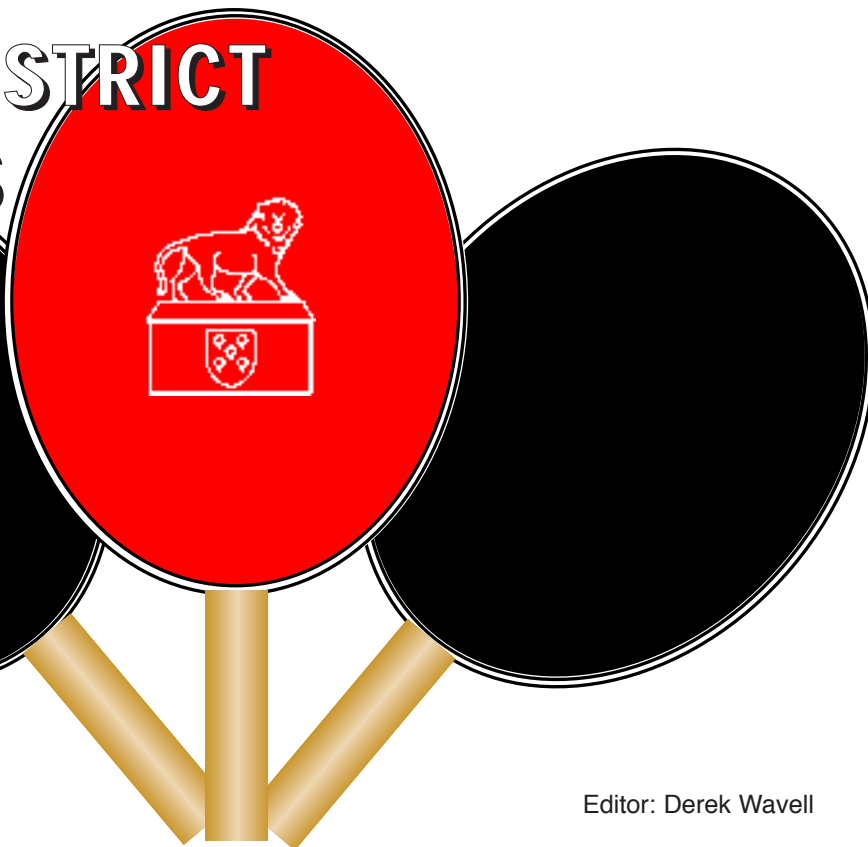


# READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Editor: Derek Wavell

*February 2010*

## Chasing those Blues Away...

### CONTENTS

<a href="#">Key Announcements</a> . . .	Page 2
<a href="#">Knockout Cup Chart</a> . . .	Page 2
<a href="#">Individual Handicap</a> . . .	Page 3
<a href="#">Reading TT Centre</a> . . . .	Page 4
<a href="#">Team Handicap Chart</a> . . .	Page 5
<a href="#">Division 1</a> . . . . .	Pages 6 - 8
<a href="#">Division 2</a> . . . . .	Pages 9 - 11
<a href="#">Division 3</a> . . . . .	Pages 11 - 12
<a href="#">Division 4</a> . . . . .	Pages 13 - 14
<a href="#">Division 5</a> . . . . .	Pages 15 - 17
<a href="#">Division 6</a> . . . . .	Pages 18 - 19
<a href="#">Youth Division</a> . . . . .	Page 19

*Snow can be a blessing, but not for table tennis apparently. The cancellation of so many matches has given our divisional fixture secretaries little to write about - not that you'd know that from the gusto of their reports.*

*Another reason for a skimpy newsletter is that your editor hasn't been here. Sorry! Just as the season eventually got interesting. I was off on a three-week holiday to Burma. All that TT fun I missed! Nothing to do but enjoy myself in the balmy heat! But never mind, because some keen players turned up along the way (see photo).*



*Anyway, you should find plenty to interest you in these pages. Some key dates on page 2 - including a new date for the end of the season. A progress report on the proposed Reading Table Tennis Centre is on page 4. And progress has been made on both the Team Handicap tournament and the 5th-6th Division K.O. Cup (p2 and p5).*

*Apart from that, there are just the fierce struggles of eight divisions to get your teeth into...*

*Wishing you all a glorious final straight,*

Derek

## Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby



### End of League Season

The Reading Committee has discussed the number of postponed matches as a result of the snowy weather in January. Every effort should be made to re-arrange these matches as soon as possible. However, the Committee agreed to also extend the season by two weeks and would therefore ask that **all matches are played by Friday 9th April** at the latest.

### Reading Closed Championships

Entry forms are 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 can be obtained from Club Secretaries, via the RDTTA website or by contacting Reading Association secretary, Nigel Maltby. 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'**

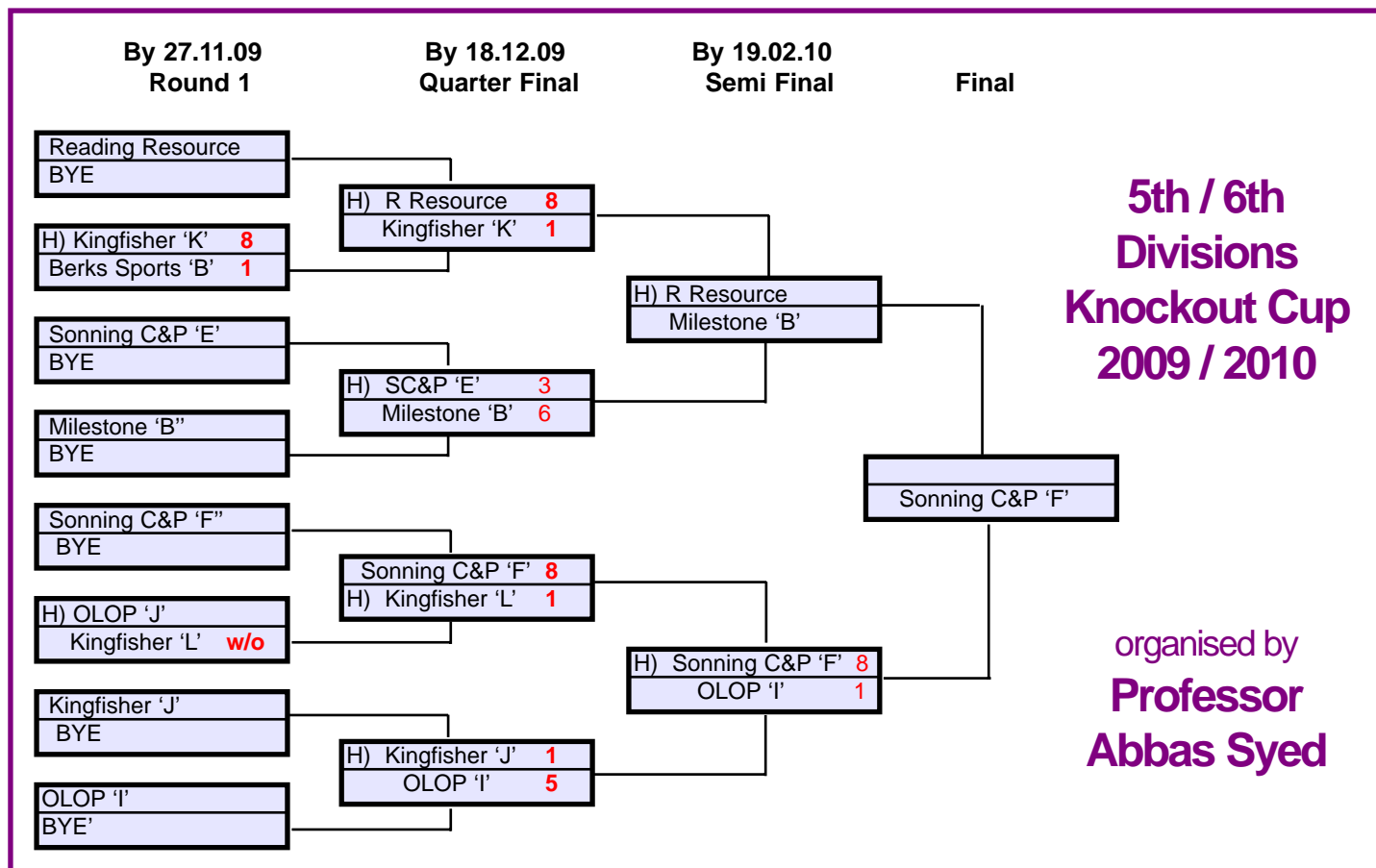
**Kingfisher 'B' v OLOP 'A'**

### Presentation evening

The League's annual presentation evening has been arranged for **Tuesday 11th May 2010** at the **Curzon Club** (7.30pm start). This is a changed date from that given in the Handbook due to the need to extend the season following the snowy weather in January.

### AGM

The League's Annual General Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 2nd June 2010** at the **OLOP Club** - commencing at 7.30pm.



# INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP

The Individual Handicap competition took place on 3rd January and despite an increased handicap to counter his continued rapid improvement, Liam McTiernan (just 14 years old) managed to retain the trophy after holding off a valiant effort from Nigel Maltby (+5) in the final.

In the opening group stages two competitors qualified for the knockout stages. In Group 1, twice winner Lee Calcutt managed wins over all his opponents to top the group, although he needed every ounce of his battling qualities to see off Alan Pack (+6) and Hanson Xu (+5). The battle for runner-up went to Hanson Xu.

Group 2 had only three players. Colin Dyke won a long match against Pete Bennett (+1), but found 11-year old Daniel McTiernan's starting handicap of +6 just too much to cope with as the youngster won 21-12 22-20. In the final match of the group Daniel (+5) beat Pete 21-15 21-19 to top the group, leaving Colin runner up.

Daniel Moses won a tough Group 3, beating Eric Holmes (+8), Jeremy Willis (+8) and Adam McTiernan (+15). Jeremy Willis finished as runner-up after beating Adam (+11) and Eric Holmes off scratch. In Group 4 Liam McTiernan won all his matches to finish top, winning a great match with Andy Yon (+5) 19-21 21-16 21-14 and finishing off with a win over Chris Moses (+12). Nigel Maltby emerged as runner-up after a great win over Andy Yon from scratch 21-17 21-4, which followed his earlier close tussle with Chris Moses.

Group 5 was a close one to call before a ball was hit with four evenly-balanced mainly defensive pushers taking part with some close sets guaranteed. Wendy Porter finished top of the pile after grinding out victories over Mike Dorrington (+1) and Jim McClure (+3) and a two-straight win over John Evans. John had already done enough to secure the runners-up position with wins over Jim McClure (+4) and Mike Dorrington (+2).

There was a three-way tie in Group 6 with Ian Ayres, Leo Long and Derek Brooke-Wavell each winning twice. Ian's two-straight victory over Derek Brooke-Wavell (+2) proved key in a very close second game. This left Ian as runner-up and Leo Long as group winner after his early wins over Jade Fudge (+2) and Ian Ayres (-8).

In the first knockout stage Daniel McTiernan (+2) saw off OLOP club team mate Hanson Xu 21-19 21-17, Lee Calcutt won an entertaining tussle with Jeremy Willis (+2) 21-18 21-19, Nigel Maltby proved too much for Ian Ayres (+5) 21-19 21-15 and John Evans (+5) defeated Colin Dyke 13-21 21-14 21-9.

Daniel McTiernan's starting handicap of +12 proved enough to defeat Daniel Moses in the first Quarter-Final, and he secured a relatively comfortable 21-17 21-17 win. Liam McTiernan also earned his semi-final place after victory over fellow Division 1 player Lee Calcutt (+2), while youngster Leo Long (+10) coped well with the awkward style of veteran John Evans to win 21-13 21-19. The last Quarter Final could have gone either way, but Nigel Maltby just finished the stronger to snatch a 21-16 19-21 21-18 victory over Wendy Porter (+4).

