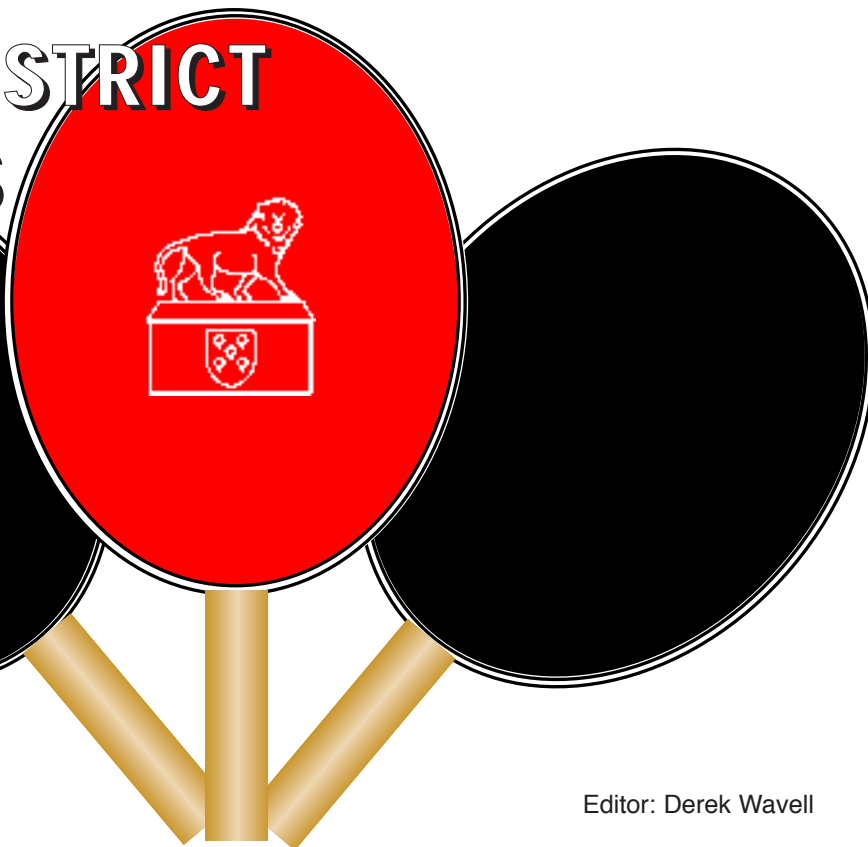


READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Editor: Derek Wavell

Dec-Jan 2009-10

Every Dog Will Have his Day...

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... **SO** they say, and the same applies to young ladies. Not that **Tilehurst Meths** has any ladies or dogs playing at present (with two notable exceptions); but the club is riding high. Out of a total of only four teams, two are bumping their heads on the top of their divisional table, and the other two are tucked in a strategic third position. Well done!

You'll enjoy the divisional reports. Mark Banks could certainly not be accused of lacking Christmas spirit, and this is a remarkable way to see the inner life of Division One. Barry Carter has gone one better for Division Two, by including all sorts of extra statistics on the season so far. The DFS's all send their very best Christmas and New Year wishes.

Photographs - we don't have so many of them this time. Please keep sending them in - and remember that the best action photographers will receive more prizes. See pages 3 and 11 for details of the two winners so far.

And do write in to the letters page.

Stay warm, keep playing - it's excellent for your health - and have an excellent Christmas and New Year.

Derek



Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

Reading Table Tennis Centre: Following the Special General Meeting of the Association on Thursday 26th November it has been agreed that the RDTTA will provide a financial guarantee to the Reading Table Tennis Centre project towards the planned development of a dedicated table tennis centre in Reading.

Individual Handicap Competition: This season's event will take place on Sunday 3rd January 2010 at the Kingfisher Club. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the website or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Nigel at 12 Queens Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8DL by the closing date of Thursday 24th December.

Reading Closed Championships: Entry forms are now available for the Reading Closed Championships which are to be held at the Cippenham Club, Slough over the weekend of the 17th & 18th of April 2010.

Entry forms are available from Club Secretaries, via the website or by contacting Reading Association secretary, Nigel Maltby, and completed forms should be sent to Charlie Goddard at 35, The Pastures, Oulton, Lowestoft NR32 4WT, to arrive no later than Friday 19th March 2010.

Please do try to support this worthwhile event. Entry remains free. Cippenham is a top class venue and a fantastic two days' play is guaranteed.

IMPACT Challenge Shield: This competition is by invitation only from teams competing in Divisions 1 or 2.

The draw for the Semi-Finals is as follows:

Tidmarsh A v Kingfisher A

Kingfisher B or OLOP D v OLOP A or Polish B

Ties are scheduled to be played during week commencing 15th February 2010.



Some More Notes, from the Editor

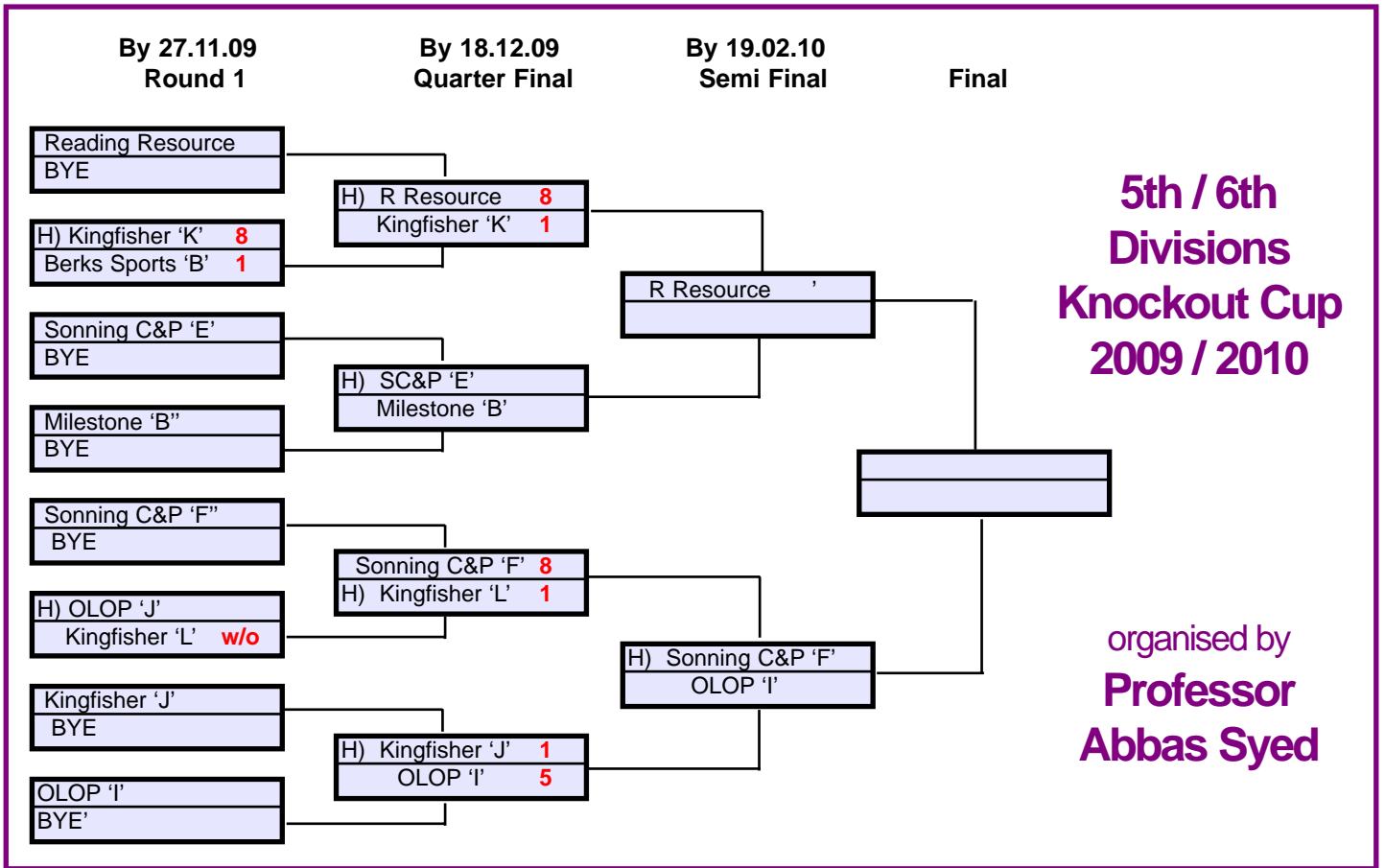
- Who needs a table?** Tilehurst Methodists club have two that need a good home. They are not quite up to match standard, but very useful for practice. Contact Nigel Rowland on 9410822. **(LATER - Sorry, tables are taken)**
- Reading Resource has a new venue** - the Wycliffe Church Hall, 233 Kings Road, Reading RG1 4L. If you're leaving Reading on the King's Road, turn second left after the Thames Valley University, into Rupert Street. From there turn first right into Norwood Road - and the capacious Wycliffe Baptist Church car park is on the right opposite N° 18, Norwood Road.
- Genial Knowledge:** What is the average age of registered players in the Reading League? The answer is at the bottom of the page.

John Cunningham Lifetime Achievement Award

The photo shows Beryl Cunningham meeting Peter Bradley, who is Deputy Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, to receive a posthumous Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of her late husband, John Cunningham.

John was the founder of the Our Lady of Peace club, and a driving force behind the development of table tennis in Reading.





Didier Garçon Wins a Prize for best Action Photographer



See also p11.



Didier Garçon is the captain of Kingfisher 'K' and - amongst many other activities - he is also a keen photographer. His photo of Daniel Moses playing against Liam McTiernan won him one of two prizes in our last issue, for best action photographer. His camera is a Canon 50D and the photo was taken on maximum sensitivity with a set speed of 1/160th sec.

On the right: his prize - an official Reading TTA tie. Please will readers keep sending in action photos - more prizes are on offer!



