

READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



50 PHOTOGRAPHS OF
READING PLAYERS

Editor: Derek Wavell

November 2010

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Is Everybody Happy?

We've had a few matches, and perhaps we can now see the shape of the task ahead. If not, let the wisdom of our divisional secretaries light up the scene!

And we have more than 50 colour photographs for you. Half of them show last year's stars picking up their trophies at the awards ceremony. The other half are dramatic action shots taken by Didier Garçon, who has captured the efforts and cunning, the joys and the pain of the masters who practise our beautiful game. Among them is a sprinkle of high-flying juniors who are now appearing on the senior scene. Didier took all his pictures at the final of the Kingfisher Grand Prix Tournament, in August - and we thank him for sharing them with us.

Usually the Laws of table tennis don't change much, but this season there are several new requirements, and John Freeman has written with the details.

What are Nick's two ideas? Both are things we can do.

Finally, advance warning of a difficulty ahead for some teams. In 2011, Monday 3rd January will be a public holiday. If you are down for a match on that day, it might be an idea to check whether both teams can play or not - and if not, fix another day well in advance.

Have a great season,

Derek



Announcements from our Chairman, Nigel Maltby



- 1. Individual Handicap Competition** - This season's event will take place on **Sunday 2nd January 2011** at the **Kingfisher Club**. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the website or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Nigel at 27 Geoffreyson Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8HS by the closing date of Friday 24th December.
- 2. Reading Closed Championships** - Entry forms will be available on the website shortly and a supply will also be sent to club secretaries. The championships will be staged over the weekend of the **12th & 13th February 2011 at the Cippenham Club in Slough**. Please do try to support this worthwhile event. Entry is free, so do please try and enter.
- 3. IMPACT Challenge Shield** - This competition is by invitation only from teams competing in Divisions 1 or 2. The draw for the 1st Round has been made with 1st Round matches due to be played during the week commencing Monday 25th October 2010. The draw for the 1st Round is:
YMCA 'A' v OLOP 'A'
Kingfisher 'C' v Tidmarsh 'B'
Kingfisher 'E' v Polish 'B'
Kingfisher 'A' v YMCA 'B'
OLOP 'C' v Kingfisher 'D'
Polish 'A' v Kingfisher 'B'
Tidmarsh 'A' v SC&P 'A'
OLOP 'B' v Sonning Sports 'A':

Tie of the round is YMCA 'A' v OLOP 'A'. Kingfisher 'A' have already defeated YMCA 'B' to move into the next round, while Kingfisher 'C' have received a walkover against Tidmarsh 'B'.
- 4. Berkshire Intertown** - Andy Stephens has again volunteered to organise Reading's entry. Anyone interested in playing can contact Andy on 9452054.
- 5.** Finally I hope everyone is enjoying their table tennis this year. We are a number of teams down on the previous season but hopefully that will not detract from what should be a very interesting season from top to bottom. Kingfisher 'A' look like they will be pushed hard this year by YMCA 'A' and OLOP 'A' in Division 1. In Division 2 both Sonning Common sides have started well, as have Curzon Club 'A' and OLOP 'E'. In Division 3 it is looking good for Post Office 'B' as they bid for a swift return to Division 2, while Tidmarsh 'D' and OLOP 'G' are also flying at this stage. St Laurence Church are looking strong in Division 4 while Milestone 'A' will be keen to bounce back following their relegation last season. Our Lady of Peace 'H' and Birch Copse 'A' look the most likely promotion candidates in Division 5, but don't write off Polish 'D', Tilehurst 'C' or Post Office 'C' just yet. In Division 6 Kingfisher 'J', Springfield 'D' and Polish 'E' have all made good starts.

HISTORY CORNER

From Australia, Andy Blake sent in this photo, taken at the Golden Jubilee Festival, 1973, at Southlands School. It shows Andy himself, Chester Barnes, Trevor Taylor, our former president Harold Larcombe, and our current President John Freeman.



R&DTTA Awards For 2009-2010

On 11th May this year, the Reading Association's President, John Freeman, presented our annual awards at the Curzon Club premises. Many of the photos which appear later in this Newsletter were taken at that event. Nigel Maltby, our Chairman, announced the prize-winners.

NB - [blue links](#) show page N° of photo.

LIST OF AWARDS:

READING CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS WINNERS:

- Mens Singles **Hari Gehlot** [P3](#), [P9](#)
 Ladies Singles: **Maria Tsaptsinos** [P3](#)
 Mens Doubles: **Daniel Moses & Ramesh Gehlot**
 Ladies Doubles: **Dian Taylor & Maria Tsaptsinos**
 Mixed Doubles **Daniel Moses & Wendy Porter** [P4](#), [P14](#)
 U21 Singles **Daniel Moses** [P4](#), [P10](#)
 U18 Girls Singles **Maria Tsaptsinos** [P3](#)



ALAN DINES RECEIVES HIS ETTA MERIT AWARD
PRESENTATION BY JOHN FREEMAN



HARI GEHLOT - WINNER OF READING
CLOSED AND MANY OTHERS

- U18 Boys Singles **Daniel Moses** [P4](#), [P10](#)
 U15 Boys Singles **Daniel McTiernan** [P5](#), [P12](#)
 U13 Boys Singles **Daniel McTiernan** [P5](#)
 U13 Girls Singles **Maria Tsaptsinos** [P3](#)
 U11 Girls Singles **Jemma Stephens** [P4](#)
 U11 Boys Singles **Jonathan Abbott** [P20](#)
 Boys Doubles **Daniel McTiernan & Hanson Xu**
 Veteran Singles: **Hari Gehlot** [P3](#), [P9](#)
 Senior Vet Singles: **Mike Dorrington** [P18](#)
 Div 1 restricted: **Ramesh Gehlot**
 Division 2 **Eric Van Looy** [P11](#)
 Division 3 **Daniel McTiernan** [P5](#)
 Division 4 **Steve Purchase** [P18](#)
 Division 5 **Alistair Richardson** [P4](#)
 Division 6 **Amol Karve**



MARIA TSAPTSINOS - WINNER OF
LADIES SINGLES AND MANY OTHERS



DIV 2 RUNNERS UP: TIDMARSH 'B' -
NESTOR CERON, BARRY CARTER & ANDY STEPHENS

CHAMPION TEAMS OF THE SEASON

- Division 1 Champions: **Kingfisher 'A'**
 Runners-up: **OLOP 'A'**
 Division 2 Champions: **Kingfisher 'C'**
 Runners-up: **Tidmarsh 'B'** [P3](#)
 Division 3 Champions: **Tidmarsh 'C'** [P15](#)
 Runners-up: **OLOP 'F'**
 Division 4 Champions: **OLOP 'H'**
 Runners-up: **Springfield 'A'**



DANIEL MOSES - WINNER OF U18 BOYS SINGLES & MUCH ELSE



U11 WINNER JEMMA STEPHENS



READING CLOSED DIV 5 WINNER - ALISTAIR RICHARDSON



RDTTA CHAIRMAN AND INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP RUNNER UP - NIGEL MALTBY

Division 5 Champions: **Tilehurst Methodists 'C'** [P5](#)

Runners-up: **Sonning C & P 'F'** [P5](#)

Division 6 Champions: **Tilehurst Methodists 'D'** [P22](#)

Runners-up: **Polish 'D'** [P21](#)

Youth Div 1 winners: **OLOP Strikers**

Runners-up: **Sonning C & P Tigers**

Youth Div 2 Winners: **Sonning C & P Avengers**

Runners-up: **OLOP Eagles**

John Freeman Trophy Winner: **Cliff Putterford**

IMPACT Challenge Shield Winners: **Kingfisher 'A'**

Runners-up: **OLOP 'A'**



LIAM McTIERNAN, WINNER OF THE INDIVIDUAL HANDICAP AND MUCH ELSE



DIV 5 CHAMPIONS: TILEHURST METHODISTS 'C'
CHRIS TAYLOR AND MARTIN WETHERELL



TEAM HANDICAP WINNERS: OLOP STRIKERS
ADAM, LIAM AND DANIEL McTIERNAN



DIV 5 RUNNERS-UP: TILEHURST S C & P 'F' -
DEREK WAVELL AND JACEK KRZYZANOWSKI



DANIEL McTIERNAN - BEST JUNIOR PERFORMANCE
& MEGAN KNOWLES - MOST IMPROVED JUNIOR

Team Handicap Winners

Runners-up:

Lower Divisions Knockout winners:

Runners-up:

Individual Handicap Winner

Runner-up:

Reading Senior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Junior Masters Winner:

Runner-up:

Reading Chronicle Trophy Winner:

Standard Cup for the Most Improved Junior:

Best Junior Performance:

Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award: Dave Smith [P5](#)

ETTA Merit Award:

OLOP Strikers [P5](#)

OLOP Thunderbolts

Reading Resource

Sonning C & P 'F' [P5](#)

Liam McTiernan [P4](#), [P12](#)

Nigel Maltby [P4](#)

Hari Gehlot [P3](#), [P9](#)

Liam McTiernan [P4](#), [P26](#)

Hanson Xu

Danny Ricks

Jeremy Willis [P5](#)

Megan Knowles [P5](#), [P11](#)

Daniel McTiernan [P5](#), [P12](#)

READING CHRONICLE TROPHY
WINNER: JEREMY WILLIS



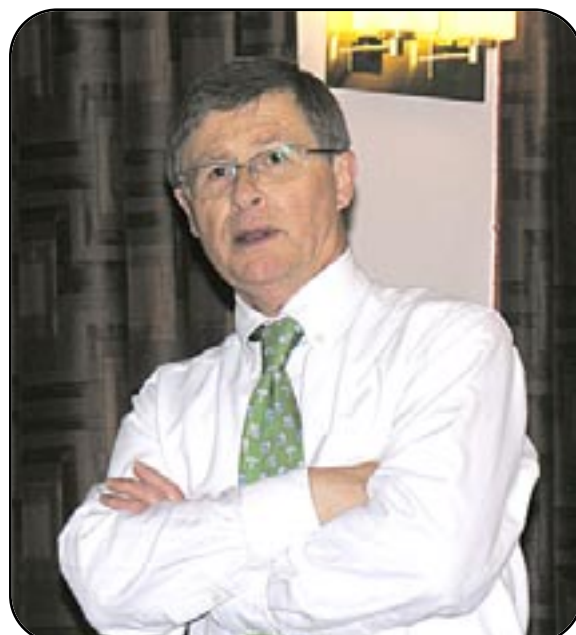
HAROLD LARCOMBE
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD -
DAVE SMITH

**IMPORTANT NOTE FROM TROPHY SECRETARY,
PAUL TREADGOLD:**

The following trophies are still awaiting collection:

Under 11 girls	Grace Gardiner
Mens Singles Runner Up	Martin Chodounsky
Div 1 Restricted Runner Up	Steve Murgatroyd
Div 2 Winner	Eric Van- Looy
Div 4 Winner	Daniel Grover

I can be contacted on **0118 9831003** or **07816 759099** to make arrangements for them to be picked up



TROPHY SECRETARY: PAUL TREADGOLD

The New Law Changes - Details from John Freeman

There are very important changes to the ETTA "Approved Laws" of the Game which came into force on 1st September 2010.

Changes to the ITTF Laws which apply all over the world are:

1. A player shall score a point if an opponent deliberately strikes the ball twice successively.

Note: So e.g. if a ball strikes a thumb and cannons onto the bat accidentally that will no longer result in a point to the opponent.

2. The expedite system shall not be introduced in a game if at least 18 points have been scored.

Note: Previously not if each player or pair had scored at least 9 points. The effect of this is that expedite cannot be introduced if the score has reached 10-8 (as well as 9-all).

The recent ETTA AGM decided (as a matter of interest, by 0.094 of a vote) that our "Approved Law"* should divert from the ITTF Laws and these changes apply, as well as the ITTF changes, to all "Competitive Table Tennis" (as defined) played under the jurisdiction of the ETTA. In addition to the long standing requirement to play with an approved ball the following changes were made:

1. A racket shall not be changed during an individual match unless it is accidentally damaged so badly that it cannot be used.