Leo Long had a +15 point start against Liam McTiernan in his semi final and he managed to win the first game 21-17. In a nail-biting second, Liam grabbed a 21-19 victory to set up a tense decider, which Liam also won 21-18, booking his place in the final. The other semi-final saw the attacking style of Daniel McTiernan (+4) up against the mainly deep defensive style of Nigel Maltby, and in a very entertaining match Nigel recovered from 9-15 down in the 2nd game to win 21-17 21-17.

The final was a repeat of the opening group encounter between Liam McTiernan and Nigel Maltby (+5), which Liam had won comfortably. Liam started brilliantly with crisp attacking shots quickly pulling him level at 7-all.

A brief late rally from Nigel brought some respectability to the score line but Liam took the first fairly comfortably 21-16. In the next Nigel held his starting handicap well early on, playing some fine tight defensive strokes to try and pin Liam down. It looked as if a third game was on the cards; however, Liam stepped up a gear to come from 16-12 down to level at 16-all. Liam's attack proved just too good for Nigel's resolute defence in the end as he closed out the match 21-16 21-18 and clinched his second successive Individual Handicap title - the first time anyone has achieved this feat.

Thanks are due to co-organisers on the day, Nigel Maltby and Paul Jarvis.



NIGEL MALTBY (RUNNER UP)  
WITH LIAM MCTIERNAN (WINNER)

## PROPOSED READING TABLE TENNIS CENTRE

by **Peter Bradley**

On Thursday 26 November 2009 a Special General Meeting of the RDTTA voted to uphold the RDTTA Management Committee decision to allow up to £20,000 of the Development Fund to be allocated to the Reading Table Tennis Centre (RTTC) Project. The RTTC Steering Committee is appreciative of the confidence that the members of the RDTTA have vested in them. Your Chairman, Nigel Maltby, thought that the membership should know more about the project and asked me to write an article for the newsletter.

The project was started some eighteen months ago by a small Steering Committee consisting of Peter Bradley (YMCA), Colin Dyke (Kingfisher), Alan Dines (OLOP), John Cunningham (OLOP), Brian Halliday (Kingfisher), Peter Charters (Kingfisher) and Nigel Maltby (RDTTA). All agreed that past and present allegiances to various clubs would be put aside and not interfere with the business of the proposed Centre. Unfortunately we lost John last year and both Brian & Nigel resigned for time commitment reasons. Barry Carter replaced Nigel and has taken on the responsibility of Treasurer to the project. The English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) is fully backing this project and Lisa Williams (née Bosley), the Regional Development Manager, attends all of our meetings.



Discussions took place with the Reading Borough Council (RBC) and they offered a site for consideration in a deprived area which would be beneficial to both the RBC and the RTTC. The Steering Committee then set up a company called Reading Table Tennis Centre Ltd with five trustees - Peter B, Colin, Alan, Peter C and Barry. This was a necessary first step to get the project underway. The company will shortly apply for Charitable Status to again maximise the chances of obtaining the necessary funding to build the Centre.

Alan Dines has drawn up plans for the Centre which were shown and discussed at both the RDTTA AGM and the SGM. It is an ambitious plan consisting of a 16 table layout with all the necessary features to make it a top class venue. A two storey section at one end of the building will house the offices and changing rooms on the ground floor and social, catering and meeting rooms on the first floor. A pre-planning application was made to the RBC Planning Department. They raised some queries about the project which have now been answered and we are currently awaiting a reply from them. If all of the queries have been satisfied the RTTC can apply for Outline Planning consent. This is also necessary before we can apply for funding.

Colin and I have been working to put together a Business Plan for the venture. This has proved to be a difficult and time consuming task. It is necessary to show the 'Funding Partners' that the business is viable, sustainable and meets the objectives of both Sport England (SE) and the ETTA of 'Grow, Sustain, Excel'. This Business Plan is nearly complete and our target is to have all the documentation together by the end of April 2010 to allow us to seek funding from the SE Large Facility Community Fund.

As always the members of the Steering Committee are under pressure as they are also key personnel in their own clubs which on occasions stops them from giving 100% to RTTC. Two members, Stuart Williams and Eric Van Looy, have expressed an interest and will be attending the next meeting of the committee. The team would like more members to come on board to assist. In particular we desperately need someone to take the minutes of the meetings to allow Colin more time to concentrate on the Business Plan. If you are interested please call any member of the Steering Committee and let them know.

You can get more information by logging on to the website - <http://www..readingtabletenniscentre.co.uk/>

Peter Bradley — Project Leader

NB - Jeremy Willis has asked to put in the following note:

I am running the Reading Half Marathon on the 21st March 2010 on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support.

If any fellow Table Tennis players in the Reading league would like to sponsor me, they can do so online :-

[www.justgiving.com/jeremy-willis](http://www.justgiving.com/jeremy-willis)

# Team Handicap Competition 2009 - 10

organised by Professor Abbas Syed

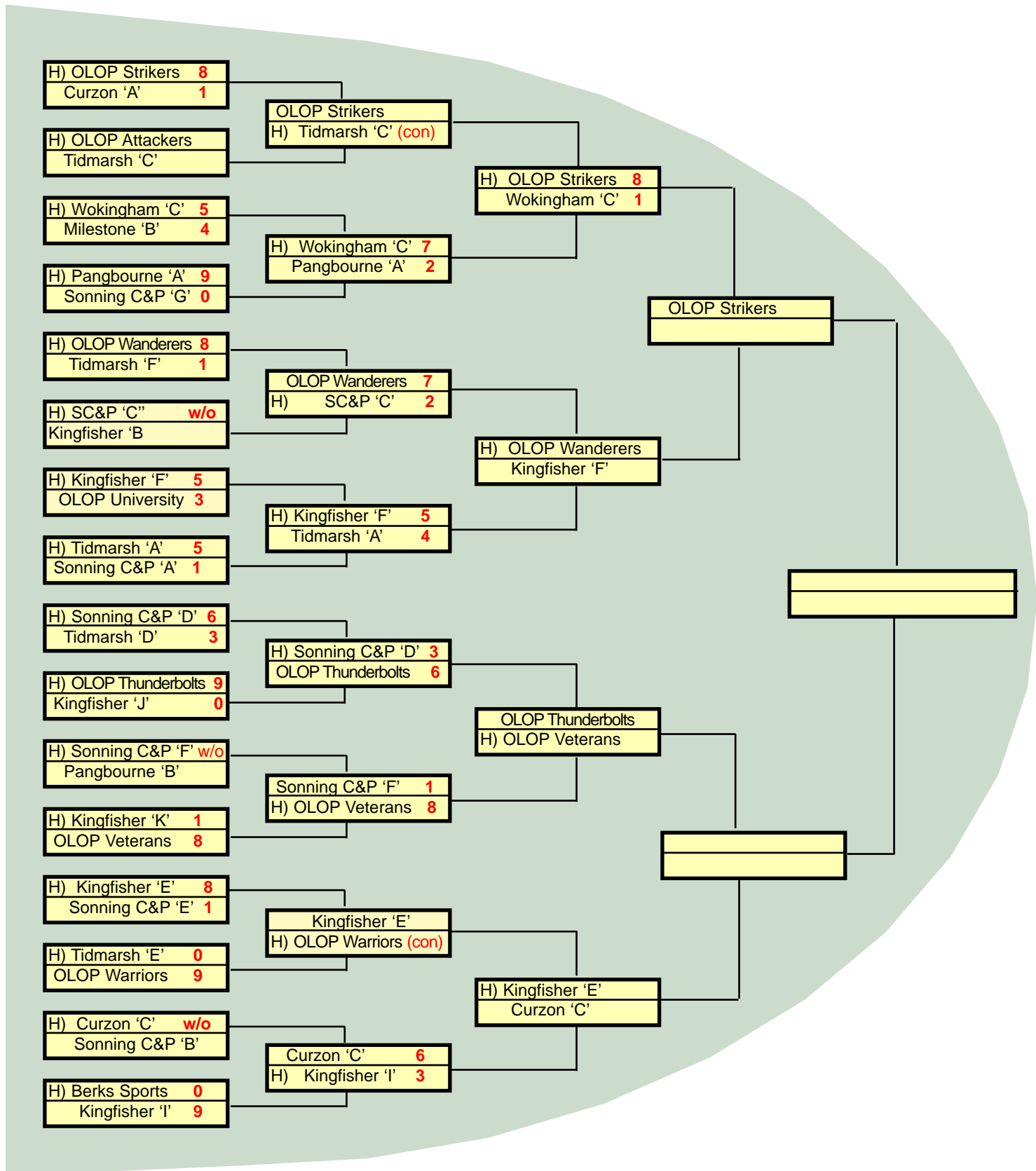
By 27.11.09  
Round 2

By 18.12.09  
Round 3

By 19.2.10  
Quarter Final

TBA  
Semi-Finals

TBA  
FINAL



# DIVISION ONE *by Mark Banks*

**H**appy New Year everybody! OK, so we're almost into March already but I thought I'd say it all the same in case I haven't seen you yet this year. With all the disruption of the dreaded snow and other postponements there's not actually an awful lot to update you with on the table this time around I'm afraid and therefore the report is not as lengthy as previous editions (thank god for that I can hear DBW muttering). Kingfisher 'A' & OLOP 'A' continue on their merry ways to the inevitable title shoot out in the final game of the season, Polish 'A' seem to have given up the ghost for this season at least, the race is well and truly on to see who, of the remaining 3 OLOP sides, join Sonning Common & Peppard 'A' in Div 2 next season and..... you're

never gonna believe it but Mark Banks has only gone and finally lost some weight! Quite a bit of weight in fact so when you do see me please, please say how thin and handsome I'm looking compared to the last time and I'll make sure you get a nice write up in this column! Isn't that right Clive "what a great guy, salt of the earth, I won't hear a bad word said about him" Banham. Congratulations are due to Mike & Anna Childs on the recent birth of their 2 twins - you've got your hands full there buddy and even though I'm not strictly supposed to write about other "rival" competitions, a special mention to your friend and mine the very cuddly Ramesh Gehlot who, after all these years of living in his big brother's shadow, finally for probably the first time since they were kids knocking about on the Gehlots dining room table managed a win over Hari in a recent Veterans Final in a competition run by a League about 12 miles down the M4 in an Eastbound direction! Well done Rammy. Looks like all the practice, coaching and good advice I've been giving you has finally paid off. By the way and just for the record, normal service was resumed when Hari got him back in another event 3 zip later in the day. Anyway, so on to what's been relatively little D1 action - I do have however Daniel's snow ball, Trevor's T-Shirt, Stuart's boy band and a massive relegation battle for you. Me? I'm off out to get some shopping in the early Spring Sales before Andy Yon and his trolley get in there first!