Team Handicap Competition 2009 - 10

organised by Professor Abbas Syed

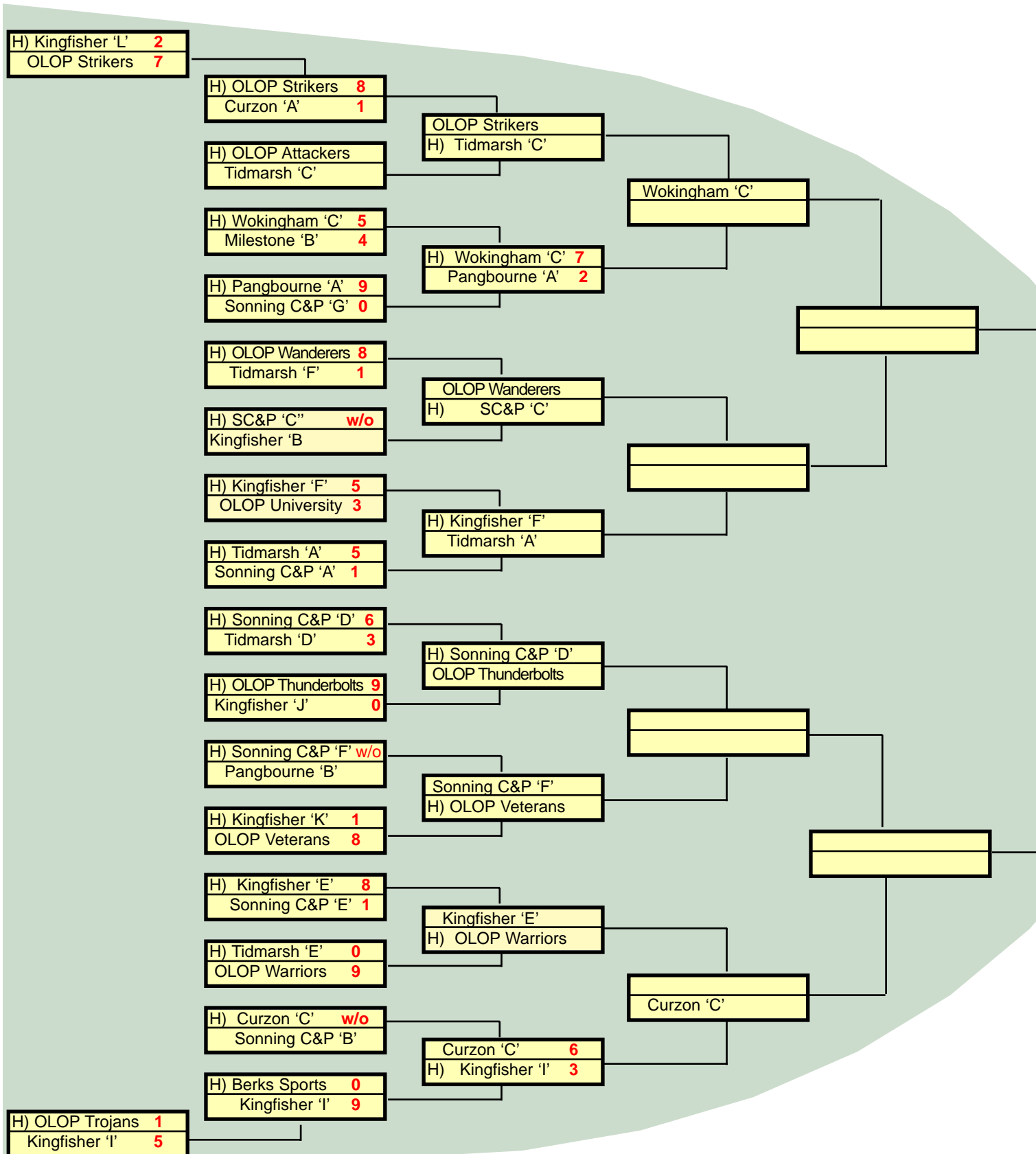
By 30.10.09
Round 1

By 27.11.09
Round 2

By 18.12.09
Round 3

By 19.2.10
Quarter Final

Semi-Final



DIVISION ONE *by Mark Banks*

With the extra special festive edition of the RDTTA Newsletter. I love Christmas. Costs a fortune though – even more with the little one wanting Father Christmas to get him pretty much everything on TV that he sees. He's almost 4 now. Incredible where it's gone. I used to be a half decent player back then - not to mention half the size! Talking of Christmas presents there's been a fair few given out across our Division One in the lead up to the festive season. None more so than from Nicky Heaps who in particular decided to play Santa and very generously gave a whole sackful out to Wokingham 'A'! Is anybody in the market for a real Christmas tree by the way? If so, just head down the Oxford Road, look for a dodgy looking guy in a woolly hat named Ramesh. Tell him you know me and you should get a nice discount! With all the good feeling, there's always a tinge of sadness at this special time of year isn't there. I'm sorry to report that the incredibly likeable, super player and first rate team member of mine for many seasons not just in this thing but in British League too, Bela Hegedus has decided to take an indefinite break from the game. Sadly it means that we will not be seeing him playing again for quite some time. But hey! they always come back eventually don't they Mike Childs so I'm hoping to see him on a table at some point in the distant future. On behalf of myself, the Kingfisher Club and the Reading League, good luck with your new Golf career buddy. FORE!!! We will all miss you and I'm sure you'll always be welcome to pull on a Kingfisher shirt at anytime you decide to make the inevitable comeback. Back ON the table, the relegation battle is as close as it's ever been and you may have heard on the grapevine that there was a big match this week in Div One. Probably the biggest for some time in fact. Large (large for local table tennis anyway) crowd pitched up and they were treated to an absolute masterclass – from both teams. I'll let you read on and find out what happened, in the meantime – I'm off out to get some Christmas shopping in before Andy Yon and his trolley get in there first! Enjoy and Merry Christmas!

Love & Peace

Mark x

There's been a lot of talk this season (maybe too much talk) that **Kingfisher 'A'** are finally about to lose their crown as "Kings" of Reading. I hear it everywhere I go. The new kids on the block are gonna get ya! But, for all you doubters out there and you know who you are..... we have given ourselves an absolutely **massive** chance of retaining our crown with a convincing win over said closest challengers and massive rivals from down the way - OLOP 'A'. Whilst the 7 - 3 scoreline suggests a close (ish) game the manner in which Hari and Steve despatched their 3 OLOP oppo-

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	11	10	1	0	93	17	21
OLOP (Impact) 'A'	11	9	1	1	83	27	19
Polish 'A'	11	7	4	0	69	41	18
Polish 'B'	11	6	2	3	63	47	14
YMCA 'A'	10	6	0	4	57	43	12
Wokingham 'A'	11	4	2	5	52	58	10
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	10	4	1	5	37	63	9
Kingfisher 'B'	10	3	2	5	45	55	8
OLOP (Impact) 'B'	11	2	3	6	40	70	7
OLOP (Impact) 'D'	11	2	2	7	41	69	6
OLOP (Impact) 'C'	10	1	2	7	37	63	4
Sonning C&P 'A'	11	0	0	11	23	87	0

nents on the night was sheer quality and anything but close. Now, as you know I absolutely hate putting match scores and games scores in my column but this one justifies it because but for a simply superb comeback in the doubles (best match of the night in my book) when Daniel & Liam were going nowhere at 2-1 and 10-5 down it would have been an 8 - 2 scoreline I am writing about. Well played guys. Super stuff. So once again we're top and clear at Christmas. We're under no illusions though about how tough it's gonna be in the New Year. Losing Bela has left us a little short so fingers crossed we can remain fit or in mine and Ramesh's case er, get fit and as I say month after month the standard is so tough and every team so competitive that we need to remain completely focused in our quest. Get this, there is an outside chance that we could actually play OLOP 'A' 3 times in the space of a matter of days at the end of the season. We play them in the last game anyway, we could get them in the Impact Shield Final and if we lose the league game we could have to play them in a league title play-off!! We'll be sick of the sight of each other! Surely that would be some sort of record? But maybe somebody who has played in this League for far longer than I knows differently!! Answers on an email please!



M.V.P. Hari Gehlot

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: How do you know Santa has to be a man? No woman is ever going to wear the same outfit year after year!

Super side **OLOP 'A'** and they lost absolutely nothing in defeat (er, apart from 2 points I guess) going down to a Hari & Steve in that type of mood. Yes, the boys do like to talk a lot but I like that. Kind of reminds me of when I was young and thin but hey! they are far better players than I was at that age and will go on to be far better players too – no question. They are great for this League – they have instilled a proper rivalry that we have not had some time and that can only be a good thing. This year however may

just be a year too soon. They're still in it – of course they are but the form guide tells us that they are gonna have to turn around a big load of 3 straight defeats down at the OLOP Club to succeed and I'm not sure that's gonna be possible with Hari & Steve in this kinda groove. Hey, we could always be sporting and throw in Ramesh to give 'em half a chance! Ha ha! We'll see. Michael's family size will soon be doubling with the birth of his twins due in the New Year. Congratulations to him and Anna. Still a fierce competitor, still playing the same aggressive game and still winning most of his matches. I really cannot wait for the rematch and we know you lot will be gunning for us. Merry Christmas guys and see you in the NY.

M.V.P. Daniel Moses

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What did the fish say when it swam into a wall? Dam!

Fantastic stuff from **Polish 'A'** too. Still unbeaten and without the services of Martin Adams during his paternity break they have introduced a couple of new faces to the Division and they seem to be doing them just fine thank you very much. Now, I was gonna say nice things about Nicky Heaps's form. I say was 'cos then he went and had an absolute shocker in the last match before the break against Wokingham that busted up his healthy looking average and sent him tumbling down into the mid 60's to match his age (joke nick). Good match though by all accounts and the saviour for Polish once again was Derek Wood, the man with more jokes than Bobby Davro (actually is that such a hard thing?) and who seems to be over the worst of his injury problems that have plagued him for the past couple of seasons. All we need to do now is find him a venue with decent lights and he'll be unstoppable!! I'll be honest with you I don't know a lot about Messrs Stead, Brown & Dobbins but clearly they're all very capable (let's face it you have to be to pull on a Polish 'A' shirt don't you?) and it's always good to have some new blood to spice things up a bit. Richard's form has been solid without quite hitting the heights of yesteryear. A confident lot though are Polish 'A', as I say their form speaks for itself, they're still unbeaten and will consider themselves right back in it after the OLOP 'A' defeat. I know they still have title aspirations and whilst I personally think they still have it all to do they ARE Polish 'A' and the very name itself means you rule them out at your peril. Have a great Christmas, guys!

M.V.P. Martin Adams

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What athlete is warmest in Winter? A Long Jumper!

With the Div 1 absence of Kingfisher 'C' this season, **Polish 'B'** are fast becoming my favourite 2nd team. Those lavish refreshments and the sight of Andy Yon munching in-between games on a thick Polish sausage remain firmly fixed in the memory and their Captain Graham provides the most excellent match reports of any leader anywhere in this League. Oh and to top it all they're playing blimmin well too! Now I don't know what they put in those Polish Sausages and quite frankly I don't want to know but clearly it's having an effect on a certain somebody because he only went and won his first ever game in the top flight. Remarkable!! And well done you! For fear of embarrassing the poor unfortunate OLOP 'C' lady I won't let on who it

was that he beat but needless to say she's had her big wins too this season (a certain Master L McTiernan springs to mind) so as with all these things they kinda even themselves out over the season and we all have our bad games don't we – Mr Adams aside of course). So they're riding high are Polish 'B' and I for one am backing them to stay there. They're not without their problems though it has to be said. Graham Diplock's slightly irritating umpiring manner has now been upgraded to just plain irritating and this has meant that he has now been relieved of all umpiring duties during games involving Andy and..... just when you thought things couldn't get any worse, the hugely talented Kris Milerski has announced that he is not yet confident enough to umpire in English and ruled himself out of ALL umpiring responsibilities for the remainder of the season (I guess apart from the reverse fixture with Polish 'A'? ha ha!) But what a mess hey! Doesn't seem to be affecting their form though. The two Grahams are both playing well and certainly if Diplock can find a bit more consistency then he'll find himself up with Watts in the 70% range. So in a season where they were supposed to be finding their feet they've been a revelation and will comfortably finish 4th or 5th. Well done (yep, even you Andy) and have a very Merry Christmas!

M.V.P. Graham Watts

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: How do you make a tissue dance? Put a boogie in it!

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	14	14	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	29	28	96.55
Daniel Moses	OLOP (Impact) 'A'	30	26	86.67
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	21	18	85.71
Steve Munson	Kingfisher 'A'	12	10	83.33
Liam McTiernan	OLOP (Impact) 'A'	27	21	77.78
Mike Childs	OLOP (Impact) 'A'	27	20	74.07
Graham Watts	Polish 'B'	21	15	71.43
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	19	13	68.42
Nicky Heaps	Polish 'A'	20	13	65
Kris Milerski	Polish 'B'	27	17	62.96
Bob Davis	Reading YMCA 'A'	24	15	62.5
Graham Diplock	Polish 'B'	30	18	60
Derek Wood	Polish 'A'	15	9	60

About time we saw **YMCA 'A'** climbing the table isn't it. I predicted last time around that they would be much more highly placed and lo and behold they are. Amazing! OK let's face it, so it wasn't exactly the hardest prediction to make. They're a talented bunch and the only surprise was that they were down there in the first place! Tony Reynolds tells me that he only ever gets mentioned in this column for his losses. Ha Ha! And quite right too considering how many that has been this season for a player of his ability!! Too many (yep Tony just like me)! On a more positive note he had a great cup game with Hari recently – best I've seen this season and had our top man well on the ropes before



succumbing close in the 5th. More performances like that and there won't be any more losses to write about! Elsewhere new signing Martin Chodounsky looks like a find. 100% so far in his 2 matches to date and will be too good for many in this Division. The backbone of the team since time began Bob & David are having their moments too. More holidays and injuries have restricted Streaky to just the odd appearance but his recent maximum shows that it's still all there in abundance and incredibly Bob said sorry (twice) to Michael Childs before going down heavily in that particular fixture. Hurford is awkward but good and on paper you'd fear them but because of the bad start their title dreams are over so it's now just the final Champions League spot to play for. Shame 'cos they should be pushing higher but Happy Christmas anyway!

M.V.P. Martin Chodounsky

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: Why did the man get the sack from the Orange Juice factory? Because he couldn't concentrate!