2. The racket covering shall be of a brand and type currently authorised by the ITTF.

3. The list of authorised racket coverings valid from 1st January to 30th June shall be circulated to all Affiliated Organisations and Organisations in Good Standing not later than the preceding 15th November; the list valid from 1st July to 31st December shall be circulated not later than the preceding 15th May.

Notes: (i) It can be seen that the ITTF list changes twice a year and that about 6 weeks notice will be given. (ii) It should be noted that a covering valid up to 31st December may not be valid from the 1st January in the current playing season. (iii) Many players will find that bats with coverings that have been used for many years will no longer be legal. A bat cannot be used with an illegal covering on both sides, and if a ball is struck with an illegal covering a point has to be awarded to the opponent.



R I P Ken Banham

Just in case you hadn't heard the news - Ken Banham sadly passed away on the 15th Oct. at the Duchess of Kent House hospice. We send our condolences to his family.

Ken was involved in Reading Table Tennis League for many many years as captain and keen member of many teams at KingFisher, Post Office, Telecoms and OLOP and even doing coaching work.

Team Handicap Competition 2009-10

organised by Duncan Abbott

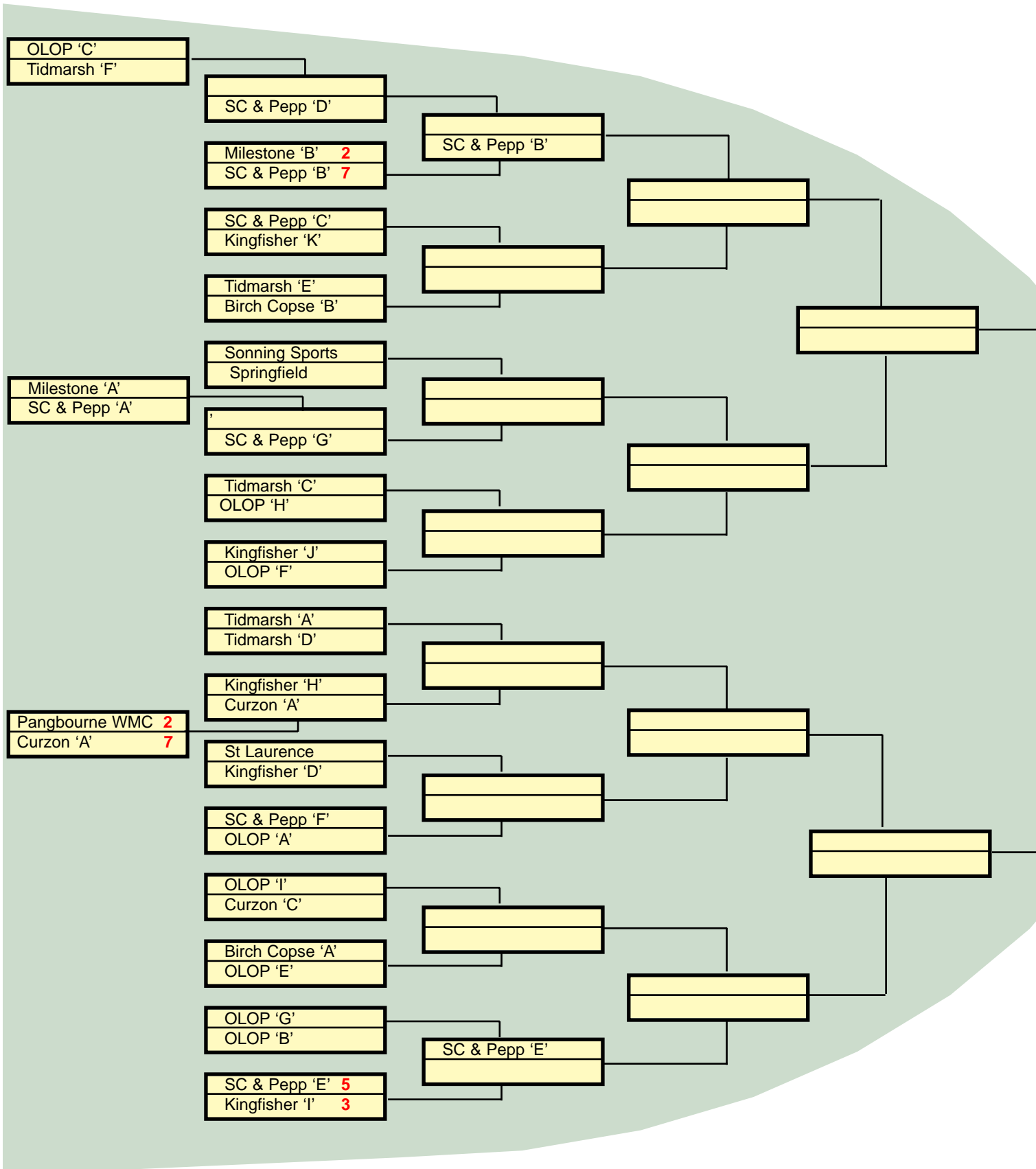
By 29 Oct 2010
Round 1

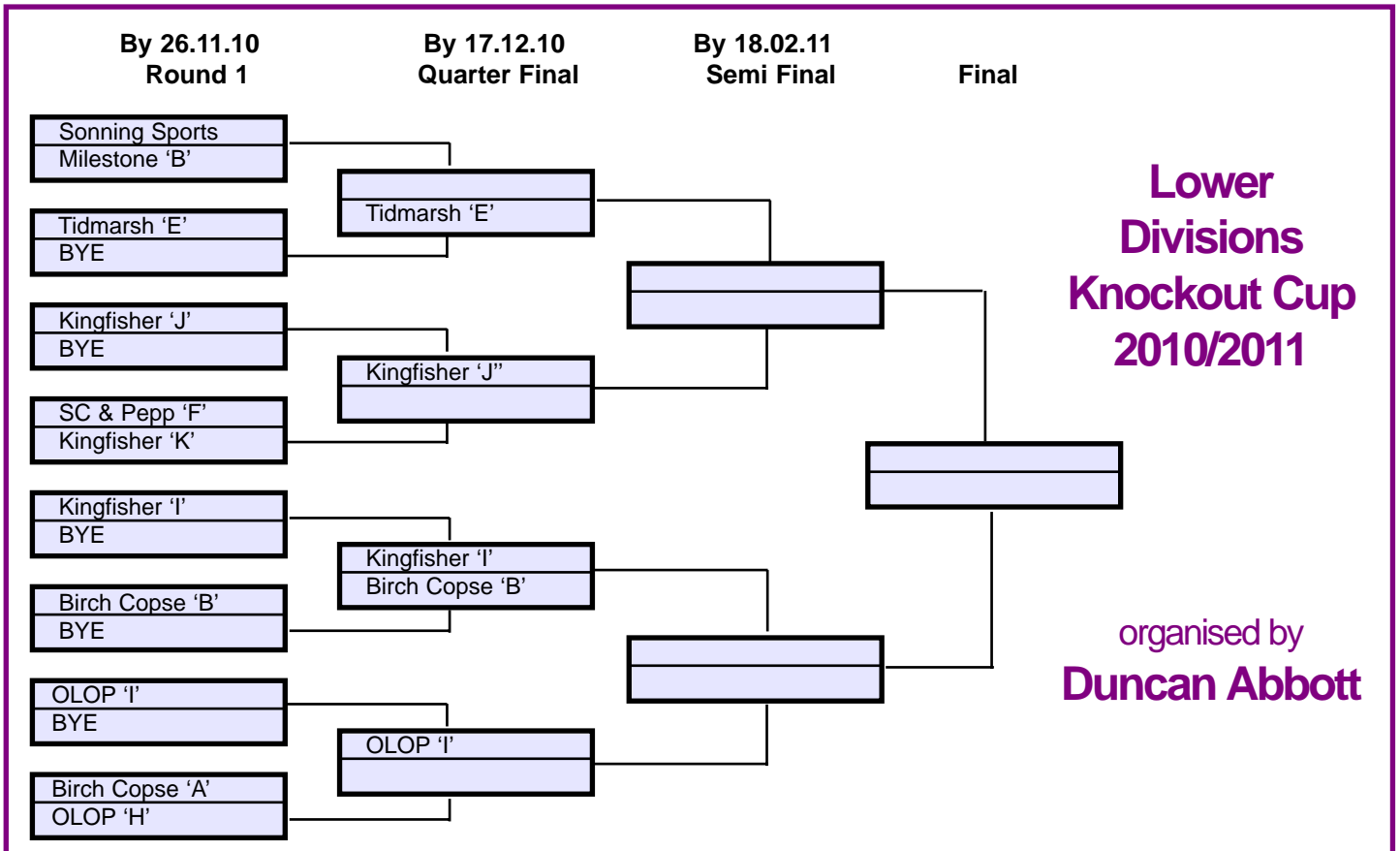
By 26 Nov 2010
Round 2

By 17 Dec 2010
Round 3

By 18 Feb 2011
Quarter Final

Semi-Final





TWO IDEAS FROM NICK HEAPS

Finding the right combination of table tennis blade and rubbers can be a slow and expensive task. For most of us, the only options are to try out every bat we can get our hands on or spend vast sums of money with the table tennis suppliers. Even then, we find we have wasted money because many products are just not suitable to our style of play. On Monday and Tuesday, 13th and 14th December, all **Reading League players are invited to the Polish Club to test and sort out their equipment preferences from a variety of table tennis technologies and products:**

47 different blades: defensive, allround and offensive, in combinations of hard and soft wood (5 ply and 7ply), balsa and carbon; these are all branded products from Joola, Stiga, Tibhar, Cornilleau, TSP, Neubauer etc.

93 different table tennis rubbers in categories such as speed glue effect, aggressive attack, power spin attack, controlled spin or defensive. The technologies cover reversed, anti-spin, short and long pimples. All ITTF approved rubbers, these are from manufacturers such as Joola, Haifu, Stiga, Yasaka, Tibhar, Air, Milky Way, Cornilleau, TSP, Neubauer, Friendship and Winning. To evaluate the most appropriate equipment for your game, you will be able to select any combination of blade and rubber, then practise on one of three tables.

If you are unable to attend on December 13th / 14th, but would like to know more, please **contact Nick Heaps on 0790 969 1965 or nick.heaps@hotmail.co.uk**



DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

Here we go again then. My, how the years just fly by. So, did you all have a good summer? Mine was rather hectic. Had great plans to practise hard and get myself fighting fit for the new season but it was never going to work whilst bringing the latest addition to the Banks household into the world. For those who are interested, Jacob Banks is now 5 months old and has already taken a leg off Ramesh. On the table, this season has seen the emergence of some new friends - welcome to Tidmarsh 'B' and it's also nice to see the re-emergence of some old ones coming back to the party - New Look KFB & Finger Lickin' KFC. Win, lose or draw I hope you all have a great time. Talking of old friends a very special mention to Tidmarsh 'B's "SQUIRREL" !!!!!!! Once again we have a competition where Adams, Banks & Squirrel are all competing. Get In! All we need now is Keith Langley to walk through the door and we'd have the full set! Great to see you Squirrel, quality cadet & junior and you're still playing well today by all accounts. Back to the action then and as I've said before, nobody looks at the league table until Christmas (Right Graham?) but if you were to take a quick peek you'd see that perhaps for the first time in what? 4 or 5 years we could have a massive 4 (that's right 4) way battle for the title. Exciting times hey! At the bottom dare I say the writing is already very much on the wall for the two nil pointers. They'll be heartened by the fact that we still have a long way to go, marathon not a sprint etc. but will need to find those elusive first points and fast. Finally I WAS going to mention here that despite years of joking and second guessing my age - yep, it's official Mark Banks has finally reached the dreaded Veteran status. But seeing as every one of you g1ts seems to know already - I think I'll give it a miss thank you very much! Have a great season everybody! Me? I'm off to get some pre-Christmas bargains in before Andy Yon and his best friend the humble supermarket trolley get in there first.



from the extra practice over the summer and is pretty much back to his best. Those unexpected losses are now nowhere to be seen and he's back and dangerous for sure.