Love & Peace

Mark x

Just one potentially tricky fixture to negotiate for **Kingfisher 'A'** since I last updated you and negotiate it we did and in some style too. For so many years our main rivals have been Polish 'A'. No disrespect to anybody else but it's still the first match we all look for when the fixture list is published at the start of the season. Great rivals yes but I can't remember the last time we lost to them and whilst they took a deserved point off us last time around there was to be no repeat on this occasion and it was a case of job done - roll on OLOP 'A'. In the absence of Martin Adams,

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	17	16	1	0	146	24	33
OLOP (Impact) 'A'	16	14	1	1	126	34	29
Polish 'A'	15	8	4	3	83	67	20
Polish 'B'	16	9	2	5	84	76	20
Reading YMCA 'A'	14	9	0	5	85	55	18
Kingfisher 'B'	16	7	2	7	78	82	16
Wokingham 'A'	15	5	3	7	68	82	13
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	15	5	3	7	59	91	13
OLOP (Impact) 'B'	16	2	4	10	54	106	8
OLOP (Impact) 'C'	14	2	3	9	53	87	7
OLOP (Impact) 'D'	15	2	3	10	52	98	7
Sonning C&P 'A'	15	0	0	15	32	118	0

Hari continues to consistently be the best player in the League. Steve Munson has been superb all season too. Never lets us down. Ramesh is riding high also. The win over his brother could do wonders for his confidence. Anyway, so all things being equal we just require a draw in the final game with OLOP 'A' to clinch another title. I'm confident we'll get there but I know those young lads (+ Childs) will never give it up and are gonna fight us all the way to the bitter end.

#### M.V.P. Hari Gehlot

Great stuff also from **OLOP 'A'**. They too had to get past Polish 'A' and what a win that was - even more convincing than our one!. Nobody beats Polish 9 - 1, it just does not happen - but it did. WOW! I'm really pleased for them. Sets it up for a great finish and I for one can't wait - although Ramesh will probably want my place. That's OK I can umpire (I'm less annoying than Diplock anyway!) Daniel Moses has been leading from the front. Dare I say he's been maturing into a fantastic player with such a wide range of shots in his armoury. Defence or Attack - the boy has it all. OK so I say maturing but deliberately throwing snowballs at teachers probably isn't the wisest of strategies if you want to stay out of detentions and practice more hey Daniel! but that aside there is certainly a calmer nature about him this year and the results speak for themselves. Liam's great too. Winning junior titles on the National scene, big write ups on the ETTA website, smashing stuff. Neither of them have any fear and I like that winning mentality. They are both gonna be exceptional players for a long time. As mentioned previously, Mike's up to his eyes in dirty nappies so has had a bit of a break but will be back for the season finale. Simon Thorne has been stepping in admirably and a big mention too for Liam's younger brother Daniel who came in at late notice and won his games against Wokingham. Something just tells me he's gonna be very good too!

#### M.V.P. Daniel Moses



Another year goes by without any silverware then for **Polish 'A'**. Still unbeaten at Christmas they've had a disastrous set of results since and three quick-fire defeats have killed off any last lingering hopes they may have had. Clearly they've missed Martin (by the way, which team wouldn't?) and unfortunately (for them at least) he is unlikely to be seen in a Polish shirt again this season as he takes an extended paternity break away from all levels of the game. The new faces they have bought in have been doing OK for them though. Steve Dobbins is a very good player and is probably still getting used to some of the surroundings and styles of players in the Reading League which is probably why he's lost more than a player of his calibre should have. Likes to talk does Steve and it certainly makes for an interesting evening if he's in the side! Tony Stead is capable too and has a few good wins already under his belt. Don't worry, the old favourites are still there too. Nick has been playing well again since Christmas albeit his appearances in Reading have been somewhat limited since the break. Had some good results on the Vetts circuit though haven't you buddy and Richard is still finding his way back after injury and has been unlucky to be on the wrong side of a couple of defeats that could easily have gone his way. Derek continues to work away from the area for the foreseeable future. They'll still be keen to finish 3rd so still have a bit to play for do Polish 'A' and I'm sure they'll be back next season with an even greater challenge for the title.

**M.V.P. Martin Adams**

Get in there **Polish 'B'**! About three quarters of the way through and still riding high. OK so they've taken a couple of batterings since the turn of the year but those have been against teams pushing for the title and fair play to them that they can keep on consistently getting results against teams below them to keep them in with an outside chance of a Champions League spot. Graham Diplock is doing an admirable job in ensuring that they get the team out on the night to do a job and one member of this side is starting to blossom under his leadership. Yep, Andy Yon, whose ultimate ambition/dream for the season was to win a match in the top flight has now only gone and won 4 - and against some pretty decent players too! Particularly good wins over Jarvis & Cole. Fantastic stuff Andy. Just think, if Graham hadn't umpired all of your games early in the season who knows what average you'd be on now!!! Just think, if you didn't spend so much time in the supermarket who knows what average you'd be on now!!! On his day Kris Milerski is right up there with the better players in this Division and it will be sad to see him depart back to Poland at the end of the season. The race is on to see who will fill his place but if Andy carries on improving the way he is in the coming months and over the summer then he could stake a legitimate claim. MVP Graham W has been busy working and hasn't been available too much since the turn and I can never tell if Graham D is quite enjoying his return to the top flight or not? I'm sure he is deep down and he's playing well too for somebody who took so long out from the game. Super side this lot. I like them. A lot.

**M.V.P. Graham Watts**

**LEADING AVERAGES**

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	14	14	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	46	45	97.83
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	44	40	90.91
Steve Munson	Kingfisher 'A'	18	16	88.89
Martin Chodounski	Reading YMCA 'A'	15	13	86.67
Wallace Mahaffy	Polish 'B'	6	5	83.33
Liam McTieman	OLOP 'A'	41	34	82.93
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	35	29	82.86
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	30	23	76.67
Mike Childs	OLOP 'A'	36	27	75
Graham Watts	Polish 'B'	24	18	75
Mark Hancock	OLOP 'C'	12	9	75
Bob Davis	Reading YMCA 'A'	30	20	66.67
David Streak	Reading YMCA 'A'	15	10	66.67

One side on a bit of a roll are old favourites **YMCA 'A'**. Their terrible start to the season has long been forgotten (apart from when I always remind them in this column hey!) and they're finally playing how a team of their standard should be playing. Much of the change in fortunes has been the improved form of Tony Reynolds and new star signing Martin Chodounsky. How much they enjoyed the victory over Polish 'A' and Martin C didn't even play (er, nor did Martin A though Mark). Nope, they brought back some of the old guard for that particular fixture - you may have heard of them? Er, David Streak & Bob Davis? David in particular for one reason or another has been no more than a bit part player this season but incredibly he pitches up after 3 weeks or so out and does what Streaky always does. Plays blimmin well. Bob too. Looking at the remaining fixtures they could still sneak 3rd and from where they were that would be an absolutely remarkable comeback. Well played.

**M.V.P. Martin Chodounsky**

Finally moving up the table and sneaking into the top half are **Kingfisher 'B'**! Bottom half for much of the season, results are starting to go for them and they should comfortably hold their position now for the remainder. The orange glow may have faded slightly but the form hasn't. The kid is back playing well. Alan Cummings reckons the kid is more suited to a boy band than a table tennis team but he will PRAY that Stuart comes back from his ski-ing holiday without injury and that he's BACK FOR GOOD! Oh and NEVER FORGET Alan that it's the kid's results (along with JJ's) that have primarily kept this team up there. OK enough of the boy band songs (what? you didn't even notice - great!) Have you seen Trevor's new pink shirt by the way? Wow! That is bright! You've gotta be pretty comfortable with yourself to wear a thing like that out. It's no wonder that their doubles average has improved with that big pink and orange glow coming at you from the opposite side of the table! Honestly. As you all know, I'm a bit of a fashion icon myself and I'm all for pushing out the boundaries but even I'd draw the line at that I think! JJ hasn't turned out much since the break but with 4 wins out of the last 5 they're still doing well er, and about time too.

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



Still going pretty well are **Wokingham 'A'** although they have recently been rocked by the news that the lovable rogue that is Fenwick Prady may not be available to play next season. Apparently his cockney accent has now gotten so strong that he's decided that the only way to get his Geordie twang back permanently is to move back home for good. He's gonna be missed for sure. No point trying to replace him - he's a complete unique but he contributes so much to this team that it's gonna be hard for them to move on. We've not had the leaving party yet though and now his tennis elbow has miraculously cleared up he's still playing OK on the table. Elsewhere they haven't had much table time since the break. Richard picked up a good maximum in one of the games and Keith is probably gutted that Forest are no longer looking certs for automatic promotion to the Premier League.

**M.V.P. Fenwick "When you're young and in love" Prady**

Good to see **Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'** still playing well. They even had blast from the past Ian Packford turn out for them in one of the games! Blimey who next? Marco Essomba? Ha ha! Actually, and amazingly Ian actually lost one too! That's fatherhood for you! Are you reading Michael Childs?? It goes double for you buddy! Lee is in form. Having his best year for many a season with some quite notable scalps and Dave Wise too - go on buddy. Back from injury and back playing mighty well - a victory over the aforementioned Mike Childs no less. It's nice to see you back sir! John too had his finest win of the season in the same game - over Liam and with Duncan pitching in here and there they've done exceptionally well without the services of the big guns to not have to worry about a relegation battle. Semi finalists again (3rd year on the spin) in the shield too. Good stuff. Er, the tips seem to have dried up though??

**M.V.P. Lee Calcutt**

OK and so to the MASSIVE 2010 relegation battle. First up are **OLOP 'B'** who you would think should have the class and strength in depth to get themselves out of trouble. And who probably have the easier run in of the three OLOP sides but they have taken just 2 points from the last possible 18 and are in the worst form - Sonning aside - in the Division. Hey, just goes to show how much they've missed Tim Pang doesn't it. Find him on Facebook if you wanna chat with him. Murgy is clearly the key here. So often a big player on the big stage, he now needs to consistently be taking maximums against the weaker sides to help save his team. Peter has started to find a bit of form again at just the right time and if Ian can recapture the form he showed in the early part of the season then as I say they're gonna be fine. It's mighty close though isn't it. Dare I say could we even have a dreaded play-off??? I hope not. With that and the extension because of the snow we could still be here come August!!

**M.V.P. Murgy**

Second up are **OLOP 'C'**. This lot have more experience of this situation than any of their rivals and if you're a firm believer that experience counts for everything then they should sail it. Mark Hancock tends to pitch up for them around this stage of the season and true to form he duly did and wiped out Kingfisher 'B' in classy style - clearly it would seem, not put off by the man in pink!. Unfortunately for them though it was all in vain and they ended up getting beat by 6 to 4. He's gonna be needed as they have arguably the toughest run in. So, in a season where you beat both Liam McTiernan & Ian Packford you'd be expecting to see yourself and your side further up the pecking order wouldn't you but no. What great wins they have been though Susan Johnson. Terrific. Clive, Barry & John are great too aren't they. I can't imagine this Division without them and although they have it all to do I have a sneaky suspicion I'll be writing about them all over again come next September.

**M.V.P. Mark Hancock**

Making up the trio are **OLOP 'D'**. Oliver Shaw has been the man in recent weeks here. He certainly looks more and more like a Div 1 player and if they do drop then he could be the one who gets another chance and finds himself in another D1 OLOP side next year. A super maximum against the 'B' team proves that and just when we hadn't seen Julian for a while back he comes with a match-saving double against the same team to keep their hopes alive. Mike Burrow is enjoying himself and has been picking up wins here and there whilst also enjoying playing top of the shop Div 1 Intertown stuff too and Raphael is going to have to be on his best form if he's to give his side half a chance. Can they do it? Well, it's a tough old league as we know but hey! don't rule them out.