Are you still here **Wokingham 'A'??** Yep, you sure are! **Still** in the top half of the table at the halfway stage and more than holding their own. Much of the success as always is down to your friend and mine - our very own Geordie Elvis. OK so yes he's loud, yes he's brash, but by jove is he playing well. Just goes to show hey that the more expensive your bat the better you become! Actually Fenwick always buys me a special late vintage bottle of port for Christmas (what? he doesn't buy you one?). I think it's his little way of saying thank you for putting up with him throughout the year and writing nice stuff about him in this column. Anyway, he hasn't been round this year to drop it off so if you're reading this Phil then chop chop or the next edition won't be so favourable! Ha. OK so he gets a lot of press from me but clearly it's not all about our Fenwick. Keith always seems to come into his own at this time of year - can't imagine why and just like his beloved Forest has started to find some decent form after a sluggish start. Big Steve has really started to fly - picking up some good wins on the National circuit and locally too. Richard started brightly but has just dipped off in recent weeks but he'll be back and along with Ray Hughes has provided good back up to the main ones. Oh and although it pains me to say it, actually it ain't sooooo bad going for a drink in their clubhouse after all! Merry Hic-mas!

M.V.P. Fenwick "chop chop" Prady

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What's ET short for? Because he's only got little legs!

And what a good first half to the season **Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'** have had too. Who needs Ian Packford when you're playing this well hey! Lee Calcutt with 3 maximums to his name already this season including a 3 straight maximum on one night! has decided (unlike Daniel Moses) that it's better to be an attacker than a chopper and it seems to be paying dividends. His dog is doing well too. Won at 6/1 the other night. Did I get a call telling me

that it was going to be trying? Er, no. Did I get an email to say that it had been hacking up in the time trials and that the trainer fancied it strongly and to fill me boots for Christmas? Er, no. How about just a text saying tonight's the night Banksy - LUMP ON! Er, nope. not a dickie bird! Only ever get told after it's crossed the line in first. Grrrrreat! Anyway so Calcutt's in good form, the dog's in good form, the landlord of the Greyhound pub is in good form letting them finish their drinks long after you or I have gone to bed! but what about the rest of them? Actually they're doing alright too. Me old mucker John Barclay has picked up (must be all those nets you've been getting John) and Duncan Groves, when he's not writing about how exciting it is to be in Div 6 has been more than competing at this level. Are they looking over their shoulders? Just a little bit but it's mainly for Trap 2 coming up on the inside rather than any of the table tennis teams below them. Well played and Merry Christmas to you (and the mutt!)

M.V.P. Lee Calcutt

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What did the grape say when the elephant stepped on it? Nothing. It just let out a little wine!

Look, they'll be the first to say that it just hasn't quite got going for **Kingfisher 'B'** this season. Bottom half of the table is not where a team of this quality should be! But (and it's a massive but) things in recent weeks have started to turn around for the better and this is pretty much down to the form of one particularly talented young person alone - a certain Jarred "JJ" Knowles. What a talent! Started the season slowly to be fair but trust me there's no stopping him now. Victory after victory, win after win (er, surely that's the same thing Mark?) and all that practice and coaching is now paying massive dividends. Completely different player versus the start of the season - confidence is flowing, the belief is there and the results speak for themselves. WOW! Already has the prized scalp of Top ranked Stephen Munson to his name. JJ obviously has a bright future ahead of him and he's a great kid too and he's putting the more experienced members of this team to shame. The other kid - usually way out in front in the averages - fell out of love with the game over the summer but now has his appetite back and the confidence is starting to return - along with the suntan. Blimey, it's like a big orange glow at the other end of the table. I'm renaming him the Tango kid. Derek Wood wouldn't have any problems playing him - the lighting coming off him is fantastic. Big Trev is now a team mate of mine in Maidenhead and is a good guy. Likes the finer things in life does our Trev. Fine holidays, Fine food, Fine wine, Liverpool football club - OK 3 out of 4 isn't bad. David & Alan haven't turned out too often but with the "big 3 names" on the scorecard and JJ flying this side are gonna be causing some upsets in the 2nd half no question. Have a good one guys!

M.V.P. Jarred JJ Knowles

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What do you get if you cross a



cowboy with an octopus? Billy The Squid!

Let me just get one thing straight here you guys in **OLOP 'B'**. Beating a Kingfisher 'A' player is not the pathway to getting a good mention in my column OK! In fact it's quite the opposite - especially if the player you beat just happens to be the guy that writes it! Actually, it's the reason why I can't be giving this gig up in the foreseeable future. Mr Maltby would have to sack me for me to leave. I'm way too scared of all the stick I'll get from whoever takes it next. Murgy continues to be the main man here. He's still a force at this level and can take out anybody below Martin Adams on his day although it seems that table tennis is no longer his first love - golf and poker take those particular awards these days (don't you go doing a Bela on me Murgy). Ian Cole is improving all the time - played well in the Polish 'A' game and gets better every time he pulls the bat out. Peter Martin (who? Ha ha). Yes, he's had his career best win this season, yes he's brilliant at emailing the scorecards promptly with a nice little summary of what went on, yes he's a great chap and Yes! he may just be taking a keen interest in how his fellow OLOP teams around him are performing. At the moment it's so tight down there between them, 'C' & 'D' isn't it. It's gonna be a real tussle. One of them's gonna drop for sure but which one hey? Oh and by the way for all those of you who are computer literate - Tim Pang is now on Facebook. You can't miss him he's the one under "Tim Pang" with a profile picture stuffing his face with what I presume is a massive Chinese supper. Nice work Tim. Hope you are good, buddy. Merry Christmas!

M.V.P. Murgy

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations? Tinsillitis!

So.....finding themselves now handsomely out of the relegation zone (albeit by a small margin) are **OLOP 'D'**. And how well they have played to get themselves there. Practice makes perfect and as I said before, the hours Raphael Jack has been putting in down at Kingfisher have transformed him into a pretty good Division One standard player. He and Ollie Shaw have been the stars of this particular show. Fantastic win for Ollie over Mike Childs. There aren't many bigger scalps in this League - I guess me perhaps (back in the 90's) and possibly Martin Adams but it truly goes to show the immense talent we have throughout all teams in this Division. Mike (sporting a nice new haircut) and Julian have been turning out more than Peter the captain and you know what I will put my hand up say I didn't give this lot a prayer at the start of the season but they're giving it a massive go and If Nick Heaps were to price it up he'd probably be giving a bit of 10/11 they stay up and I for one (not that I condone illegal gambling of course) at those odds may just be tempted to have an interest! Well played guys and Merry Christmas.

M.V.P. Raphael Jack

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What song did Cinderella sing as she waited ages for her photos to be developed?

Some day my Prints will come!

So if OLOP 'D' aren't in the bottom 2 any more then who are? Well, unfortunately for them it's the jolly lot from **OLOP 'C'**. How many times do I have to tell people - nobody takes any notice of the League Table before Christmas! Graham Diplock/Daniel Moses are you listening??? But it **is** Christmas now so it **IS** the time to check the table out and I'm afraid you're not gonna like what you see Barry. And actually you've all been playing well. It's true - you have. Susan Johnson. Only she knows how you can beat Liam McTiernan (super win in anybody's book) but lose to Andrew Yon? How does that work? Fantastic draw with Polish 'B' and but for Andy's shock win it would have resulted in a much treasured victory. That's not the form of a team who's dropping down to Div 2 and they've been here oh so many times before so have the experience and know how to get out of it. I say it every time get Mark Hancock out and with Clive and Barry and Sue playing well they have every chance. Have a good one guys and we expect to see a big effort from you lot in the New Year!

M.V.P. Mark Hancock

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: Why did the golfer wear an extra pair of trousers? In case he got a hole in one!

I guess it's no real surprise to see **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'** still rooted to the foot of the table. The recent "must win" game against OLOP 'D' narrowly didn't go their way and with the defeat to an under strength Tidmarsh too, I'm afraid they're gonna have to start planning for another campaign in Div 2. I see Paul Jarvis quite regularly and he always tells me something that actually I already know and that is they're just enjoying the ride, hoping to cause one or two individual upsets along the way. And that's fine isn't it. Actually for a long time it looked like PJ was never gonna cause an individual upset but just like a Number 17 bus, 2 came along in quick succession and just unlike a Number 17 bus he tells me he's now flying! Our very own Chairman too, the man responsible for keeping you all updated via the local press. Chiselling away. Has a couple wins under his belt also. Could they have expected a little more in the way of form from Jason Roberts and Simon Berry this season? I don't know. The standard across all teams has increased significantly it really has and they've both been picking up their expected wins without quite getting the vital unexpected ones that are required at this level to give their team half a chance of survival. Great bunch of lads though. They are far from being completely walked over and may just get that first point in the New Year. Here's wishing you a very Happy Christmas guys.

M.V.P. Jason Roberts

Banksy's Xmas Cracker: What do you call "just married" spiders? Newly-Webs!

DIVISION TWO by Barry Carter

Welcome to the Christmas edition of the newsletter and another dose of Barry's ramblings. It is really looking like Kingfisher 'C' for the championship as they have won all 9 of their fixtures this season. The race for second spot is hotting up as only four points separate the next six teams, at the moment it's newly promoted Wokingham 'B' that occupy that spot and that is only on games won from Tidmarsh 'B' (who have already won more games this season than we did in the whole of last season). At the bottom it is looking very grim for Berks Sports 'A' and Post Office 'B' who have been slightly cast adrift of the pack and unless they can conjure up some magic could well find the trapdoor finally opens for them come April.



A request, if you have postponed a match (which you shouldn't do if you can't get your strongest team out) could you let me know as I haven't got a crystal ball. Thanks... whinge over!

Kingfisher 'C' have continued to sweep aside all comers and now look as likely for the Championship as Portsmouth are. In the three matches since the newsletter they have won 9 - 1, 9 - 1 and 7 - 3 v Sonning C & P 'B', Berks Sports 'A' and Post Office 'A' respectively. Cliff Putterford has maintained his 100% record, the only person who qualifies for the averages to do so. Eric Van Looy recorded his fifth brace of the season in the match against Post Office 'A', whilst Colin Dyke has won 7 out of the last 9 and has found some consistent form.

Doubles 89%

Wokingham 'B' have continued to surprise me and have adjusted to life well in division two following their promotion as they have won three of the last four matches, their only defeat was against the upwardly mobile Kingfisher 'D'. The wins have come over Post Offices 'A' and 'B' and a good win over Kingfisher 'F'. They are one of only three teams to boast an unbeaten home record. The major trio of Martin Pugh, Jim Spencer and Brian Chinneck all have averages close or better than 67%. Ian Fletcher won the points in the match away at Post Office 'A' as he overcame Simon Hopkins 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 3-11, 11-9 to clinch a 6 - 4 win. Martin Pugh was the man of the match in the 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher 'C' as he defeated Phil Mead, Peter Bennett and Peter Goatly. *Doubles 50%*.

Tidmarsh 'B' have somehow managed to battle their way to third place and a potential place in division one, this is in spite of using 13 players this season already (what is the record for the most players used in a season? - answers on a postcard to the usual address). My highlight since the last newsletter and possibly of the season was a maximum against Sonning C & P 'B' which included my first win over Keith Swain after numerous attempts over the years (although Keith will probably argue that I did have a lot of luck... no comment!) Nestor Ceron made only his second

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Cliff Putterford	Kingfisher 'C'	27	27	100
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'E'	24	20	83
Colin Hardman	Post Office 'A'	21	15	83
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher 'D'	27	21	78
Eric Van Looy	Kingfisher 'C'	21	16	76
Trevor Organ	Kingfisher 'D'	24	18	75
John Morris	Kingfisher 'D'	15	11	73
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh 'B'	15	11	73
Keith Swain	Sonning C&P 'B'	27	19	70
Martin Pugh	Wokingham 'B'	24	16	67
Jim Spencer	Wokingham 'B'	21	14	67
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher 'C'	15	10	67

appearance of the season and came away with his fourth and fifth wins of the season. Andy Stephens has hit some patchy form, one moment brilliant, the next not so brilliant. If we get the same results in the second half that we managed in the first then promotion could be a possibility although we have been involved in the most 6 - 4 (6, with 5 wins from those). We nearly gave Berks Sports 'A' an early Christmas present but eventually came away with a 6 - 4 win. *Doubles 60%*.