Andy Misseldine returns to the YM Club after a year out and brings his awkward spinny and highly effective game to the table. Clearly in good form and he will also be there or thereabouts in the averages come the end. And what can we say that hasn't already been said about Bob Davis? You can tell he's enthusiastic about this year's chances because he's started writing me pretty lengthy match reports after each game! He never used to do that when Streak was in the side! Ha Ha - that's twice. He's clearly enjoying it though - enjoying it enough to say sorry after a net? Nah, obviously not THAT much but playing exceptionally well again is Bob and the four of them together are of course potential champions. Already lost to Polish though and whether they will be able to handle the pressure when the other squeaky bum games come around is another matter.

M.V.P. Martin Chodounsky - Czech Mate

Current champions and (unlike YMCA 'A' ha ha!) still unbeaten are the very fine **Kingfisher 'A'**. OK, so let's face it, the loss of Munson & Hegedus and the fact that new babyies and hitting 40 do nothing for your game, we're obviously not quite as fine as we were before but we do have Hari G. And if anybody was in any doubt as to how well he's playing - just ask Neil Hurford. Good player is Neil, and you don't see this very often but even he gave Hari a



HARI GEHLOT (photo by Didier Garçon)

Love & Peace

Mark x

Six games in then and purely (not that I'm bitter or anything) by virtue of playing at least one more match than their main rivals, the table is proudly headed by none other than **YMCA 'A'**. I think it's no coincidence that ever since Streaky was relegated to 'B', the form of this team has really taken off! Ha Ha. JOKE. It's a joke of course David! It's also no coincidence that at least 50% of this lot were practising down the Kingfisher Club all summer. Yep, that's the sportsmen that we are down at Kingfisher, we're happy to help even our closest rivals up their games in the spirit of good competition. Star man Chodounsky continues to set the Division alight. Only the formidable Adams and Gehlot (er, not Ramesh) have lowered the Czech's colours and he'll definitely be in the 90% range come the close of play for sure. Tony is one man who seems to have benefited

round of applause at the end of their particular game - so amazingly perfect was Hari's performance. Ramesh spent much of the summer on hols in India and by the look of him certainly enjoyed the fabulous cuisine that was on offer to him over there. Playing well is the cuddly one however but for me the best bit this season was when he had a brand new £50 Tenergy rubber on (that incidentally he hadn't even paid for) and within 5 minutes of knocking he'd gone for one of those crazy impossible Ramesh shots (you know the ones) and caught the table and subsequently put a

massive tear in it. WAP! Let's just say that he wasn't exactly the happiest of Ramesh's that night! Even less happy was Hari who's now blown his chance of ever getting the nifty for the now defunct rubber off his younger brother! Elsewhere, a good bit of business over the summer meant that we got 'The Kid' on a free from King B. Big reputation and a quality player on his day. His performances probably more than any of the rest of us this season will be key if we are to retain our title. His vital win over



'THE KID' - STUART WILLIAMS *

Reynolds coupled with a great doubles saved us at YM. Can we do it again? Yes? Will we do it again? Yes! (OK, OK, I'll downgrade that to a maybe!).

M.V.P. Hari Gehlot - Arrrrreeeeeeee

Not a season goes by without a hot topic for debate and it seems this year that, that particular honour falls to **OLOP 'A'** and the OLOP Club. By the way, I know there are bigger tickets than this particular show but could they have slipped Liam into this team and said off you go son? Just play 6 or so matches this season against the top 3 sides (by the way he's played 4 already in the first 6 weeks for OLOP 'B') for us and we'll give ourselves a fantasy of taking the title. Sadly we'll never know but even without Liam's services this team are flying high. One young man in particular has raised his athletic and entertaining game to new levels and with his new found maturity is a pleasure to play and watch.



DANIEL MOSES - WINNER OF THE KINGFISHER GRAND PRIX *

Enter the very talented, the new and improved pizza loving Daniel Moses. Blimey, his photo is in the papers more than Wayne Rooney's! 90% + this season is a shoo-in and it's great to see - especially after the end of last season where he seemed to have become a bit disillusioned with the game. Norman Swift is a newcomer to the Reading league and has already showed what a very capable player he is and to date has played an excellent supporting role to Daniel. We haven't

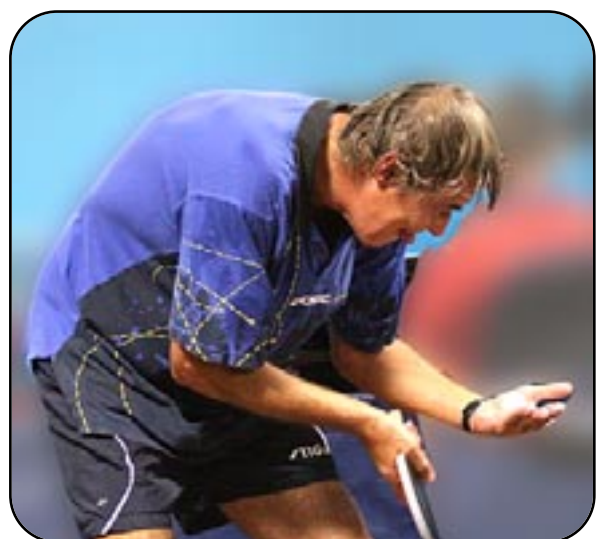
seen too much of the Basingstoke boys so far this term. Probably not a bad thing 'cos quite what Murgy has been up to all summer I do not know. He's playing worse than me! Ian Cole's been doing well though and let's not forget that they are still unbeaten and would have a perfect 100% but for a relatively surprising draw with Streak & co. Probably one decent player short (OK, Mark you've said your piece) of mounting a real challenge but they're enjoy-

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Reading YMCA 'A'	6	4	1	1	47	13	9
Kingfisher 'A'	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
OLOP 'A'	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Polish 'A'	4	2	2	0	23	17	6
Kingfisher 'B'	5	2	2	1	29	21	6
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Polish 'B'	6	2	2	2	25	35	6
OLOP 'C'	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Reading YMCA 'B'	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
OLOP 'B'	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
Kingfisher 'C'	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
Tidmarsh 'B'	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

ing being up there and long may it continue (but not that long!).

M.V.P. Daniel "Chop Chop" Moses. Loves Dominos Two for Tuesday nights. Eats them both!

I said it was a 4 way challenge and the 4th team in that particular equation are old foes **Polish 'A'**. So he may have taken a bit of an extended break from the game but unlike certain other players he just gets straight back into the good old Martin Adams groove and just when you thought that maybe, just maybe his crown was there for the taking he goes and stamps his authority once again on this League. Pure genius/quality and all those other better adjectives that far better educated people (like Nicky Heaps for example) than I can come up with. He was instrumental in ensuring that his side edged out new pretenders YM 'A' by 6 to 4 and they're gonna need him to play all the big ones and hope that Steve Dobbins can pick up at least 2 if they are to take the title this season. Sadly for us Derek Wood has now moved out of the area up north somewhere - you wouldn't think it though with the amount of text messages I still get from him however - see you on the Vets circuit buddy and Nicky has been concentrating and is really enjoying giving something back to the game on the coaching front. Business has kept Richard away from the table for much of this season and new signing Steve Preston has



NICK HEAPS (photo by Didier Garçon)



LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Eric Van-Looy	Kingfisher 'B'	9	9	100
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	9	9	100
Marco Essomba	Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	6	6	100
Hari Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	15	14	93.33
Daniel Moses	OLOP 'A'	12	11	91.67
Martin Chodounsky	Reading YMCA 'A'	15	13	86.67
Liam McTiernan	OLOP 'B'	12	10	83.33
Bob Davis	Reading YMCA 'A'	12	10	83.33
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	9	7	77.78
Andy Misseldine	Reading YMCA 'A'	12	9	75
Norman Swift	OLOP 'A'	12	9	75
Tony Reynolds	Reading YMCA 'A'	15	11	73.33
Neil Hurford	Reading YMCA 'B'	18	12	66.67

found it relatively tough going making the step up but expect him to improve as the season goes on. Clearly looking at the YM result they have a real chance, if Martin plays, of doing some damage this term. Will it be enough to see them to the title - perhaps not but always dangerous and you just never know.

M.V.P. Martin Adams - Still top dog and will be as pleased as anybody to see Squirrel back

One team who have been a revelation this season are another fresh new looking side **Kingfisher 'B'**. Proving that you CAN make the jump from Div 2 and stay there! Practice is certainly starting to pay off for one member of this team. International Korf Ball star Eric Van Looy is, as I go to press, still on 100%!! No pressure then buddy. I'll be



ERIC VAN LOOY (photo by Didier Garçon)

honest with you - nobody is at the Kingfisher club more than Eric these days. And you thought the Gehlots practised a lot! Wow! He's up there more than the cat. The mixture of the youth and not so youthful really seems to work in this team. Step forward Megan Knowles who already has some fantastic victories under her belt and no doubt there will be some more to come. Never more notably so than when taking out seasoned campaigner Norman Swift to "oh so nearly" give her team a point against OLOP 'A'. Smashing stuff and like Eric the hard work is really starting to pay off. You always know what you're gonna get with Cliff, Geoff & Colin and what I've always liked about this team is that there's a real sense of camaraderie and a real desire to achieve the

very best that they can. Will comfortably finish mid table and may pull off one or two surprises along the way. Not to be under estimated.

M.V.P. Eric Van Looy - Firmly part of the Kingfisher furniture - no doubt about it.

Surely the best signing (re-signing) of the season has to go to **Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'** and the spectacular re-addition of Marco Essomba to the team. He's keen too - even turning out (and no disrespect intended here) against KFC. Obviously still a class player even though he's been off the circuit a few seasons now and no matter how regularly he turns out he won't be losing any at this level - Martin Adams possibly aside. Shame for them at least that Ian Packford hasn't been able to sign up too because with the two of them you'd have to make them favs or 2nd favs for the title but even so Lee, John, Tony & Duncan are more than capable of holding their own up here and they've firmly established themselves as a proper D1 outfit. Not having so much luck on the dog track though unfortunately. Lee's dogs have been picking up more injuries than Ramesh after he loses the first leg but hopefully the luck will change and the readies will be flying out of the bookies satchels once again.

M.V.P. Marco Essomba - Brilliant to have the likes of his calibre in our League. Brilliant!

Nice one **Polish 'B'**! After almost going into liquidation before the start of the season they sign a few new players (and some old ones too), reinvent themselves and then go and get what must be for them one of the most highly satisfying points in their whole history by drawing with big brother Polish 'A'. Fantastic stuff and I'm not just saying that because it did us a favour!! . Talk about coming back from the brink. Captain Graham has been leading from the front. OK so his umpiring technique hasn't improved at all but his play certainly has and his inclusion in the county vetts team will do him no harm at all. Still does the best match reports too in case anybody was wondering and would like it as a benchmark to up their game. Whilst most of us were rejoicing at the fact that a certain Fenwick Prady was on his way back home for good, for Keith Winter it was like losing a favourite pet. Moping around all summer he finally decided that the (ping pong) show must go on and was delighted to have signed for the Poles. Playing well too by all accounts. Somebody else who is playing very well also is Maria Tsapstinos. I saw her having a 1-2-1 session with Gareth Herbert recently and boy is it paying dividends. A lot of



MEGAN KNOWLES

people reading this have never beaten Nicky Heaps in competition - by the way, she has. Super stuff and like Meg Knowles definitely a bright prospect on the Junior Girls scene. From very young to not so very young but somebody who can still win games at this level is Wally Allanson. Great to see him back playing competitively again. Gets some great practice in down at the KF Club on Sunday afternoons with Eric Van Looy & Co. Simon's game still needs some work on it to get back to the level he was a season or two ago but he's still dangerous and has picked up a few decent enough wins. And what of Andy Yon I hear you say? Well, if truth be told he's flying in practice, but is happy to play the role of "Mr Refreshments" at the moment rather than risk his average. Still a great character to have in the camp though and with 'El Supremo' Brian Halliday in their corner too there's much to like about them this season.