**M.V.P. Oliver Shaw**

Obviously I get to see all of the individual results as well as the match scores and if ever a team deserved a point from their efforts then it has to be **Sonning Common & Peppard 'A'**. A couple of narrow 6 to 4's haven't quite gone their way and I feel for them I really do. Jason had a big bounce back to form to register their first individual maximum of the season recently but again it wasn't quite enough and I know they won't thank me what with 7 or so matches to go and mathematically they could still end up mid table etc. etc. etc. but effectively they are down although I'm sure they'll just keep on enjoying themselves along the way. PJ has just signed a new deal to be Hari Gehlot's official practice partner (some of us have to make do with Ramesh!) and that comes on the back of a few very good wins for him since the turn. Nigel continues to do a grand job in turning the scorecards into results and reports for you in the local press but unfortunately hasn't been able to write too much about himself this season - lots of close games but no cigar was the comment on a recent scorecard and that pretty much sums it up. No Simon so far this year by the way, perhaps he'll be back for the run in?

**M.V.P. Jason Roberts**

# DIVISION TWO by Barry Carter

Welcome to the second half of the season, it might be a little late but Happy New Year to you all. The snow has played havoc with the fixtures during the first two weeks of the year which resulted in 9 matches being postponed.



The league committee have decided to lengthen the season so I would like all matches played before the 9th April. So, basically nothing much has happened apart from a renaissance at the bottom which has seen Berks Sports 'A' win two and draw the

other since Christmas. Is the great escape going to happen...?

Just for fun and with the possibility of making a fool out of myself I have predicted in my head (OK, a spreadsheet by a well known software company) the results of all the matches still to be played and have come up with a final table. I have quoted my 2010 final prediction at the end of each teams report.

**Kingfisher 'C'** have found themselves five points clear at the top of the table and with two matches in hand need only four more wins to guarantee a swift return to the "promised land". They have only played three times since November and have recorded a 10 - 0 struggle over relegation-haunted Post Office 'B' and two resounding 9 - 1 victories over Tidmarsh 'B' (at least it wasn't 10 - 0 this time around) and Kingfisher 'F' where the only blemish on the Kingfisher 'C' evening was something of a shock (sorry Phil) when Cliff Putterford lost his 100% record to Phil Mead 11-3, 8-11, 6 - 11, 11-9, 6-11. The Post Office 'B' match was a struggle as five of the ten sets went the distance with Ray Webb suffering three of them. Less said about the Tidmarsh 'B' fixture the better! **2010 Final Prediction : Champions**

**Wokingham 'B'** have continued to surprise me and since the new year they have won two, drawn one and lost one. It was a team effort that saw them home to a 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'E' as Brian Chinneck, Martin Pugh and Ian Fletcher all won two each. The other win came against Tidmarsh 'B' where they completed the double over us. Brian and I had a real battle before he finally got the better of me 11-9, 12-10, 7-11, 8-11, 5-11. The draw came against Sonning Common and Peppard 'B'. Tony Eames, playing up from division four was the key man as he beat both Brian Meheux and Malcolm Gregory whilst Martin Pugh was the star man as he won all three which included fine wins over both Keith Swain and Malcolm Gregory. The defeat came as a big surprise as it was against Berks Sports 'A' where they lost 4 - 6 to another Frank Wiegand inspired maximum. **2010 Final Prediction : 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Tidmarsh 'B'** have struggled since the turn of the year as we have only picked up three points out of eight. We were involved in the only match played during week 12 and to a

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'C'	12	12	0	0	101	19	24
Wokingham 'B'	14	8	3	3	78	62	19
Tidmarsh 'B'	14	8	1	5	67	73	17
Post Office 'A'	15	7	2	6	76	74	16
Kingfisher 'D'	12	7	1	4	77	43	15
Kingfisher 'F'	15	6	3	6	73	77	15
Sonning C & P 'B'	14	5	4	5	70	70	14
Curzon Club 'A'	15	5	3	7	76	74	13
Kingfisher 'E'	13	5	2	6	68	62	12
Berks Sports 'A'	15	2	1	12	41	109	5
Post Office 'B'	15	1	2	12	43	107	4

certain extent why couldn't the snow have arrived a day earlier? Andy Stephens and I both won two each against John Simmonds and Simon Hopkins but Colin Hardman got the better of us. Steve Rollason got our other win on the night as we had to settle for a draw. Kingfisher 'C' once again proved too strong for us and went on to thrash us 9 - 1, Andy was our only winner on the night as he enjoyed a fine win over Geoff Civil 7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-6 although he took Eric van Looy all the way before losing 9-11 in the fifth. I came away from Kingfisher 'E' with my first maximum in four matches and in the process managed to defeat Niall McGrane for the first time ever, Andy defeated Lisa Williams and Carole Chard. The other defeat was a 3 - 7 reverse at home to Wokingham 'B'. **2010 Final Prediction : 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Post Office 'A'** are the form team of the second half with three wins and two draws, the turnabout has coincided with the return to form of John Simmonds who has now got five maximums in the season. The wins have come against Kingfisher 'F' 6 - 4, Post Office 'B' 8 - 2 and Sonning C & P 'B' 6 - 4, whilst the draws came against Tidmarsh 'B' and Curzon Club 'A'. Colin Hardman has also mustered three maximums in the second half, taking his tally to eight for the season. Simon Hopkins won two against Ray Webb 11-2, 11-9, 13-15, 11-6 and Ted Cripps 11-5, 11-8, 11-8 in the 8 - 2 win over Post Office 'B' whilst Steve Hodder remains to be out injured, get fit soon Steve. After John had won two and Simon one it was left to Colin to secure a point against Curzon Club 'A' and he delivered in an 11-5, 11-9, 11-5 victory over John Walker. **2010 Final Prediction : 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Kingfisher 'D'** have only played three matches since Christmas and have won two and drawn one and look a real threat to bounce back at the first attempt. Is the Reading League getting as predictable as the football league where the teams that come down from the top division always go straight back up? Ivor Hardman and Trevor Organ have been the mainstays of the team having played 12 and 10 games respectively. The addition of John Morris on a regular basis has added some steel to an already decent team. The only point dropped came in the derby match with the 'F' team when the trusted trio were broken up for the night. Ivor Hardman and Trevor Organ both won two each and



they teamed up in the doubles. Dave Gostelow made a rare appearance in the 6 - 4 win over Curzon Club 'A' where he managed a great 11-7, 13-11, 9-11, 11-9, 11-8 victory over Mick Maynard to seal the points. **2010 Final Prediction : 2<sup>nd</sup> and Promoted**

**Kingfisher 'F'** have had a potentially disappointing season as I feel they should have been higher up the table. They have won only once in 2010 and that came against a resurgent Berks Sports 'A' team where the trio of Phil Mead, Allan Bruton and Peter Goatly all succumbed to Frank Wiegand but still ended up as 6 - 4 winners as they all beat Bob Woodmansee and only Peter lost to Dave Chard. The draw came against Kingfisher 'D' where Peter Bennett had a fine five set win over Ivor Hardman, Allan came close against Ivor in game ten so as a result they had to settle for a 5 - 5 scoreline. The three losses have come against Kingfisher 'C' where they were defeated 1 - 9, the only highlight was Phil's fantastic win over previously unbeaten Cliff Putterford 3-11, 11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 11-6 to end his 100% record. Well done Phil! Kingfisher 'E' inflicted another tight 4 - 6 defeat on their compatriots as Niall McGrane defeated Peter Goatly 11-4, 11-2, 11-7 to clinch the points. **2010 Final Prediction : 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'** are another team I thought would be in a much higher position than they find themselves in. Their only victory of 2010 was also against Berks Sports 'A' where Malcolm Gregory became the first person in fifteen attempts to defeat Frank Wiegand and he achieved it in style with an 11-2, 11-5, 11-7 scoreline. Keith Swain returned a double and Brian Meheux chipped in with a single. The two draws have come against Curzon Club 'A' and Wokingham 'B'. In the draw with Curzon, Merril Massey played an important part with a crucial victory over John Walker and she was mighty close in three games with Mick Maynard in game ten before she lost 12-10, 14-12, 11-9. Brian Meheux saved a point with a 14-16, 12-10, 11-4, 17-15 game ten victory over Ian Fletcher in the draw with Wokingham. **2010 Final Prediction : 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Curzon Club 'A'** are flirting dangerously with relegation and a bit like Reading and Wolves I feel they will be safe come May! This prediction comes despite them not winning for five matches. The only two points they have secured in 2010 came in draws with Sonning C & P 'B' and Post Office 'A', the other two matches both ended in 6 - 4 defeats to Berks Sports 'A' and Kingfisher 'D'. In the match against Post Office 'A' they led 5-4 but unfortunately John Walker came up against Colin Hardman and lost 5-11, 9-11, 5-11. Earlier Jon Willis had given them a great chance of a victory with a maximum which included a 15-13, 11-13, 11-6, 11-9 win over Colin. Mick Maynard also defeated Colin 11-7, 11-3, 9-11, 11-9. Mick kept his nerve to defeat Merril in three tight encounters (mentioned above) to clinch a point and his second maximum (of the season) against Sonning Common & Peppard 'B'. John Willcocks made a welcome return in the 6 - 4 defeat to Kingfisher 'D'. **2010 Final Prediction : 9<sup>th</sup> and safe**

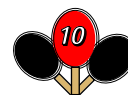
**Kingfisher 'E'** are having a torrid season and although they are currently only one place above the relegation positions they look safe for another season in division two. The reason is that they only need four more points from seven matches to be sure. They have managed three scorelines of 6 - 4 in the matches in 2010 and have only won one and

that was against Kingfisher 'F', the other two results were losses to Wokingham 'B' and Tidmarsh 'B'. Niall McGrane has continued to be the main player with seven wins out of the last nine, whilst Carole Chard supported him well in the win over Kingfisher 'F' with wins over Peter Goatly and Chris Pusey, Sharon Mitchell also enjoyed success over Chris in the same match. Lisa Williams (née Bosley) won a single against Tidmarsh 'B' as she outplayed François Durand to maintain her title of "Queen of the Singles". Congratulations on your recent marriage Lisa, hope you have a long and happy one. **2010 Final Prediction : 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Berks Sports 'A'** have made a tremendous start to 2010 with two wins, one draw and a narrow 6 - 4 defeat to Kingfisher 'F'. The form of Frank Wiegand has been outstanding with fourteen wins out of fifteen matches in 2010. They came so close to picking up their first point against Kingfisher 'F' as they were 4 - 4 with two to play. Frank had won all three and it was left to Dave Chard and Bob Woodmansee to see them home, but they both lost. Dave in five to Phil Mead and Bob to Allan Bruton. The wait for a point would only be one more week as they played fellow strugglers Post Office 'B'. The point came in game eight as Frank defeated Ray Webb 11-3, 11-5, 11-5 to give them a 5 - 3 lead but Nigel Goodman lost 10-12, 6-11, 11-7, 10-12 in game nine and then Bob lost 9-11, 11-9, 11-9, 10-12, 9-11 to Denise to share the points. It was only one week later that the first victory arrived and Curzon 'A' were the victims. Frank's treble made it 6-2 so therefore Nigel and Dave could relax and they ultimately did as they both lost. Nigel had started the proceedings with a 11-8, 7-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-4 win over Mick Maynard and Dave's win over John Walker 9-11, 11-7, 13-11, 8-11, 11-5 contributed to a fine win. Much better was to follow as they surprised fellow division two newcomers and promotion hopefuls Wokingham 'B' with a 6 - 4 win. Bob Woodmansee won his first game of the season as he beat Ian Fletcher for the first time ever to make it 3 - 3. The doubles pairing of Frank and Dave worked well as they won three straight to make it 4 - 3 and the victory was guaranteed with a Dave Chard win over Ian Fletcher in game nine. The lads then made a quick exit to the nearest pub to celebrate what I am told is an historic victory after eight attempts. **2010 Final Prediction : 10<sup>th</sup> and relegation (sorry Bob) you do actually need a miracle (dare I say a bit like West Ham?)**

### LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Cliff Putterford	Kingfisher 'C'	33	32	97.0%
Eric Van Looy	Kingfisher 'C'	30	25	83.3%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'E'	33	27	81.8%
Colin Hardman	Post Office 'A'	33	27	81.8%
Ivor Hardman	Kingfisher 'D'	36	29	80.6%
Trevor Organ	Kingfisher 'D'	24	19	79.2%
Keith Swain	Sonning C & P 'B'	27	19	70.4%
Frank Wiegand	Berks Sports 'A'	12	8	66.7%
Colin Dyke	Kingfisher 'C'	15	10	66.7%
John Morris	Kingfisher 'D'	15	10	66.7%
Martin Pugh	Wokingham 'B'	24	16	66.7%
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh 'B'	21	14	66.7%
Jim Spencer	Wokingham 'B'	21	14	66.7%



**Post Office 'B'** have really missed Dave Mills on the table this season and their plight really does look grim (but bear in mind you could be a Portsmouth supporter!). They now find themselves eight points from safety with only ten points available. The four pointer with Berks Sports 'A' was important because if they won they would have moved five points ahead of them; as it was the gap was maintained at three. Denise Weller continues to come close in several matches without winning more than one match a night, however she did battle back from 1-2 down to win 11-9 against Bob Woodmansee to get the point in the draw with Berks Sports 'A'. Ray Webb won two of the matches against Berks Sports 'A' and then took all three of the Kingfisher 'C' lads to five but ended up on the losing side each time (how frustrating is that!). Roger Woolven-Allen

commented on Ray's sportsmanship on the evening as being fantastic and full of fun despite the outcome of his three matches. Ray also won two in the match against Kingfisher 'D' as he overcame John Morris and Trevor Organ. George White won one of the two matches in the 8 - 2 defeat to their club rivals Post Office 'A'. **2010 Final Prediction : 11<sup>th</sup> and relegation (Sorry Denise, Ray, George and Eddie)**

It is now 23:00 on Tuesday 16th February, why is it I have known about this deadline for a week yet I still leave it until the last hour to complete it (must be a hangover from my school days!) Anyway I did plan to report on a fixture from seasons past and also include an updated stats package but the witching hour approaches... perhaps I will leave myself enough time to do it for the last newsletter!

# DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*

**W**ell, January's snow created havoc with the Reading traffic and had a similar effect on the fixtures in the Reading league, so the Div 3 league table has a bit of an uneven look about it at the moment. Despite this, the two teams heading the division have continued their good form into the New Year and both look destined for promotion.

**Tidmarsh 'C'** have reeled off another five wins since the Christmas break (all 8 - 2) which means that mathematically they are almost promoted, needing just one more point to be sure. So far in 2010, Mike Aistrop remains unbeaten with 4 maximums and if he and his teammates continue their form into the tougher matches to come, they should take the Division 3 title with a couple of matches to spare.

**OLOP 'F'** had looked equally secure in second place, but were soundly beaten by Kingfisher 'G' before the half-term break, going 0 - 5 down before Hanson Xu recovered to win two and add some respectability to the scoreline. The team had started the year with four wins and this OLOP squad should have enough points in the bank and be strong enough in the matches to come to hold on to their expected promotion.

But the team which has really started the New Year with a bang is **Kingfisher 'G'** with five wins and a draw, giving them an unbeaten run of nine matches. This good run of form, which has moved them up to third in the table, has seen them turn first half defeats into 8 - 2 wins against both Tilehurst Methodists and more recently (and impressively) at OLOP 'F'. In the latter match, Megan Knowles recorded an excellent 3-straight maximum, with Richard Fifield and Eric Holmes each winning two apiece. This Kingfisher team were last defeated 4 - 6 at Tidmarsh



'C', whom they are due play next, after the February break. If they can win this difficult match they will be in an excellent position to pounce should either of the top two slip up in the run-in.

**Tidmarsh 'D'** are one of three teams currently sitting on 15 points, although they do have games in hand on the teams above them. Perhaps the most disrupted by the bad weather, this team had to wait until 21st January to play their first match of 2010 and then only just squeaked home 6 - 4 at Milestone. A drubbing of Pangbourne and a draw at Kingfisher 'G' followed, before a two-man team went to Sonning Common but returned empty handed.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** have fallen away from their position of challengers, having taken just one point from a possible eight, with defeats to the top three and a draw at Kingfisher 'H'. Team selection seems to be a bit of a problem, as they played reserves in three of these matches and had to rely on Ray Yau winning all three to stand a chance

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'C'	16	15	1	0	131	29	31
OLOP 'F'	15	12	1	2	105	45	25
Kingfisher 'G'	16	9	3	4	97	63	21
Sonning C&P 'C'	15	7	3	5	82	68	17
Tidmarsh 'D'	13	7	1	5	73	57	15
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	13	6	3	4	68	62	15
OLOP 'E'	13	4	2	7	63	67	10
Kingfisher 'H'	15	3	4	8	62	88	10
Pangbourne 'A'	15	3	1	11	42	108	7
Milestone 'A'	13	2	1	10	40	90	5
OLOP (Univ) 'G'	12	0	0	12	17	103	0



of picking up any points. But with matches to come against teams in the bottom half, I expect their results to improve from here on.

Having had four close matches, with a return of just three points, **Sonning C&P 'C'** complete the mid-table mêlée. A draw at Kingfisher 'H' was followed by the narrowest of defeats against Kingfisher 'G' and, with Jeremy Willis absent, they also went down 4 - 6 at OLOP 'E'. Their first win of the New Year came courtesy of a depleted Tidmarsh 'D' team and another maximum from Jeremy Willis.

**OLOP 'E'** have clambered away from the relegation zone with two wins from the three matches they've played in 2010. There was the expected defeat at Tidmarsh 'C', although Ian Davis did well to beat François Durand in five games and was unlucky to go down 11-13 in the fifth against Steve Callidine. But good wins came at Kingfisher 'H', thanks to a Mark Bullion maximum, and over Sonning 'C' when Pat Daniels secured a hard-fought treble. These guys are quite capable of taking points from any of their remaining opponents, but may already have enough points in the bank to be safe in Division 3 for another season.

Also moving to a position of safety are **Kingfisher 'H'** who have taken 4 points from their five recent matches despite losing to OLOP 'E'. Apart from the expected win over the University team and defeat to the table-toppers, two draws came from good all-round team performances against Tilehurst Meths and Sonning C&P and despite each of these opponents having star players who both hit maximums. Like OLOP 'E' this team should have enough about them to stay clear of trouble.

The three teams huddled at the bottom of the table have yet to pick up a point between them in 2010. **Pangbourne 'A'** lost to the same teams they did in the first half, so will need to repeat most of the wins they had in November & December if they are to remain ahead of Milestone.

Also pointless (in a numerical sense) are **Milestone 'A'**, having repeated four of their six defeats from the first half of the season. They did push Tidmarsh 'D' close, going down 4 - 6 in the end as Richard Woolven-Allen and John Evans both won two, but will be looking to win points from the teams around them in their remaining matches. The crunch may come when Pangbourne visit Milestone in a fixture that was delayed by January's bad weather. (I await news of the date for this re-arranged match.)

**OLOP (University) 'G'** have been improving, but not enough (yet) to remove the zero from the points column

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	41	39	95.1%
Ray Yau	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	27	25	92.6%
Mary Allan	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	9	8	88.9%
Hanson Xu	OLOP 'F'	33	29	87.9%
François Durand	Tidmarsh 'C'	33	29	87.9%
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'C'	39	34	87.2%
Richard Fifield	Kingfisher 'G'	44	37	84.1%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh 'C'	36	29	80.6%
Steve Callidine	Tidmarsh 'C'	30	23	76.7%
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh 'D'	20	15	75.0%
Daniel McTiernan	OLOP 'F'	27	20	74.1%
Steve Barnes	Tidmarsh 'D'	26	19	73.1%
Ian Davis	OLOP 'E'	27	18	66.7%
Steve Ricks	Tidmarsh 'D'	21	14	66.7%

in the league table. Oli Grist continues to be their best player, winning two against Kingfisher 'H' and putting in a terrific performance against the Division's leaders, beating Steve Callidine and only going down 13-15 in the fifth to Mike Aistrop. In this match the Uni team also recorded their first doubles victory of the campaign. Due to postponements, they have more matches remaining than any other team in the Division, so the Uni team have plenty of opportunity to put some scores on the board before the end of the season.

### Late Results: (shown in table)

Pangbourne 'A'	3 - 7	Sonning C&P 'C'
Tidmarsh 'C'	10 - 0	Pangbourne 'A'

This result confirms promotion for Tidmarsh 'C' - congratulations to Mike, Chris, François and Steve.

### Postponed matches:

There are a total of seven matches to be re-arranged in this Division. Please could the relevant (home) team captains keep me informed of the dates on which these are due to be played as soon as they have been fixed and agreed.

As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, the RDTTA Management Committee has agreed to extend the season by two weeks, but please ensure all outstanding matches are played by 9th April. Please contact me if this is not going to be possible.

# DIVISION FOUR *by Derek Harrison*

**S**pringfield 'A' are now in a good position to reclaim their 3rd Division place after winning four in a row since my previous report. They first beat Tidmarsh 'E' 1 - 9. Phil won all three, 3 straight. Ian also won three, while Seth managed a double. Next came a vital 6 - 4 win over Tilehurst Meths. Again Phil hit a maximum. Ian gave him good support by winning two, and Des won one, beating Nigel. At Wokingham they also won 4 - 6 with Phil hitting a good treble and Des and Seth winning one each. At home to Curzon 'C' they won 7 - 3. As ever, Phil got a hat trick. Reserve John Burke won two and Des one. In the big match against OLOP they lost their first game of the season 6 - 4. Phil lost his first game since the 15th September when going down to Steve, but did win his other two as did Seth.

**Doubles: 11/15 - 73%**

**OLOP 'H'** look to have promotion in their grasp and their game against Tilehurst could go a long way to sort it out. Against Wokingham, Steve was suffering from a bad back and could only win one but Harry and Phil won two each, to give them a share of the spoils. A fit Steve came back well at Curzon 'C' and gained a maximum which helped towards a 2 - 8 victory. Phil won two and Mark also obtained a maximum. Next came another 8 - 2 win over Curzon 'B'. Steve won all three in good style, while Harry and Mark won two each. Their re-arranged game with Tidmarsh gave them a 10 - 0 win. Steve, Harry and Phil all did the business by winning 3 each. As mentioned above they then beat Springfield 6 - 4. Steve gained his fourth maximum in a row, and with Harry and Mark picking up vital singles by beating Des and Steve, and Harry winning the doubles, this was enough to move to the top of the table.

**Doubles: 9/15 - 60%**

**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** have only played 3 games since Christmas. First they lost 6 - 4 to Springfield with Richard, Nigel and Phil all winning one each. Phil was unlucky against Ian, losing 12-10 in the 5th. They bounced back against Kingfisher by winning 8 - 2. Janet won all three with Nigel and Richard winning two each. This week they drew with Sonning, with Phil and Janet winning two each and Richard picking up that vital single.

