

# READING & DISTRICT

# TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



*February 2009*

Editor: Derek Wavell

## !..Fab Feb..!

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*Thank goodness the weather has started to warm up a bit at last - flowers and sunshine will be with us soon, I hope!*

*Divisional reports are gaining pace as teams poise themselves for the final sprint. Out of the twelve current leaders and runners-up in the six divisions, no less than ten different clubs are represented - which says quite a lot for the vitality of Reading table tennis. **Polish** club is an exception, in being represented three times - so congratulations on that!*

*One club which for once isn't there at the top is **OLOP**. This club, whose open-to-all practice sessions have done so much for Reading table tennis, was unjustly clobbered by flooding on 4th January, which was a tragedy for everyone, not just OLOP. However, many of their matches are awaiting rearrangement - so they could still make a last-minute surge up the tables. In the best sporting spirit, OLOP's old adversary, Kingfisher, have allowed the use of their premises for many of OLOP's home fixtures.*



*Congratulations to Alan Dines on his richly-deserved awards - and to John Cunningham for being named Clubman of the Year; and Paul Treadgold, too, for winning the Wokingham Sports Council Award for Courage in the Face of Adversity.*

*I've included some TT star photos, from the ITTF. In future I hope to include action pictures of Reading players - but the combination of high speed and artificial light makes photography a problem - and I've had family crises to distract me too.*

*Good luck in the final straight!*

*Derek*

# The INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP

*by Nigel Maltby*

**A**fter a hard day's play at the Kingfisher Table Tennis Club on Jan 4th, Liam McTiernan defeated defending champion Andy Yon to lift the magnificent Individual Handicap Trophy. Liam was giving Andy a 4 point start, but he began in determined fashion to take the first 8 points against a shell-shocked Andy to lead 8-4. The lead was soon stretched to 15-8 after Liam brilliantly took successive serves straight off the table past his bewildered opponent and there was simply nothing Andy could do to prevent Liam taking the first 21-9.

In the next game Liam's brilliant forehand attack brought him quickly level at 6-6 as the defending champion finally looked as if he had met his match. However Andy stuck in grimly, stepping further back from the table and defending well with his lob. Andy actually led 13-11, only for Liam to step up another gear as he levelled at 15-all. Good serving from Liam took him quickly to match point at 20-16, but Andy wasn't quite finished yet. A rash forehand from Liam and a brave forehand drive of his own closed the gap to 20-18, and as the tension mounted another fantastic forehand from Andy, deep into the backhand corner, took to them to deuce.

It was Liam's turn then to show off his forehand to good effect to go 21-20 up with a snap kill and then disastrously, Andy served off the end of the table to gift Liam the title. Liam was presented first with the Evening Post Trophy for the Most Supportive Junior for all his efforts in getting local youngsters into the sport in partnership with Alan Dines at St Dominic's and Wangel's Copse schools where over 200 kids turned up for one session. Following that, the Reading Chairman presented him (above) with his well earned Individual Handicap Trophy.

In the earlier rounds Eric Holmes finished top of Group 1 winning all three of his matches comfortably, while Chris Moses finished runner-up after a good win against Adam McTiernan and a 21-15, 18-21, 21-15 win against previous winner Lee Calcutt (-12). Group 2 was a real marathon event with 5 of the 6 matches needing a decisive third game. Andy Yon recovered from the early setback of losing to Daniel Moses (-9) 15-21, 20-22 to win his other two to take the group. Hanson Xu's early victories against Wendy Porter (+2) and Daniel Moses (-10) took him through as runners up.

Liam McTiernan took top spot in Group 3 with only the resolute defending of Mike Dorrington (+4) taking him to a

third game. Alan Cummings managed a 21-11, 21-13 victory against Hari Gehlot (-9) to become runner-up. There was a three way tie at the top of Group 4 with Raphael Jack and Daniel McTiernan just edging out Ramesh Gehlot on games count back. Raphael's single game in a 21-16 9-21, 21-19 defeat against Ramesh (-10) proved crucial for him while Daniel topped the group after beating Ramesh (-14) 21-7, 21-11 with Ramesh mistakenly giving his opponent an 18 point start!

In Group 5 Derek Brooke-Wavell finished top with three good wins that included a nail-biting 12-21, 21-14, 22-20 win over John Evans (-4) while Nick Heaps scrambled through as runner-up, defeating Graham Diplock (+1) 21-19, 21-23, 21-19. John Tucker

was in fine form as he won Group 6, edging past Jim McClure (+6) 21-16, 16-21, 21-19 in his opener. Jim recovered to take second place with two-straight victories over Hugh Crosfield and Andy Jeffrey. Nigel Maltby topped Group 7 with three solid victories over John Crosfield, Richard Hudson and Jeremy Willis. Jeremy scraped through in the three-way tie for second place.

In the Last 16 matches Eric Holmes kept his nerve to defeat Jim McClure (+9) 22-20, 21-18, Raphael Jack had no answer to Derek Brooke-Wavell (+6) as Derek won 21-18, 21-14 and Nigel Maltby breezed past Hanson Xu (+3) 21-11, 21-10. Nick Heaps managed a 21-18, 14-21, 21-15 success over Daniel McTiernan (+12), John Tucker (+7) defeated Alan Cummings and Andy Yon put out

Jeremy Willis.

In the Quarter Finals Liam McTiernan won an epic attacker v defender encounter against Nigel Maltby (+2) 16-21, 21-18, 21-15, Derek Brooke-Wavell (+7) just had enough to defeat Eric Holmes 21-19, 21-18; Nick Heaps comfortably disposed of Chris Moses (+12) 21-17, 21-13 while Andy Yon won a marathon encounter with Milestone's John Tucker from scratch 19-21, 21-18, 21-16.

Derek Brooke-Wavell (+8) started well in both games of his semi-final against Liam McTiernan, but Liam gradually overwhelmed his opponent to win 21-17, 21-14. The other semi final pitted Polish club colleague Andy Yon and Nick Heaps together and in a battle of the big hitters it was Andy (+8) who triumphed 21-15, 21-14.

In the final there was no stopping Liam McTiernan, despite a valiant effort from Andy Yon (+4), particularly in the second game. But Liam held on to take the title 21-9, 22-20.



# Two Awards for Exceptional Coach

by Adam McTiernan

Senior coach Alan Dines has recently won two prestigious coaching awards, the **ETTA Contribution to Coaching** (for his 40 years of dedication to coaching table tennis) and the **Wokingham District Council Sports Coach of the Year** (in all sports). Well done to Alan, who richly deserves such recognition for his selfless work in coaching and supporting players, both young and old.

Alan has been running the Institute of Match Play and Coaching Technics (IMPACT) for nearly 40 years. In that time he has coached



ALAN DINES (RIGHT - HOLDING HIS W.D.C. AWARD) WITH TWO OF HIS STAR PUPILS: DANIEL MOSES (CENTRE) AND DANIEL McTIERNAN - AND PA (CHRIS) MOSES ON THE LEFT.

some of the country's finest players, including Karen Witt, Alison Gordon, Lisa Calcutt, the Farquhar sisters and currently the McTiernan brothers and Daniel Moses, who have won over ten open titles between them this season to date.

Alan is also currently working with four Reading district primary schools, two of which - St Dominic Savio in Woodley (representing Berkshire) and Sonning Common Primary (representing Oxfordshire), have qualified through their zones for the English Schools Regional Finals this season.

## Important Tournament Info from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby

The **Reading Closed Championships** are at Cippenham over the weekend of the 14/15 March with the finals of the Mens, Ladies, Mens Doubles, Ladies Doubles and Mixed Doubles scheduled for Sunday afternoon, approx 4pm. Spectators welcome.

The date for the **R&DTTA Presentation evening** is set for Tuesday 5th May 2009. If the OLOP venue is still out of action, an alternative venue will need to be found. Club Secretaries and trophy winners / runners-up will be notified in due course.

**Impact Challenge Shield** - Kingfisher 'A' have battled their way into the final after beating YMCA 'B' 5-1 in their semi-final. The other semi-final is between Tidmarsh A and Our Lady of Peace 'A' on a date to be arranged.



Left:  
Timo  
Boll  
(World's  
Number  
Four)

Right:  
Paul  
Drinkhall  
(England  
Number  
One)



Right:  
Guo Yue  
of China  
(World  
Number  
Two  
woman)



PHOTOS ARE BY COURTESY OF THE ITTF



**Harry Smart - your problems solved... and no messin.**

*Dear Harry, I'm looking for a new pair of table tennis shoes for the current season's title run-in. Any recommendations?*

- Curious Bill, Sonning Common.



'Arry says: **Ordinarily, mate, I'd say it depends on your game: don't go thinking that there's one best shoe in the world which everyone should have. This year, though, you're gonna need to keep some cash back for a pair of galoshes and a canoe to see you through some away matches.**

*Dear Harry, Do you know anywhere to buy cheap flooring? Must be easily dryable. -*

- John C, Earley.



'Arry says: **There's a place on the Oxford Road which sells floors at £200/sq. yard, or £4000/Church Hall, whichever works out cheaper.**

*Dear Harry, Do you have any money-saving tips for us? What with the current economic outlook, I'm feeling the pinch.*

- Maj. D. Eski, Reading.



'Arry says: **First, you got to budget. Remember that come August you're gonna need 30 or 40 quid for next season's fees, plus petrol for getting to matches. Everything else in life is optional, so you cut your cloth from there on in.**

*Dear Harry, How many table tennis players have disappeared in the Winnersh Triangle over the years?*

- F. Mulder, Washington.



'Arry says: **None, as far as I know. You may be confusing it with another notable triangle.**

*Dear Harry, What's the area of a triangle ABC where*

*angle ABC = 35 degrees  
angle BCA = 110 degrees  
angle CAB = 35 degrees  
and length BC = 4 cm?*

- C. Vorderman, Spencer's Wood.