Kingfisher 'F' have had a mixed set of results since the last newsletter with one win, one draw and one defeat. The win came against Curzon Club 'A' (7 - 3) where Phil Mead ended a run of five matches without winning more than one as he beat both John Walker (3-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-4) and Mick Maynard (11-13, 12-10, 11-4, 11-9), he was well supported by both Peter Bennett and Peter Goatly who also won two each, all three of Peter B's matches went the full distance and he prospered in two against Jon Willis and John Walker. The dropped points came against Post Office 'B' where it needed a Peter Bennett 11-2, 14-12, 11-8 win over Denise Weller just to get a point. Allan Bruton returned with just the one win over Ray Webb 11-4, 11-8, 7-11, 11-6.

Doubles 30%

Kingfisher 'D' are very much the form team with three wins in a row since the last newsletter and five wins in six which has seen them rise from a possible second successive relegation to the potential of a quick and immediate return to division one. The rise has coincided with the return of John Morris who has won 10 out of 12. Ivor Hardman has gone one better with 11 wins out of 12. The wins have also come in a comprehensive style with them being 10-0, 9 - 1 and 8 - 2. The 10-0 was against Berks Sports 'A', although Ivor had to work hard against Dave Chard to win 8-11, 11-5, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8. Ivor had a really tight battle with Martin Pugh of Wokingham in the 8 - 2 victory as all four ends went to deuce before he ran out a 14-12, 10-12, 13-11, 13-11 winner. Trevor Organ and John Morris both got maximums in the 9 - 1 win over Post Office 'A'. The test of their promotion credentials against Kingfisher 'C' was postponed but I suspect that they will go onto claim the second promotion

spot come April 2010. *Doubles 67%*.

Kingfisher 'E' have moved to the fringe of the promotion race with a run of three wins and a draw, this little run was dented in the week before Christmas as they slipped to an unexpected defeat at home to Post Office 'A' 7 - 3. (No details, scorecard not arrived yet). Graham Outrim made his first appearance of the season (what are you doing in division two Graham?) and made short work of winning all three straight in the 6 - 4 win over Curzon Club 'A'. Carole Chard had three really tight battles and won two of them in five which included a 11-8, 6-11, 11-9, 7-11, 12-10 win over John Willcocks and a 5-11, 6-11, 11-8, 12-10, 16 -14 win over Jon Willis. Niall McGrane rescued a point for them in the draw against Sonning C & P 'B' as he came from 0-2 down to beat Brian Meheux in game ten, earlier Lisa Bosley had beaten Malcolm Gregory 8-11, 11-5, 11-5, 11-9 to draw them level at 2-2. The match of the night/season (comment by Bob Woodmansee) was between Frank Wiegand (Berks Sports new saviour!) and Niall McGrane. It finished 6-11, 10-12, 11-7, 11-9, 11-7 in Niall's favour, this gave them a 4-0 lead and they went onto win the match 9 - 1. *Doubles 60%*.

Sonning Common and Peppard 'B' were my pre-season favourites for promotion after their exploits of finishing second in 2008/2009, but they have found it a little tougher this season and although lying second are still only four points off the pace. They have picked up only one point from the last three matches and that came against Kingfisher 'E'. It looked liked it was another cracking match as Keith beat Niall McGrane 13-11, 6-11, 11-9, 4-11, 11-9 to give them a 3-2 lead and Keith completed his maximum with a 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9 win over Lisa Bosley to make it 4-4 and a sniff of a victory. Malcolm Gregory then won against Carole Chard but unfortunately it wasn't to end in victory as Brian Meheux lost narrowly to Niall 11-5 in the fifth. Merrill Massey produced the win of her season so far as she defeated Geoff Civil 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 10-12, 11-9 but that was as far as the victories went as they lost 9 - 1 to Kingfisher 'C'. The other match was the tight affair with Tidmarsh 'B' where they slipped to a narrow 4 - 6 defeat. Keith won two, Brian had a good (if not ill tempered) encounter with Andy Stephens before he eventually won 11-7 in the fifth, that made it 4-5 and then Merrill lost to me in game ten. *Doubles 70%*

Curzon Club 'A' are currently without inspirational captain John Willcocks, who is out with an injury... hope you get fit soon. Their results have been mixed with one win and two losses since the last newsletter. The victory came at Tidmarsh 'B' as Jon Willis led the way with a treble which involved coming back from 0-2 and 10-6 to beat Andy Stephens 11-6 in the fifth. Earlier Mick Maynard had thrashed me 11-5, 11-9, 11-5 and John Walker had overcome Steve Ricks. Jon Willis finally wrapped up the points in game 8 as he too beat Steve Ricks 11-3, 11-5, 11-5. The two defeats came against Kingfisher 'F' and Kingfisher 'E'. They were unlucky to come up against Graham Outrim in the match against Kingfisher 'E' (they seem to get the rough end of the stick when it comes to players playing below their standard and playing a small amount of games - last sea-

son it was Mike Childs of OLOP and the result led them to being "relegated"). Mick Maynard continued his good, recent form with wins over Sharon Mitchell and Carole Chard, whilst Jon Willis and John Willcocks could only defeat Sharon as they lost 4 - 6. The trip to Kingfisher 'F' also ended in defeat as Jon Willis could only muster one win and that was against Phil Mead. *Doubles 30%*.

Post Office 'A' improved their chances of staying up as they increased the gap between them and their 'B' team to five points, this was after a 7 - 3 win at Kingfisher 'E'. Colin Hardman won all three and John Simmonds two in the match (sorry no other details as scorecard not received). This ended a run of three successive defeats that had seen them plunge to their lowest position in a few seasons. The win saw the return of Colin who had missed the previous three matches (is there a coincidence there?). The two other matches saw them lose 6 - 4 to Wokingham 'B' where despite three from John Simmonds and the doubles they couldn't quite get a point out of the match and then a 3 - 7 defeat to Kingfisher 'C' where John Simmonds had two fantastic wins over Eric Van Looy and Colin Dyke but like the majority of us succumbed in three to Cliff. I predict that by season end they will finish about fifth. *Doubles 60%*.

Post Office 'B' have had a torrid run of results with five successive defeats, the first of this newsletter period came against Tidmarsh 'B', but they certainly pushed them all the way and it took a Steve Rollason 11-3, 11-5, 11-8 win over Ray Webb to clinch the match 6 - 4 in favour of Tidmarsh. Earlier Ray had got the better of me when he won an exciting contest 11-8, 3-11, 14-12, 11-4 and when Denise Weller beat Steve Ricks it was 2-0. George White and Andy Stephens had an epic battle before George lost 11-7 in the fifth. They picked up their first point in seven matches as they did well to claim a point off Kingfisher 'F'. Ray Webb and George White both won two matches. Ray defeated Peter Bennett 11-7, 6-11, 11-4, 6-11, 12-10 to put them 2-0 up and it was up to Denise to win the match but Peter Bennett got the better of her in game ten to share the points. In the match before Christmas they slumped to a 7 - 3 defeat at Wokingham 'B' despite a tremendous maximum from George White once again. *Doubles 11%*.

Berks Sports 'A' have had a nightmare first half of the season and are currently bottom, winless and with less points than West Ham and come to think of it Wolves... They have signed Frank Wiegand and Nigel Goodman, Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard can give him some

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'F'	9	9	0	0	73	17	18
Wokingham 'B'	10	6	2	2	56	44	14
Tidmarsh 'B'	10	7	0	3	52	48	14
Kingfisher 'F'	10	5	2	3	53	47	12
Kingfisher 'D'	9	5	0	4	58	32	10
Kingfisher 'E'	10	4	2	5	54	46	10
Sonning C & P 'B'	10	4	2	4	49	51	10
Curzon Club 'A'	10	4	1	5	51	49	9
Post Office 'A'	10	4	0	6	46	54	8
Post Office 'B'	10	1	1	8	32	68	3
Berks Sports 'A'	10	0	0	10	17	83	0



support in the second half of the season then an escape from relegation could be possible. Frank played really well in the match against us, won all three and had a hand in the doubles. Frank beat Andy Stephens 11-9, 11-8, 11-9 and then me 14-12, 9-11, 11-7, 11-2 and finally Nestor Ceron 11-5, 11-4, 11-8. Dave Chard didn't have much luck on the night and although he led Andy 2-1, Andy came back to win the next two. The match ended 6 - 4 to Tidmarsh 'B'. In the Kingfisher 'C' match three matches went to five with Frank winning one against Colin Dyke 5-11, 13-15, 11-9, 12-10, 11-5 and then losing to Eric Van Looy 11-4 and finally Bob also lost to Eric 11-6 in the fifth. The match ended 9 - 1 to Kingfisher 'C'. Frank was the only winner once again in the 9 - 1 defeat to Kingfisher 'E' and that was

against Sharon Mitchell although he did take Niall to five before he lost 11-7. Nigel Goodman and Dave Chard both took Carole Chard to five but couldn't quite finish it off as they both lost 9-11 in the fifth. *Doubles 30%.*

DIV 2 STATS FOR CHRISTMAS:	
Most 10 - 0 wins:	1 Kingfisher 'C', 'D' & 'E'
Most 9 - 1 wins:	2 Kingfisher 'C'
Most 8 - 2 wins:	3 Kingfisher 'C'
Most 7 - 3 wins:	3 Kingfisher 'C'
Most 6 - 4 wins:	5 Tidmarsh 'B'
Most 4 - 6 losses:	4 Kingfisher 'D'
Most Maximums:	9 Cliff Putterford (Kingfisher 'C')
Most Braces:	6 Trevor Organ (Kingfisher 'D')
Most Singles:	6 Lisa Bosley (Kingfisher 'E')
Tightest Match:	19-21, 12-14, 11-9, 11-9, 9-11: Steve Hodder v Eric Van Looy
Longest Deuce:	23-21: George White v Roger Woolven-Allen
Most Players used in a season	13 Tidmarsh 'B'
Least Players used in a season	4 Curzon Club 'A', Kingfisher 'D', Post Office 'A'
Most Appearances:	9 Cliff Putterford, Ivor Hardman, Keith Swain, Brian Chinneck, Barry Carter and Brian Meheux.

If any of you have any interesting match reports from yesteryear then let me know and I'll try and get them added for forthcoming reports. I have some old scorecards so will use one to

report on in the next newsletter.

Well that's it for 2009... hope you all have a very merry Christmas and all the best for 2010.

Adam McTiernan Wins a Prize Too for best Action Photographer



See also p3.

Adam McTiernan is the captain of OLOP 'K' - as chance would have it, the winners of the two prizes so far are captains of the only two 'K' teams in the Reading league! Adam is also Junior Representative in the RDTTA and Publicity Officer at OLOP. His two sons, Liam and Daniel, have been blazing their own pathway of table tennis success.

On the right: Adam with his prize - an official Reading TTA tie. Adam has already had a great many of his excellent photos published, in the Reading press as well as this newsletter - and is living proof that a great big camera is not necessary for taking really good pictures! We hope more readers will follow his example, take photos - and send them in!



DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

Firstly, season's greetings to everyone – but where did the first half of the season go?

Secondly, please note - some team captains' telephone numbers have changed:

Tidmarsh 'D' Andy Jeffrey 07780 973 450 (Mob)

Sonning C&P 'C' Paul Treadgold 0118 983 1003 (P)

Despite there being a few matches outstanding from the first half of the season, the Division 3 table is taking shape. At the top, three teams are pulling away from the rest and there should be an interesting battle between them in the second half to decide which two earn promotion. At the bottom, although one team already looks doomed, I expect an equally interesting contest while as many as four teams may be battling to avoid the other relegation spot.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	10	9	1	0	81	19	19
OLOP 'F'	10	8	1	1	68	32	17
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	9	6	2	1	56	34	14
Tidmarsh 'D'	9	5	0	4	48	42	10
Sonning C&P 'C'	10	5	2	3	56	44	12
Kingfisher 'G'	10	4	2	4	53	47	10
Pangbourne 'A'	10	3	1	6	36	64	7
OLOP 'E'	10	2	2	6	48	52	6
Kingfisher 'H'	10	2	2	6	39	61	6
Milestone 'A'	9	2	1	6	32	58	5
OLOP (Univ) 'G'	9	0	0	9	13	77	0

OLOP (University) 'G' have continued to struggle with four further defeats, but they are starting to win more sets and Oliver Grist has recorded some good results, including wins over Hugh Crosfield & John Tucker of Milestone and Eric Holmes of Kingfisher 'G'. Unfortunately they've had to postpone another of their matches and the first fixture in the New Year will also have to be re-arranged to a date when the team are back at University - so could I ask the relevant team captains to be as helpful as possible in getting these fixtures played.