**Doubles: 10/13 - 77%**

**Curzon 'B'**, after winning 4 in a row,



gave themselves a good chance of promotion. They started after Christmas by beating Wokingham 7 - 3, thanks to great trebles from Derek and Geoff. They then just beat their 'C' team 4 - 6, with Derek and Geoff winning two and Nick picking up a single. The doubles was vital, with Derek and Geoff just beating Tracy and Linda 6-11, 10-12, 13-11, 11-5, 9-11. What a battle! Next came Birch Copse, which was won 8 - 2. Nick won all three straight, and Geoff won three with Jim gaining a double. At OLOP we lost 8 - 2. Jim won the two, by beating Harry and Mark. This week we saw our promotion chances go when we lost 2 - 8 to St Laurence. Jim and Derek were the scorers by beating Dan G.

**Doubles: 5/15 - 33%**

**St Laurence** have lost three matches when either Chris or Dan West have not been available. Amazingly, they were against three of the sides trying to avoid the drop: Sonning, Tidmarsh and Kingfisher, but sadly for Birch Copse, they played Chris and Dan in both matches. I know it is all part of the game, but I wonder who they will play against Curzon 'C', and how these results will affect the relegation. In that game against Sonning they went down at home for the first time in ages, by a 4 - 6 scoreline. Chris and Dan Grover won two each,. At Birch Copse, they romped to a 0 - 10 victory, with Chris and the two Dans all hitting trebles. Against Kingfisher they won 9 - 1. Dan W and Chris both hit hat tricks, with young Dan winning two. At Curzon 'B' they hit the jackpot by winning 2 - 8. Dan and Chris W both played well to win three each. In the game against Jim, Dan came back from 2 games to one down and 10-4 down, to win in 5.

**Doubles: 11/14 - 79%**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP 'H'	15	12	1	2	107	43	25
Springfield 'A'	15	10	4	1	94	56	24
St Laurence	14	9	2	3	90	50	20
Curzon Club 'B'	15	9	1	5	81	69	19
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	13	8	2	3	84	46	18
Wokingham 'C'	15	7	2	6	84	66	16
Tidmarsh 'E'	15	5	2	8	57	93	12
Curzon Club 'C'	15	4	1	10	58	92	9
Sonning C&P 'D'	14	3	1	10	53	87	7
Kingfisher 'I'	15	2	1	12	51	99	5
Birch Copse 'A'	14	2	1	11	41	99	5

**Wokingham 'C'** are in no man's land, no chance of going up or down. Their first game of 2010 was at Curzon 'B', where they lost 7 - 3. Tony and Ken won one each, besides Colin and Terry winning the doubles. At OLOP they gained a great draw. Tony had a great night by beating Steve 9-11, 4-11, 11-3, 12-14; Harry, 11-7, 9-11, 4-11, 5-11 and Phil 9-11, 8-11, 11-13. Ken managed a single by beating Steve and then teamed up with Tony to win the doubles. At home to Springfield, they went down 4 - 6. Tony won two and John Beardmore and Colin won one each. In their 3 - 7 win at Kingfisher, John Beardmore won two for the first time in a year. Tony did well to win all three, and Richard completed the scoring by also winning two. They then played a strong side against Curzon 'C' and won 9 - 1. Tony, Richard and Mike all hit trebles.

**Doubles: 7/15 - 47%**

**Tidmarsh 'E'** lost their first game after Christmas to Springfield 'A', 1 - 9. Dave E saved the whitewash by beating Seth 11-4, 11-4, 7-11, 11-8. They then won 3 - 7 at Kingfisher 'I'. Terry was on top form, hitting a great treble. Dave E won two and Dave S picked up a single. Another vital win came at Sonning, by a 4 - 6 scoreline Terry again came up trumps by gaining a maximum, with Dave E winning two. The doubles was crucial, with Terry and Dave E beating Matt and Simon 11-9, 7-11, 6-11, 11-7, 9-11. They then came unstuck at OLOP, going down 10 - 0. I won't mention who played, lads! They then beat Birch Copse 8 - 2. Dave E hit a nice maximum, with Terry and Dave S both gaining doubles.

**Doubles: 4/15: 27%**

**Curzon 'C'** started the second half with a 4 - 6 defeat against their 'B' team. Tracy was in great form, winning all three by beating Nick 11-7, 11-5, 7-11, 11-2; Derek, 11-6, 11-1, 12-14, 11-5 and Geoff 11-6, 7-11, 9-11, 13-11, 11-6. It was the best I have seen her play. Well done, Tracy. Linda had a fine win over Nick to complete their scoring. At home to OLOP, they found the other team too

good, and went down 2 - 8. Tracy won the only single by beating Phil, but combined with Linda to win the doubles for the second time against OLOP. Next came an away trip to Springfield, which was lost 7 - 3. Linda, Terry and Tracy all won one each. Linda had a great game against Phil, only going down 9-11, 11-7, 11-8, 9-11, 11-9. They then beat Kingfisher 7 - 3, and I feel that result will be enough to avoid the drop. Terry, Linda and Tracy won two each. At Wokingham they crashed to a 9 - 1 defeat, with Linda and Tracy winning the doubles.

**Doubles: 9/15 - 60%**

After seven defeats in a row, **Sonning Common & P 'D'** finally came good by beating Birch Copse 7 - 3, thanks mainly to a great hat trick from Matt and a very fine double from Phil. Simon won one but could have won two because he only lost to Mike 15-17 in the 5th. They then moved off the bottom by beating a weakened St Laurence 4 - 6. Simon and Matt both won two each, besides the two of them winning the doubles. Reserve Andy Alexander won one by beating Oli. They then lost 4 - 6 to Tidmarsh. Matt won two and Simon and Anthony Reeve won one each. This week they got a great point at Tilehurst, with Matt on cracking form getting a maximum. Simon won one and also teamed up with Matt to win the doubles.

**Doubles: 6/14 - 64%**

Since my previous notes, **Kingfisher** have lost five in a row and as a result are in big trouble. Their first game was at Tilehurst and they went down 8 - 2. Ken Robb did very well to defeat Nigel and Richard. Steve and Ken were the only singles scorers when they lost 3 - 7 at home to Wokingham. Next came Tidmarsh, which they lost 3 - 7. Steve won two by beating Dave E and Dave S, while Ken beat Dan G 11-6, 7-11, 4-11, 8-11 to save the whitewash. This week they lost 7 - 3 to Curzon 'C'. Steve played really well to win all three.

**Doubles: 4/15 - 27%**

**Birch Copse 'A'** are also in a lot of bother but fair play, they have been giving it a good go after being asked to play in the 4th after only finishing 3rd in last season's 5th.

In the big game at Sonning, they went down 7 - 3. Jez won two and Mike one. I gather from Phil the match was played in an excellent spirit. At Curzon 'B', they lost 8 - 2. Jez had a nice win over Jim in game one, by beating him 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 8-11, 4-11 - but sadly, they only had a doubles win after that, with Jez and Duncan beating Jim and Nick. At home to a full-strength St Laurence, they crashed 0 - 10. No more comment needed! This week they went down 8 - 2 at Tidmarsh. Jez and Roy won the two games.

**Doubles: 4/14 - 29%**

Finally, thanks to all team captains for sorting out dates for the postponed matches.

<b>DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES</b>				
<b>QUALIFICATION: 50% OF MATCHES</b>				
<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>%</b>
Phil Burke	Springfield	36	34	94
Chris West	St Laurence	39	36	92
Dan West	St Laurence	36	31	86
Steve Purchase	OLOP	42	34	81
Harry Brough	OLOP	27	21	78
Tony Eames	Wokingham	27	21	78
Janet Wright	Tilehurst Meths	27	20	74
Ken Park	Wokingham	36	26	72
Geoff Johnson	Curzon 'B'	36	26	72
Phil Jones	Tilehurst Meths	18	14	78
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths	33	21	64
Matt Stone	Sonning C&P	39	25	64
Steve Woolnough	Kingfisher	33	20	61

# DIVISION FIVE *by Nigel Rowland*

**M**any thanks to all captains for keeping me informed during the period of bad weather. Please can I ask you all to re-arrange your outstanding games as soon as possible and let me know your dates. As you will have read in this newsletter, your committee have agreed to extend the season to accommodate the number of cancelled games.



We are now moving into the final phase of the season where teams on the fringe of promotion and relegation can still have a final say. SC&P 'F' have put together some outstanding results to keep pace with Tilehurst Methodists 'C' even nicking a point in the process. SC&P 'E', Tidmarsh 'F', Milestone 'B', Polish 'C' and Post Office 'C' can still have their say in the outcome at the top as they have still to play teams at the top of the division. Game of the season has to go to Post Office 'C' defeating Tidmarsh 'F' 10 - 0, John Harland was shell shocked! At the bottom, OLOP 'J' are having player problems but your committee have been assured by Gar Diu and Mike Burrows they will honour their games to the end of the season. Certainly your committee have shown their commitment to help OLOP 'J' by allowing the registration of a new player. Reading Resource must start winning a few games if they are to catch up with Springfield 'B'. Springfield 'B' are currently 5 points ahead of Reading Resource but Colin Jones knows they badly need a win to settle their nerves.

Congratulations go to the top three in the player averages, Neil Havard followed by Mark Corbett and then Mick Grantham.

I did mention that any player who took a scalp off the top players would get a special mention. Well a number of you have played some outstanding matches and the following deserve special mention. Daniel Dzieciot beat Gerard Thorp; Colin Jones beat Mark Corbett; Dave Godfrey beat Mick Grantham; Krys Szczygiel beat Al Richardson; Nigel Outhwaite beat Jacek Krzyzanowski; Mike Bundy beat Oliver Bonser. These were the pick of the bunch and congratulations to all for raising your game.

As a result of OLOP 'I' fielding an unregistered player the results of the SC&P 'F' has been adjusted from a 4 - 6 loss to a 7 - 3 win.

**Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** are still flying high and look to be unstoppable for top spot, just retaining their 4 point lead. They have recorded three further wins and just got away with a draw against a top of the table clash with SC&P 'F' which saw six

games go to five sets and two games going to four sets. The game against OLOP 'J' was a conceded win. Against Milestone 'B' they won 7 - 3 and 9 - 1 against Kingfisher 'J' and OLOP 'I'. Kingfisher were the second team to record a doubles win. The draw against SC&P 'F' was a close run thing. Finding themselves 2 - 4 down and then losing their 100% doubles record meant they were 2 - 5 down and looking at their first defeat of the season. They had to show tremendous character to fight back to 4 - 4, the game 8 'battle of the bats' between Derek Wavell and Mal Collis saw Mal Collis the victor in a five set thriller. Martin Wetherell dug deep to win a close four setter against Dave Aust and set up a final game ten Anthony Reeve v Dave Jones finale which saw Dave Jones call upon his many years of experience to pull off an outstanding result in a five set battle to save a point. Mal Collis 17/29 including 2 trebles, Martin Wetherell 32/38 including 7 trebles, Dave Jones 22/29 including 3 trebles, Chris Taylor 22/27 including 4 trebles. Doubles 12/14.