'Arry says: **7.518 sq. cm. Ta-da!!!**

[smartarry@googlemail.com](mailto:smartarry@googlemail.com)

### ANAGRAMS PRIZE for COLIN DYKE

Colin Dyke is shown with his certificate and Cannes d'Août prize for winning the Newsletter's anagram contest. With Colin are his team mates in Kingfisher 'C' - Geoff Civil and on the right Cliff Putterford.

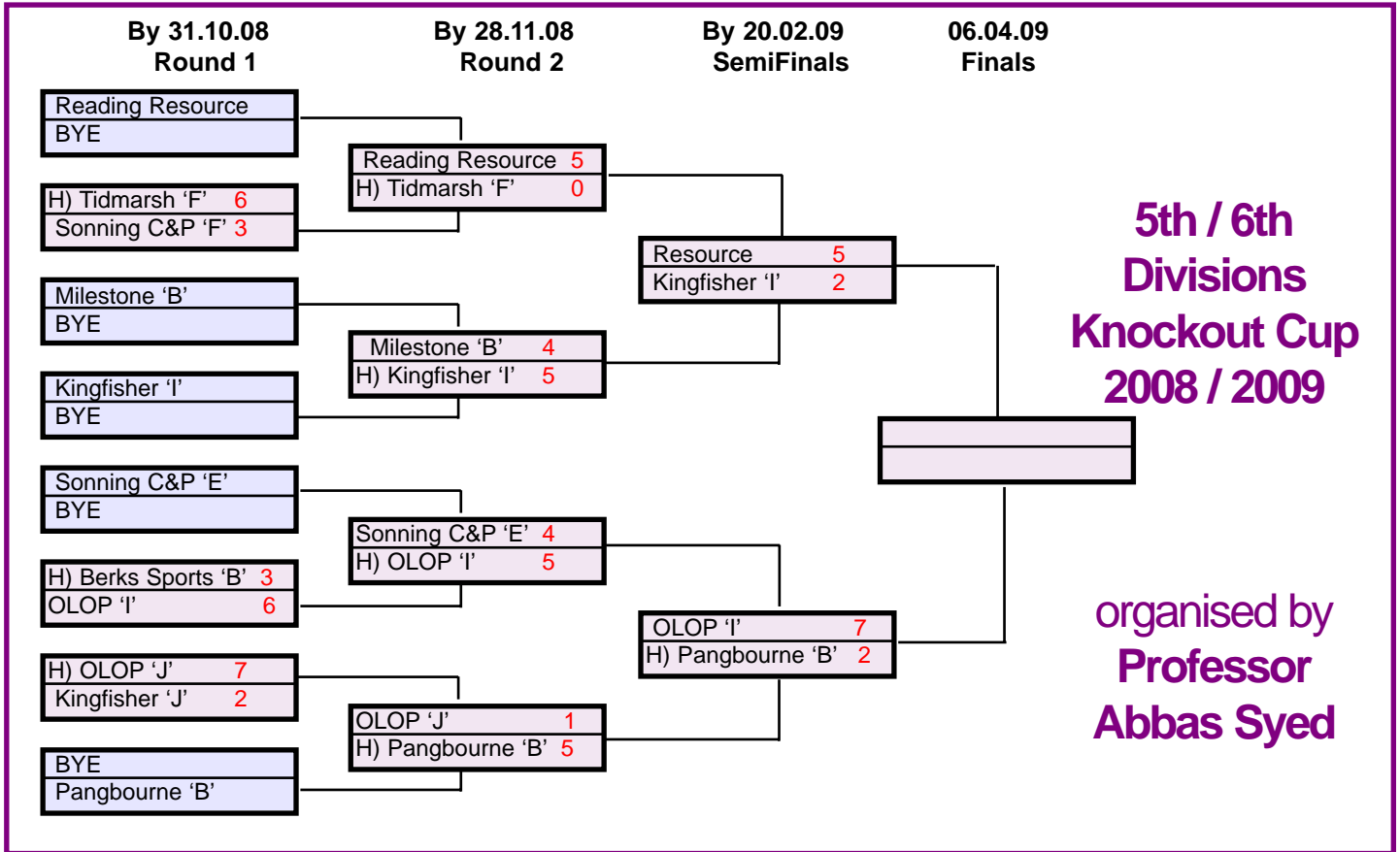
To triumph, Colin had to win a race to unscramble the names of 16 First Division players and compose one anagram himself. He came in several lengths ahead of his nearest rival!

Apart from his lightning wits, Colin has no lack of other strings to his bow. He tells me he is a founder of Kingfisher club; Treasurer of the Berkshire TTA; Treasurer, Secretary and Manager of a British League team; Secretary of the Veterans National League and Maidenhead League; and he is Business Plan Manager for the new Reading Table Tennis Centre project. He has also held many posts on the RDTTA Committee - and, in addition to all his responsibilities,





**ENGLAND NUMBER TWO - DARIUS KNIGHT**



# Team Handicap Competition 2008-09

organised by Professor Abbas Syed

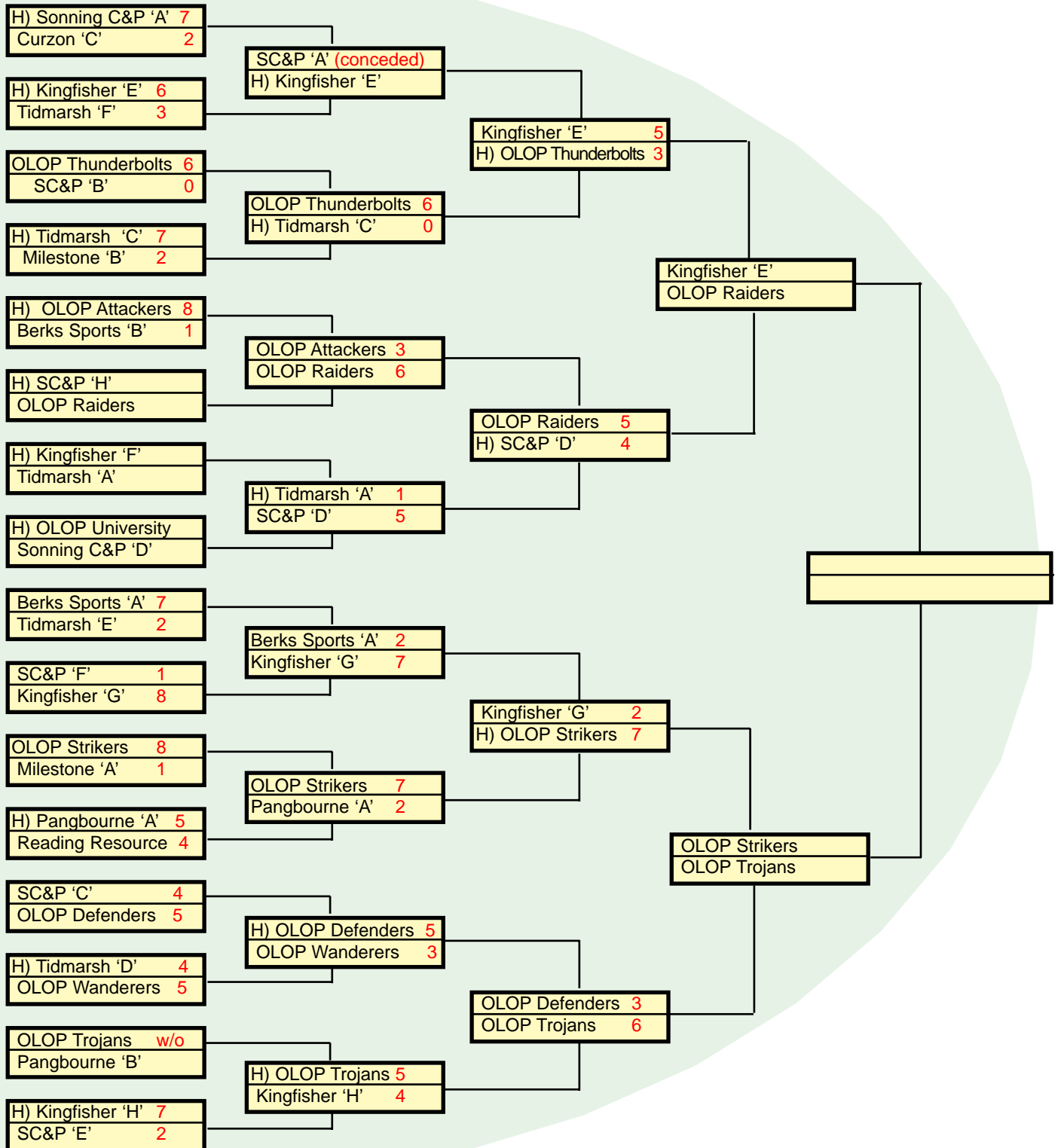
By w/b\* 27.10.08  
Round 1

By w/b 24.11.08  
Round 2

By w/b 16.02.09  
Quarter Final

Wed 01.04.09  
Semi-Final  
at Kingfisher

\*w/b = 'week beginning'



# DIVISION ONE *by Mark Banks*

Here we go again. A strangely shorter edition of Banksy's Div One Column - the ed will be pleased to find!

## Love & Peace

### Mark x

Another record breaking season then for us in **Kingfisher 'A'**. Streets ahead of our closest challengers and right from the first ball being hit never looked in any danger of losing our crown. The only job left for us to do now is to ensure that we don't drop a single point and not even Nick "The bookie" Heaps would give you odds on that particular milestone not being achieved. Although it pains my heart to say it - Hari is in tip top form at the mo. Blasting away everything and everybody in his sights. However, even **more painful** for me than that is that Ramesh Gehlot isn't playing too badly either!!! So often the butt of jokes the guy is starting to look like a proper table tennis player. Serving well and crashing that big forehand with much more precision and consistency than before. Bela is still quietly going about his business and seems finally used to his new rubbers and Kuldeep as ever has been tops when filling in. What are we gonna do though guys? We can't continue to have a situation where there is no competition at the top anymore. It's unhealthy. There's talk within the Kingfisher ranks of mixing it up a bit which may be a good thing. How much mixing is done (if any) however, remains to be seen. Answers on a postcard please.