ANDY YON *

M.V.P. Graham Diplock - good guy, playing well, absolutely shocking umpire

Next up and also going well are another team with a rather different look about them. **OLOP 'C'**. OK so no Susan Johnson this time around but the old favourites Banham, Morten & Millward are still in there with their glowing sun tans and they've been joined by Steve Smith, Neil "Birdy Boy" Bird and rising young star Daniel McTiernan.

are now enjoying life in D1 without the pressures of a championship challenge. I say without pressures but they just need to keep an eye on things if they're not to be sucked into anything horrible at the wrong end of the table. David Streak continues to play his solid good game. OK, so it wasn't in Reading but he had a great victory recently in the >60 Vets that proves that he's still in tip-top form. Good maximum against OLOP 'C' also. Neil's a good guy too. Effective kinda relentless awkward style but very good player. Took out big Ramesh coming from a long way back in a couple of the legs but as I said earlier could only stand and applaud Hari's almost perfect performance against him. He'll be up there around the 70% mark come the end. Peter's finally been rewarded for his efforts so far with a quick fire double against OLOP 'C'. Nice work sir and they've just made an interesting signing from Oxford way - Anders Markvardsen who comes with a good reputation and will mean that in reality and despite my earlier comment this team will surely be as safe as houses.



A WORD WITH COACH - Alan Dines with wunderkind Daniel McTiernan *

M.V.P. Neil Hurford - Classy

For the first time since I've been doing this I can honestly say that there's absolutely no chance of a Barry Morten team going down. Much of the success so far has been down to Clive & Daniel. Clive was on the big 100% for a while before a few recent defeats and Daniel is making the transition to playing regular D1 incredibly well with some notable victories of his own against seasoned campaigners. 11 years old - What a prospect he is! The others have been doing their bit too and to be ahead of the 'B' team (albeit at this early stage) will no doubt please them immensely. Nice to see and I'm sure the good form will continue.

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

The 2010/11 season sees the very much welcome return of **YMCA 'B'** to Reading Table Tennis after a season or so out in the wilderness. OK let's face it, it's like they've never been away in truth have they. The big 'A' squad has been disassembled and rebuilt and David Streak and his friends

Slightly surprisingly we find **OLOP 'B'** in the lower reaches, however in their first 6 matches they have played ALL of the top 4 and therefore their position is probably false. Leading the way is your friend and mine Liam McTiernan. Probably in the form of his life right now. Let's just say I've known Hari for a long, long time (too long for my liking) and the only other person I've seen do to Hari what Liam did to him - albeit over a couple of legs - was Carl Prean. It was



LIAM MCTIERNAN *



RAPHAEL JACK *

sensational stuff and with performances like that he's clearly (as we all suspect by the way) going places. Ollie Shaw has made a great start to the season too and when the slightly easier matches come along no doubt he'll be shooting up the averages. Raphael Jack has lost his crown of number 1 practiser (is that a word) at Kingfisher to Eric Van Looy but has been quite effective in the matches that he's played and it will be interesting to see if he plays more when Liam's unavailable through other commitments. Mike and Julian are still enjoying things in this side by all accounts. Julian nearly pulled off the shock of this and quite frankly any other season when narrowly losing to Marco Essomba after having a healthy lead. They should be OK this team even without Liam playing as regularly as they'd no doubt like.

M.V.P. Liam Mctiernan - The Facebook Kid

Back in the big time again are **KF 'C'** hoping to improve on their last showing up here and actually there are signs that they may well just do that. Back playing very well again is Johnny Morris. Those dastardly pimples and superb counter hitting style have already brought him some big wins to date. Shame the same can't be said of Everton FC hey buddy. OK, I know they beat Liverpool - but so does every other team these days. Trevor Organ, what can we say. The man with the most unusual style in World let alone League table tennis has already taken out the likes of Murgy this term and is playing very well. Punches the air after every net & edge it's entertaining to play and watch and nobody tries harder to win. Dave Bishop too has picked up some eye-catching victories. Tony Brown for one and Roger Woolven-Allen who has finally and begrudgingly ditched the tightest shorts in the game will be hoping to cause an upset or two along the way if he possibly can. Nil points so far and as we've said before

this League takes no prisoners. I'll be honest with you I can't see them getting enough points to be safe but enjoy it they will and enjoy playing them we will!!

M.V.P. Johnny Morris - He talks to the animals you know

It's going to be a long season was the comment on the last scorecard received from **Tidmarsh 'B'** after their 2nd consecutive 10 nil defeat and to be fair I for one am not going to argue with them. But what an absolute pleasure it is to have Squirrel playing in our Division. Always one of Newbury's top Juniors, and a regular on the county scene, he was pure quality back in the day and was always a tough nut to crack (ha ha. get it?!) just ask Martin Adams. Not quite the player he was but he's still gonna be dangerous so just watch out and if this team are gonna get themselves out of trouble then he's gonna be key to their chances. Andy Stephens has started the season in pretty good nick to be fair. Apart from the last two matches he'd been picking up wins left right and centre and takes their Most Valuable Player to date title. Bazza got off the mark against Polish 'B' but has failed to score since. He'll be hoping to avoid the dreaded double, both Tidmarsh 'B' and Wolverhampton Wanderers being relegated. Doesn't bear thinking about does it buddy!! Need some points and need them quick. But I know what Squirrel can do and if they can take 4 off KFC then they may just have a squeak.

M.V.P. Andy Stephens - Must be playing well to keep Squirrel below him.



TREVOR ORGAN *

***NB - photographs marked with an asterisk are the work of Didier Garçon.**

DIVISION TWO by Barry Carter

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2010/2011 season. I normally take this opportunity to predict the outcome of the division, so here goes for another season. The season promises to be an exciting one with several teams in the mix to be promoted to the happy and joyful land of division one. The candidates are the two Sonning C & P teams, OLOP 'E' and Kingfisher 'D'.

At the moment we have surprise leaders in Curzon Club 'A' but I suspect they might have a blip along the way. At the bottom it is currently looking bleak for both Post Office 'A' and Kingfisher 'F' although both Sonning Sports 'A' and Wokingham 'A' could possibly be drawn into the battle for survival. I have worked hard on the spreadsheet I use over the summer months and now plan to come up with one





“interesting/boring???” player stat for each team per newsletter. I am not sure if it works but I’ll try and see what response I get.

Curzon Club ‘A’ have started the season in spectacular style as they have won four and drawn one of their six matches to date and have half as many points as they mustered in the whole of last season. The new season dawned with a comprehensive 10 - 0 victory over Kingfisher ‘F’. John Walker recorded his first maximum for a couple of years and he was well supported by a returning John Willcocks and Jon Willis. Their only defeat so far came against the much fancied (in my opinion) for promotion Sonning C & P ‘B’ where they lost 6 - 4 despite a brace from Jon Willis. A fine team performance saw them to a crucial 6 - 4 win against previously unbeaten Kingfisher ‘D’. John Willcocks and Mick Maynard both recorded two wins, whilst John Walker had a great win over Lisa Williams 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-9. The third of their three 6 - 4 wins came against another previously unbeaten OLOP ‘E’ team. I happened to be at OLOP that night (well, until about 9:30 anyway) and when I left it was 3 - 3. John Willcocks completed his treble with a surprisingly one-sided 11-6, 11-2, 11-6 victory over Wendy Porter to seal the victory in game ten. The drawn match came against Sonning C & P ‘A’ although they had their chances to win as Jon Willis was 2 - 1 up against Simon Berry and lost whilst they were 2 - 0 up in the doubles and lost 11-9 in the fifth.

Mick Maynard enjoyed good wins over Nigel Maltby and Paul Jarvis. The other match was a routine 6 - 4 over Sonning Sports ‘A’.

Doubles : 50%

Team Stat : Have won the most matches 6 - 4 (3)

Player Stat : Mick Maynard has won both of his matches that have gone to 5.

Sonning C & P ‘A’ find themselves back in division two after their expedition into division one. In their first match they took on Tidmarsh ‘C’ who were two divisions below last season and the experience seemed to tell as they romped to an 8 - 2 victory thanks to three from Nigel Maltby and two each from Andy Turton and Paul Jarvis. Jason Roberts starred in the next match as they won 8 - 2 for the second match running. Nigel lost his 100% record as he lost 11-3, 12-14, 11-7, 10-12, 9-11 to Andrew Walker. Simon Berry had defeated Ray Webb and Simon Hopkins but he too fell to Andrew Walker. The winning run came to end as they drew 5 - 5 at struggling Wokingham ‘A’. Simon had won all three to make it 4 - 4, then Paul defeated Ken Park 11-9, 12-10, 11-1 but Nigel couldn’t beat Brian Chinneck. Simon was the mainstay in their point at Curzon as he won all three, Paul chipped in with a victory over John Walker whilst Nigel’s only success was in partnering Simon to a doubles victory. When was the last time Nigel lost all three in division two? The other match saw them win 10 - 0 against Kingfisher ‘F’ although Simon was taken all the way by a determined Dave Gostelow but eventually ran out a 11-8, 11-7, 5-11, 9-11, 11-9 winner.

Doubles : 80%

Team Stat : Have drawn the most matches (2)

Player Stat : Simon Berry has won all three of his matches that have gone to 5.

OLOP ‘E’ are one of my favourites for promotion and they started the season in fine style with a 7 - 3 victory over Post Office ‘A’ thanks to three from a vastly improved Wendy Porter and two each from Hanson Xu and Andrew Johnson.



WENDY PORTER *

Andrew had a really impressive 11-3, 11-6, 11-9 win over John Simmonds. Andrew turned in another good performance as he won all three in the 7 - 3 win over Wokingham ‘A’. The 11-3, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7 win over Brian Chinneck was particularly impressive. Peter Galea and Pu Zhang made their season debuts as they won one and two games respectively. Their only disappointment so far came in the defeat to Curzon Club ‘A’, Wendy Porter lost her 100% and only beat John Walker. Hanson performed fantastically well in the 11-6, 5-11, 12-10, 11-8 win over Jon Willis. It needed an 11-5, 11-7, 7-11, 7-11, 11-9 win in game ten by Wendy over Dave Duncan to give them a narrow 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher ‘F’, earlier Hanson and Pu had won one each. The best performance of the season came in the 8 - 2 win over Kingfisher ‘D’ as Hanson defeated Niall McGrane 11-6, 11-9, 3-11, 12-10.

Doubles : 60%

Team Stat : Best away record in the division, three wins from three matches

Player Stat : Andrew Johnson has had the most 3 - 1 wins

Sonning C & P ‘B’ have started well and find themselves in fourth spot with three wins and a defeat. They were made to work hard by Kingfisher ‘E’ but finally ran out 6 - 4 winners thanks to three from Keith Swain, two from Malcolm Gregory and the all important one in game ten from Merrill Massey who narrowly defeated Eric Holmes 11-9, 2-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, which gave them the two points. Keith made it six wins from six matches in the 6 - 4 win over Curzon ‘A’ although there was a titanic battle with Jon Willis as he came back from 0 - 2 to win 8-11, 8-11, 11-3, 12-10, 12-10. Unfortunately they had only two players available for the match with Tidmarsh ‘C’ but they still managed to claim a point in a 5 - 5 draw as Keith won all three and Malcolm two.

I haven't received the scorecard from the 7 - 3 win over Sonning Sports 'A'.

Doubles : 50%

Team Stat : Have used the fewest players so far (3)

Player Stat : Malcolm Gregory has had three successive braces

Kingfisher 'D' are fifth with three wins and two defeats. Niall McGrane won all three in the 7 - 3 win over Wokingham 'A' but was well supported by Richard Fifield who won two and Carole Chard. Richard won his first maximum of the season as they triumphed in the first of numerous derby matches as they won 9 - 1 at Kingfisher 'F'. Carole won two as she beat both Dave Gostelow and Tom Cannon. Niall was absent from the team in the 4 - 6 defeat to Curzon 'A'. Richard and Carole both won two again and Lisa Williams seemed unlucky to lose to Mick Maynard 8-11, 8-11, 15-13, 11-4, 8-11 in a game that I managed to watch too. The anticipated battle of the top two players in the league unfortunately didn't happen as Sonning Sports 'A' turned up without Frank Wiegand. Lisa Williams found some form as she won all three against Nigel Goodman, Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard. Carole had value for money as all three of her matches went to five but she was only successful against Bob. Niall lost his 100% record to Hanson Xu of OLOP 'E' as his team succumbed to a surprising 8 - 2 defeat.