**SC&P 'F'** are still following up in second spot, extending their lead to 5 points against third place Milestone 'B' and are still looking good for the second promotion spot. They have recorded a 9 - 1 win against Springfield 'B' and close 6 - 4 wins against Reading Resource and Tidmarsh 'F'. Anthony Reeve scored an important treble against Tidmarsh 'F' to help secure the points. They initially lost 6 - 4 to OLOP 'I' but due to an illegal player this was revised to a 7 - 3 win. The game against Tilehurst Methodist 'C' resulted in a draw but was so close to being an important win. In the first game Anthony Reeve beat Martin Wetherell in a five set thriller, followed by Derek Wavell defeating Dave Jones. Dave Aust then

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	15	13	2	0	118	32	28
Sonning C&P 'F'	15	11	2	2	97	53	24
Milestone 'B'	17	8	3	6	93	77	19
Polish 'C'	15	8	2	5	74	76	18
OLOP 'I'	15	8	1	6	83	67	17
Sonning C&P 'E'	14	6	4	4	75	65	16
Post Office 'C'	15	7	1	7	85	65	15
Tidmarsh 'F'	15	6	2	7	79	71	14
Kingfisher 'J'	16	5	4	7	69	91	14
Springfield 'B'	15	4	2	9	62	88	10
Reading Resource	16	1	3	12	58	102	5
OLOP (Rdg Uni) 'J'	14	1	0	13	17	123	2

defeated Mal Collis in another five set thriller to go three up. Anthony Reeve's win in game five against Mal Collis further piled the pressure on to go 4 - 1 up. The doubles win was superb bearing in mind their poor doubles record, Anthony Reeve and Derek Wavell taking on Martin Wetherell and Mal Collis winning 11-9, 6-11, 11-7, 11-13, 11-9 to take Tilehurst's 100% doubles record and make it 5 - 2. So close to a win, but Tilehurst fought back to share the spoils. Derek Wavell 17/27 including 3 trebles, Jim McClure 15/23 including 2 trebles, Anthony Reeve 18/24 including 3 trebles, Dave Aust 13/21 including 1 treble, Jacek Krzyzanowski 16/21 including 3 trebles. Doubles 5/15.

**Milestone 'B'** took my advice in the last newsletter and have put together a run of 6 wins out of nine games to race up the table to third spot. I suspect they will slip back a bit as a result of the number of games played but nevertheless a good team effort. The signing of John Simpson has bolstered up the squad but lost John Evans to the 'A' team. They started with a good 6 - 4 win against OLOP 'I' thanks to a John Evans treble and game ten win by Gerard Thorp against Chris Moses. Then a thumping 9 - 1 win against Reading Resource. Two trebles from both Gerard Thorp and Oliver Bonser gave them a tight 6 - 4 win against Kingfisher 'J' and further trebles in a 7 - 3 win against Springfield 'B'. Another solid team performance along with a further treble from Gerard Thorp gave them a good 8 - 2 win against Tidmarsh 'F'. The game against OLOP 'J' was a conceded win. In the 3 - 7 loss against Tilehurst Meths 'C' John Evans scored a treble but Oliver Bonser fought hard but just lost his games in five sets. Against Polish 'C' they just lost out 4 - 6, once again Oliver Bonser shone with two wins. As a result of fielding a weakened team against Post Office 'C' they lost 2 - 8. Gerard Thorp 31/39 including 8 trebles, Oliver Bonser 25/42 including 4 trebles, Lee Bainbridge 0/9, Stewart Venn 0/15, John Evans 14/15 including 4 trebles. John Simpson 7/15. Doubles 6/16.

**Polish 'C'** have also climbed the table, winning the last four out of six starts. The signing of Daniel Dzieciot has given them an average two game win since his introduction in the New Year, well done Daniel. They started with two 7 - 3 wins against Reading Resource and Post Office 'C'. In the game against Post Office 'C' Marcin Kolat, Daniel Dzieciot and Krys Szczygiel all just lost out in five setters against Eddie Cripps. They then followed up with two tight 6 - 4 wins against Tidmarsh 'F' and Milestone 'B', a Darek Kamanski treble and game nine win against Oliver Bonser helped sealed the points in the Milestone game. In the 4 - 6 loss against OLOP 'I' Darek Kamanski recorded another great treble and

## DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Neil Havard	Reading Resource	38	37	97.37
Mark Corbett	Sonning C&P 'E'	27	24	88.89
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'C'	37	32	86.49
Martin Wetherell	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	38	32	84.21
Chris Taylor	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	27	22	81.48
Gerard Thorp	Milestone 'B'	39	31	79.49
Dave Jones	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	29	22	75.86
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Sonning C&P 'F'	29	22	75.86
Anthony Reeve	Sonning C&P 'F'	24	18	75
Alistair Richardson	OLOP (Impact) 'I'	36	24	66.67
Linda Davis	Post Office 'C'	26	17	65.38
Jim McClure	Sonning C&P 'F'	23	15	65.22
Darek Kamanski	Polish 'C'	39	25	64.1

Jozef Wojcik just lost out against Al Richardson in a five set thriller which would have saved a point. In the 4 - 6 loss against SC&P 'E' Jozef Wojcik once again fought hard but again just lost out in a five set thriller against Mike Casserley. Darek Kamanski 25/39 including 3 trebles, Krzysztof Szczygiel 12/30, Robert Prepolewski 1/3, Marcin Kolat 5/8, Bob Walker 5/9 including 1 treble, Joseph Wojcik 5/21, Daniel Dzieciot 10/15. Doubles 10/15.

**OLOP 'I'** have slipped back to fifth place as a result of an administrative error playing an illegal player. The 6 - 4 win against SC&P 'F' has been revised to a 3 - 7 loss. Nevertheless they have a good squad further bolstered with the registration of Dave Godfrey, welcome aboard Dave. Two good 6 - 4 wins against Polish 'C' thanks to Chris Moses and Dave Godfrey doubles and Post Office 'C' thanks to a first Dave Godfrey treble and a great win against Mick Grantham. Al Richardson also scored a crucial double and game ten win against Mick Grantham to seal the points. Also a further 7 - 3 win against Reading Resource. A surprise 4 - 6 loss at Milestone 'B' resulted despite a Dave Godfrey double and a hard fought five set win against Gerard Thorp. A 1 - 9 loss against Tilehurst Meths 'C' as a result of fielding two players, however. Al Richardson recorded a hard fought five set win over Dave Jones and Chris Moses just lost out in five setters against Martin Wetherell and Dave Jones. Alistair Richardson 24/36 including 3 trebles, Chris Moses 15/39 including 2 trebles, Alan Dines 12/21 including 2 trebles, Fitzroy Licorish 2/3, Steve Yong 2/3, Dave Godfrey 11/15 including 1 treble. Doubles 10/15.

**SC&P 'E'** have not lost a game since November with a further three wins and a draw, one of the wins being a conceded game against OLOP 'J'. A good 8 - 2 win against Springfield 'B' thanks to Tony House and Mike Casserley trebles, a tight 6 - 4 win against Polish 'C' thanks to a Mark Corbett treble and game ten win by

Mike Casserley over Jozef Wojcik. They shared the spoils in a draw against Kingfisher 'J' thanks to another Mark Corbett treble and Mike Casserley double. Tony House 20/33 including 3 trebles, Pete Harman 0/6, Mike Casserley 15/36 including 2 trebles, Derek Maltby 2/15 and Mark Corbett 24/27 including 6 trebles. Doubles 4/13.

**Post Office 'C'** started off losing two games on the bounce but just put a run of three wins together. The wins were 8 - 2 against Reading Resource thanks to Linda Davis and Mick Grantham trebles and Milestone 'B' thanks to maximums from Mick Grantham and Ted Cripps. A fantastic 10 - 0 win at Tidmarsh 'F' thanks to hard fought trebles from Linda Davis, Mick Grantham and Ted Cripps including a doubles win to end a brilliant evening. They lost 3 - 7 to Polish 'C' despite a Ted Cripps treble and 4 - 6 against OLOP 'I', Mick Grantham just lost out in two five game sets coming away with an unusual one game win. Linda Davis shone winning two games and Barbara Gatward took Al Richardson to four sets. Linda Davis 17/26 including 2 trebles, Mick Grantham 32/37 including 7 trebles, Pat Davis 2/25, Ted Cripps 13/17 including 2 trebles, Barbara Gatward 3/17, John Gatward 3/6. Doubles 9/15.

**Tidmarsh 'F'** are having a torrid time just now, only recording one played win, the other being a conceded OLOP 'J' win. They started by defeating Springfield 'B' 6 - 4 thanks to Bob Sunerton and Steve Andrews trebles. They had two close 4 - 6 defeats - against Polish 'C' Steve Andrews scored a hard fought treble and against SC&P 'F' Pete Sinclair battled for his double. They lost 2 - 8 to Milestone, Mike Bundy shone with a double. Then came the disastrous 0 - 10 loss to Post Office 'C', Bob Sunerton just lost out in five sets to Linda Davis, as did John Harland. Most other games went to four sets, Dave Humphrey just losing out to Ted Cripps. Bob Sunerton 17/36 including 2 trebles, Mike Bundy 10/15 including 2 trebles, John Harland 11/15 including 3 trebles, Steve Andrews 16/30 including 3 trebles, Pete Sinclair 6/12, Dave Humphreys 3/18. Doubles 6/14.

**Kingfisher 'J'** have put together a decent run of results, losing two in six games, one win being a conceded OLOP 'J' game. They recorded a much-needed win defeating Springfield 7 - 3 thanks to a Derek Spicer treble, Anthony Talaga double and single from Phillip Cunnington. They recorded draws against Reading Resource thanks to Phil Cunnington and Derek Crombie doubles and SC&P 'E' thanks to a Derek Crombie double and game 10 win over Derek Maltby to snatch a point. They lost 4 - 6 in a tight game against Milestone 'B' and took a hammering 1 - 9 against Tilehurst Methodists 'C', the only plus point was Derek Spicer teaming up with Andrew Talaga to record only a second doubles defeat of the season on Martin Wetherell and Chris Taylor in a close five setter. Andrew Talaga 18/41 including 1 treble, Philip Cunnington 5/23, Derek

Crombie 13/32, Derek Spicer 10/30 including 2 trebles. Doubles 10/15.

**Springfield 'B'** are showing signs of nervousness as they have failed to score a point since the New Year. They lost 1 - 9 to SC&P 'F' despite taking five games to five sets, Nigel Outhwaite recording their only win. They lost 3 - 7 against both Kingfisher 'J' (when Chris Speight recorded a double) and Milestone 'B', the highlight being Chris Speight and Colin Jones teaming up to win a five set doubles thriller. They lost 2 - 8 against SC&P 'E' Colin Jones recording a close five set win against Mark Corbett. They also lost 4 - 6 in a close encounter with Tidmarsh 'F', Dan Mortimer winning in five against Dave Humphrey and Chris Speight just losing out in five to Steve Andrews. Colin Jones 13/39 including 1 treble, Daniel Mortimer 9/29 including 1 treble, Chris Speight 14/32 including 2 trebles, Nigel Outhwaite 16/32 including 2 trebles. Doubles 8/15.

**Reading Resource** have managed to pick up one point since the New Year and need to find some inspiration if they are not to remain in the relegation places. The draw against Kingfisher 'J' was due to a Neil Havard treble but well supported by Vernon Speed and Adrian Pacey who recorded wins against Gill Bennett. Vernon Speed also just lost in five to Derek Crombie and Adrian Pacey lost in five to Phil Cunnington. They lost 1 - 9 to Milestone 'B', Maureen Allchurch getting their only win. The game against Polish 'C' saw a 3 - 7 loss - Neil Havard with a treble, Vernon Speed took a game off Darek Kamanski and Michael Stevens showed promise by taking games off Daniel Dzieciol and Krys Szczygiel. The 2 - 8 loss at Post office 'C' saw Maureen Allchurch and Adrian Pacey record successes and Michael Stevens take a game off top-of-the-averages Mick Grantham. In the next game they lost 4 - 6 in a tight game against promotion favourites SC&P 'F' once again Neil Havard recorded a treble and teamed up with Michael Stevens to win a doubles five set thriller against Jim McClure and Anthony Reeve. Both Michael and Vernon came close by taking games off Jim McClure. Against OLOP 'I' they lost 3 - 7, Neil Havard recorded another treble and Vernon Speed and Adrian Pacey came close taking games off Dave Godfrey and Chris Moses. Neil Havard 37/38 including 11 trebles, Maureen Allchurch 5/12, Adrian Pacey 6/36, Vernon Speed 1/20, Michael Stevens 1/20, Adam Sheen 0/3, Teresa Williams 0/9, Russell Ward 0/3. Doubles 4/16.