### M.V.P. Hari Gehlot

Fair play to **Polish 'A'**. They look to have seen off the very strong challenge for the runners up spot from the YM teams (particularly 'A') and that's a pretty good achievement considering their availability issues. Martin remains a true professional and gentleman of the league. Still one of the 40 or 50 best players in the whole country he'll go and turn out on a Friday night for a match with OLOP 'C' to ensure his side maintains their lofty position. He and Hari continue to remain unbeaten and their eagerly awaited clash will be during the last fixture of the season. As I say, Hari is superb at the mo but Bookie Heaps will be offering very short odds about Martin in that particular match up and he'd be right. Elsewhere they've had to draft in the odd

reserve from time to time but when they do show, the backbone of the team are all in pretty fine form themselves. The three number 3s as I like to call them, Richard, Derek and even Heapsy himself are playing well and at least 2 of those 3 have one eye on the European Vets in Croatia at the end of the season and will ensure that they are in the best shape possible for that particular holiday drink up (sorry tournament!).



### M.V.P. Martin Adams

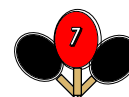
Everybody loves them, everybody wants to play them, most come away with nothing, we don't even care anymore that Bob doesn't say sorry - Yup it's **YMCA 'A'**! Unavailability meant that they weren't as strong against Polish as they would have liked to be thus ending their chances of the runners up spot but they won't be too disheartened. They've more or less seen off the challenge of their club mates and they're just doing what they do best. If one has a rare (very rare) off night the others will come up with the goods. When I first came into this league David Streak was a kind of 66% sort of guy. Good player granted and would on average win 2 from 3. What happened? He gave up this job and now look at him go. Maximums galore!! Every team I play somebody says Streaky's playing well. Every team I play somebody says Bob's playing well. Colin Wilkes was a member of the all conquering Newbury Senior Intertown team (Ok not quite all conquering - couldn't beat the world famous Maidenhead!!). But you get what I'm saying. If you play in a team lower than 4th in this league you must think to yourselves we can't wait to play that little YMCA lot. We know we're gonna get beat but we're gonna enjoy it nonetheless!

### M.V.P. David Streak

Cost me some money, have **YMCA 'B'** this year. My 50p each way that they would finish above David, Bob, Colin & Mike looks to have gone down the swanny. Big shame that Peter got injured when he did and unfortunately they've had to concede too many games for both mine and their liking. And it was all going so well too before things transpired against them. Tony broke his bat (you just know that's gonna be expensive when you do that) and hasn't gotten used to the new one as yet. Jason has been playing well again though with some good wins but Andy Misseldine, good player, keen, plays in more leagues than John Barclay, hasn't been seen much in a YMB shirt much recently and when your star man isn't available it becomes a struggle at this level. Look, having said that, previous years I'm always writing about this team in connection with the relegation word. Not a chance this time and that's a big relief no doubt for all of their players and fans too (Jason's dad).

### M.V.P. Andy Misseldine

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Kingfisher 'A'	17	17	0	0	146	24	34
Polish 'A'	14	12	0	2	103	37	24
Reading YMCA 'A'	15	10	2	3	94	56	22
Reading YMCA 'B'	15	8	1	6	77	73	17
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	16	7	3	6	71	89	17
Kingfisher 'B'	16	6	4	6	82	78	16
OLOP 'C'	16	5	4	7	74	86	14
OLOP 'A'	16	5	3	8	63	97	13
OLOP 'B'	16	4	3	9	68	92	11
Kingfisher 'C'	17	4	2	11	71	99	10
Tilehurst Methodists 'A'	14	3	2	9	57	83	8
Kingfisher 'D'	16	1	0	15	34	126	2



I know I mentioned it last time but just what is it with **Kingfisher 'B'**? Brilliant really in the singles, a complete dog's dinner in the doubles. Just goes to show that good singles players don't always make good doubles players right? But hey, OK so they start every match 1 nil down fine - but they're still having a good time of it. The kid. Smart player. Good reader of the game. Dare I say not quite firing just now as we know he can. Has a big task to get into The Masters. May have to rely on drop outs to qualify and for a player of his quality (remember he plays in Division 17 of the British League) not to be qualifying automatically in his own right that will be disappointing. It's not all lost though 'cos he does have his banker against me (Division 1 BL thank you very much) to come! Trevor's really playing well at the moment with some nice maximums to his name and the two of them together have carried this team into a very respectable 5th with no danger of going down. If David and Alan could get a few more wins under their belt then this side would be a major force - no question.

**M.V.P. The Kid**

6th are **Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'**. I gave Dave Calcutt a mention last time but sorry Dave you're gonna miss out this time – maybe I'll mention you again in the final one in April! The rest of the team have done enough to keep themselves and Friday Nights in the Division. This play coupled with a claimed game against YMB which has also helped their cause.

**M.V.P. Ian Packford**

Most players in **OLOP 'C'** have been having their first taste of Div One table tennis this season and they've been coping pretty well. None more so than Daniel Moses who's been walking on water in his first season in the top flight. He continues to take out established veterans (and younger players too) of this league and has a big future in the game. Ian Cole is playing well, practising, and hitting the ball as hard as ever without quite getting the wins. Mike and Julian seem to be enjoying it and have had some notable victories of their own.

**M.V.P. Daniel Moses**

Flagship OLOP side **OLOP 'A'** are having a much better season than last. One reason for that -probably. Clive "Hip Hip Hooray" Banham. It's almost like the guy hasn't been away (worse luck for us!! – ha ha sorry buddy). Playing exceptionally well and helping to carry his side to relative safety. Barry, Sue and John always play their part. Mark's chipped in to. Can they go down? Yes. Will they? No!

**M.V.P. Clive "Hip Hip Hooray" Banham**

What a few weeks **OLOP 'B'**'s Steve Murgy has had. Not content with just losing the 6 stones in weight, he's remembered that he can play this game after all. OK so it's not really part of my remit for this thing but guiding his 3 man team to a sensational victory in the Berks IT was super stuff. And he capped a great individual performance on the day by almost taking out 3 members of the mighty Kingfisher 'A' (only a certain Mr M Adams can claim to have done that recently). I say almost because even though Hari and Ramesh both found themselves on the losing side there was one superb, handsome looking member of our team who kept our flag flying!!!!!!! Back to the league and his form has continued. A maximum against KFC in the

whitewash and if they stay up (which I fully expect them to do) then Murgy's timely return to form will be key. That plus the masterstroke signing of Paul Rattue who some remember from years gone by and who started his return to Reading with a maximum in the same KFC game and with Peter, Tim & Andy continuing to do their thing they should have enough in the tank to keep them out of bother. Good stuff guys.

**M.V.P. Murgy**

LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	PL	W	%
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	36	36	100
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	27	27	100
Ian Packford	Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	6	6	100
Stephen Munson	Kingfisher 'A'	14	13	92.86
Andy Misseldine	Reading YMCA 'B'	24	22	91.67
David Streak	Reading YMCA 'A'	36	32	88.89
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	33	29	87.88
Bela Hegedus	Kingfisher 'A'	21	18	85.71
Nicky Heaps	Polish 'A'	25	21	84
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	33	26	78.79
Bob Davis	Reading YMCA 'A'	42	33	78.57
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'C'	46	36	78.26
Stuart Williams	Kingfisher 'B'	36	28	77.78
Richard Rosinski	Polish 'A'	33	25	75.76

I'm starting to feel a bit worried for **KFC**. Their table tennis recently has been anything but finger lickin' good and they're now in real danger of sinking into 2. So much of their success in the past has been attributed to number 1 Eric Van Looy but despite a terrific win for him over Ramesh recently his confidence seems low and he's struggling to find results. Super player in my eyes though and if he could just turn it around in the remaining few weeks then they'll be in with a pretty good shout of avoiding it but something needs to happen for them and fast. It's not that Cliff and Geoff or Colin for that matter have been playing badly – far from it in fact but as I've said many a time – this is a tough league (not as tough as previous years granted but still tough nonetheless) and if you're not quite on your game you WILL get found out. The big game here no doubt will be the one versus Tilehurst. Win that and they'll put themselves in with one hell of a good chance of staying up, lose and it could be curtains. Remember the date. March 12th!

**M.V.P. Eric Van Looy**

So then, I have two of my favourite teams (that's right Lee) pretty much fighting for 1 place and **Tilehurst Meths 'A'** the team who self predicted 5th spot are now in serious danger of ending their 3 year time at the top. The omens aren't good although they do still have to play Kingfisher 'D' twice and anything short of 4 points there and they're history. The man with the most expensive bat in the world has been playing well – very well in fact. Completed a sensational double over the kid albeit with some dubious returns of serve and is generally winning at least 2 every time he plays (top sides aside). Needs some support though and despite the talent they have in this big squad of theirs he



just ain't getting it at the moment. Keith tells me it's more fun in Div 2. I've never been there so I'm biased but I don't agree. If they are serious about staying up (and maybe there is some niggling doubt surrounding that) then they need to start playing their big guns and soon. Game as I said before with KFC is crucial. Team selection will be very very VERY interesting!

**M.V.P. Fenwick Prady**

Down before a ball had been hit but Kingfisher 'D' have defied all the odds and have only gone and won a game!!!! GET IN GUYS!!! OK OK so it was against a 2 man YMB side and 1 of their players, Reynolds, broke his bat but all those ante-post betting slips predicting a season of nil points for the lads from Kingfisher 'D' have now been ripped

up! Ouch! Their star player JJ Knowles is on the up. Starting to play very well with some big wins under his belt. Bela Hegedus? That's a big win right? I saw he beat Daniel Moses in a recent junior tournament too. Well played JJ. You're gonna need to make a decision about whether you'd like to hang around in 1 next season or slip into 2. Elsewhere Trevor is enjoying his season as much as anybody. Big cries of "Good Boy" when he goes 1 love up on a net have been ringing around the Kingfisher Clubhouse and fair play to the geezer – keep it up. Ivor has had his moments too and Dave is still the man in the corner with the experience to assist in a coaching capacity.