Doubles : 60%

Team Stat : Have the best away goal difference (+14)

Player Stat : Niall McGrane has won the most matches 3 - 0 (8)

Tidmarsh 'C' have adjusted to life in division two really well after their promotion last season although they had a



TIDMARSH 'C' - PETE SINCLAIR, CHRIS WEBB, STEVE CALLIDINE

bad start when they lost 8 - 2 to Sonning C & P 'A'. Mike Aistrop was the only winner on the night as he beat both Andy Turton and Paul Jarvis. Chris Webb and François Durand were the other two players on the night. Mike continued his good start to the season as he won all three in the 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'E', his wins were against Phil Mead 11-7, 11-1, 7-11, 11-6, Peter Bennett 11-5, 11-4, 11-9 and Allan Bruton 11-6, 8-11, 7-11, 11-5, 12-10. François won against Peter and Allan before having to concede his final match due to injury. Steve Ricks also had a good win

	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Curzon Club 'A'	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Sonning C & P 'A'	5	3	2	0	36	14	8
Our Lady of Peace 'E'	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Sonning C & P 'B'	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Kingfisher 'D'	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Tidmarsh 'C'	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Kingfisher 'E'	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Wokingham 'A'	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Sonning Sports 'A'	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Post Office 'A'	5	0	0	5	12	38	0
Kingfisher 'F'	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

over Phil Mead 11-8, 11-8, 12-10. They picked up a valuable point against two-man Sonning C & P 'B' as Mike overcame Malcolm Gregory in four. The other match was a comfortable 8 - 2 win over Post Office 'A' as Mike recorded another treble and was well supported by Andy Jeffery and Chris Webb who both won two.

Doubles : 50%

Team Stat : Have won both of their home matches.

Player Stat : Steve Callidine has played the fewest games (2 as one was conceded)

Kingfisher 'E' are in what I would think is a rather disappointing seventh with two wins out of four. Peter Bennett continued where he left off last season as he won two against Merril and Malcolm in the 6 - 4 defeat to Sonning C & P 'B'. Eric Holmes was unlucky to lose two of his three matches in five to Keith Swain and Merril. They then lost 6 - 4 at Tidmarsh 'C', where Peter Bennett and Allan Bruton both won one each, they did have the bonus of the doubles being conceded due to François's injury. Phil Mead, Peter Goatly and Peter Bennett all won three in the 9 - 1 win over struggling Post Office 'A'. It was a welcome return to form for Phil Mead as he had lost all the week before against Tidmarsh 'C'. Phil and Peter G both made it six wins out of six as they overcame a stubborn Wokingham 'A' team 7 - 3 to make it two wins in a row.

Doubles : 25%

Team Stat : Lost the most games 6 - 4 (2)

Player Stat : Phil Mead hasn't been involved in five-setter after 8 games

Wokingham 'A' are having a case of second season syndrome; after last year's promotion push they are struggling in eighth at the moment. I feel that they will be safe in mid-table at the end of the season. They started off with a 7 - 3 defeat at Kingfisher 'D'. Brian Chinneck started in good form with wins over Richard Fifield and Carole Chard, his only defeat was to Niall McGrane. The first win came against Sonning Sports 'A', it needed a fine team effort as Brian, Ian Fletcher and Jim Spencer all won two each, the only defeats were against Frank Wiegand. Brian won another two in the match against OLOP 'E' but could do no more. Jim had success in five against Pu Zhang 10-12, 8-11, 12-10, 11-6, 11-4 but they lost 7 - 3 in the end. The draw against Sonning C & P was probably their most

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Frank Wiegand	Sonning Sports 'A'	12	12	100.0%
Keith Swain	Sonning C & P 'B'	9	9	100.0%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'D'	12	11	91.7%
Simon Berry	Sonning C & P 'A'	12	11	91.7%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A'	12	10	83.3%
Mike Aistrop	Tidmarsh 'C'	11	9	81.8%
Wendy Porter	OLOP 'E'	9	7	77.8%
Richard Fifield	Kingfisher 'D'	9	7	77.8%
Peter Goatly	Kingfisher 'E'	9	7	77.8%
Phil Mead	Kingfisher 'E'	8	6	75.0%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'A'	15	11	73.3%
Andrew Johnson	OLOP 'E'	12	8	66.7%

satisfying as they made the most of a clash of styles to claim a valuable point. Ian had very good wins over Paul Jarvis and Nigel Maltby, as did Brian. It was Brian's 15-13, 11-7, 11-5 win over Nigel that guaranteed them the point. In their other match Kingfisher 'E' proved tough opponents and for the first time that I can remember Brian lost all three (when was the last time that happened Brian? - answers on a postcard to the usual address please).

Doubles : 40%

Team Stat : The worst away record in the division (3 losses from 3 away matches)

Player Stat : Brian Chinneck has won two games in an evening the most times (4)

Sonning Sports 'A' are the phoenix that has risen from the ashes of Berks Sports 'A' and they play their matches at Beech Lodge, Sonning, RG4 6XF (check handbook for directions). They started the season well by breaking their salary cap (unlike West Ham!) to fend off advances from unnamed, newly promoted teams to hang onto their talisman Frank Wiegand and he has already proved money well spent as his treble inspired Dave Chard, who won two to a crucial 6 - 4 win over Post Office 'A'. Frank's treble wasn't enough in the match against Wokingham 'A' as they lost 6 - 4, it could have all been different if Nigel Goodman could have defeated Ian Fletcher but missed out in five, 5-11, 6-11, 11-8, 11-2, 9-11. Bob Woodmansee was unlucky to lose in five to Carole Chard in the 8 - 2 defeat to Kingfisher 'D' as were both Nigel and Dave who also lost in five to Carole. Frank won all three again in the 7 - 3 loss to Sonning C & P 'B', Nigel and Dave both managed to take Brian Meheux to four but both were unsuccessful. Frank ended Keith Swain's 100% in a tough 11-9, 8-11, 11-7, 15-13 match.

Doubles : 60%

Team Stat : Won their first game of the season. (last year it took them until after Christmas to win)

Player Stat : Frank Wiegand has won the most games and has the best average (12 wins, 100%)

Post Office 'A' are in a very unaccustomed position and sit in one of the relegation places having lost all five matches to date. At the moment they are missing Colin Hardman who has returned to Manchester and also their captain

John Simmonds who is overseas. It started badly as they lost 6 - 4 at Sonning Sports 'A' and hasn't got better since. Andy Walker has been the bonus this season, he played up and defeated both Bob Woodmansee and Dave Chard. Ray Webb took Dave Chard all the way to five and like last season lost 11-9 in the fifth. John Simmonds and Simon Hopkins were the only winners in the 7 - 3 defeat to OLOP 'E' with John's experience telling in the win over Hanson Xu, and Simon defeating Andy Johnson. Andy won two more against Nigel Maltby and Simon Berry in the 8 - 2 defeat at Sonning C & P 'A'. Ray took both Peter Goatly and Peter Bennett to four but lost in the end as PO 'A' lost 9 - 1 to Kingfisher 'E'. In the other match they lost 8 - 2 to Tidmarsh 'C'.

Doubles : 67%

Team Stat : Have lost 8 - 2 the most times (2)

Player Stat : Have used the most players in the league (6)

Kingfisher 'F' have struggled to come to terms with the division at the moment and this is reflected in their results and position. The team is full of experience and I feel that they might just avoid the drop next March. It's good to see Tom Cannon back after I think a few seasons' absence. In the first match of the season they were beaten 10 - 0 at Curzon 'A' with Tom taking the Curzon trio to four games. It got marginally better in the second match as they lost 9 - 1 to Kingfisher 'D' with only Chris Pusey a winner as he beat Carole Chard 11-6, 8-11, 11-8, 12-10. Dave Gostelow took Richard Fifield to five but ended up losing 11-6 in the end. Dave Duncan found some form as he beat both Pu Zhang and Hanson Xu and coupled with wins by Chris Pusey over Pu Zhang and Tom Cannon over Hanson Xu things were looking much brighter. However, they were brought back to earth with a bump as they lost 10 - 0 at Sonning C & P 'A'. The nearest they came to a win was Dave Gostelow's fight-back from 0 - 2 down against Simon Berry to take him all the way before losing 8-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-9, 9-11.

Doubles : 0%

Team Stat : Have lost 10 - 0 the most times (2)

Player Stat : Four of their five winning matches were by the 3 - 1 scoreline.



DAVE GOSTELOW *

***NB - photographs marked with an asterisk are the work of Didier Garçon.**

DIVISION THREE *by Nick Lean*



Here we are at the start of another new season, but who do we have in Division 3 this season and what are each team's prospects? Well first of all, there are two blanks where teams should be, leaving just 10 teams with 18 fixtures per team. That's bad news in terms of the amount of matches to be played but will at least provide some clear weeks for the inevitable "postponements" during the season – let's just hope the winter weather isn't as bad as it was last year.

Down from last season's Division 2 we have **Post Office 'B'** who I expect will do well and are strong contenders for the Div 3 title. In fact the following words were written on the back of the scorecard from their final match of last season "...in the words of General MacArthur, We will return " and with a squad of Dave Mills, Andrew Walker, Denise Weller and George White they are probably right.

Meanwhile, the two teams promoted from Division 4 are back, having been relegated from this division two years ago. **OLOP 'G'** (were 'H' last season) were Champions and I expect will do better at this level this time around with the same decent squad of Steve Purchase, Harry Brough, Alex Fear, Mark Kirton & Phil Mannion. Having finished second in Div 4, **Springfield 'A'** will once again rely on their star player, Phil Burke, who only lost 3 times last season, but it remains to be seen how much support his team mates, Des Hele, Ian Boaden & Seth Martin will be able to provide.

Kingfisher have re-arranged some of their players, so their two teams are not the same groups of players who played for 'G' and 'H' last season. **Kingfisher 'G'** comprise Mike Dorrington, Ken Robb, Steve Woolnough & Diane Taylor, three of whom were in the Kingfisher team that finished 10th in Div 4, so I expect them to have an even tougher battle against relegation this season. **Kingfisher 'H'** are a team of juniors who are new to this level, with Allan Bruton providing some experience when needed. George Dodd, Michael Houghton & Leo Long may struggle early on although should improve as the season progresses, but will this be quickly enough for their team to avoid the drop?

The remaining five teams played in Div 3 last season, mostly with the same players, and I expect them to occupy similar finishing positions come the end of this season. Mark Bullion's **OLOP 'F'** once again includes Ian Davis, Cedric Dias & Pat Daniels, but they have added

a returning Richard Skellett which will strengthen their squad and should keep them away from any relegation worries this season. Pangbourne WMC have effectively the same squad, with Leroy Wilson, Pete Welch, Roger Stevens, Howard Taylor & Clive Taylor, but with Colin "Taffy" Thomas added from the remnants of last season's 'B' team and I expect them to keep clear of the relegation battle this season. Sonning C&P 'C' finished safely in mid-table last season thanks mainly to the consistency of Jeremy Willis and I expect their unchanged squad, which

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Dave Mills	Post Office 'B'	12	12	100.0%
George White	Post Office 'B'	12	12	100.0%
Steve Ricks	Tidmarsh 'D'	6	6	100.0%
Howard Taylor	Pangbourne WMC	3	3	100.0%
Roger Stevens	Pangbourne WMC	3	3	100.0%
Steve Barnes	Tidmarsh 'D'	12	11	91.7%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	18	15	83.3%
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne WMC	9	7	77.8%
Steve Purchase	OLOP 'G'	15	11	73.3%
Andy Walker	Post Office 'B'	12	8	66.7%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	12	8	66.7%
Pat Daniels	OLOP 'F'	12	8	66.7%
Ian Cockling	Tilehurst Meths 'A'	9	6	66.7%

also includes Ian Ayres, Tim Raby & Paul Treadgold, to do pretty much the same again.

However, **Tilehurst Methodists 'A'** have lost their main man, Ray Yau, so John Virgo and Ian Cockling may struggle to do as well as last term's 5th place finish, despite adding Jan Wright & Phil Jones to the squad. Tidmarsh 'D' finished 4th last season and have the same strong (and large) squad - Steve Barnes, Simon Craig, Paul Harris, Andy Jeffrey, Dave Reynolds & Steve Ricks - which has been further enhanced by new signing Marus Oladimeji, so they must be regarded as possible promotion candidates.

