins from 57 games. The performance of the team as a whole, however, has, I must admit, surprised me a little this season; last year they were struggling for points and even lost a relegation play-off against Sonning 'E', whereas this year they have recorded some excellent results and have finished well clear of the relegation places. They recently defeated Resource which, in itself, I found rather surprising and when I saw that Chas had won all three of his games I thought that the scores had been written down incorrectly until I read the match comments! Sorry, Chas!! Chas finishes with a record of 12 wins from 42 and the ever-present, reliable George Kennett finishes with 20 from 57.

MILESTONE 'B'

Gerard Thorp's team have, without doubt, found the going very tough this season. Nonetheless, they have persevered until the bitter end and have fulfilled their match commitments – even in spite of medical problems and job requirements. Although they have won only one match this year – against Sonning 'E' – they feel they have learnt a lot about themselves which should help them to be stronger players next year. Perhaps their best performance of the season was in the final match against Sonning 'F'. The Sonning team, who needed to win in order to become champions, were pushed all the way, eventually getting their victory by 6-4. Gerard won two games, Andy Benning took one, and Gerard and Andy won the doubles; although Phil Rout failed to record a win he took Derek Brook-Wavell and Martyn Fenner to four sets, losing one game to the latter by 22-20. However, I am afraid that relegation beckons, so I'll see you in Division 6 next season!

SONNING C&P 'E'

In spite of defeating Milestone in the recent bottom of the table clash, all that Sonning 'E' have achieved this season is the dubious honour of being relegated to the bottom tier. I can offer no excuses – as a team we are simply not good enough for this Division. Two wins, the other being against Longfield, and two draws is poor reward for our efforts, but effort by itself is not sufficient. Out of interest, Malcolm Faulkner won 16 from 38, Mike Casserley won 16 from 47 and I achieved 14 wins from 38, while I am sure that Shep and Harold would not want me to give their records! Hence, I shall not be seeing many of you next season, so I wish you all a pleasant summer break and an enjoyable 2007-8 season.

DIVISION SIX *by Duncan Groves*

Division 6 Title Goes to the Wire

As I write this final report of the 2006/07 table-tennis season, so there are two teams sitting on top of Division 6. OLOP J defeated Pangbourne WMC B in the match postponed from week 19 to give both teams 31 points from their 18 league matches. Read on to find out the result of the play-off.....

Starting from the bottom and moving up, here are the highs and lows of the Division 6 season:

Berks Sports B

It was a shame for John Fuller that he so often struggled to put three players out. His own form seemed to suffer a little from this, although when he won one, he often won three! He had four trebles during the season, including three from the last five matches. No Conference league for us, so see you in Division 6 again next year.

Highlight: 8-2 win over Polish C in week 8
Low moment: 6-4 loss to same team in week 19

Polish C

A steadily improving season for Polish with three points coming from the last five fixtures after a run of 13 consecutive defeats. There were no "superstar" players but some steady performances from Eddy Holweger (11/36), Richard Kacperczyk (12/24) and Josek Wojcik (9/35) who picked up a great scalp in Nigel Outhwaite in week 21. In Kris Szczygiel, Polish have one of the unluckiest players in the Division, having won only one out of no less than **eight** five setters during the season.

Highlight: Solid draw with BBC Club followed quickly by the 6-4 victory over Berks Sports B.
Low moment: 13th consecutive defeat 2-8 home to Post Office C.

BBC Club

The 6 person squad was rotated more often than a Rafa Benitez managed football team! Excellent performances from John Scott and David Pearson put them

high up in the player averages. However, they only managed 13 matches between them and only in one of these did they play together (the 8-2 win over Polish C). Otherwise the team couldn't find much consistency with one player's form often co-inciding with another's lack of form.

Highlight: 5-5 in week 15 against high-riding Birch Copse with braces for Phil Peat and Gordon Ayres.
Low moment: Second 6-4 defeat to Springfield C, after leading 3-1 in the early stages.

Springfield B

An excellent finish to the season from Springfield B with three consecutive hard-earned wins. A 7/9 singles record from Derek Edney in those matches proved invaluable. Earlier in the season, that one important singles or doubles needed to nick a point often eluded them. Even so, Jeff Morgan (25/48), Ray Morrell (16/27) and Chris Speight (9/20) ended with very respectable averages.

Highlight: 6-4 win over Springfield C in end of season derby.
Low moment: 7-3 defeat to C team in week 11.

Springfield C

There were nine wins and only six defeats for the Springfield C team during the course of the season. The first half of the season showed us their potential – defeats to Post Office (10-0!!) and Pangbourne WMC but wins or draws in the remaining fixtures including a superb 5-5 against OLOP. Undoubtedly, their star was Nigel Outhwaite with 40 wins out of 47 matches. This gave a solid platform for points and meant that doubles matches often proved crucial. A tally of 9 from 18 doubles represented an improvement on the mid-season position.