**M.V.P. JJ Knowles**

# DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

**W**elcome to the first newsletter report of 2009. I hope it's a healthy and prosperous one for you all.

The champions elect are Polish 'B' who are storming to the divisional title having won all of their matches so far this season (unless of course they have a dose of the bottlejobs like Wolves tend to have every season). The other promotion place is surely between Post Office 'A' and Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'. (I guess whoever wants to play in division one next season more will be the team that comes second). The bottom two have been cast adrift in recent weeks but there is still time for them to turn it around. One request: can you attempt to play some of the postponements quickly, we currently have 7 outstanding plus the other abandonment to sort out.



Simon Thorne only to fall at the last hurdle 8-11. We did salvage a little bit of pride as Dave and Andy defeated Bob Walker and Andy Yon. Sonning C&P 'B' kept in touch with a hard-fought 6 - 4 win over relegation threatened Curzon Club 'A'. They took the last two matches of the evening when Malcolm Gregory beat Mick Maynard 11-7, 11-6, 3-11, 11-4 and then Keith Swain won 11-6, 11-5, 11-7 against John Walker, earlier John Willcocks completed his treble with a 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9 win over Brian Meheux. Kingfisher 'F' are the Swansea City of division two as they recorded their fifth of the season as they were held by their neighbours Kingfisher 'E'. Phil Mead and Peter Bennett both won twice to give them a 5-4 lead but Niall McGrane came up with the goods in a 11-7, 11-5, 10-12, 12-10 win over Phil Mead to clinch a much needed point for the 'E' team. In a battle of the seniors Roger Woolven-Allen came through 10-12, 11-6, 11-2, 11-6 against Allan Bruton.

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 Polish 'B'	14	14	0	0	109	31	28
2 S C & P 'B'	15	9	1	5	83	67	19
3 Post Office 'A'	13	7	3	3	66	64	17
4 Kingfisher 'F'	14	4	5	5	66	74	13
5 Tidmarsh 'B'	15	4	5	6	69	81	13
6 OLOP 'E'	12	6	0	6	66	54	12
7 S C & P 'A'	12	5	2	5	66	52	12
8 Post Office 'B'	12	4	2	6	51	69	10
9 Kingfisher 'E'	12	3	2	7	48	72	8
10 Curzon Club 'A'	14	2	2	10	54	86	6
11 Reading University	11	1	4	6	42	68	6

**Week 12: End of Andy's and my own records**

Polish 'B' made it 12 wins from 12 matches as they trounced Tidmarsh 'B' 9-1 and in doing so ended my record of having won at least one game in a Reading league match since the 17th January 2005 and it was an even longer time for Andy Stephens (1997). The trio of Simon Thorne, Graham Diplock and Krysz Milerski were just too good for us. Dave Reynolds did battle back from 0 - 2 down against

**Week 13 : The return of Paul Jarvis**

Paul Jarvis made a return to the table tennis arena following his fall just before Christmas, he returned an impressive victory over Jon Willis 14-12, 11-7, 9-11, 11-9 as Sonning C&P 'A' drew with Curzon Club 'A'. Simon Berry returned his customary treble and Nigel Maltby chipped in with one of his own as he beat John Walker 11-7, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6. John Willcocks came away with two wins and John Walker had success over Paul Jarvis.

Malcolm Gregory led the way with three as he inspired Sonning C&P 'B' to a close 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'F'. Merrill Massey had a good win over Peter Goatly 11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7 and Keith Swain surprisingly only won once. Polish 'B' inflicted a 3 - 7 defeat on OLOP 'E'. Liam McTiernan did have a really good victory over Graham Diplock 9-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8 and Gavin Thompson also had a good win over Simon Thorne 11-2, 6-11, 11-4,



10-12, 11-8. In the other match of the week we drew with OLOP 'D' (The University team). Oliver Shaw was man of the match with a maximum.

**Week 14 : The return to action of Post Office 'A'**

Post Office 'A' returned to action for the first time in 2009 following postponements as they went to relegation threatened Curzon Club 'A' and came away with a 7-3 win. The trio of John Simmonds, Steve Hodder and Colin Hardman all won two, the bane of the evening for them was John Willcocks as he won all three for Curzon. The result kept Post Office 'A' in the second promotion spot. Sonning C&P 'B's hopes were dealt a blow as they could only muster two players and it was compounded as they went down 3-7 to fellow Sonning C&P members of the 'A' team. Keith Swain gave them early hope of salvaging a point with an 11-3, 11-8, 11-8 defeat of Nigel Maltby but the flames of hope were extinguished as Simon Berry beat both Keith and Malcolm Gregory. Paul Jarvis also weighed in with a win over Malcolm. Post Office 'B' and Tidmarsh 'B' shared the points under the bright lights of Richfield Avenue. George White had his best evening in Reading this season as he won all three which included a fifth set win over Andy Stephens 11-8, 4-11, 14-12, 6-11, 11-8 to make it 4 - 4. Dave Mills and I brought the crowds back to table tennis with our thrilling match that ended at 11:10 which Dave duly won 11-4, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9 albeit he needed a few lucky nets & edges (not that I am bitter in any way!). In the other match of the week Polish 'B' dropped the one set as they romped to a 9-1 over Kingfisher 'E'. Even Niall McGrane was powerless to prevent the good hiding as he lost all three for the first time this season.

**Week 15 : Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' move closer to promotion**

In the match of the week, Sonning Common & Peppard 'B' moved a step closer to promotion with a comprehensive 8 - 2 win over their nearest rivals Post Office 'A'. Malcolm Gregory enjoyed the evening with three good wins, Steve Hodder provided his biggest test before succumbing 8-11, 6-11, 11-6, 9-11. John Simmonds and Simon Hopkins were the victors for Post Office as they both overcame Merrill Massey. Keith Swain won three as well for Sonning 'A'. Kingfisher 'E' boosted their chances of avoiding a surprise drop into division three as they defeated fellow strugglers OLOP 'D'. In what, I would imagine was a real corker of a match between two of the division's top players, Oliver Shaw finally came out victor 7-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-3, 11-6, this was only the first game of what looks like a good match. Carole Chard narrowly beat Ash Ancharaz 6-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 12-10 and then at 5 - 3 had a great chance to beat Oliver Shaw as she led 11-6, 11-9 before Oliver hit back to win the last three 11-1, 11-8, 11-4. Niall McGrane wrapped up the points in Kingfisher's favour as he defeated Ash 8-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-8 for a 6-4 win. The other team rooted in the bottom two, Curzon Club came to Tidmarsh but Andy Stephens was in

good form as he won all three, I chipped in with two, whilst François Durand, playing up from division three, won the all-important match against John Walker 5-11, 11-13, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7. OLOP 'E' got the better of Post Office 'B' as they won 9-1. Liam McTiernan and Raphael Jack were the maximum boys for OLOP whilst Dave Mills and Peter Galea had a humdinger which Dave finally won 18-16 in the fifth. In the other match of the week Kingfisher 'F' defeated Sonning Common and Peppard 'A' 6-4.

**Week 16: Polish 'B' almost there!**

Polish 'B' stand on the verge of playing division one table tennis next season as they won their fourteenth match of the season, which coupled with other results leaves them requiring just three points from their last six matches for promotion. The only blot on the week's performance was Graham Diplock's defeat by Allan Bruton which was an excellent win by Allan. Simon Thorne and Krys Milerski returned their customary trebles. Curzon Club entertained OLOP 'E', but despite a double from the ever reliable John Willcocks and one from Mick Maynard they fell to a 7-3 defeat. Liam McTiernan, who I have been told is improving with every match, won another maximum, his second in succession which included an impressive win over John Willcocks 11-9, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10. Raphael Jack is also in a rich vein of form and this continued with another brace. Gavin Thompson won the other match for OLOP 'E' who could yet claim the second promotion spot (two seasons in a row Peter!). In the other match of the week, Malcolm Gregory proved to be the strongest link as he won all three in a tight draw with Tidmarsh 'B'. The doubles proved to be an important match as Andy and I battled well to beat Malcolm and Keith Swain 9-11, 12-10, 8-11, 12-10, 11-3.

That's all from me for this report. Please try to play the postponements soon, I appreciate the problems associated with the OLOP premises but you other teams can play your matches. Cheers!

<b>LEADING AVERAGES</b>				
<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>%</b>
Kris Milerski	Polish 'B'	42	40	95.2%
Simon Thorne	Polish 'B'	36	33	91.7%
Graham Diplock	Polish 'B'	21	18	85.7%
Dave Mills	Post Office 'B'	30	25	53.3%
Simon Berry	Sonning C&P 'A'	24	20	83.3%
Keith Swain	Sonning C&P 'B'	39	30	76.9%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'E'	30	23	76.7%
Liam McTiernan	OLOP 'E'	30	21	70.0%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A'	36	24	66.7%
John Simmonds	Post Office 'A'	33	22	66.7%
Colin Hardman	Post Office 'A'	33	22	66.7%



# DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Longfield A	14	13	0	1	102	38	26
Berks Sports A	14	7	5	2	82	58	19
Tilehurst B	13	7	3	3	82	48	17
Kingfisher G	14	7	3	4	76	64	17
Tidmarsh C	12	8	0	4	68	52	16
Sonning C&P C	15	7	1	7	66	84	15
OLOP F	13	4	0	9	59	71	8
Tidmarsh D	14	3	2	9	54	86	8
OLOP G	12	2	1	9	40	80	5
Springfield A	13	1	1	11	41	89	3

As we reach the final furlong, there are some teams who have already resigned themselves to the fate which is about to befall them, while some are beginning to look over their shoulders as they hope they can retain their current position in the league table. Some are even checking the details of exactly who they have left to play, who their rivals have yet to meet and calculating their potential position at the end of the season should they win that vital fixture in the next few weeks. So, with just a few matches to go and the promotion and relegation issues about to be resolved, let's look at the prospects of the teams in Division Two.