The opening salvos

Post Office 'B' and **OLOP 'G'** each opened their seasons with four straight wins, with the Posties having the slightly better set of results including relatively easy wins over Springfield (9 - 1) and the two Kingfisher teams (both 8 - 2), before coming away from Tidmarsh 'D' with a good 6 - 4 result. Dave Mills played well to win all three at Tidmarsh 'D', his third maximum on the trot, while George White also had the same unbeaten start in the



LEO LONG

earlier three matches. Meanwhile, for OLOP 'G', Steve Purchase also started the season with three maximums as his team beat OLOP 'F', Springfield & Kingfisher 'H', before he lost his 100% record to Mike Dorrington of Kingfisher 'G' in his team's only dropped set of the night. So the scene was set for an early top of the table clash as these two met in week 5 ... unfortunately it was a bit of a damp squib as the Posties overwhelmed an out of sorts OLOP 'G', winning all 9 singles (4 of them 3-straight) for a 9 - 1 victory.



STEVE PURCHASE

Tidmarsh 'D' were among the early pace-setters with comfortable wins over the two

Kingfisher teams and Sonning C&P 'C', as Steve Barnes hit maximums in each of these matches, while Steve Ricks was unbeaten when he played in the first two and Dave Reynolds won all three against Kingfisher 'G'. The first top-of-the-table clash came when they met & lost out to Post Office (albeit without both Messrs Ricks & Reynolds) as Steve Barnes lost his unbeaten record and despite new signing Morus Abolore Olafimeji (I think that's correct) winning two on his first outing in the Reading league.

Tilehurst Methodists started with a 3 - 7 defeat at Sonning C&P, despite being 3 - 1 up early on, then were 4 - 1 up at OLOP 'F' but only came away with a draw. They recorded their first win in a very close match at Springfield (6 - 4), as Ian Cockling and Phil Jones both won two, before finally having a home match in which they beat the young Kingfisher 'H' team 7 - 3 with Ian getting a maximum and John Virgo & Jan Wright two each.

Springfield are the only team to have had a match in each of the first six weeks, which means they have just three fixtures remaining in the first half of the season. With two wins, over Kingfisher 'G' (9 - 1) & Pangbourne (6 - 4), a draw at Sonning C&P plus three defeats, to Post Office (1 - 9), OLOP 'G' (4 - 6) and Tilehurst Meths (4 - 6), they currently sit in mid-table but may have to watch as the teams around them gather points over the coming weeks. Phil Burke has continued his good form, winning 15/18, with Seth Martin recording a good maximum against Kingfisher 'G' and Ian Boaden crucially winning two at Pangbourne. Des Hele also won two at Sonning C&P which included an excellent win over Jeremy Willis over 5 games.

Pangbourne have played the least matches to date, just three, as their fixtures included two matches against the "blanks" and a "postponement". The matches they have played have been against the teams that currently sit in the bottom three. Leroy's lads have won two of these, beating a weakened OLOP 'F' (8 - 2) thanks to a good all-round team performance and Kingfisher 'H' (7 - 3) thanks to maximums from Leroy and Roger Stevens. Their defeat came in the close contest with Springfield.

Sonning C&P 'C' have 4 points to date from their four matches, having also been scheduled to play both of the "blanks". They started with a win over Tilehurst Meths (7 - 3), thanks to a Jeremy Willis maximum and two for Paul Treadgold, but then lost at Tidmarsh (2 - 8). Since then, they had a hard-fought draw with OLOP 'F' in which JW hit an 3-straight maximum, with Ian Ayres only just losing to Pat Daniels (11-13 in 5th) and Paul also losing out to Pat over five



MIKE DORRINGTON

games. Most recently they drew with Springfield in another close match. Tim Raby was unlucky not to win all three, only losing out to Phil Burke in the deciding game, while Jeremy lost in five to Des Hele and in the final contest of the match also lost to Phil Burke in the fifth game.

OLOP 'F' started with two defeats, firstly at the hands of their club-mates and then at Pangbourne, when they had to play-up Chris Moses from Div 5. They made a great recovery to draw with Tilehurst Meths, having been 1 - 4 down, when Pat Daniels and Richard Skellett (returning after a break of 4 years) both won twice and teamed-up to win the doubles. These two repeated the same results in the draw at Sonning Common, mentioned above.

The two **Kingfisher** teams have yet to gain a point. With their remaining fixtures I would expect Kingfisher 'H' to pick up some points this half as the three young lads, Michael, Leo and George continue to improve. They have lost a number of contests to date in the deciding game, but also had some good wins. Leo and Michael have both beaten Andy Walker & Pete Welch, Michael defeating Pete in a titanic tussle (12-10, 18-16, 8-11, 12-14, 11-9), while George beat both Jan Wright and John Virgo at Tilehurst Methodists. (Note: That contest between Michael Houghton and Pete Welch was the longest to date, in terms of points



MICHAEL HOUGHTON *

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Post Office 'B'	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
OLOP 'G'	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Tidmarsh 'D'	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Tilehurst Meths 'A'	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Springfield 'A'	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Pangbourne WMC	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Sonning C&P 'C'	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
OLOP 'F'	4	0	2	2	15	25	2
Kingfisher 'G'	5	0	1	4	11	39	1
Kingfisher 'H' *	6	0	1	5	17	43	1

wins over Des Hele & Steve Purchase, while Diane Taylor & Steve Woolnough both defeated Eddie Cripps of Post Office.

So far, the best **doubles record** in the Division is held by OLOP 'G' who have won all five to date, with Post Office 4/5 and Tidmarsh 3/4.

Finally, a reminder to all captains (and any players who take on that role for a match), **please complete all sections of the scorecard**, including the doubles, and post it to me promptly. Alternatively, I'm happy to receive an email with a scanned scorecard. It is also useful to have some comments on each match to enlighten me on the relevant things that I can't tell from the scores. And a reminder that you must keep me informed of any matches that cannot be played on the scheduled date and let me know the re-arranged date for these matches.

played, totalling 121 with Michael winning a total of 61 compared to Pete's 60.)

Kingfisher 'G' have suffered comprehensive defeats in each of the their four matches, although their matches to date have been against 4 of the top 5 teams, so they may fare better in the coming weeks. Mike Dorrington had good

STOP PRESS

Result from re-arranged match - Kingfisher 'G' vs Kingfisher 'H': 5 - 5.

***NB - photographs marked with an asterisk are the work of Didier Garçon.**

DIVISION FOUR *by Derek Harrison*

Welcome to you all for a brand new season. I expect St Laurence and Milestone to go up with a bit to spare.

In the big clash **St Laurence** smashed Milestone 8 - 2. Chris and Dan West carried on where they left off last season by obtaining trebles. New signing George Sandford won 1. At Polish they came away with a fine 2 - 8 victory with Dan winning all 3. Chris and Dan Grover both gained doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths they showed they are a class side by romping to an 8 - 2 victory. Chris was the star by beating Nigel 7-11, 11-4, 11-6, 14-12, Richard 11-4, 11-8, 11-5 & Chris 11-7, 11-7, 11-6. The two Dons did their bit by winning 2. At Curzon 'C' Chris hit a great treble which included a fine victory over Mike Maynard. The two Dons did well to gain doubles to give them a 2 - 8 win. Another 8 - 2 victory came against Sonning 'E' which saw Chris hit another hat trick with George and Dan G winning 2 each.

Doubles 5/5 100%

In **Milestone's** first match they beat Sonning 'E' 9 - 1 with John Tucker and John Crosfield both gaining maximums. Hugh won 2 to do his bit. Against Sonning 'D' they won 9 - 1 against a 2 man team. At St Laurence they went down 8 - 2. Hugh & John T both beat George. In their vital game against Wokingham they won 6 - 4 with Hugh and John T winning two each and also winning the doubles. John C picked up that vital single by beating John Belcher. At Tidmarsh they won 0 - 10 with Hugh and the two Johns all getting trebles.



Doubles 4/5 80%

Tilehurst started well by beating Curzon 'B' 6 - 4. Nigel Rowland and Richard Lownsborough both hit trebles. Their next match saw them beat Sonning 'E' also 6 - 4 with Nigel & Richard winning 2 each with Chris Taylor beating Jim. Against St Laurence they lost their first match 8 - 2 with Nigel picking up a fine double. At home to Sonning 'D' they won 8 - 2. Mal Collis played in his first match of the season and beat Graham Streets 11-8, 11-7, 5-11, 11-8.

Doubles 1/4 25%

Polish who moved up from Div 5 started with a fine 3 - 7 win at Sonning 'D' with Darek Kaminski, Jacek Krzyzanowski and Marcin Kolat all winning 2 each. They then played St Laurence and went down 2 - 8. Jacek won the two by beating Chris West and Dan Grover. They then lost 8 - 2 at Wokingham with Jacek & Darek winning one each. They then came back to winning ways by beating Tidmarsh 'E' 9 - 1. Darek had a great night by hitting a 3 straight treble.



JACEK KRZYZANOWSKI

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Laurence	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Milestone 'A'	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Tilehurst Meths 'B'	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Wokingham 'B'	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Curzon 'B'	5	1	3	1	26	24	5
Polish 'C'	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Tidmarsh 'E'	5	1	1	3	14	36	3
Sonning C&P 'D'	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Curzon 'C'	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Sonning C&P 'E'	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Jacek also won 3 with Marcin winning 2. In a highly competitive match they shared the spoils with Curzon 'B' with Darek winning 2 and Jacek and Marlin winning one each. They also took Curzon's 100 per cent doubles record by Darek and Jacek beating Geoff and Nick.

Doubles 3/5 60%

Curzon 'B' started at Tilehurst Meths and went down 6 - 4, Nick Lean, Derek Harrison & Jim Brent all won one each by beating Chris. They then bounced back by drawing with a very good Wokingham 'B'. Nick had a great night by winning all 3 besides winning the doubles with Derek who also picked up a single. Against Tidmarsh we let a 2 - 5 lead slip to only share the spoils. Nick & Geoff won 2 each besides Jim & Nick winning the doubles. We then won our first game of the season by beating Sonning 'E' 7 - 3 with Jim, Geoff & myself all winning 2 each. At Polish we came away with a draw, Geoff and Nick won 2 each and Derek won 1.

Doubles 4/5 80%

Wokingham, in that game at Curzon put out a strong side with Richard Neville & Mike Shore both winning 2. Ken Park played his part by beating Geoff Johnson

At Tidmarsh they came away with a fine 1 - 9 win thanks to Ken & Richard who both helped themselves to hat-tricks. John Beardmore did well to win 2. Against Polish Ken yet again won all 3. Mike and Tony Eames who was playing his first game of the season won 2 each to give them an 8 - 2 victory. At Milestone Richard played great to gain a hat trick but this was all in vain in a 6 - 4 defeat.

Doubles 2/4 50%

Tidmarsh did well to beat Sonning 'D' 7 - 3. Terry Hardie, Dave Edwards and Mick Osborne all won two each. At home to Wokingham, Dave E was the only scorer by beating John in a 1 - 9 defeat. At home to Curzon 'B' a good team performance saw them gain a point. Terry & Dave E won two each and Dave Smith picked up a vital single by beating Jim. By the way Dave, congratulations on winning The Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award. Against Polish, Dave E was the only scorer by beating Marcin. At home to Milestone without their two best players they crashed to a 0 - 10 defeat.

Doubles 1/5 20%

While on Tidmarsh can you please note that Dave Edwards is the new captain. His telephone number is

0118 9413899. Also, he has asked visiting teams to note that they cannot start their matches until 7.45.

Sonning 'D' started by losing 7 - 3 at Tidmarsh 'E' with Matt Stone gaining a 3 straight maximum. At home to Polish Matt won 2 & Andy Alexander 1 in a 3 - 7 defeat. They then went down at Milestone 9 - 1. Andy saved the whitewash by beating John C. At Tilehurst they lost 2 - 8 with Matt winning one and teaming up with Graham to win the doubles. They then won their first game of the season by beating Curzon 'C' 6 - 4 thanks mainly to Matt winning all 3 three straight. Simon & Andy did their part by winning 1 each.