Milestone 'A' recorded their first wins of the season to pick up 4 points from the same number of matches, but despite this they remain in relegation trouble. John Tucker's return seems to have been the catalyst for them as he picked up two wins in consecutive matches against OLOP 'E' then OLOP (Uni) 'G', although Tucker was out-

performed by one of his team mates on each occasion, as Richard Woolven-Allen, then "reserve" John Evans hit respective maximums. The use of multi-functional community venues for table tennis has caused Milestone some postponement problems, as the use of their hall was "bumped" by another (more worthy?) community activity. But as their two matches in hand are against teams in the top three, I don't expect Milestone to collect any points from these fixtures when they are re-arranged.



Kingfisher 'H' and **OLOP 'E'** are also in the relegation picture, with both teams sitting on 6 points, just one ahead of Milestone. **Kingfisher 'H'** notched-up a further 3 points from their most recent five matches, with a 10-0 thumping of Milestone and a draw with Kingfisher 'G'. The same three players consistently turn out for this team and they are showing some signs of improvement, with Dave Duncan winning 10/15 and Chris Pusey 7/15 so if this continues they should pull clear of trouble in the New Year.

OLOP 'E' had a run of 4 defeats on the trot which has only been halted by their opponents in the last match before Christmas failing to get a team together, and showing sufficient Christmas spirit to concede the match, so providing Mark Bullion's team with two much-needed points. Earlier, Pat Daniels hit his first maximum of the season in the match against Pangbourne 'A', but it was to no avail as the visitors won the last set of the evening (Cedric Dias going down to Pete Welch 8-11 in the fifth) to win 6 - 4. Ian Davis won twice against both Tilehurst Meths and Milestone, but it will need the team pulling together on the same night if they are to avoid relegation. Having said that, OLOP 'E's games difference is considerably better than any of the other teams fighting relegation, which may help them come the end of the season.

Pangbourne 'A' have shot up the table as a result of three wins on the bounce against other relegation contenders (Kingfisher 'H', OLOP 'E' and OLOP 'G') to put themselves in a much healthier position. Clive Taylor hit a maximum in a 6 - 4 defeat of Kingfisher 'H', then two wins apiece for Leroy Wilson and Pete Welch helped repeat the scoreline at OLOP 'E', before the OLOP Uni team were beaten 9 - 1 thanks to maximums from Howard Taylor and Roger Stevens. It looks like Pangbourne are finding their feet at this level and a few more perfor-

mances like these should see them avoid relegation.

Away from the relegation zone, three teams are sitting in mid-table serenity, safe from the concerns of Division 3 survival and equally distant from the promotion battle.

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Ray Yau	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	21	20	95
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	30	28	93
Hanson Xu	OLOP 'F'	18	16	88
Mary Allan	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	9	8	88
François Durand	Tidmarsh 'C'	21	18	85
Steve Callidine	Tidmarsh 'C'	18	15	83
Richard Fifield	Kingfisher 'G'	26	21	80
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'C'	24	19	79
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh 'C'	24	18	75
Ian Davis	OLOP 'E'	18	13	72
Richard W-Allen	Milestone 'A'	18	13	72
Wendy Porter	OLOP 'F'	27	18	66
Daniel McTiernan	OLOP 'F'	21	14	66
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'D'	15	10	66
Steve Barnes	Tidmarsh 'D'	15	10	66

The first of these is **Kingfisher 'G'** who added a further five points from three matches against teams in the relegation zone with 7 - 3 wins over OLOPs 'E' and 'G' and a draw with Kingfisher 'H'. Richard Fifield won three against both OLOP teams while young Megan Knowles fought well against her experienced clubmates, beating both Chris Pusey and Dave Duncan over five ends and only losing to Allen Pack 7-11 in the decider. High-flying Tidmarsh 'C' were made to fight all the way as Richard Fifield had good wins over Steve Callidine and Mike Aistrop then teamed up with Eric Holmes (who also beat Aistrop) to win the doubles before losing 4 - 6.

Jeremy Willis put in several 'Man of the Match' performances as he reeled off four maximums on the trot for **Sonning 'C'**, which included taking the scalp of Ray Yau, removing his unbeaten record in the process. But he must be frustrated to see a return of just three points from these matches as his team could only draw with Tilehurst Meths having been 4-1 to the good and lost to 3 - 7 to both OLOP 'F' and Tidmarsh, before clinching a narrow win over Milestone 'A'. Tim Raby has provided good support winning two against Milestone - only missing out on a maximum when going down 8-11 in the fifth to Richard Woolven-Allen - and one against Tilehurst.

Tidmarsh 'D' complete the challengers, but have only increased their total by two points since the previous Newsletter, thanks to a 9 - 1 win over Kingfisher 'G' in

which Steve Barnes and Dave Reynolds hit maximums. Their other results have been a 3 - 7 defeat to OLOP 'F', where Steve Ricks recorded good wins against Wendy Porter and Pu Zhang, and a whitewash at the hands of their club-mates, Tidmarsh 'D' – clearly not a friendly. Their final match of the season had to be conceded as they couldn't field a team against OLOP 'E'.

Of the three teams pulling away at the top of this Division, only **Tidmarsh 'C'** remain unbeaten and they sit on top of the table with an additional advantage of a match in hand. Since dropping a point at Tilehurst, they have won their next five matches, two of them 10-0, two 7 - 3 and one 6 - 4. With their four regular players all recording maximums on a regular basis and all in the averages with 75% or more, it's hard to see beyond this strong squad for the Division 3 title this season.

In second place are **OLOP 'F'**, whose only defeat to date came at the hands of Tidmarsh 'C'. Their three other matches have been comfortable wins thanks to consistent, good team performances and the ability to call on strong reserves – Steve Purchase played up and won two against Sonning C&P.

Tilehurst Methodists have slowly moved up the table, having had the expected wins over three teams in the bottom half, plus a draw with Sonning 'C'. Assuming they win their match in hand (vs Milestone), Tilehurst will be just a point behind the leading two teams so are definitely in with a chance of promotion. Tilehurst's matches against the two leaders at the end of January will go a long way to sorting out the promotion issues for this division.

Late Results: Tidmarsh 'C' 8 - 2 Milestone 'A'
 Sonning C&P 'C' 8 - 2 OLOP (Uni) 'G'

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year.



DIVISION FOUR by *Derek Harrison*



LOP 'H' continue to impress although they lost their first game of the season when they went down 6 - 4 at Springfield. Alex Fear had two good wins but Steve Purchase and Phil Mannion could only pick up a singles by beating John Burke. They then bounced back by beating Kingfisher 9 - 1. Steve and Mark Kirton both hit trebles while Alex won two. Another 9 - 1 win against Sonning followed. Harry Brough came back into the side and gained a three-straight maximum. Steve also won three, with Mark Kirton winning two. Away at Birch Copse, Steve won all three, as did Harry, all three-straight, which helped them to a 2 - 8 victory. This week they went down 3 - 7 to St Laurence. Harry did well to defeat Chris and Dan. Steve won the other game.

Doubles 6/10 - 60%

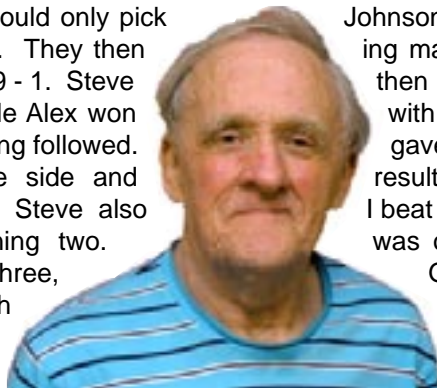
Springfield 'A', the only unbeaten team, are capable of going back up if Phil Burke plays all the remaining games. In that big match with OLOP, Phil won all three at a canter by beating Phil 11-7, 11-5, 9-11, 11-6; Steve, 11-6, 11-7, 11-6 and Alex 11-8, 11-3, 11-6. Des Hele gave him great support by beating Phil and Steve. At Curzon 'B', Phil again won all three besides teaming up with Seth Martin to win the doubles. Seth also beat me to gain them a point. At Kingfisher, Seth gained a great treble with Des winning two and Ian Boaden obtaining that vital single which gave them a 4 - 6 win. At home to Birch Copse, Ian and Phil both hit maximums, which helped towards a 9 - 1 victory. Their final game before Christmas saw them beat Sonning 2 - 8. Phil again won all three, for the sixth time in a row. Des also won all three in his first treble of the season.

Doubles 8/10 - 80%

Tilehurst Meths 'B' are within a shout of upsetting the top two, with all their players doing well. At Sonning, they came away with a 1 - 9 win, thanks to a 3-straight treble from Phil Jones and also a good maximum from Nigel Rowland. Richard Lownsbrough played his part by winning two. Next came an 8 - 2 win over Birch Copse. Both Nigel and Richard gained trebles. In their big game at St Laurence, they shared the spoils. Phil won two besides teaming up with Nigel to beat Dan and Chris 11-8, 8-11, 8-11, 9-11 in the doubles. Richard and Nigel both beat Dan Grover to gain their singles. At home to Curzon 'B', Janet Wright and Richard played really well to win all three. Nigel was pumped up to beat Nick in game 10, to avoid a duck in an 8 - 2 win. Janet and Phil also gained trebles to help them defeat Tidmarsh 8 - 2. Nigel won two by beating Bob and Mick. Against Wokingham, they came away with a 3 - 7 win. Nigel hit a very good maximum while Janet won two and Phil one.

Doubles 8/10 - 80%

Curzon 'B' flatter to deceive. One moment I felt we could



finish in the top two, then suddenly our hopes are dashed. Our first game since my previous notes was against our 'C' team, and we had a good day by winning 9 - 1. Geoff Johnson and Nick Lean both did the business by gaining maximums. I helped a bit by winning two. We then beat Sonning 8 - 2. Geoff hit another treble, with Nick and I winning two each. Springfield then gave us a stern test and perhaps a draw was a fair result. Jim Brent and Geoff both won two each, and I beat Des. At home to Kingfisher we won 7 - 3. Nick was on top form and won all three in great style. Geoff won two, and I managed a single. We then came down to earth by losing at Tilehurst 8 - 2. Geoff and Jim both defeated Nigel. Next came Tidmarsh, and Curzon won 1 - 9. Geoff and Jim both gained maximums. For Jim it was his first since March 2006. Nick did his bit by winning two.

Doubles 4/6 - 40%

St Laurence without Dan West lost two valuable points when they lost 6 - 4 at Tidmarsh. Chris West did his best by winning all three and then teamed up with new signing Dan Grover to win the doubles. They then drew with Tilehurst, with Chris winning three and Dan two. Chris and Dan then repeated this at Wokingham. Young Dan G did well to win two by beating Colin Field and John Beardmore, which helped towards a 2 - 8 win. At home to Curzon 'C', Dan W and Chris managed three each and also teamed up to win the doubles in a 7 - 3 victory. In their big game this week they won 3 - 7 at OLOP. Dan, Chris and Dan Grover all won two each.

Doubles 8/10 - 80%

Wokingham, who on their day are a match for most sides, had a nice 9 - 1 win over Sonning. The evergreen Ken Park and Mike Shore both hit fine trebles. Richard Neville did well to win two. At Birch Copse, Ken (again) and Richard won three each, with Colin Field picking up a single in a 2 - 8 win. They then came unstuck against St Laurence when they were beaten 2 - 8. Ken won the two games by beating Dan G 11-9, 11-6, 11-2 and Dan W 9-11, 11-13, 12-10, 11-8, 11-8. They then bounced back by winning 4 - 6 at Tidmarsh. Tony Eames came back into the side and won all three, and also won the doubles with Ken, who picked up a double. At home to Tilehurst they slipped to a 3 - 7 defeat. Ken won two by beating Janet and Phil; John Beardmore won his first game of the season by also beating Phil.