The one team who have now accepted their destiny (several weeks after everyone else) is **Longfield 'A'** who need only 2 more points to mathematically confirm their promotion. This time, I am told, they will not avoid the move back to Division two. Despite being without one of their key players, Longfield have recorded another 5 wins in 2009, thanks to the contributions of Ken Park and Mike Shore from their 'B' team and the consistency of Brian Chinneck and Ian Fletcher. But they haven't had it all their own way, as they suffered a 4-6 defeat in the first of two close matches with Tidmarsh 'C'. Less than a week later in the scheduled fixture, Longfield made the most of home advantage to reverse the score thanks to a Chinneck maximum and Ian Fletcher beating François Durand 11-8 in the fifth game of the final set of the night. Martin Pugh returned to play his first match of the year in the top of the table clash with Berks Sports and won all three in a relatively comfortable 7-3 win.

Four teams remain in contention for the other promotion place, with **Berks Sports 'A'** currently in prime position as they have the points on the board, so if they win their remaining four matches they will finish in second place. **Tidmarsh 'C'** will have something to say about this as they have matches in hand, one of which is against Berks Sports, so they would finish second if

they could complete the season without dropping any further points.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'B'** and **Kingfisher 'G'** are also in with a shout, although both teams have yet to play Longfield a second time so are likely to drop points in that fixture. With it being so close between these teams, there remains the possibility of this promotion place being decided by "goal difference".

For the record, **Berks Sports** have continued their good form with 3 wins and a draw before their defeat to Longfield. By contrast **Tilehurst Methodists** have collected just 4 points from as many matches since the turn of the year, despite fielding the player who tops the averages for this Division, Ray Yau. **Kingfisher 'G'** have also notched just the 4 points from their five matches in 2009 and are probably the outsiders in this contest.

Meanwhile, Tidmarsh 'C' have had three wins including the impressive victory over Longfield in which François Durand recorded an impressive maximum, losing just one end in the process. They seem to have suffered most from postponements due to premises being unavailable, with two of these matches outstanding.

**Sonning C&P 'C'** sit mid-table, just short of the promotion battle and having won four of their six matches this year, they are well clear of any relegation worries. So Paul and his team can relax for their remaining three fixtures, as they have nothing to play for but their pride.

At the lower end of the league table, there are four teams still battling for their survival in this Division. Currently, **Tidmarsh 'D'** and **O.L.O.P. 'F'** are a few points clear of trouble, but it looks as though there may be only one or two fixtures left in which they have a realistic chance of collecting further points. Having beaten Springfield in



## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Ray Yau	Tilehurst 'B'	33	31	93.9%
Martin Pugh	Longfield 'A'	27	23	85.2%
Brian Chinneck	Longfield 'A'	39	33	84.6%
Eric Holmes	Kingfisher 'G'	39	33	84.6%
Mary Allan	Tilehurst 'B'	12	10	83.3%
Harry Brough	OLOP 'F'	12	10	83.3%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	30	24	80.0%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	18	14	77.8%
Nigel Goodman	Berks Sports 'A'	39	30	76.9%
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'C'	30	21	70.0%
Ian Fletcher	Longfield 'A'	42	28	66.7%
Steve Purchase	OLOP 'F'	30	20	66.7%
Steve Callidine	Tidmarsh 'C'	12	8	66.7%
François Durand	Tidmarsh 'C'	26	17	65.4%
Ian Davis	OLOP 'G'	18	11	61.1%

their only win this half, for Richard Hudson's team the critical fixture may be their final one with O.L.O.P. 'G'. Meanwhile for the O.L.O.P. team led by Steve Purchase, who picked up 2 points at the expense of Tidmarsh 'D', their postponed match with their club-mates may also decide their fate this season.

However, O.L.O.P. 'G' are currently 3 points adrift of safety and will need to pick up at least this many more to be in with a chance of survival, but with fixtures against bottom of the table Springfield and the two teams directly above them, it seems quite possible for them to achieve this. In their recent match with Kingfisher 'G', Pat Daniels defeated Eric Holmes 13-11 in the fifth as his team took a 3-0 lead before having to settle for a draw.

Unfortunately for them, **Springfield 'A'** have yet to play four of the top five teams, so they would appear to have no hope of turning round their season and may have already accepted their fate. They did at least record their first win of the season, beating O.L.O.P. 'F' 6-4 as Phil Burke hit

another maximum, Des Hele and Ian Boaden won once each and they had a rare doubles win.

There have been some close contests in recent matches which include:

Tony Bucknall v Nigel Goodman: 9-11, 12-10, 12-10, 10-12, 10-12.

Ian Fletcher v Steve Ricks: 13-15, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9, 13-15.

Sonning C&P 'C' v Springfield 'A' – doubles: 11-9, 11-13, 12-10, 10-12, 15-13.

OLOP 'G' v Kingfisher 'G' – the whole match, as 7 sets went to the deciding game.

Finally, good luck to everyone in the remaining matches...

.. and I'm sure you will all help the OLOP captains as they try to re-arrange their home fixtures.

## ***DIVISION FOUR*** by *Derek Harrison*

As we approach the home straight I feel that Milestone 'A' have promotion secure and probably as champions. Since the Christmas break they have had a slight wobble when they were first held to a draw by Curzon 'C'. Hugh Crosfield won two and John Evans and John Crosfield won one each. Next came defeat at St Laurence 6-4. Again Hugh won two, with John C and John E winning one each. At Kingfisher they came away with a 2-8 win. Hugh and John E won three each. Against a strong Longfield 'B', John E hit a great treble by beating Ken 11-5, 4-11, 11-7, 11-8; Colin 12-10, 11-7, 9-11, 13-15, 11-3, and Mike 11-8, 11-5, 11-6 and with Hugh and John Tucker winning two, this gave them a 7-3 win. In their big clash at Pangbourne they won 3-7. Hugh did well by gaining a fine maximum. At home to Tilehurst Meths, they romped home 9-1. John T and John E both hit trebles with Hugh gaining a good double.

Doubles 13/16 81%

Curzon 'B' have moved into second place, by winning four in a row. They first had a nice 6-4 win over St Laurence. Nick Lean did the business by gaining his first maximum of the season. Geoff Johnson did well to win two with Jim Brent picking up a vital single. At Longfield, Geoff hit a great treble with Jim winning two and myself one. Jim was unlucky against Ken, going down 11-0, 11-9, 8-11, 7-11, 16-14. Next came an 8-2 win over Tilehurst, with Derek winning three and Jim and Nick winning two each. I have to say I was lucky against Jan when she had to retire at one game all. At home to Sonning 'D' we cruised to a 9-1 victory. Nick and Geoff both hit trebles, with Jim winning two.

Doubles 9/14 64%

Pangbourne 'A' are still in with a great chance because

they have already played Milestone and Curzon 'C', so their match with Curzon 'B' could sort it all out. At home to OLOP 'H', they just got home 6-4, thanks

mainly to Leroy Wilson, who won all three with Roger Stevens winning two and Tom Johnson getting a vital single by beating Chris Morris in game 10. They then suffered a 3-7 defeat to Curzon 'C'. Leroy won two, Roger one. A good team performance saw them win 4-6 at Kingfisher 'H'. Leroy and Tom won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles. Roger won the other game. At Sonning 'D', Tom, Leroy and Pete Welch all won two, to give them a 4-6 win.

Against Milestone, they lost 3-7. Leroy won two by beating John T and John E, while Roger beat John E 11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 12-10. This week they beat Tidmarsh 'E' 7-3. Roger hit a fine maximum with Leroy and Tom both gaining doubles.

Doubles 9/16 56%

St Laurence lost their first game after Christmas when they went down 6-4 at Curzon 'B'. Chris West won two by beating Jim and Geoff. Dan West picked up a single besides the two of them winning the doubles. They bounced back by beating Milestone 6-4. Chris was on top form by beating Hugh 11-9, 4-11, 11-8, 11-7; John C 9-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-7 and John E 11-9, 11-7, 11-7. Dan gave him good support by winning two. Chris and Dan then won two each, and with Ben Clowney winning one this helped them to a 6-4 victory over Longfield. At Tilehurst Meths they lost 6-4. Dan won two and Chris won one. In their match against OLOP, Chris and Dan both hit trebles to give them a 6-4 win.

Doubles 9/15 60%

Since my previous note, Curzon 'C' have picked up 7



## DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Geoff Johnson	Curzon Club 'B'	30	24	80
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone 'A'	48	38	79
Dan West	St Laurence	36	28	78
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	36	28	78
Tracy Maynard	Curzon Club 'C'	39	30	77
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne 'A'	48	34	71
Tim Raby	Sonning C&P 'D'	33	23	70
Hanson Xu	OLOP 'H'	39	26	67
John Evans	Milestone 'A'	27	18	67
Derek Harrison	Curzon Club 'B'	30	19	63
Chris West	St Laurence'	45	28	62
Roger Stevens	Pangbourne 'A'	33	20	61

points out of 8 and now have a chance of gaining the runners-up spot. At Milestone they came away with a great draw, with Tracy Maynard and Terry Spice both gaining doubles. Linda King got that important single by beating John C 6-11, 6-11, 4-11. Next came a fine 6-4 win over Kingfisher thanks mainly to a superb treble from Tracy. Terry and Linda gave her good backing by winning one each. Tracy and Linda won the doubles by beating Mike and Steve. Tracy then hit another treble against Pangbourne by beating Pete 11-8, 7-11, 9-11, 11-5, 3-11; Roger, 11-9, 8-11, 10-12, 4-11 and Leroy 10-12, 8-11, 5-11. Linda did well by also beating Pete and Roger. A great team performance saw them beat Tidmarsh 6-4. Terry and Tracy won two each, with Linda winning one.