Doubles 2/5 40%

Curzon 'C' played their first game of the season against St Laurence and went down 2 - 8. Mike Maynard won the two by beating the two Dans. At Sonning 'D' they lost 6 - 4. Terry Spice and Linda King both obtained doubles. I fear without Tracy they face a long hard season.

Doubles 0/2

Young Jon Abbott gained a fine double for **Sonning 'E'** which included a 9-11, 11-9, 13-15, 7-11 win over Richard Lownsborough but Tilehurst Meths ran out 6 - 4 winners. Jim McClure had a fine win over Nigel and Anthony Reeve beat Chris. At Milestone they went down 9 - 1 with Jim beating Hugh. Derek Brooke-Wavell had a great night at Curzon 'B' by hitting a superb maximum but sadly for him they lost 3 - 7. I believe this is his first Div 4 treble, so well done Derek!! At St Laurence Mark Corbett won 2 by beating Dan G & George.



JON ABBOTT

Doubles 0/4

Finally I would like a few more comments on the score cards please. Only Phil & Hugh give good information.

DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES				
Player	Team	P	W	%
Chris West	St Laurence	15	14	93.3%
Richard Neville	Wokingham 'B'	9	8	88.9%
Dan West	St Laurence	12	10	83.3%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	11	9	81.8%
John Tucker	Milestone 'A'	14	11	78.6%
Matt Stone	Sonning C&P 'D'	12	9	75.0%
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone 'A'	14	10	71.4%
Dan Grover	St Laurence	12	8	66.7%
Ken Park	Wokingham 'B'	12	8	66.7%
Nick Lean	Curzon 'B'	12	8	66.7%
Mike Shore	Wokingham 'B'	6	4	66.7%
Richard Lownsborough	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	11	7	63.6%
Jacek Krzyzanowski	Polish 'C'	15	9	60.0%

DIVISION FIVE *by Duncan Abbott*

This season in Division 5 promises to be extremely close, and judging by the calibre of players one of the strongest in recent seasons.

Birch Copse lead the way with 4 wins and a loss at OLOP who may have ousted them from the top if they won at OLOP last Thursday. Both Jes Eassom and Richard Green are unbeaten, Roy Hull hit trebles at SC&P and Springfield. Ever-present Mike Williams hit a treble against Kingfisher and four doubles, including a hard fought win over previously unbeaten Alistair Richardson at OLOP. Yours truly is the weak link so far with singles against Kingfisher and OLOP.

At the time of writing **OLOP** were unbeaten, dropping only a point at SC&P when Dave Godfrey was absent. Dave is unbeaten to date, Alistair losing only once so far and Chris Moses hit a good double

at SC&P to secure the draw. If they can keep fielding these three players OLOP will be up there at the finish.

SC&P have had mixed fortunes. Their best result was probably the 7 - 3 win at Post Office, although their match preparation was a little unorthodox, turning up at BBC Club and practising on their table before their captain phoned to tell the players they had gone to the wrong place!! Tony House hit trebles against Polish and Post Office, Dave Aust and Pete Harman did the same at Kingfisher. Mike Casserley hit doubles against Polish and Post Office. The experienced Derek Maltby is also on hand to chip in as and when required.

Post Office had a fine opening 9 - 1 win against my pre-season title tip Tilehurst Methodists, but results since then

DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Dave Godfrey	OLOP 'H'	9	9	100
Jes Eassom	Birch Copse 'A'	9	9	100
Richard Green	Birch Copse 'A'	6	6	100
John Harland	Tidmarsh 'F'	3	3	100
Pete Sinclair	Tidmarsh 'F'	3	3	100
Mick Grantham	Post Office 'C'	12	11	91.67
Alistair Richardson	OLOP 'H'	12	11	91.67
Grant Wheatley	Polish 'D'	9	8	88.89
Stephen Yon	Polish 'D'	9	7	77.78
Roy Hull	Birch Copse 'A'	9	7	77.78
Mike Williams	Birch Copse 'A'	15	11	73.33

have been mixed. Mick Grantham was undefeated before the home match with SC&P when he lost to Tony. Linda Davis scored doubles against all teams except SC&P. Ted Cripps hit a fine treble against Tile Meths. John Gatward and Pat Davis have also chipped in when required.

The next three teams all have two wins and two losses to date.

Polish had a thumping 9 - 1 win over Post Office with trebles from Grant Wheatley and Stephen Yon and a double from Simon Ward. Kris Szczygiel and Jan Polnik have also chipped in with crucial wins. Their other win was at Tidmarsh, Grant hitting a treble and Stephen a double.

Tidmarsh beat Milestone 8 - 2 thanks to John Harland's treble, and SC&P 6 - 4 with a treble from Pete Sinclair. Bob Sunerton and Dave Humphrey hit doubles against Milestone and Bob did the same against Post Office and Polish. Against SC&P Steve Andrews hit a double and Mike Bundy's single secured the points.



POLISH 'D' - STEPHEN YON, SIMON WARD, EDDI HOLWEGER, JAN POLNIK AND GRANT WHEATLEY



TILEHURST METHODISTS 'D' - RYAN ARCH, CHAS DEAN & LE AN GUAN

Chas Dean's Tilehurst Methodists beat Milestone 9 - 1 and Kingfisher 7 - 3, Bob Winter and Martin Wetherell scoring trebles in both matches. Dave Jones hit a fine double against Milestone and

SUMMARY OF THE BEST 5-SET THRILLERS:

- Week 1 Ted Cripps (P.Off) v Martin Wetherell (T.Meths) 9-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 11-8
John Simpson (Mile) v Dave Godfrey (OLOP) 11-9, 11-9, 6-11, 5-11, 8-11
- Week 2 Duncan Abbott (B.Copse) v Derek Crombie (King) 9-11, 11-4, 11-5, 8-11, 14-16
- Week 3 Gerard Thorp (Mile) v Chris Speight (Spring) 9-11, 6-11, 11-5, 11-7, 12-10
- Week 4 Simon Ward (Pol) v John Gatward (P.Off) 11-13, 11-5, 9-11, 16-14, 13-11
- Week 5 Linda Davis (P.Off) v Bob Sunerton (Tid) 5-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8, 11-13
- Week 6 Linda Davis (P.Off) v Mike Casserley (SC) 9-11, 14-12, 11-7, 13-15, 9-11

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birch Copse 'A'	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
OLOP 'H'	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Sonning C&P 'F'	6	3	1	2	30	30	7
Post Office 'C'	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
Polish 'D'	4	2	0	2	24	16	4
Tidmarsh 'F'	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Tilehurst Meths 'C'	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Milestone 'B'	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Kingfisher 'I'	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Springfield 'B'	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

Springfield, with a treble from Andrew Talaga, a double from Derek Crombie and a single from Phil Cunnington. Maureen Allchurch also made her mark with a win over Chas Dean in the 7 - 3 defeat at Tile Meths.

Springfield are still looking for their first point but have been unlucky, losing their first 3 matches by a 6 - 4 margin. Dan Mortimer in particular has been impressive, hitting doubles in each of these matches, including a rare win over Linda Davis. Chris Speight hit singles against Post Office and Milestone, Colin Jones did the same against Milestone as did Nigel Outhwaite at Kingfisher.

DIVISION SIX *by Nigel Rowland*

As your new DFS secretary I should like to welcome you all to another season. Please bear with me as it will take a little while to get to know you all. I will try and introduce myself whenever I am visiting venues during the course of the season.

I am going to put my neck on the block and predict my promotion candidates to be between Kingfisher 'J', Springfield 'D' and Polish 'E'. My outside bet will be on BBC Caversham. I am sure some of you would love to prove me wrong. The bottom end is a little harder to predict, I believe the outcome will depend on sides fielding their stronger players for strategic games.



Can I please ask captains to try and return match cards promptly as this gives me an opportunity to forward a match write up to Nigel Maltby to get you some press airing. I would also appreciate comments on the cards, perhaps on an individual performance or crucial match which is not reflected in the score line. Please also let me know if matches need to be postponed, what I am looking for from you is a date when the matches are to be re-played **where both captains are in agreement**. I would also appreciate feedback on the match card should a team not field a full side for whatever reason. Please contact me separately should you feel further details are needed as I

report these findings at committee meetings. One or two of you have reported a problem with the web site, I apologise for this but we were experiencing database problems which have now been resolved.

We welcome Reading Resource to the division. They fought hard to avoid relegation from Division Five last year. I am not giving anything away by saying Neil Havard was top of the division averages last year, a very good solid player. They also have a good team spirit so do expect a warm welcome and a good evening's table tennis. Due to their late inclusion a number of their early games will need to be played later in the season. Please note the contact number in the book will not allow incoming calls. Neil Havard their captain can be contacted on 07948073832 or call their secretary Lyn Chandler on 01189580722 or 07870501159.

So far the front runners are Kingfisher 'J' who are off to an unbeaten flying start followed by Springfield 'D', BBC Caversham and Polish 'E'. At the bottom Sonning Sports and Reading Resource have yet to get off the mark.

It is not normal to comment on an individual so soon into the season but one notable performance was a win by Jean-Noel Thepaut of Kingfisher 'J' who defeated Neil Havard of Reading Resource. As mentioned previously Neil was top of Division 5 averages at 98%, a record we would all be proud of.

Have a great season and above all enjoy your table tennis.

Kingfisher 'J' are in superb form flying off the blocks with four straight wins. Their first game was a good 7 - 3 win against Springfield 'D' with both Jean Thepaut and Gabor Radnoti scoring maximums. They then defeated BBC Caversham 7 - 3 with a solid team performance, Gabor Radnoti once again chalking up a maximum with a double from Joaquin Sabater and single from Stuart Mitchell. Against Sonning Sports 'B' Stuart Mitchell and Joaquin Sabater scored maximums with a double from Didier Garçon to record a 9 - 1 win. In the 7 - 3 win against Reading Resource Jean Thepaut recorded a superb maximum and win against Neil Havard along with doubles from Gabor Radnoti and Didier Garçon. Stuart Mitchell 4/9 including 1 treble, Jean Thepaut 6/6 including 2 trebles, Gabor Radnoti 8/9 including 2 trebles, Joaquin Sabater 5/6 including 1 treble, Didier Garçon 4/6. Doubles 3/4.

Springfield 'D' share second spot, losing their first game but then going on a run of 3 unbeaten games. Their first game was against promotion contenders Kingfisher 'J'. Losing 3 - 7. Their first win of the season was 8 - 2 against a two man Sonning Sports 'B', Jeff Morgan and Ray Morell had to fight hard for their two wins and Peter Greatorex just lost out in his games going to 5 setters. Next came a 7 - 3 win in the local derby against Springfield 'C' thanks to a solid team effort from Jeff Morgan, Bob Sibun and Ray Morrell winning two games apiece. The next 8 - 2 win was against a two man Kingfisher 'K' side, Jeff Morgan and Ray Morrell once again getting two games apiece. Bob Sibun battled to try and get something from the game but just lost out in tight games. Ray Morrell 7/10, Bob Sibun 3/8, Jeff Morgan 7/10, Peter Greatorex 0/2, Doubles 3/4.

BBC Caversham share second spot following 3 wins and a loss, the loss being against top of the table Kingfisher 'J'. They started well defeating promotion contenders Polish 'E' 7 - 3, Dave Pearson recording a maximum and a crucial 5 set win against Jakub Longowski. Phil Peat and Gordon Ayres got the other wins. In the 3 - 7 loss against Kingfisher 'J' Phil Peat won two and an epic five setter against Joaquin Sabater, the other win was by Dave Pearson. Then followed a tricky encounter at Birch Copse 'B' winning 7 - 3 thanks to a hard fought treble from John Lancashire and doubles from Dave Pearson and John Scott. In the 7 - 3 win against Sonning Sports 'B' Jack Mitchell recorded a maximum along with a five set win over Dave West; John Lancashire and Gordon Ayres scored the other wins. John Lancashire 5/9 including 1 treble, Phil Peat 4/6, Dave Pearson 6/9, Gordon Ayres 2/6, John Scott 2/3, Jack Mitchell 3/3 Doubles 2/4.