Doubles 5/10 - 50%

Since my previous notes, **Curzon 'C'** have done quite well and have lifted themselves off the bottom. On saying that, in their first match they crashed 9 - 1 to their 'B' team. Tracy Maynard started the evening off right by beating me 4-11, 5-11, 9-11. Next they won 4 - 6 on a very wet night at Sonning. Tracy did very well to win all three, while Terry

Spice won two besides the two of them winning the doubles. At home to Birch Copse, Mike Gillard won his first game of the season by beating Roy 2-11, 7-11, 13-11, 13-11, 14-12, and only went down 9-11 in the fifth against Mike, and with Tracy winning all three and Linda King two, this helped them to a 7 - 3 win. They then lost 7 - 3 to St Laurence with Terry, Mike and Linda all beating Rob Moorcroft. Yesterday they had their best win of the season when they beat Tidmarsh 'E' 9 - 1. Linda and Terry were in great form by gaining trebles, while Tracy played her part by winning two.

Doubles 6/10 - 60%

Tidmarsh 'E' benefited by playing a weakened St Laurence, and won 6 - 4. Bob Griffiths, Dave Edwards and Terry Hardie all won two each. Dave 'E' was then the only singles winner when he beat Nigel of Tilehurst Meths 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 11-13, 11-13, 7-11, but by only winning the doubles they lost 8 - 2. At home to Wokingham they lost 4 - 6. Dave Smith won two by beating Tony and John Belcher. Terry and Bob both picked up singles. Terry was unlucky against Tony when he went down 9-11 in the 5th. At Curzon 'C' they crashed to a 1 - 9 defeat. Bob Griffiths was the scorer by beating Tracy. They went to Curzon two days later and again crashed 1 - 9. Dave 'E' was the lone scorer, beating Nick.

Doubles 1/10 - 10%

After a nice start, **Birch Copse 'A'** have lost 5 in a row but despite this I gather they are enjoying their TT. At Springfield, Roy Hull saved the whitewash by beating Seth 7-11, 12-14, 7-11 in their 9 - 1 defeat. Roy and Jes Eassom both beat Janet in their 8 - 2 loss at Tilehurst Meths. It was nets and edges night against Wokingham, and mostly in Wokingham's favour. Roy and Jes both won one each against Colin in a 2 - 8 defeat. Against Curzon 'C', Jes won two and Mike Williams one in their 7 - 3 defeat. Their first game before Christmas saw them lose 2 - 8 to leaders OLOP. Jes and young 17-year-old reserve Bradley Fullbrook both beat Phil. Well done, Bradley.

Doubles 3/10 - 30%

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Phil Burke	Springfield	21	20	95
Chris West	St Laurence	27	25	93
Harry Brough	OLOP	15	13	87
Dan West	St Laurence	27	22	81
Ken Park	Wokingham	30	24	80
Steve Purchase	OLOP	27	21	78
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths	18	14	78
Geoff Johnson	Curzon 'B'	24	18	75
Alex Fear	OLOP	21	15	71
Janet Wright	Tilehurst Meths	21	15	67
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths	27	18	67
Steve Woolnough	Kingfisher	21	14	67
Nick Lean	Curzon 'B'	23	14	61

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'H'	10	8	0	2	70	30	16
Springfield 'A'	10	6	4	0	62	38	16
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	10	7	1	2	67	33	15
St Laurence	10	6	2	2	59	41	14
Curzon Club 'B'	10	6	1	3	56	44	13
Wokingham 'C'	10	5	1	4	56	44	11
Curzon Club 'C'	10	3	1	6	41	59	7
Tidmarsh 'E'	10	2	2	6	35	65	6
Kingfisher 'I'	10	2	1	7	39	61	5
Birch Copse 'A'	10	2	1	7	34	66	5
Sonning C&P 'D'	10	1	0	9	31	69	2

Kingfisher 'I' are amongst 5 teams who could go down, so a good start in the new year is vital. At OLOP, they were soundly beaten 9 - 1. Steve Woolnough won the game by beating Alex. They then went down to Springfield for the fourth 4 - 6 defeat so far. If they can turn them round they should be OK. Ken Robb won two and Sylvia Bruton won one. At Curzon 'B', they went down 7 - 3. Steve won two and Diane Taylor won one when beating me 8-11 in the 5th. In their bottom-of-the-table clash with Sonning, they won 6 - 4, mainly thanks to a Steve maximum. Sylvia with two and Diane with that important single were the other scorers.

Doubles 3/10 - 30%

Sonning Com & P 'D' are in a spot of trouble, having lost 7 in a row. Since my previous notes they went down 1 - 9 to Tilehurst with Matt Stone beating Richard 11-4, 10-12, 13-11, 4-11, 12-10 in game 10. At Wokingham, Matt was again the only scorer when he beat Richard. Against Curzon 'B' he went one better by beating Nick and Derek, but alas they lost 8 - 2. They then put up a good fight against Curzon 'C', only going down 4 - 6. Matt won two and Simon Blake and Phil Turton both obtained singles. It was back to square one against OLOP 'H', with Matt again being the only scorer when he beat Mark. At home to Springfield, Phil informed me he played some superb shots against Phil, but still lost easily. He did, however beat Seth, as did Derek Wavell. Despite this they still lost 2 - 8. They also lost the nets and edges easily too! This week they went down 4 - 6 at Kingfisher. Matt Stone, Simon and reserve Anthony Reeve won one each.

Doubles 3/10 - 30%

Finally, I would like to wish you all the compliments of the season and a Happy and Healthy 2010.

DIVISION FIVE *by Nigel Rowland*

Firstly I should like to wish you all a great Christmas and New Year. I stuck my neck out in the last newsletter giving my predictions for promotion, and so far SC&P 'F', OLOP 'I' and Tilehurst Methodists 'C' fill the first three places and are not letting me down. My predictions for teams in the relegation places have not gone so well (good, some of you may say). SC&P 'E' have put together a good set of results to keep out of trouble leaving OLOP 'J' and Reading Resource holding the bottom two places. Reading Resource have recently shown what they are capable of by defeating Tidmarsh 'F', so watch out the 'middle pack'. That leaves a middle pack of seven teams with three points separating them.

The new teams to the division have all settled in well. SC&P 'F' setting the pace pushing for promotion being led by Jacek Krzyzanowski, Post Office 'C' are being led by Mick Grantham, Polish 'C' by Darek Kamanski and Springfield 'B' by Nigel Outhwaite. Good to have you on board and competing well.

On an individual basis Neil Havard is in top spot followed by Mark Corbett, John Harland, Mick Grantham and Alistair Richardson. I look forward to writing the names of players who take their scalps in the next newsletter!

As a result of OLOP 'J' fielding an unregistered player the results of the Post Office 'C' and Kingfisher 'J' games have been adjusted to show 3 conceded, the result still stands. It's the player averages that have been amended.

Tilehurst Methodists 'C' are still flying high and look to be unstoppable for top spot having opened up a 4 point lead. They have recorded three further wins and a surprise draw to show they can have points nicked off them. Firstly a 7 - 3 against Reading Resource with doubles from Martin Wetherell, Mal Collis and Dave Jones, 10-0 against Springfield 'B' and 8 - 2 against Polish 'C' with another Martin Wetherell treble. The only chink in the armour was a 5 - 5 draw with Tidmarsh 'F', the five set 14-12 game five doubles win by Mal Collis and Chris Taylor against John Harland and Steve Andrews kept their 100% doubles record alive and saved them from a first defeat. Mal Collis 12/21 including 2 trebles, Martin Wetherell 23/27 including 6 trebles, Dave Jones 14/18 including 2 trebles, Chris Taylor 19/24 including 3 trebles. Doubles 10/10.

SC&P 'F' are still following up in second spot, also opening up a 4 point lead from third place and look good for the second promotion spot. They have recorded three thumping wins, 9 - 1 against Milestone 'B' thanks to Jim McClure and Jacek Krzyzanowski trebles, and OLOP 'J' thanks to Anthony Reeve and Jacek Krzyzanowski trebles, 8 - 2 against Kingfisher 'J' thanks to Anthony Reeve and Derek Wavell trebles, but lost in the local derby against SC&P 'E' 4 - 6. We shall see if this loss is a bridge too far in preventing them from mounting a title challenge against Tilehurst Methodists 'C' in the New Year. Derek Wavell 13/21 including 2 trebles, Jim McClure 8/12 including 1 treble, Anthony Reeve 11/15 including 2 trebles, Dave Aust 13/21 including 1 treble, Jacek Krzyzanowski 16/21 including

3 trebles. Doubles 3/10.

OLOP 'I' are just holding onto third place having started the season well but just faltering recently due to injuries. They thumped Kingfisher 'J' 9 - 1 thanks to trebles from Alistair Richardson and Chris Moses, drew with SC&P 'E' thanks to a game 10 win by Alistair Richardson but lost 3 - 7 against Tidmarsh 'F'. Once again they have had to pull in a reserve from Division 6, Dave Godfrey won 2 on his guest appearance against Kingfisher 'J'. Alistair Richardson 15/18 including 3 trebles, Chris Moses 10/21 including 2 trebles, Alan Dines 12/21 including 2 trebles, Fitzroy Licorish 2/3, Steve Yong 2/3. Doubles 6/9.

Tidmarsh 'F' are the 'Jekyll and Hyde' team of the moment, defeating promotion hopefuls OLOP 'I' 7 - 3 thanks to a fine John Harland treble and double from Bob Sunerton. They then had a superb draw against leaders Tilehurst Methodists 'C', again thanks to another treble from in-form John Harland ably assisted by Steve Andrews and Pete Sinclair but then lost the plot by getting beaten by Reading Resource 4 - 6 despite another battling performance from John Harland. Bob Sunerton 13/24 including 1 treble, Mike Bundy 8/12 including 2 trebles, John Harland 11/12 including 3 trebles, Steve Andrews 9/18 including 1 treble, Pete Sinclair 4/6, Dave Humphreys 3/9. Doubles 5/9.

Springfield 'B' are the yo-yo side of the moment going on a weekly 'high' and 'low'. They thumped OLOP 'J' 10-0 thanks to trebles from Colin Jones, Chris Speight and Nigel Outhwaite. Then defeated Post Office 'C' 6 - 4 in a very close game that saw Chris Speight (Spike) defeat Mick Grantham in a five set game 9 thriller to lead 5-4, and then Colin Jones to seal the points with a game 10 five set thriller against Pat Davis. They then lost 0 - 10 in a hammering from Tilehurst Methodist 'C' but just lost out 4 - 6 against Polish 'C' despite a Nigel Outhwaite double. Colin Jones 10/27 including 1 treble, Daniel Mortimer 8/20 including 1 treble, Chris Speight 11/20 including 2 trebles, Nigel Outhwaite 13/20 including 2 trebles. Doubles 5/10.

Polish 'C' have picked up a respectable 5 out of 8 points



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	10	9	1	0	78	22	19
Sonning C&P 'F'	10	7	1	2	64	36	15
OLOP (Impact) 'I'	9	5	1	3	56	34	11
Tidmarsh 'F'	9	4	2	3	53	37	10
Polish 'C'	9	4	2	3	40	50	10
Springfield 'B'	10	4	2	4	49	51	10
Post Office 'C'	10	4	1	5	52	48	9
Sonning C&P 'E'	10	3	3	4	46	54	9
Kingfisher 'J'	10	3	2	5	37	63	8
Milestone 'B'	8	2	3	3	38	42	7
Reading Resource	10	1	2	7	40	60	4
OLOP (Rdg Uni) 'J'	9	1	0	8	17	73	2

to remain mid table. They defeated Kingfisher 'J' 8 - 2 thanks to Darek Kamanski and Bob Walker trebles (welcome back Bob). Then defeated Springfield 'B' 6 - 4 in a close game, finding themselves 3-4 down in the seventh. A battling Bob Walker five-set win against Nigel Outhwaite in game 8 gave the chance for Joseph Wojcik and Krzys Szczygiel to secure the win. They then drew against Milestone, once again found themselves 4-5 down but a game 10 win by Darek Kamanski salvaged a point. Like most teams they took a heavy 2 - 8 defeat against Tilehurst Methodists 'C' despite a Darek Kamanski battling double and just losing against Martin Wetherell in a 5 set thriller. Darek Kamanski 13/24 including 1 treble, Krzys Szczygiel 7/21, Robert Prepolewski 1/3, Marcin Kolat 3/6, Bob Walker 5/6 including 1 treble, Joseph Wojcik 4/12. Doubles 6/9.