Of their other performers, Colin Jones 22 from 41 wins was a decent return. His treble in the 6-4 win over Birch Copse was particularly notable as was his brace in 8-2 defeat by OLOP including wins over Al Richardson and Chris Moses.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) J	18	15	1	2	129	51	31
Pangbourne WMC B	18	15	1	2	124	56	31
Post Office C	18	12	2	4	121	59	26
Birch Copse C	18	8	6	4	99	81	22
Sonning C&P G	18	10	1	7	105	75	21
Springfield C	18	9	3	6	94	86	21
Springfield B	18	7	1	10	78	102	15
BBC Club	18	3	2	13	66	114	8
Polish C	18	1	1	16	49	131	3
Berks Sports B	18	1	0	17	35	145	2



Highlight: The team performance against a strong Birch Copse side in week 17, winning 6-4 **without** a certain Nigel.

Low moment: The same team losing 10-0 v Post Office.

Sonning Common & Peppard G

On the basis of the second half of the season, I am going to stick my neck out and install Sonning as favourites for next season's Division 6 title. Apart from defeats to both promoted teams, they were unstoppable. Andy Boyd (27/33) and Phil Turton (23/29) were both consistent but it was the improving form of Jo Stone that really stood out. She didn't start the season until week 9 but by the close had secured 15 victories from 24 starts.

Warrick Mayes also chipped in with some good wins and the 13 from 18 doubles record was second best to Pangbourne in the season.

Highlight: Run of five wins from week 10.

Low moment: Four consecutive defeats from week 5 scuppering any chance of a promotion-winning season.

Birch Copse C

Only 4 defeats all season has demonstrated how important it is to have a top player winning 3 most weeks. That man was Ken Sherry whose consistency through the season was remarkable. He only missed one game (a 10-0 defeat at Post Office) and he even took singles matches against the promoted sides (10 from 12 v OLOP/Pangbourne WMC).

The other three members of the team all contributed to the points tally at one time or another, but just failed to achieve the extra win to turn the 5-5 draws (six of them!) into 6-4 wins. One of those draws proved costly for Pangbourne WMC's hopes of winning the title outright.

Highlight: 6-4 win over OLOP J in week 10.

Low moment: 4-6 defeat to Springfield C in week 17.

Post Office C

This was a really good season for Post Office with four out of five players featuring well in the averages. Apart from the "Big 2", Post Office lost only once – to a resurgent Sonning G – late in the season. The heavy defeat of OLOP in the final week of the season was a late reminder of the strength of this team, especially when Linda Davis and John Walker played together. In fact they dropped 2 points only once (v Pangbourne WMC) when both Linda and John featured.

Of the remaining players, John Gatward and Pat Davis picked up some useful wins, including five trebles between them.

Highlight: Seven consecutive wins from week 3 onwards put them right up with the Big 2 at almost the half-way stage.

Low moment: Consecutive mid-season defeats to the Big 2 followed by a 5-5 with Birch Copse effectively ended their promotion chances.

Pangbourne WMC B

This proved to be a wonderful season for Pangbourne WMC and, arguably, should have ended with a Division 6 title.

On 26th March, Pangbourne WMC played its scheduled final fixture against Birch Copse C. Had the team

LEADING AVERAGES

		W	P	%
Daniel Moses	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) J	36	36	100
Ken Sherry	Birch Copse C	43	48	89.58
John Taylor	Pangbourne WMC B	46	54	85.19
Nigel Outhwaite	Springfield C	40	47	85.11
Geoff Chivers	Pangbourne WMC B	33	39	84.62
John Walker	Post Office C	27	32	84.38
Linda Davis	Post Office C	29	35	82.86
Andy Boyd	Sonning C&P G	27	33	81.82
Phil Turton	Sonning C&P G	23	29	79.31
John Gatward	Post Office C	24	32	75
Al Richardson	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) J	38	51	74.51
Warrick Mayes	Sonning C&P G	19	32	59.38
Ray Morrell	Springfield B	16	27	59.26
Pat Davis	Post Office C	19	33	57.58

known that two points would have been enough to seal the title, it might have been a different night. However, Ken Sherry set Birch Copse rolling with a fine straight set win over John Taylor and, although Geoff Chivers beat Elizabeth Hull in the second game, Russell Moores won a crucial singles against Colin Thomas. John, Ken and Geoff then picked up singles wins to leave the game 3-3 going in to the doubles. John and Geoff secured a four set win over Ken and Elizabeth, leaving the final three singles to play. In the first Colin put on a brave display but was pipped by Elizabeth in five sets. John Taylor then won game 9 leaving Ken and Geoff to determine the points. Unfortunately for Pangbourne, Ken Sherry was too strong on the night and the match was drawn.

Two days later, OLOP were defeated by Post Office leaving them two points adrift of Pangbourne with just one remaining game – the OLOP home fixture v Pangbourne WMC. A point would therefore have been enough but OLOP's young stars, Daniel Moses and Daniel Haile proved too strong and the season ended with the "Big 2" tied at the top of the Division.

Highlight: Pretty much the whole season – defeated only by the OLOP youngsters.

Low moment: Realisation that a win v Birch Copse would have been enough!