Doubles 7/14 50%

Tilehurst Meths 'C' have done quite well since my previous notes. They first won 4-6 at Tidmarsh 'E', where Jan Wright won all three with ease. Nigel Rowland helped out by gaining a double. At Curzon 'B' they crashed to an 8-2 defeat. Nigel saved the whitewash by beating Jim and Nick. Wendy Porter came back to form by hitting a great hat trick, beating Dan 11-7, 9-11, 10-12, 12-10, 11-9, Ollie Seye 11-7, 11-8, 11-3 and Chris 11-7, 12-10, 11-9 and her efforts helped them beat St Laurence 6-4. At Longfield, Wendy, Nigel and Mal Collis all won two each to give them a 4-6 win. They then went to Milestone and crashed to a 9-1 defeat. Nigel won the game by beating Hugh.

Doubles 8/15 53%

Longfield 'B' seem to have too many good players in their squad to worry about relegation, but they are very close to it. At home to Curzon 'B' they lost 3-7 with Ken Park winning two and Colin Field one. They then went to St Laurence and went down 6-4. John Beardmore had a good night by beating Chris 6-11, 11-6, 14-16, 11-6, 6-11 and Ben 11-5, 11-8, 7-11, 7-11, 3-11. But the win of the night and probably of the season was John Belcher's 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 8-11, 5-11 win over Dan. Well done, John! At leaders Milestone they lost 7-

3. Ken and Mike Shore both won one each. Mike then won all three against Tilehurst Meths; however, this was not enough because they went down 4-6. Ken won two and Colin and John Beardmore both obtained singles to help them gain a point against OLOP.

Doubles 8/15 53%

Sonning Common & P 'D' won their first game after Christmas when beating Kingfisher 4-6. Sadly the match was marred when Ken Robb had a chest problem and was taken to hospital. I am pleased to report that I spoke to Ken a few days later, and he is recovering well. On behalf of you all I wish Ken a very speedy return to our ranks. At Tidmarsh they lost 6-4 with Ian Ayres and Tim Raby winning two each. Antony Reeve was very unlucky against Bob, going down 12-10 in the fifth. At home to Pangbourne they lost 3-7 despite a Tim maximum. At Curzon, Ian saved the whitewash by beating Jim 8-11, 10-12, 6-11.

Doubles 5/14 36%

As mentioned above, Kingfisher had to concede two games to Sonning 'D' and as a result lost 4-6. Mike Dorrington won two and Ken and Sylvia won one each by beating Antony. A strong side went to Curzon 'C' but still went down 6-4. Mike won two and a new signing, Steve Woolnough, and Richard Fifield won one each. In their next game they crashed to a 2-8 defeat at home to Milestone. Sylvia and Richard won one each by beating John C. At home to Pangbourne, they again lost 4-6. Mike won two by beating Leroy and Roger. Steve and Richard were the other scorers. At Tidmarsh, they lost their fourth match out of their last five, by a 6-4 scoreline. Richard won all three besides teaming up with Steve to win the doubles.

Doubles 5/15 33%

Tidmarsh 'E', by winning two out of their last 5 matches, have given themselves a chance of avoiding the drop. At home to Tilehurst they lost 4-6. Bob Griffiths won two by beating Wendy and Nigel. Dave Smith and Dave Edwards also beat Wendy. Bob came up trumps against Sonning by hitting a great maximum, with the two Daves winning one each, which helped towards a 6-4 win. Bob then won all

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milestone 'A'	16	14	1	1	113	47	29
Curzon Club 'B'	14	11	1	2	88	52	23
Pangbourne WMC 'A'	16	11	1	4	95	65	23
St Laurence Church	15	8	2	5	76	74	18
Curzon Club 'C'	14	7	3	4	77	63	17
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	15	7	3	5	69	81	17
Longfield 'B'	15	3	3	9	67	83	9
Sonning C&P 'D'	14	3	2	9	58	82	8
OLOP 'H'	13	2	2	9	51	79	6
Tidmarsh 'E'	15	3	0	12	59	91	6
Kingfisher 'H'	15	2	2	11	57	93	6

three at Curzon 'C' by beating Terry 11-8, 7-11, 10-12, 4-11; Tracy 11-4, 4-11, 8-11, 2-11 and Linda 3-11, 5-11, 11-7, 9-11 but all in vain - they lost 6-4. A good team performance from Dave E, Terry Hardie and Bob who all won two each gave them a 6-4 victory over Kingfisher. At Pangbourne they went down 7-3. Bob and Terry were the singles scorers.

Doubles 5/15 33%

Due to their big problems, OLOP 'H' have only played

three matches. Al, please sort out your remaining fixtures ASAP! On the playing front, they went to Pangbourne and went down 6-4. Hanson won two and Al won one, besides the two of them winning the doubles against Tom and Leroy 5-11, 9-11, 5-11. At St Laurence they also lost 6-4. Hanson, Al and Chris Moses all won one each. Against Longfield, Hanson hit a great treble and with Al winning two it gave them a fine point.

Doubles 3/13 23%

## ***DIVISION FIVE*** by Nigel Rowland

It's now the end of the season run in and the table is starting to show a clear divide between the teams at the top and bottom of the division. Tilehurst Methodists 'D' remain at the top and are in a strong position to retain pole position. However, Pangbourne 'B' and Birch Copse 'A' still have to play Tilehurst and could still mount a title challenge if they win these crucial matches. SC&P 'E' are also in contention for a promotion spot and to crucial matches against Pangbourne 'B' and Birch Copse 'A'. A fascinating battle is taking place amongst the rest of the division, 5 points separating six teams. Currently OLOP 'I' and Milestone 'B' share bottom spot closely followed by Kingfisher 'I' and Tidmarsh 'F'. Just above them but still within striking range follows SC&P 'F' and Reading Resource. Please note late result in, OLOP 'I' 5-5 against SC&P 'E' - this is not reflected in the table.

On an individual basis the following players must be noted as playing extremely well, achieving above 80% having played more than 50% of the games. Richard Lownsbrough, Neil Havard, Martin Wetherell, Matthew Stone, Howard Taylor and Roy Hull. Good luck to those who want their scalps during the remainder of the season.

Following the flooding at the OLOP premises can I ask all captains to ensure they are contacted in advance regarding the venue for the OLOP 'I' home games. If you do not get a call please can you contact Scott via the number in the handbook. Due to adverse weather conditions several games were postponed last week, thanks to captains for keeping me informed. Can you please let me know when the matches are to be played, ideally no later than 3rd April. Good luck to all for the rest of the season.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'D'** remain undefeated in top spot so far this season. This term they have beaten SC&P 'F' 9-1 thanks to trebles from Richard Lownsbrough and Dave Jones; SC&P 'E' 9-1 trebles from Martin Wetherell and Dave Jones; a below par Reading Resource side 10-0 trebles from Richard Lownsbrough, Martin Wetherell and guest Chas Dean and Tidmarsh 'F' 7-3. Richard Lownsbrough 6/6, Martin Wetherell 8/9 including 2 trebles, Dave Jones 8/9 including 2 trebles, Chris Taylor 6/9. Doubles 4/4.

### DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Richard Lownsbrough	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	18	18	100
Duncan Webber	Reading Resource	3	3	100
Darius Weithers	Reading Resource	3	3	100
Ancharay Ashley	OLOP (Rdg Univ) 'I'	3	3	100
Neil Havard	Reading Resource	21	20	95.24
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	30	26	86.67
Matthew Stone	Sonning C&P 'E'	30	25	83.33
Osuri Weithers	Reading Resource	6	5	83.33
Howard Taylor	Pangbourne WMC 'B'	27	22	81.48
Roy Hull	Birch Copse 'A'	26	21	80.77
Dave Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	27	21	77.78

**Pangbourne 'B'** still retain second spot but have found competition tougher more recently. This term they have defeated Tidmarsh 'F' 6-4, a game-10 win for Clive Taylor in a 5 set thriller against Mike Bundy won both points; OLOP 'I' 6-4 in a tight game; drew with Birch Copse 'A', a crucial Howard Taylor game-10 win against Mike Williams snatched a point but lost to a strong Reading Resource side 4-6. Howard Taylor 5/9, Clive Taylor 5/9, John Taylor 4/9 and Geoff Chivers 4/9. Doubles 3/4.

**SC&P 'E'** have just maintained their position to keep in touch with the leaders. They defeated SC&P 'F' 8-2 in the local derby thanks to a Jim McClure treble (welcome back Jim); Milestone 'B' 8-2 thanks to a Matthew Stone treble; drew against Reading Resource thanks to a Ron Stone game 10 win against Maureen Allchurch; but licked their wounds from a 1-9 defeat against Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Matthew Stone 6/9, Phil Turton 6/9, Ron Stone 2/6, Jim McClure 3/6, Simon Blake 3/6 Doubles 2/4.

**Birch Copse 'A'** have also maintained their position in the table to keep in touch with the leaders. This term they defeated Tidmarsh 'F' 8-2 thanks to trebles from Rod Hull and Michael Williams; Milestone 'B' 9-1 thanks to trebles from Michael Williams and Ken Sherry; Kingfisher 'I' 6-4 thanks to a Jes Eassom treble and drew against fellow promotion contenders Pangbourne 'B'. Roy Hull 5/6 including one treble, Jes Eassom 7/9 including one treble, Michael Williams 8/12 including two trebles, Ken Sherry 6/9 including one treble. Doubles 2/4.