Post Office 'C' rely very much on Mick Grantham to help secure their points, however Linda Davis, John and Barbara Gatward teamed up to score an important 7 - 3 win against Reading Resource. They also hammered OLOP 'J' 9 - 1 thanks to maximums from Linda Davis and Mick Grantham. A gutsy team performance drew with SC&P 'E' coming from 1 - 4 down to fight back to 3 - 5 then a Linda Davis five set thriller win over Tony House set up a game 10 win for Mick Grantham to snatch a point. They lost 4 - 6 in a close game against Kingfisher 'J' despite a Mick Grantham treble and 4 - 6 against Springfield 'B' despite doubles from Mick Grantham and Ted Cripps. Linda Davis 9/17, Mick Grantham 23/26 including 5 trebles, Pat Davis 1/18, Ted Cripps 5/9, Barbara Gatward 3/11, John Gatward 3/6. Doubles 5/10.

Kingfisher 'J' have only recorded one win recently having had a good start to the season. The 6 - 4 win came against Post Office 'C' thanks to Andrew Talaga and Derek Crombie doubles and an Andrew Talaga and Derek Crombie doubles 5 set win against John Gatward and Mick Grantham. Heavy 2 - 8 defeats were recorded against Polish 'C' and SC&P 'F' along with a 1 - 9 drubbing by OLOP 'I'. Andrew Talaga 14/29 including 1 treble, Philip Cunnington 2/14, Derek Crombie 8/20, Derek Spicer 6/21 including 1 treble. Doubles 5/10.

SC&P 'E' have put together a run of good results, two wins and two draws to keep them away from the relegation places. Interesting to see they have not lost a match where Mark Corbett has played! They had a fantastic 6 - 4 win against promotion favourites and rivals SC&P 'F' thanks to a Mark Corbett treble and support from Tony House and Mike Casserley. Also had a tight 6 - 4 win against Reading Resource thanks to doubles from Tony House and Mark Corbett along with a Derek Maltby single coupled with a rare doubles victory. They drew against promotion hopefuls OLOP 'I' again thanks to an in form Mark Corbett treble and a Tony House double and drew against Post Office 'C'. Mark Corbett scored a superb treble inflicting only a second season defeat on Mick Grantham along with good support from Mike Casserley and Tony House. Tony House 16/27 including 2 trebles, Pete Harman 0/6, Mike Casserley 11/30 including 1 treble, Derek Maltby 2/12 and Mark Corbett 16/18 including 4 trebles. Doubles 3/10.

Milestone 'B' need to start to put together results if they don't want to get sucked into another relegation battle. They continue to suffer from injuries and unavailability of players. They have drawn against Polish 'C' thanks to a John Evans treble and Oliver Bonser double. Another draw against

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Neil Havard	Reading Resource	26	25	96
John Harland	Tidmarsh 'F'	12	11	91
Mark Corbett	Sonning C&P 'E'	18	16	88
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'C'	26	23	88
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	27	23	85
Alistair Richardson	OLOP (Impact) 'I'	18	15	83
Chris Taylor	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	24	19	79
Dave Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	18	14	77
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Sonning C&P 'F'	21	16	76
Gerard Thorp	Milestone 'B'	21	16	76
Anthony Reeve	Sonning C&P 'F'	15	11	73
Mike Bundy	Tidmarsh 'F'	12	8	66
Nigel Outhwaite	Springfield 'B'	20	13	65

Reading Resource thanks to Gerard Thorp and John Evans doubles but lost heavily 1 - 9 against SC&P 'F', Gerard Thorp saving the white wash. Gerard Thorp 16/21 including 4 trebles, Oliver Bonser 10/18 including 1 treble, Lee Bainbridge 0/6, Stewart Venn 0/12, John Evans 8/9 including 2 trebles. Doubles 4/8.

Reading Resource have finally recorded their first win of the season to drag themselves off the bottom of the table. They continue to rely heavily on Neil Havard. Maureen Allchurch teamed up with Neil Havard and Adrian Pacey to record a fabulous 6 - 4 win against Tidmarsh 'F'. Neil Havard recorded another treble and Maureen paired with Neil to win a hard fought 5 set 9-11 final game doubles victory against Steve Andrews and John Harland. At 5 - 4 Maureen also won a game 10 five setter against Bob Sunnerton to snatch all the points. Another Neil Havard maximum supported by Michael Stevens and Vernon Speed gave them a draw against Milestone 'B'. They suffered 3 - 7 defeats against Post Office 'C' and Tilehurst Methodist 'C' despite Neil Havard trebles. They also went down 4 - 6 against SC&P 'E' in a tight game, Neil Havard scored another treble also inflicting a second season defeat on Mark Corbett. Adrian Pacey scored a single which defeated Derek Maltby in a five set thriller and just lost 13-11 in game five against Tony House. Michael Stevens showed promise by just losing out in his games against Tony House and Derek Maltby. Neil Havard 25/26 including 7 trebles, Maureen Allchurch 3/6, Adrian Pacey 4/24, Vernon Speed 1/8, Michael Stevens 1/11, Adam Sheen 0/3, Teresa Williams 3/6, Russell Ward 0/3. Doubles 3/10.

OLOP 'J' are struggling at the bottom of the table. Importantly Gar Diu continues to be supported by Waseem Anwarchoadhri, Tony Barnett, Ian Thomas and Stephen Sheenan. You have to admire their spirit they keep on trying. In the loss 0 - 10 against Springfield 'B' Stephen Sheenan came closest to getting a winner. In the 1 - 9 loss against Post Office 'C' Gar Diu recorded a good win against Barbara Gatward. In the 1 - 9 loss against SC&P 'F' Waseem Anwarchoadhri recorded a good win against Dave Aust. I look forward to reporting some points on the board in the next news letter. Gar Diu 3/21, Waseem Anwarchoadhri 3/12, Ian Thomas 1/3, Stephen Sheenan 0/6 and Tony Barnett 1/15. Doubles 3/9.

DIVISION SIX *by Duncan Groves*

With Christmas almost upon us, a chill in the air, the days getting shorter and shorter and the X Factor winner crowned, it is that time again.....time to update the RDTTA website and tell all you table tennis enthusiasts what is happening in the world of Division 6.

Well, Tilehurst Methodist 'D' have opened up a 6 point gap at the top of the table after continuing their winning streak all the way to the Christmas break. With eleven wins from eleven matches and three players near the top of averages, it's difficult to see how their march to Division 6 title glory can be halted. But, hey, stranger things have happened.

After their brilliant start to the season, the wheels have come off for OLOP 'K', having suffered three defeats from their last four matches. Meanwhile the predicted rise of the young guys from Kingfisher 'L' has well and truly materialised. With only two defeats and five consecutive wins, it could yet be this team that presses Tilehurst Meths the hardest towards the back end of the season.

Pangbourne WMC 'B' are still leading the race for the second promotion place, their 16 points taken from one fewer match than Kingfisher 'L'.

At the other end of the table, Sonning C&P 'G' remain winless, whilst Berks Sports 'B' have bagged a well deserved win since my last report.

Let's now take a closer look at the teams and individual performances.

BBC Club

An excellent recent run has seen BBC Club move up to sixth in the table with five wins and five defeats. It could have been even better had they not fielded a weakened side in going down 6 - 4 to Polish 'D' or if they had sneaked a point against leaders Tilehurst Meths. This game proved to be a classic as Chris Grzybowski grabbed a sensational treble including the notable scalp of Bob Winter by a 11-4, 9-11, 6-11, 12-10, 11-8 scoreline. Phil Peat picked up a useful singles win over Chas Dean but Dave Pearson couldn't quite secure a point despite a titanic five set struggle with Le An Guan. These disappointments have been put behind them in recent weeks as victories have been registered over Springfield 'C' and Kingfisher 'K'. Apart from Chris G, captain Phil Peat seems to be in top form, now boasting a +70% average.

Kingfisher 'K'

Form has been a bit patchy for this team lately. Nadine Randall still enjoys a sensational overall average (almost 80%) but has missed the odd game and lost two from three in two matches, against Polish 'D' and Pangbourne WMC respectively. On the positive side, weeks 7 and 9 brought 9 - 1 home wins against Sonning C&P 'G' and Springfield 'C' with great support given to Nadine by Didier Garçon and Stuart Mitchell in particular. Looks like a mid-table finish for this Kingfisher outfit.

Springfield 'C'

John Burke has been steadily guiding this team along, initially by playing and recording consistent singles victories. More recently, though, John has stood down and allowed

Richard, Paul and Tim to take to the table without him. The tactic might have cost Springfield 'C' a few points but at least the likes of Richard Knight and Paul Jenkins are starting to pick up some useful wins. In their best performance of the season, they ran out 6 - 4 winners over Birch Copse 'B'. John Burke returned to take three but it was a brace from Richard and a key win for Paul over Tony Ross that sealed the points.



Polish 'D'

With two games in hand and eleven points to their name, it could yet be a top 5 finish for Polish 'D', which would make it a far more successful season than the last two. The run-in to Christmas has been excellent for Polish having won the last 4 matches, including a 6 - 4 win over improving BBC Club. The form of Simon Ward - averaging 73% - has been a revelation whilst Grant Wheatley has also contributed significantly with 8 wins from 11 so far. They just need to improve that horrible doubles stat of 12.5% and there will be plenty more points to follow.

Sonning C&P 'G'

After starting the season with a draw against Springfield 'D', it has been a miserable run for Sonning C&P ever since. With still a backlog of fixtures to play, points may yet materialise. This said, Polish 'D', OLOP 'K' and Pangbourne WMC represent tough challenges still ahead for the bottom team. Some evidence of improvement was apparent in the 3 - 7 defeat by BBC Club, especially the brace from Albert Shephard and, in week 10, there was a major scrap with Berks Sports. Unfortunately for Sonning, the away team pipped it 6 - 4 but Albert "Shep" gained a second successive brace whilst Mike Legg also enjoyed two wins on the night.

Tilehurst Methodists 'D'

At the time of my last report I was speculating over whether Tilehurst Meths or OLOP 'K' would come out on top this season - both teams having achieved maximum points at that stage. Since then, the Meths have just kept on winning whilst OLOP has endured setbacks. Weeks 7 and 10 proved the toughest yet for Tilehurst Meths in matches away to BBC Club

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	11	11	0	0	86	24	22
Pangbourne 'B'	10	8	0	2	61	38	16
Kingfisher 'L' *	11	7	2	2	71	39	16
OLOP (Impact) 'K'	10	7	0	3	67	33	14
Polish 'D'	9	5	1	3	51	39	11
BBC Club	10	5	0	5	52	48	10
Kingfisher 'K'	11	4	1	6	51	59	9
Birch Copse 'B'	11	4	1	6	51	59	9
Springfield 'C'	11	3	1	7	38	72	7
Springfield 'D'	10	1	2	7	31	69	4
Berks Sports 'B'	10	1	1	8	33	66	3
Sonning C&P 'G'	8	0	1	7	17	63	1

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
K.Harrop	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	23	22	95
A.Karve	OLOP (Impact) 'K'	15	14	93
Chris Grzybowski	BBC Club	12	11	91
J.Taylor	Pangbourne WMC 'B'29	26	89	
J.Burke	Springfield 'C'	18	16	88
B.Winter	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	22	19	86
G.Dodd	Kingfisher 'L' *	24	20	83
G.Chivers	Pangbourne WMC 'B'24	20	83	
A.McTiernan	OLOP (Impact) 'K'	12	10	83
J.Scott	BBC Club	12	10	83
N.Randall	Kingfisher 'K'	24	19	79
Le An Guan	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	28	22	78
T.Lee-White	OLOP (Impact) 'K'	18	14	77
M.Houghton	Kingfisher 'L' *	24	18	75
S.Ward	Polish 'D'	22	16	72
Grant Wheatley	Polish 'D'	11	8	72
P. Peat	BBC Club	18	13	72

and at home to rivals OLOP. The 6 - 4 defeat of BBC was a real team effort as Bob Winter and Le An Guan picked up two and the doubles, leaving Chas Dean to secure both points with a singles win over Dave Pearson. Against OLOP, Tilehurst fielded their top 3 players and, despite a first defeat of the season for Kevin Harrop - beaten by Dave Godfrey - Tilehurst just edged the match 6 - 4. Bob Winter proved the hero with a treble including a straight set win over Kevin's conqueror, Dave Godfrey. Now who can stop the steam train that is Tilehurst Meths 'D'??