OLOP J

Defeated by Post Office in week 22, John Cunningham, who had played in that match, had virtually conceded the title. However, buoyed by the news that they were still only two points adrift, OLOP prepared their final match, knowing that a win would force a play-off.

Despite a brave brace from John Taylor, OLOP emerged 7-3 winners thanks to a twelfth consecutive treble from Daniel Moses and great support from Daniel Haile and Al Richardson.

What always seemed to be a promising season became a title-winning season right at the death. With one player away and another suffering from ill-health, Pangbourne WMC were unable to fulfill the play-off fixture and OLOP were awarded the Division 6 title.

Although not quite the end to the season that had been expected, both teams should be congratulated for promotion as well as excellent performances throughout.

Highlight: 7-3 last gasp win that ultimately secured title.
Low moment: Defeat in week 22 that nearly blew it!

YOUTH PLAYERS ROUND-UP by John Cunningham

ANDREWS LEADS BERKSHIRE BOYS CHALLENGE

The Berkshire boys' challenge in the English Schools National Table Tennis Championships, recently held in Stoke on Trent a few weeks ago, was headed by Forest schoolboy Richard Andrews.

Andrews - this year's Reading Men's Singles Champion - was introduced to table tennis by his uncle, Jim Stokes, who in his coaching prime took his son Jimmy, Terry Young and Gareth Herbert, amongst others to the top of British table tennis. Andrews is currently at number seven on the ETTA ranking list and has just been invited to attend the National Cadet Masters in May. He was contesting the Under 16 event in Stoke.

Max Hemmings, also from Forest School, and the top Berkshire player in the recent Regional Trials, was taking on the countries best Under 11 champions. Berkshire's Under 13 representative, Daniel Moses, who attends Maiden Erleigh School, was following in the footsteps of two of England's best ever players, Matthew and Andrew Syed who were also pupils at Maiden Erleigh. Moses won the Under 15 Reading title and was undefeated in his division this season. Reading Handicap champion and Evening Post Most Supportive Junior Award winner, Simon Thorne is a student at Denefield School Technology College. Thorne took on players four years his senior in the under 19 event is the first ever table tennis player from his school to represent Berkshire at table tennis.

Alan Ransome OBE and Butterfly Table Tennis Equipment sponsor the ESTTA Championships - while the Berkshire individual players' entry fees and the Berkshire Schools registration fees have been sponsored by OLOP TTC and IMPACT Coaching.

JUNIOR INTERTOWN MATCH SECRETARY

With no National Cadet and Junior Championships this year and once again no Berkshire Junior Intertown all we have is the success of IMPACT Reading in the National Junior League- winning two titles and some hard graft from our cadets in the National Cadet League. Players who stand out are Simon Thorne, Daniel Moses, Hanson Xu and Daniel Thorne, with all the rest playing with credit - particularly the improving Tony Lee-White. Thanks are due to Alan Dines and the supporting parents who provided transport and spent their weekends at Chesham and Cippenham.

JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE

IMPACT Coaching continues to thrive at Our Lady of Peace giving the opportunity for those not yet ready, or unable to attend the Friday evening sessions at Blue coat School to give table tennis a try. A two tier system now operates' on a Sunday to contain the extra numbers, with beginners 9.30-11.00 and the remainder from 11-12.30. Advanced

coaching is also offered on Tuesday evenings from 5.30-7.00.

- Links with schools continues - participation in the Bulmershe Sports Launch saw several schools showing interest in table tennis being offered as an extra curricular activity. Sessions for local scouts and cubs attracted about 60 youngsters.

- OLOP has received a grant from Wokingham Council, backed by financial support from OLOP TTC and IMPACT.

The aims are: -

(1). To kick start table tennis in Primary and Junior schools

(2). Increase the number of coaches in schools and clubs

- Eight youngsters have been selected to represent Berkshire in the ESTTA, which takes place 21st April in Stoke-on-Trent.

- Rachel Farquhar - who finished third in the Regional Trials at Cippenham - sprung a major surprise at the ETTA National Trials in Bristol by beating all the seeded players to win her first major title.

· Melanie Farquhar is the new ETTA Junior Champion. Congratulations to the Farquhar family.

What is the position of Berkshire in relation to local leagues nominating players to fill the 30 candidates for the Regional Trials?

What duties do Berkshire undertake in return for the fees they receive from Reading Maidenhead Bracknell and Newbury?

No Junior Intertown for several seasons.

No Cadet or Junior Berkshire team's last season

No nominations for the Regional Trials at Cippenham.

The question must be asked. What do the majority of the local leagues' senior and junior players receive in return for the Berkshire affiliation fees?

YOUTH LEAGUE

While problems occurred during the last third of the season - there were many positives, not least the introduction of many new youngsters to competitive table tennis and the League fixtures are complete.

Division One

Kingfisher Knights and IMPACT Thunderbolts finished joint top with Kingfisher Knights winning the play off.

Division Two

1. Impact Avengers
2. Woodley Hammers

Division Three

1. Earley Tigers
2. Wokingham Eagles