**Reading Resource** have fielded a mixture of strong and weakened teams which does bias results in crucial games. With the right team they can hold their own against the strongest teams in the league. This term they defeated Pangbourne 'B' 6-4 thanks to the strength of Darius and Osuri Weithers; SC&P 'F' 8-2 thanks to a Osuri Weithers treble; drew against SC&P 'E' thanks to a Neil Havard treble (welcome back after your injury) but fielded a below-par team against Tilehurst Methodists and suffered a 0-10 defeat as a result (credit to the players who turned out who really tried hard). Resource captain Andrew Syed's explanation is that "Reading Resource team represents a medical charity and requires a large team to be sure of fielding enough fit members for their matches. Medical reasons also mean that the strength of the team fielded is very variable and this is not intentional." Neil Havard 3/3 including one treble, Maureen Allchurch 3/12, Gerald Allchurch 2/3, Adrian Pacey 0/6, Darius Weithers 5/6, Osuri Weithers 3/3 and Tessa Williams 0/3. Doubles 3/4.

**SC&P 'F'** have picked up some crucial wins against teams below them to keep out of the relegation places. They have defeated Milestone 'B' 6-4 thanks to a crucial Pete Harman win in the 10th against Gerrard Thorp; OLOP 'I' 6-4 thanks to a Tony House treble; but lost heavily against Reading Resource 2-8; local rivals SC&P 'E' 2-8 and leaders Tilehurst Methodists 'D' 1-9. Tony House 5/9 including 1 treble, Pete Harman 6/12, Mike Casserley 4/12, Derek Maltby 0/6 and Malcolm Faulkner 0/3. Doubles 2/5.

**Kingfisher 'I'** have managed one win this term and need to find some form if they wish to survive. Ironically their doubles form would put them towards the top of the table! They defeated OLOP 'I' 6-4 thanks to the Tandon brothers, but lost 4-6 to Birch Copse 'A' in a close game; 4-6 in a crucial game against Milestone 'B' and again 2-8 to fellow strugglers Tidmarsh 'F'. Vibhor Tandon 5/9. Vishal Tandon 4/12, Rob Lean 1/3, Derek Crombie 1/9 and Derek Spicer 2/3. Doubles 3/4.

**Tidmarsh 'F'** have also managed just one win this term and need to field stronger sides if they wish to survive.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	12	10	2	0	93	27	22
Pangbourne WMC 'B'	11	8	2	1	69	41	18
Birch Copse 'A'	12	7	2	3	71	49	16
Sonning C&P 'E'	13	7	2	4	71	59	16
Reading Resource	12	4	3	5	55	65	11
Sonning C&P 'F'	13	4	2	7	55	75	10
Tidmarsh 'F'	12	3	2	7	51	69	8
Kingfisher 'I'	12	3	2	7	48	72	8
Milestone 'B'	13	2	2	9	49	81	6
OLOP (Rdg Univ) 'I'	10	2	1	7	38	62	5

They have beaten fellow strugglers Kingfisher 'I' 8-2 thanks to a John Harland treble; lost to Pangbourne 'B' 4-6 in a tight game despite a superb Bob Sunerton treble; 2-8 against Birch Copse 'A' and 3-7 against leaders Tilehurst Meths 'D' despite a well earned Steve Andrews treble. Bob Sunerton 6/12 including one treble, Mike Bundy 2/6, John Harland 3/3, Steve Andrews 5/9 including one treble, Dave Humphreys 0/6. Doubles 1/4.

**OLOP 'I'** can survive despite the hall problems if they can put together stronger sides having suffered three 4-6 losses this term. They narrowly lost 4-6 to Kingfisher 'I' despite guest Daniel McTiernan treble; lost a crucial 4-6 to fellow strugglers SC&P 'F' and 4-6 to high fliers Pangbourne 'A' despite a superb Dan Mitchell treble. Dan Mitchell 5/6 including one treble, Scott Burrell 2/12, Gregory Hertzberg 2/6, Tony Barrett 0/3, Martin Adams 4/6. Doubles 2/4.

**Milestone 'B'** are continuing to struggle but have recorded a crucial win to remain in contact with the basement pack. The crucial 6-4 win was against fellow strugglers Kingfisher 'I' thanks to trebles from Gerard Thorp and Oliver Bonser; a narrow 4-6 loss to SC&P 'F'; but heavy losses against SC&P 'E' 2-8 and Birch Copse 'A' 1-9. Gerard Thorp 6/12 including one treble, Oliver Bonser 7/12 including 1 treble, Lee Bainbridge 0/6, Andrew Benning 0/6. Doubles 0/4.

## ***DIVISION SIX*** by *Duncan Groves*

**W**ith just five weeks to go to the end of the season, the Division 6 title is, as predicted, a straight race between Post Office 'C' and Polish 'C'.

Although the old maxim is "points in the bag" and Post Office currently lead the way with 29, the two games in hand held by Polish 'C' (with 28 points) appear to give them the edge. However, the teams are due to meet in week 20 and this could well prove to be the title decider.

Unbeaten Mick Grantham will fancy a treble in this match and if Linda Davis and John Gatward can win half their combined singles matches, this would give Post Office a precious two points and the title would be back on, albeit



that Polish would have to drop at least one more point.

Both sides have had slip-ups recently, notably Polish drawing with BBC Club, despite beating them 10-0 in the corresponding fixture at the start of the season.

For their part, Post Office could only draw with OLOP 'J', though the recent form of OLOP's Daniel McTiernan suggests that a point was quite a solid result.

OLOP 'J' now sit clear in third but the 5 point gap seems unlikely to be closed before the end of the season, even if Adam McTiernan and Daniel Grover continue to show good form in support of young Daniel's efforts.

Further down the chart, there is a mid-table battle

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'C'	36	36	100
Richard Green	Birch Copse 'B'	36	34	94.44
Daniel McTiernan	OLOP 'J'	45	41	91.11
Dave Aust	Sonning C&P 'H'	30	27	90
Marek Biegaj	Polish 'C'	19	16	84.21
Marcin Kolat	Polish 'C'	31	25	80.65
Linda Davis	Post Office 'C'	36	28	77.78
AJ Read	Kingfisher 'J'	48	37	77.08
Nigel Outhwaite	Springfield 'C'	26	20	76.92
Krzysztof Cwiek	Polish 'C'	29	22	75.86
Simon Guard	Kingfisher 'J'	42	31	73.81
John Scott	BBC Club	15	11	73.33

between Birch Copse 'B', Kingfisher 'J' and the two Springfield teams. Then come Sonning 'H' and Polish 'D' with 12 points each, well clear of BBC Club and Tilehurst Meths 'E' on 6 points. Berks Sports 'B' prop up the table but have registered points since my last report, following an impressive 7-3 win over Tilehurst Meths.

Here is my individual analysis of form on a team by team basis:

### Berks Sports 'B'

The 7-3 win over Tilehurst Meths was all the more pleasing for Berks Sports in that it followed a 9-1 drubbing in the corresponding fixture. Dave West picked up two singles wins and Sue Brownhill one. The opponents could only muster two players which helped their cause, but the doubles victory showed that the win was well deserved. Since then points have been hard to come by but Dave West has picked up a few singles wins.

### Birch Copse 'B'

Richard Green has continued his excellent form and now lies second in the averages with 34 wins from 36 starts. His regular treble plus a high doubles percentage has given Birch Copse a consistent 4-0 start in most matches, making them very difficult to beat. Bradley Fullbrook has lost a little of his mid-season form but continues to chip in as do Melanie Griffiths and Elisabeth Hull when selected. In a reversal from the early season fixtures, Birch Copse managed a 6-4 win over mid-table rivals Kingfisher 'J' having drawn the first encounter, while their 8-2 defeat by Springfield 'B' was a surprise after winning the first match 6-4.

### BBC Club

The stand-out result of the second half of the season was BBC Club's 5-5 draw with title favourites, Polish 'C'. Although Polish fielded only two players, BBC still had lots of work to do to secure the draw. Both Dave Pearson and Gordon Ayres managed victories over Krzysztof Cwiek, who is highly ranked in the averages and even Marcin Kolat was very stretched to win his treble. Since this result, BBC Club have suffered three narrow defeats suggesting that their team selection might be the reason for their having

accumulated only two wins and two draws so far this season.

### Kingfisher 'J'

With players at 8th (AJ Read 77%) and 11th (Simon Guard 74%) in the averages, one would expect Kingfisher to have been pushing for promotion this season. This hasn't quite been the case with lots of points dropped in close fought matches. Examples of this were the 5-5 draw with Springfield 'B' where Kingfisher's number 3 was unable to pick up an odd win to secure two points, and the 6-4 defeat to Birch Copse which AJ Read was absent for. On the upside, however, they did beat Sonning 7-3 (despite losing 6-4 earlier in the season) thanks to trebles from AJ and Simon plus one from Didier Garçon.

### OLOP 'J'

Since writing my last newsletter piece, where I compared the Division 6 form of Daniel McTiernan with the 2006/07 version of Daniel Moses, I have been reminded that this season's Division 6 young star is actually three-years younger than the young Moses was when he rose to prominence two seasons ago. This notwithstanding, I make no apology for the comparison and can only wish the OLOP 'J' player as much success over the next few years as his namesake has had. As I commented at the start of this report, OLOP will not now catch either front-runner for the title. This is down to their losing for the second time to Polish 'C' (6-4) and being held 5-5 by Post Office 'C'. Young Daniel managed 5 from 6 singles wins in these matches but the support couldn't quite pull off the wins necessary to open up the title to a 3 horse race. (I now also hear that Daniel McT has been selected to play for England at Primary School level in April - quite a coup for a Div 6 player!).

### Polish 'C'

Critically, Polish 'C's two games in hand are against Berks Sports and Springfield 'C', which are winnable games. If they can capture full points from these, they will carry a 3 point cushion into the final 5 games. Having played the

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Post Office 'C'	17	14	1	2	122	48	29
Polish 'C'	15	13	2	0	109	41	28
OLOP 'J'	17	11	1	5	107	63	23
Birch Copse 'B'	16	9	3	4	87	73	21
Kingfisher 'J'	17	8	3	6	89	81	19
Springfield 'C'	15	7	3	5	87	63	17
Springfield 'B'	16	7	3	6	82	78	17
Sonning C&P 'H'	15	5	2	8	68	82	12
Polish 'D'	16	5	2	9	71	89	12
BBC Club	15	2	2	11	50	100	6
Tilehurst Meths 'E'	17	1	4	12	56	114	6
Berks Sports 'B'	16	1	0	15	32	128	2



dangerous OLOP 'J' twice - winning both 6-4 - the only hurdle appears to be Post Office 'C' who they meet in week 20. This said, they will have to be careful when picking their side for the Birch Copse clash where Richard Green could do damage. Consistency has been the Polish 'C' strength this season, but mention should be made of Marek Biegaj (84%), Marcin Kolat (80%) and Krzysztof Cwiek (76%).