Kingfisher 'L'

The answer to my last question might yet be....Kingfisher 'L'. Last time they met, the more experienced Tilehurst team ran out 9 - 1 winners but the young stars of future Reading table tennis have learned a lot and could run them close in the first match after the Christmas break. Certainly, Kingfisher 'L' should take a lot of confidence from having won five consecutive matches. In George Dodd, they have one of the leading players in the division - averaging 83% - and with five consecutive trebles to his name. In his best victory to date, he edged out John Taylor from Pangbourne WMC 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-6. This helped them to a crushing 8 - 2 victory, a result matched in the away tie to OLOP 'K'. In this one, Michael Houghton and Leo Long recorded braces and George his usual treble to upset the then second placed team. I look forward to seeing these kids continue to improve and picking up some silverware along the way.

Springfield 'D'

Since my last report, this Springfield outfit have had a difficult run of games and added just a single point - gained in a 5 - 5 draw with Berks Sports. The point owed much to Jeff Morgan who picked up a treble on the night and partnered Alan Gould to a doubles win. Apart from this, it has been hard going for Springfield - defeats coming to OLOP, Pangbourne WMC, Kingfisher 'L' and leaders Tilehurst Meths. During this barren spell there have been few highlights. However, against the Kingfisher youngsters, all three players recorded wins over James Cummings whilst Jeff Morgan can count himself unlucky to have lost in 5 sets to Connor Manley by 11-9, 1-11, 13-15, 12-10, 13-15.

Berks Sports 'B'

Thanks in no small part to Tom Gordon, Berks Sports have broken their duck in Division 6 and picked up a win to improve on their week 7 draw. The shared points came at home to Springfield 'D' when Sue Brownhill and Derek Somerville each won two singles and Dave West notched the all-important fifth rubber with a resounding win over Peter Greatorex. With confidence boosted, Berks Sports visited struggling Sonning C&P and emerged with a first win of the season by a 6 - 4 scoreline. Tom Gordon's treble was the undoubted highlight though Dave West deserves a mention for playing 15 sets on the night, losing two deciding sets but winning the third over Matt Dean to seal victory.

OLOP 'K'

Three defeats in four matches appear to have scuppered OLOP's chances of landing the title this year but with half a season to go, there is plenty to play for. With such a large squad, it is hardly surprising that team selection has played a major role in determining league position. Leading players, Amol Karve, Tony Lee-White and Adam McTiernan have rarely (in fact never) started the same match and, in battles against the Division 6 contenders, they have too often finished second best. For example, though Tony achieved a great win over John Taylor of Pangbourne WMC, he lost to both George Dodd and Leo Long of Kingfisher 'L', albeit in very tight matches. OLOP can still play a major role in deciding the title but don't now look like contenders. Will they prove me wrong??

Birch Copse 'B'

Still missing Richard Green from last year's successful team, Birch Copse 'B' are sitting in the "safety zone" of mid-table but without really threatening the top 5. Consistent wins over most of the lower teams came to an abrupt end as they lost 6 - 4 to Springfield 'C', though Bradley Fullbrook acquitted himself well in winning two and losing his third, to the experienced John Burke, in five close sets. Both Bradley and Melanie Griffiths still feature in the averages but this team lacks the fire power that comes from one star player winning three most weeks. All the same, Birch Copse will surely finish no lower than 8th and could yet make up a couple more places.

Pangbourne WMC 'B'

Last but not least comes Pangbourne WMC who seem to have yoyoed between Divisions 5 and 6 for several years. In John Taylor and Geoff Chivers they have two tough nuts to crack, capable of consistent trebles at this level. With only seven singles defeats between them it is quite surprising to see two team defeats so far this season. This said, four of those seven came in the 8 - 2 defeat by Tilehurst Meths. The second team defeat owed something to the absence of Geoff Chivers though the Kingfisher 'L' youngsters might still have run out victors given the 8 - 2 scoreline. After a tricky looking match versus BBC Club in the first week of the New Year, Pangbourne WMC's season will be shaped by the outcome of the Tilehurst Meths rematch in week 13. Lucky for some.....? Or will it be a chase for second place....?

This concludes my summary of the first half of the 2009/10 season. It just remains for me to wish all Division 6 players a superb Christmas, a smashing New Year and a sensational start to part 2 of the table tennis season. Enjoy!

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Steve Ricks

Hello again! This report takes up to the halfway stage in the youth league.

OLOP Strikers have carried on with their winning ways untroubled by the efforts of OLOP Lions, winning 5 - 0 without dropping an end, then beating SCP Eagles and OLOP Hammers by the same scoreline. They then defeated OLOP Attackers also 5 - 0 before finally demolishing OLOP Trojans again without loss. The addition of Daniel McTiernan in the doubles for Trojans made this game a bit more of a challenge though Strikers eventually won 11-4, 8-11, 9-11, 9-11. In the final match of the year, they inflicted a further 5 - 0 on an under-strength Panthers team. Hanson and Daniel Grover have inflicted the majority of the damage, with Danny Ricks also unbeaten when he has played. This team are definitely champions elect. As long as team availability doesn't become an issue, I can't see them dropping a point this season.

SCP Thunderbolts have been keeping up the pressure at the top by beating Kingfisher Knights and SCP Raiders both 5-0. They then had a scare against their clubmates SCP Avengers finding themselves pegged back to 2 - 2 with two games to go, but they eventually won these to seal the match 4 - 2. They then returned to normal form, thrashing SCP Spartans 6 - 0 and their nearest league challengers SCP Tigers 4 - 1 to confirm their slot in second place. They seemed to miss Guy in a tight match against Kingfisher Knaves but eventually won 3 - 2. Max and Guy are both well up the averages table and Rowan has also won nearly two-thirds. It seems unlikely that they will be challenged for the runners up spot.

SCP Tigers beat SCP Raiders 4 - 1 with Zach, Danny and Jon all winning one each. They then won 5 - 0 against SCP Avengers with Jon and Danny both getting doubles and Zach winning one. In the match versus Kingfisher Knaves Jon was again on form, bagging a brace. They then came up against their clubmates Thunderbolts, one place above them in the table and just when they needed to pull out all the stops were unable to field a full team. Jon played well to beat Max Sweetman, but as a lone player, could not influence the final match score, going down 4 - 1. In the last match of the first half they predictably beat Lions 5 - 0 with Danny and Jon both getting braces then combining to win the doubles.

OLOP Hammers have had a mixed time recently, but have been lucky to scrape a few points together mainly as a result of playing under strength teams. Philip and David both won one each in the narrow loss to OLOP Trojans. They were then fortunate enough to be playing OLOP Panthers when the girls couldn't field a full team and won 4 - 1. The next week they came up against the full force of OLOP Strikers and predictably went down 0 - 5, but were then handed two points by Kingfisher Knights who failed to turn up. They then beat SCP Raiders who only turned up with one player. They were beaten fairly comfortably by a full strength Avengers side though David and Daniel man-

aged to win one each before going down 4 - 2..

Kingfisher Knaves have also had their share of luck with under strength teams. OLOP Attackers conceded three to them and with Alex and Ben winning one each they ran out 5 - 0 winners. Against SCP Spartans, Alex won both of his games and Ben one. They then combined to win the doubles and take the match 4 - 1. They were then handed three by OLOP Trojans though Alex also did well to beat Gus Thomis to win the match 4 - 1. Alex again did well to beat Danny Dockree the following week against SCP Tigers, though this wasn't enough to stop his team losing 3 - 1. In the match against OLOP Panthers Ben and Alex both found Emma Ashley too good on the night, but were both able to win one each to draw the match 2 - 2. They were unlucky to take nothing from the match against current runners up Thunderbolts with Alex and Ben winning one each before losing 3 - 2. The pick of the evening's matches was Ben Thomas narrowly beating Max Sweetman 11-5, 11-9, 10-12, 12-14, 13-15.

OLOP Trojans have Gus Thomis to thank for their league position. He has been chipping in with one or two in every match so far until coming up against OLOP Strikers who were just a bit too good. He almost single-handedly won the matches against both Hammers and Panthers, winning two and combining with Thomas and Daniel to win the doubles to take both matches 3 - 2.

Aneith Singh has been regularly chipping in with wins to maintain the mid-table position for **SCP Avengers**. Dan Bayliss is also contributing well and finds himself just outside the top averages table. Elliot is finding it hard but is improving all the time and has contributed by winning a game.

OLOP Panthers have struggled with player availability. If they could improve this they would undoubtedly be further

Team	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
OLOP Strikers	13	13	0	0	62	6	26
SCP Thunderbolts	13	12	1	0	44	11	24
SCP Tigers	13	10	3	0	47	18	20
OLOP Hammers	13	8	5	0	39	27	16
OLOP Trojans	13	8	5	0	35	30	16
Kingfisher Knaves	13	7	5	1	35	22	15
SCP Avengers	13	7	6	0	33	32	14
SCP Raiders	13	6	6	1	30	36	13
OLOP Eagles	13	6	7	0	29	34	12
OLOP Panthers	13	5	6	2	29	38	12
OLOP Attackers	13	3	10	0	21	44	6
SCP Spartans	13	2	11	0	14	52	4
Kingfisher Knights	13	1	12	0	12	49	2
OLOP Lions	13	0	13	0	8	61	0



up the table than they are. Invariably when they put out a full team they win except against the top sides in the league. Emma and Fiona both feature well up the averages table and Jade has also started to get her game together, recently winning her first competitive game.

SCP Raiders have found points hard to come by recently though Marcus and Adam combined to win the match versus OLOP Lions 4 - 1. They were fortunate to be gifted three by OLOP Eagles and with Alex winning his game they ran out 4 - 1 winners. They were unable to field a full team against OLOP Hammers and consequently went down 4 - 1 and were easily beaten by Thunderbolts 5 - 0. They scraped a nail biting win against Attackers. With the match score tied at 2 - 2 the all important doubles was required to divide the teams. Marcus and Adam comfortably took a two game lead for Raiders, only be pulled back to 2 - 2. In the final end of the evening Raiders changed ends 2-5 down, then miraculously turned the game around, finally winning the game 7-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-6, 9-11 to win the match 3 - 2.

OLOP Eagles have benefited from playing against weakened teams in a few matches recently, however they have also struggled to put out a consistent team themselves. They were gifted a 5 - 0 walkover by Panthers, and then could only put out one player against Strikers, however, changing this probably wouldn't have made much difference to the 5 - 0 score-line. They were then given another 5 - 0 walkover by Knights, only to turn up the following week with only one player again, going down 4 - 1 to Raiders in spite of Joshua winning one of his games. In the final game of the first half against Spartans he went one better, winning both of his games and with Tian and Michael combining to win the doubles the team eventually won 3 - 2.

If **OLOP Attackers** could put some consistent attendances together their league position would be completely

AVERAGES

		%
D Grover	(Strikers)	100
H Xu	(Strikers)	100
D McTiernan	(Trojans)	100
D Ricks	(Strikers)	100
G Thurlow	(Thunderbolts)	83
M Sweetman	(Thunderbolts)	81
E Ashley	(Panthers)	77
D Dockree	(Tigers)	75
J Abbott	(Tigers)	75
F Taylor	(Panthers)	73
C Hazlitt	(Knights)	73
A Gurney	(Knaves)	71
D Clark	(Hammers)	66
S Ricks	(Attackers)	66

different. Austin is finding things tough at this level, however he is trying hard, improving and always enjoys himself. If Siad and Sam were available more often I'm fairly sure the team would be in the top half of the table. The only time they have played together recently they were unfortunate enough to be playing Strikers and predictably lost 5 - 0. Although losing the match, Sam didn't make it easy for older brother Danny, losing 11-9, 11-9, 11-9. Sam was also on form against SCP Raiders, winning both of his games but it

wasn't enough, with the team losing 3 - 2. Sam and Austin were unlucky to lose out in the deciding doubles match losing 9-11 in the 5th.

SCP Spartans have played in some real tussles, but have little to show for it. Freddie and Sam have been getting odd wins here and there. One of the games of the season was surely in their match versus SCP Avengers, with Freddie Atkinson eventually overcoming Elliot Whittingham 11-5, 11-13, 8-11, 13-11, 13-15.

OLOP Lions are still plugging away down the bottom. Chris is winning a few games but Stephen and Lorcan are both still looking for their first wins.

Kingfisher Knights have conceded their last four games through non-attendance.

For the second half of the season the division will be split into two divisions, with those in the top half making the cut into Division one, and the remainder into Division two.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all the players and their families a very happy Christmas. See you in the New Year!