**OLOP 'J'** are really struggling at the bottom of the table, conceding all matches since the New Year. Gar Diu needs to be supported to get a team out and hopefully new signing Damiano Del Bello will give the team some hope. So come on Waseem Anwarchaudhri, Tony Barnett, Ian Thomas and Stephen Sheenan, support your captain. I look forward to reporting some points on the board in the next news letter. Gar Diu 3/21, Waseem Anwarchaudhri 3/12, Ian Thomas 1/3, Stephen

# DIVISION SIX *by Duncan Groves*

**S**urely **Tilehurst Meths 'D'** are the Division 6 champions.....? After opening up a gap of 6 points and remaining undefeated throughout the season, Tilehurst look odds on to take the silverware and promotion to Division 5. It will be well deserved for the team comprising Kevin Harrop (curiously absent since my last report) , Bob Winter, the improving and now consistent Le An Guan, Chas Dean and newcomer Ryan Arch.



The only slip up for the champions elect has been a 5 - 5 draw with Kingfisher 'K' when neither Bob nor Kevin was playing. Le An Guan stepped in with a vital treble, however, to continue the unbeaten record.

The runner-up spot and automatic promotion is a 4 team race with just one point separating them! After a fabulous post-Christmas run, **Polish 'D'** must be firm favourites to take it. They have stormed up the table recently enjoying wins over Springfield 'D' (10 - 0), Kingfisher 'L' (7 - 3), Sonning C&P 'G' (8 - 2) and rivals Pangbourne WMC 'B' (8 - 2), not to mention a great 5 - 5 draw with a Tilehurst Meths team containing both Bob and Le An.

Polish success has coincided with the registration of Stephen Yon who has made the N<sup>o</sup>. 3 spot his own; Simon Ward has continued with his winning ways and Grant Wheatley has suddenly become the player to beat in this Division.

Still in with a chance of promotion are both OLOP 'K' and Pangbourne WMC 'B'. **OLOP** don't seem to be able to find a level of consistency and continue to drop silly points. By way of example, Berks Sports managed to snatch a point after fighting back from 5-2 down against the high flyers from OLOP.

By contrast, **Pangbourne WMC** have remained consistent throughout with John Taylor and Geoff Chivers both enjoying highly satisfactory seasons. However, the third player has been the issue with tougher matches being drawn or narrowly lost, resulting in points slipping away and ground lost to Polish 'D'.

The fourth team in the promotion shake-up is the team of youngsters from **Kingfisher 'L'**. In my last report I predicted great things for this team but they haven't quite fulfilled their mid-season promise and now look, at best, second favourites for the second promotion spot. A recent example of dropped points was the all-

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilehurst Meths 'D'	15	13	2	0	114	36	28
OLOP (Impact) 'K'	15	10	2	3	100	50	22
Polish 'D'	15	10	2	3	96	54	22
Pangbourne 'B'	14	10	1	3	85	55	21
Kingfisher 'L' *	15	9	3	3	95	55	21
Birch Copse 'B'	15	6	3	6	79	71	15
BBC Club	15	7	0	8	73	77	14
Kingfisher 'K'	15	5	3	7	72	78	13
Springfield 'C'	15	4	1	10	49	101	9
Springfield 'D'	16	3	2	11	53	107	8
Berks Sports 'B'	15	1	2	12	47	102	4
Sonning C&P 'G'	13	0	1	12	26	104	1

Kingfisher draw when Nadine Randall secured a vital treble for the 'K' team to earn a point.

In mid-table security and, probably, way beyond their expectations at the start of the season, lie **BBC Club**. As mentioned in these reports numerous times, this team could field a winning threesome against any Division 6 opposition if it chose to but selection is made from a large number of available players and the playing abilities vary dramatically. Mention should go to Chris Grzybowski who has lost only once thus far and leads the division's averages.

Just ahead of BBC Club are **Birch Copse 'B'**. Solid recent performances from Mel Griffiths and, in particular, Bradley Fullbrook, have earned them wins against Springfield 'D' and Berks Sports as well as excellent draws against OLOP 'K' and Pangbourne 'B'.

Well above the danger zone lie **Kingfisher 'K'** with five wins and three draws, of which the most satisfying must have been Week 17's draw with leaders Tilehurst Meths. As reported last time round, the form of Nadine Randall has been terrific and only 6 defeats in 39 contests speaks for itself.

At the bottom end of the table, the **Springfield** teams continue to struggle. A little surprisingly, the experienced combination of Ray Morrell, Jeff Morgan and Alan Glenny, supported by Bob Sibun and Peter Greatorex, are not registering the wins one would normally expect. By contrast, the Springfield 'C' newcomers, Paul Jenkins and Tim Carr, are starting to show a little bit of form after a dire start to the season. An excellent 6 - 4 win over Sonning was an example of this. A 5 - 5 draw between the teams was probably a result to be expected keeping Springfield 'C' just a single point ahead of their rivals and clubmates.

Below the Springfields come Berks Sports and Sonning C&P 'G'. Regardless of the remainder of the season, surely **Berks Sports** will remember 2009/10 for the incredible point gained at home to OLOP 'K'. Although all three Berks Sports players managed wins over Jade Fudge, the draw required further victories for Dave West over Daniel Thorne and Derek Somerville over one of the division's leading players in Manish Vaidya. Sue Brownhill could have made it an even more special night but lost 11-9 in the fifth set to Daniel Thorne after being 2-0 up.

Last, but not least, come **Sonning C&P 'G'** who still haven't quite caught up with their missed fixtures earlier in the season and who have earned just a single point to date. Mention though to new signing Andrew Alexandra who won a first rate treble in the

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Kevin Harrop	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	23	22	95.65
Amol Karve	OLOP (Impact) 'K'	18	17	94.44
Chris Grzybowski	BBC Club	18	17	94.44
Bob Winter	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	31	28	90.32
John Burke	Springfield 'C'	18	16	88.89
Nadine Randall	Kingfisher 'K'	39	33	84.62
Geoff Chivers	Pangbourne WMC 'B'	33	27	81.82
John Taylor	Pangbourne WMC 'B'	38	31	81.58
Le An Guan	Tilehurst Meths 'D'	40	32	80
Grant Wheatley	Polish 'D'	29	23	79.31
George Dodd	Kingfisher 'L' *	33	26	78.79
John Scott	BBC Club	18	14	77.78
Tony Lee-White	OLOP (Impact) 'K'	18	14	77.78
Simon Ward	Polish 'D'	34	26	76.47
Stephen Yon	BBC Club	15	11	73.33
Adam McTiernan	OLOP (Impact) 'K'	17	12	70.59
Phil Peat	BBC Club	27	19	70.37
Michael Houghton	Kingfisher 'L' *	30	21	70

away fixture versus Springfield 'C', including a fifth set victory over Paul Jenkins. With games in hand, this side can lift itself off the bottom by repeating this sort of form.

My next report will be at the season's end following the climax

to the promotion showdown. It just remains for me to wish all the players in Division 6 an enjoyable and successful end to the season.

Duncan Groves (DFS Div 6)

# John Cunningham Youth League

by Steve Ricks

Only three matches have been played in the youth league since the last newsletter. The teams are now split into two divisions, which should even things up a bit.

The big news in Division 1 is that **OLOP Strikers** are not on top of the league! By virtue of the fact that they have played one game more, **SCP Thunderbolts** sit on top of the pile. They were gifted 2 points by Trojans not turning up, then had a relatively easy 5 - 1 win over Hammers, but were slowed down by their clubmates Lions and had to share the points in a 2 - 2 draw. That one point is enough to keep them just above Strikers.

**Strikers** are currently in second place, having won 3 - 1 versus Trojans and 5 - 0 against Hammers. Hanson Xu and Danny Ricks have both yet to be beaten, though Daniel Thorne lost one to Gus Thomis.

**Tigers** are in third place at the moment, having beaten Hammers 5 - 0 then shared the points with Thunderbolts. Jon Abbott and Danny Dockree are causing most of the damage for this team and when they both play well will be difficult for many of the teams to beat.

**OLOP Hammers** will find the going tough at this level. To date they have gone down 5 - 0 twice and 5 - 1 once. Although not currently bottom of the league it's difficult to see where Hammers will pick up any points in this half of the season.

**OLOP Trojans** are currently bottom of the league; however they have only played two games and these were against Thunderbolts and Strikers, currently the top two. Gus Thomis is the mainstay of their team and if he plays

consistently well and Thomas Burrow can contribute a few they should steer clear of the bottom.

In Division 2 **SCP Avengers** are currently on top being unbeaten in their three games so far. A walkover against Gladiators was followed by a 5 - 0 Thrashing of OLOP Lions, then a 4 - 1 win over SCP Spartans. Aneith Singh is so far unbeaten and Elliot Whittingham is contributing well too.

**OLOP Eagles** are second, having thrashed Spartans 5 - 0 and an understrength Attackers 3 - 2. They then lost a tight match against OLOP Panthers 3 - 2.

**SCP Raiders** are third after a 3 - 2 win over Lions, a 2 - 3 defeat to Spartans then being gifted 2 points against Attackers who only turned up with one player. Marcus Pike is their strongest player so far having won the majority of his games.

Once again **OLOP Attackers** are suffering from not fielding a full team every week. If they had a full side out every week they would probably win Division 2 fairly comfortably. As it is, one player turning up on their own cannot win a match no matter how well they play and this has happened in 2 out of their 3 matches so far. A good team performance saw them win the game against OLOP Panthers 3 - 2. Siad Cole won one of his two games, Sam Ricks won his and remains unbeaten so far. Sam and Austin then combined to win a tight doubles game.

**SCP Spartans** are the next team on two points. They were thrashed 5 - 0 By OLOP Eagles, then gifted two points by Raiders only turning up with one player, then beaten 4 - 1 by league leaders Avengers. They are finding the going tough though Alex Attree has won a couple of his games.

**OLOP Panthers** have struggled for the majority of the season with player availability, are languishing near the foot of the table and yet have Fiona Taylor unbeaten on top of the averages. In the match they recently won against Eagles, Jade won for the first time in this half of the season and with Fiona winning her two it was enough for them to take the match narrowly 3 - 2.

**OLOP Lions** are still struggling to find their first win, but I'm sure if Chris and Lorcan keep plugging away it will come.

## AVERAGES

	%
H Xu	100
D Ricks	100
D Thorne	80
J Abbott	80
G Thurlow	75
R Stacey	67
M Sweetman	67
<b>DIV 2:</b>	
F Taylor	100
S Ricks	100
A Singh	100
T Savage	80
M Pike	75
E Whittingham	67



DIV 1:	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
SCP Thunderbolts	3	2	0	1	12	3	5
OLOP Strikers	2	2	0	0	8	1	4
SCP Tigers	2	1	0	1	10	3	3
OLOP Hammers	3	0	3	0	1	15	0
OLOP Trojans	2	0	2	0	1	8	0
<b>DIV 2:</b>							
SCP Avengers	3	3	0	0	14	1	6
OLOP Eagles	3	2	1	0	10	5	4
SCP Raiders	3	2	1	0	8	7	4
OLOP Attackers	3	1	2	0	7	8	2
SCP Spartans	3	1	2	0	4	11	2
OLOP Panthers	3	1	2	0	7	8	2
OLOP Lions	2	0	2	0	2	8	0