#### **Polish 'D'**

Derek Kaminski has been the mainstay of the side this season and continues to pick up good singles wins. In addition, Polish 'D' can boast an impressive doubles percentage of 60% compared to their overall points achieved. A recent sticky patch has seen points dropped away to Tilehurst Meths and Birch Copse and the season won't get any easier as they face Polish 'C' and Post Office 'C' in their next two fixtures.

#### **Post Office 'C'**

Since my last report, Post Office have managed to secure wins in all but one of their matches, namely the draw with OLOP 'J'. Mick Grantham held on to his 100% record in this match though was taken all the way by Daniel McTiernan. Linda Davis also played well to win two from three but OLOP pulled off a great doubles win and singles victories over John Gatward. Now, if Post Office are to take the title, five consecutive wins must be achieved, including one over rivals Polish 'C'.

#### **Sonning Common & Peppard 'H'**

Form has started to desert Sonning of late. A draw with Polish 'D' and a defeat (3-7) to Kingfisher 'J' were disappointing results following 7-3 and 6-4 wins over the same opponents earlier in the season. Although Dave Aust has continued to be one of the top players in the Division, the support has not been sufficient to turn this into points. The

absence since week 8 of Jim McClure has been notable.

#### **Springfield 'B'**

By contrast, Springfield 'B' team has enjoyed a successful second half of the season so far. Recent examples include a draw with Kingfisher 'J' and an 8-2 defeat of Birch Copse 'B', when both corresponding fixtures before Christmas ended in defeat. Chris Speight has improved as the season has gone on and lies ahead (on 68%) of team mate Ray Morrell (54%) in the averages.

#### **Springfield 'C'**

A consistent second half of the season for Springfield 'C' with their 7-3 loss to OLOP 'J' probably expected given that teams recent form. Colin Jones's recent improvement has been very noticeable – taking him up to 21st in the averages – at 56%. Nigel Outhwaite with 77% remains their strongest player but has played only nine times this season. Dan Mortimer's form has fluctuated this season but, with an average of almost 59%, he can be pleased overall.

#### **Tilehurst Methodists 'E'**

Just one win and four draws so far this season but some recent promising signs of form from both Jay Durrante (21 wins from 45) and Le An Guan (17 from 39). They picked up two wins apiece in the drawn match with Polish 'D' and even managed a win each in the game against league top-pers, Post Office 'C'.


#### **Round Up**

There remain some outstanding cards from the week hit by snow and a number of postponements still to be rearranged. With the end of the season in sight, can I ask team captains to prioritise the rearranging of these matches and to keep me up to date please. Good luck to all teams and enjoy the rest of the season.

## **YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS**

### **BIG TOURNAMENT WIN FOR LIAM McTIERNAN**

**L**iam McTiernan won the Chesham 2 Star Open Table Tennis Under 14 Tournament on 14 February. This was a magnificent performance from the OLOP IMPACT player.



Liam started in strong form by disposing of Mathew Byers (Hants) 3-0 and Eric Fuestes (Middx) 3-0. He followed with more wins over Tony Steel (Sussex) 3-1 and George Heath (Surrey) 3-0. Liam then had to play Alex Holland (Essex) who was No. 1 Seed and very highly ranked in England. Liam was unstoppable and disposed of him convincingly 3-1. The final match was against Brandon Crouchman (Essex) but Liam was in devastating form and disposed of him 3-1 to win his third Open Tournament in three months.

A fantastic performance from the Waingles Copse schoolboy against the top players in South East England. Liam also played up in the Under 16 event and remarkably finished in second place.

### **BERKSHIRE JUNIORS FINISH RUNNERS UP IN COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**B**erkshire were the youngest side in Division 2C of the Junior (under 18) County Championships this season, averaging just 13 years. The youthful Berkshire team consisted of six promising Reading-based players, led by captain Simon Thorne.

Despite the side's inexperience, their youthful exuberance and no shortage of skill and desire helped secure the runners-up spot behind a dominant Warwickshire team.

Berkshire's only loss of the campaign came against Warwickshire (3-7) but with four wins against Buckinghamshire (7-3), Oxfordshire (10-0) and Northampton 1 & 2 (both 6-4) and two draws against Essex 1 & 2, the team amassed 10 points to pip both Essex teams to second place by a single point.

Team manager, Alan Dines, was full of praise for his charges, saying afterwards 'the squad can be justly proud of their achievement. It was a real team effort and everyone selected contributed well. The potential for even greater success in the years ahead is there for all to see'.

The players' final winning averages were: Jarred Knowles 92%, Daniel Moses 75%, Liam McTiernan 67%, Simon Thorne 67%, Maria Tsaptsinos 43% and Megan Knowles 36%.

The county committee would like to thank IMPACT coach Alan Dines, Reading & District Junior Representative Adam McTiernan and all the parents and players for supporting the team and helping to bring back Junior table tennis to Berkshire after a three year absence.

### **READING CADETS WIN SILVER**

Following the fourth and final session of the ETTA National Cadet League at Chesham High School, the Reading 'A' team (Liam & Daniel McTiernan and Hanson Xu) finished the season as runners-up, just behind Chiltern-Chesham 'A' and ahead of third placed Pavilion (Brighton).

This was an improvement on the fourth place finish of last season and was achieved with a younger side, averaging just 12 years. Liam also topped the league with the highest individual winning average of 95% (37 wins / 39 matches).

Reading 'A's manager, Adam McTiernan, said of the team 'they all played really well this season and in beating every team they faced except Chesham, they thoroughly deserved their silver medals'.

The Reading 'B' & 'C' teams were largely made up of promising prospects, most still at primary school. It was certainly a valuable experience for those involved.

The Reading 'B' team, lead by nine year old Gus Thomis and ably supported by Christian Savage and Ashley Noad, were presented with certificates for topping Division 4 in an earlier round of the competition. In the last session, both Gus (8 wins / 9 matches) and Christian (7/9) finished the



THE READING 'A' TEAM - LIAM AND DANIEL McTIERNAN AND HANSON XU  
- WITH THEIR MANAGER, ADAM McTIERNAN

season in sparkling form.

The Reading 'C' team, all from Sonning Common primary school, were well represented by Danny Dockree, Zach Attfield, Rowan Stacey, Guy Therwell, and Jon Abbott.

The following reserve players also contributed well when called upon: Philip Saunders, David Panter, Edmund Hellawell and Joshua Gallen.

The Reading & District Table Tennis Association would like to congratulate all the players on their achievements and thank the parents, team managers and coach Alan Dines for their terrific support this season.



The photo shows the after-school club of St Dominic Savio Primary School, Woodley - with their youthful coach Liam McTiernan at the back. The school represents Berkshire in the English Schools TTA - where they were runners-up at Area level, and will be in the Regional playoff this weekend.

## **THUNDERBOLTS STAY CLEAR**

IMPACT Thunderbolts stayed in top place in Division One in the Youth League after edging home by a 3-2 scoreline against Sonning Common Raiders. Hanson Xu retained his unbeaten record while reserve Gus Thomis did his bit by beating Michael Legg 9-11, 11-7, 9-11, 9-11. Liam McGarvey just got the better of Thomis (15-13 in the decider) and then joined club mate Legg for an impressive 1-11, 11-2, 11-9, 6-11, 15-13 doubles victory. Earlier, fielding their strongest side with McTiernan and Xu, Thunderbolts - beaten just once this season - outgunned Woodley Hammers 5-0.



GEORGE DODD AND CONNOR MANLEY

Kingfisher Knights with George Dodd in impressive form beat IMPACT Panthers and IMPACT Eagles - both by 5-0 scorelines, to move into clear second place. They followed up by beating Woodley Hammers 5-0 with Connor Manley and Michael Houghton producing a great team performance in the absence of their Number One - George Dodd. Houghton then beat Philip Brennan 3-2, while young Manley was awarded player of the match for his 3-0 wins over Brennan and ace defender - Daniel Clark.



GUS THOMIS, TIAN SAVAGE AND DANIEL MCTIERNAN

The pick of the matches in recent weeks, however, saw a full strength IMPACT Tigers beat Sonning Common Raiders 4-1 with Sam Rix, beating Liam McGarvey 3-2 - 12-10 in the decider, and Danny Rix defeating Michael Legg 3-2 - 11-8 in the decider. Legg hit back for Sonning in yet another

thriller, beating Sam Rix 11-8, 10-12, 5-11, 19-17, 11-13. Finally in Division One, Daniel McTiernan and Tian Savage - representing IMPACT Panthers - beat Woodley Hammers 4-1. The match highlight was the win for McTiernan over Daniel Clark. The Trojan's star coming from 2-0 down to win 12-10, 11-8, 9-11, 8-11 and 7-11.

## **AVENGERS NO MATCH FOR TIGERS**

Sonning Common Avengers proved to be no match for Sonning Common Tigers at Reading Blue Coat School, despite some good play from Liam Peachey, Charlie Brown and Matthew Chapman. Tigers, who could well be on their way to the Division Two title after this win, had three of the most promising Sonning and Sonning Common Primary School players - Zach Atfield, Danny Dockree and Johnny Abbott on display. Not far behind are Sonning Common Thunderbolts, represented by Guy Thurlow, Max Sweetman and Rowan Stavey, who proved just too good for the Impact Trojans trio of Joshua Galleh, Thomas Burrow and Lorcan Galleh.