Polish 'E' also share second spot winning 3 games and losing 2. They started off with a close 6 - 4 win over Kingfisher 'K' thanks to a Jakub Langowski treble and game 10 win over Alex Gurney. In the 3 - 7 loss against BBC Caversham both Jakub Langowski and Eddy Holweger battled to try and get something from the game. Then followed a superb 7 - 3 win at Birch Copse 'B' thanks to a Piotr Wilczak hard fought treble, Jakub Langowski double and Eddie Holweger single. They then slipped up, losing at home to SC&P 'G' 3 - 7. Next game they bounced back winning 6 - 4 at OLOP 'I' thanks to a Piotr Wilczak treble in a very tight game where five ends went to 14-16, 13-11, 12-10, 18-20, 15-13.... Almost playing to 21 again! Szymon Szor 0/6, Jakub Langowski 11/15 including 1 treble, Eddy Holweger 3/12, Piotr Wilczak 8/9, Ryseik Kacperczyk 0/3. Doubles 3/5.

Birch Copse 'B' flew off the blocks with a scorching win against Springfield 'C' thanks to Melanie Griffiths and Josh Brown trebles. Next saw them take a point away at Kingfisher 'K' thanks to wins from Melanie Griffiths, Josh Brown and Elizabeth Hull. The game against promotion contenders Polish 'E' resulted in a 3 - 7 loss despite a spirited performance from Melanie Griffiths, Tony Ross and Elizabeth Hull where 8 games went to 4 sets or more. Then followed another close 3 - 7 loss despite wins by Jack Griffiths and Tony Ross, once again 6 games went to 4 sets or more. Then fortunes changed winning 6 - 4 at SC&P 'G'

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'J'	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Springfield 'D'	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
BBC Club	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Polish 'E'	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Birch Copse 'B'	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Kingfisher 'K'	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
OLOP 'I'	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Sonning C&P 'G'	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Springfield 'C'	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Reading Resource	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Sonning Sports 'B'	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	P	W	%
Gabor Radnoti	Kingfisher 'J'	9	8	88.89
Piotr Wilczak	Polish 'E'	9	8	88.89
Derek Spicer	Kingfisher 'K'	9	8	88.89
Daniel Thorne	OLOP 'I'	12	10	83.33
Neil Havard	Reading Resource	6	5	83.33
Melanie Griffiths	Birch Copse 'B'	12	9	75
Jakub Langowski	Polish 'E'	15	11	73.33
Ray Morell	Springfield 'D'	10	7	70
Jeff Morgan	Springfield 'D'	10	7	70
Respice Kishari	OLOP 'I'	9	6	66.67
Dave Pearson	BBC Club	9	6	66.67
Danny Dockree	Sonning C&P 'G'	6	4	66.67

thanks to Melanie and an ever improving Jack Griffiths and contributions from Elizabeth Hull, especially the important doubles win. The game against OLOP 'I' resulted in a 1 - 9 loss, Jack Griffiths getting the consolation game. Melanie Griffiths 9/12 including 1 treble, Josh Brown 4/9 including 1 treble, Jack Griffiths 4/12, Elizabeth Hull 4/12, Tony Ross 1/9. Doubles 3/6.

Kingfisher 'K' have started the season reasonably well but Derek Spicer seems to be the winning formula to getting points on the board. They lost 4 - 6 in a tight match at Polish 'E' despite wins from Gill Bennett, Alex Gurney and Susan MacDonald. Next saw a draw against Birch Copse 'B' thanks to a Derek Spicer treble and single from Alex Gurney. Then came a good 7 - 3 win at SC&P 'G' thanks to another Derek Spicer treble, Alex Gurney and Gill Bennett single. A share of the spoils resulted against OLOP 'I' thanks to a solid team performance from Derek Spicer, James Cummings and Gill Bennett. As a result of fielding two players they lost 2 - 8 against Springfield 'D' despite Gill Bennett and Susan MacDonald singles. Gill Bennett 5/12, Derek Spicer 8/9 including 2 trebles, Alex Gurney 4/9, James Cummings 1/6, Susan MacDonald 2/6. Doubles 3/5.

OLOP 'I' have started the season slowly with two wins, a draw and two losses. Their first match was a close 6 - 4 win over relegated Reading Resource thanks to Daniel Thorne and Respice Kishari doubles, and a single from Jade Fudge. Once again the all important doubles got the win. Then followed a 4 - 6 loss against Springfield 'C' despite battling performances from Daniel Thorne and Siad Cole winning two apiece. Then followed a hard fought draw against Kingfisher 'K' thanks to a Daniel Thorne treble and double from Respice Kishari which included a game ten five set win over Gill Bennett to snatch a draw. The next game was a loss against promotion contenders Polish 'E' despite wins from Siad Cole, Phil Saunders and Jade Fudge. They then thumped Birch Copse 'B' 9 - 1, Daniel Thorne, Phillip



JADE FUDGE

Saunders recording trebles and a double from Respice Kishari. Daniel Thorne 10/12 including 2 trebles, Jade Fudge 2/12, Respice Kishari 6/9, Siad Cole 4/6, Phillip Cole 4/6 including 1 treble. Doubles 2/5.

SC&P 'G' have shown signs of what they are capable of by defeating promotion contenders Polish 'E' 7 - 3, Guy Thurlow, Danny Doree and Dave Parkes all scoring doubles. In the 3 - 7 loss against top of the table Kingfisher 'K' Danny Dockree scored a respectable two and Michael Legg got a single. They also lost 4 - 6 in a tight game against Birch Copse 'B' despite wins from Adam Parkes, Michael Legg and Albert Shephard. Guy Thurlow 2/3, Michael Legg 3/6, Danny Dockree 4/6, Albert Shephard 1/6, David Parkes 2/3, Adam Parkes 1/3. Doubles 1/3.

Springfield 'C' started with a 3 - 7 loss against Birch Copse 'B' Paul Jenkins, Tim Carr and Alan Gould all recording wins. Then followed a good 6 - 4 win at OLOP 'I' thanks to a John Burke treble and singles from Tim Carr and Alan Gould, once again the all important doubles won the match. In the local derby they lost out 3 - 7 against Springfield 'D' despite a superb treble from Paul Jenkins and spirited performances from Tim Carr and Alan Gould just losing in five setters. Paul Jenkins 4/6 including 1 treble, Tim Carr 2/9 including 4 trebles, Alan Gould 2/9, John Burke 3/3. Doubles 1/3.

Reading Resource are settling in after late inclusion into the division. Their first game was a close 4 - 6 loss against OLOP 'I', Neil Havard getting off to a flying start with a maximum and a hard fought single from Adam Sheen. Joyce Crockford managed to take a game off Jade Fudge. Their next game was a 3 - 7 loss to top of the table Kingfisher 'J', Neil Havard leading the way with a double and a tight five set doubles win. Michael Stevens just lost in a five set battle with Gabor Radnoti and in four sets against Didier Garçon. Neil Havard 5/6 including 1 treble, Michael Stevens 0/3, Joyce Crockford 0/6, Adam Sheen 1/3. Doubles 1/2.

Sonning Sports 'B' have struggled to get any points on the board starting with a disappointing 2 - 8 loss, Sue Brownhill and Dave West recording wins but fielded only two players. In the game against Kingfisher 'J' they were beaten 1 - 9, Tom Gordon recording their only win of the night. Sue Brownhill came close, losing in a five setter against Stuart Mitchell. Then came another 3 - 7 loss where seven games went to four sets or more, a double from Dave West and single from Derek Somerville. Sue Brownhill fought valiantly for her zero, two of her losses were five setters and the last game went to 11-7, 12-10 and 14-12. With determination like this it won't be long before points are on the board. Suzanne Brownhill 1/9, Dave West 2/6, Derek Somerville 2/6, Tom Gordon 1/3. Doubles 0/3.

John Cunningham Youth Division

by Steve Ricks

Welcome to the start of another season!

Unfortunately there is little to report on this month, with a lot of players still unavailable following the summer holidays and the format of the divisions and teams yet to be finalised.

On Week One only two matches took place. The first of these was SCP Thunderbolts, one of the stronger sides from last year, taking on OLOP Hammers. Hammers however, only had one player and not surprisingly went down 5 - 0 with Guy Thurlow and Max Sweetman cashing in against the weakened hammers.

In the other match, SCP Tigers were convincing 4 - 0 winners against OLOP Attackers, with both Jon Abbott and Danny Dockree gaining maximums.

In Week Two SCP Thunderbolts carried on their winning ways against OLOP Attackers, with Guy winning one and Max two in a 3 - 1 win. For Attackers, Siad Cole did well to



defeat Guy in a long, tight game eventually winning 11-8 in the fifth.

SCP Tigers took on OLOP Trojans this week but came up against Sam Ricks in top form. Both Jon and Danny managed to win one game each for Tigers, but Sam managed to defeat them both and team up with Thomas Burrow to win the crucial doubles to win the match 3 - 2.

OLOP Eagles and SCP Raiders fought out a tightly contested match, with the Sonning side eventually scraping home 3 - 2. Joshua Gallen did well to win both of his games for Eagles, but Adam Fearnside and Liam Ruiz both won one each and teamed up to win the crucial doubles to take the match for Raiders.

Finally OLOP Hammers stormed to victory against OLOP Lions. Philip Saunders and Daniel Clarke both won one each and Gus Thomis won two to seal a 4 - 0 win

MORE YOUTH HIGHLIGHTS



BERKSHIRE JUNIORS: DANIEL MOSES, LIAM McTIERNAN, DANIEL McTIERNAN, MEGAN KNOWLES, JARRED KNOWLES, MARIA TSAPTSINOS

Berkshire young guns win Junior County Championship Division

A very talented and young Berkshire Junior (under 18) team won the County Championships Division 1B (South) at the weekend by winning all seven of their matches.

Starting in Okehampton on Saturday, Berkshire played very well in beating Cornwall (8 - 2), Glamorgan (9 - 1) and finally hosts Devon (7 - 3). Liam McTiernan and Daniel Moses remained undefeated, whilst Jarred Knowles only lost once - to the Dorset number 1, Dominic Sussex.

The girls, Megan Knowles and Maria Tsapsinos, found it more difficult as they were up against several highly ranked English and Welsh juniors. Nevertheless, both played with a lot of determination in winning four and three out of six matches respectively.

Megan's important 3 - 2 victory over England number 11 ranked junior, Vicky Smith (Devon), was the most impressive win of the day by any Berkshire player.

On Sunday the championships resumed in Bristol where 11 year old Daniel McTiernan got his first start, winning both his matches against Dorset, the second over Patrick Hurley 3 - 2 having saved four match points. After several other scares, Berkshire eventually secured a comprehensive 10 - 0 win.

This was followed up by two more highly impressive maximum 10 - 0 wins against Avon and Essex 2, which left a match-up with a strong looking Surrey team for the title.

Berkshire started brightly with Liam and Jarred winning 3 - 0 against Marcus Giles and Anthony Patten respectively. This was followed up by an excellent brace of wins for Megan and from that point on the side never looked back, well beating one of the favourites by a 9 - 1 score line.

This is the second year running that that Berkshire have gained promotion and they will start next season in the nation's top division – the Premier.

The County Junior Secretary, Adam McTiernan, congratulated the players and sent his thanks to the parents and coaches for their support of the team.

Finally, the team say goodbye to Daniel Moses who will not qualify as a junior next season. Daniel has been the most consistent player over the last three years and the Association wish to thank him for his input.

School Games at the Double

Four talented young Reading based table tennis players took part in the highly prestigious UK School Games for England South West Region last weekend.

Liam McTiernan (Waingels College), Daniel Moses (Maiden Erleigh), Jarred Knowles (Chiltern Edge) and Rachel Farquhar (Kendrick) spent three days competing in the North East with 1,500 other promising Under 18 year old prospects in ten Olympic disciplines.

After five tough matches in the Team event, the boys team finished 6th and the girls team 4th (out of 8). The highlight of the team matches came against Wales, with both teams enjoying narrow 4-3 victories. The stand out performance was the excellent doubles form of the OLOP table tennis Club team-mates, Liam and Daniel, who won four out of five matches, which was as good as any region in the tournament.

All four players found the Singles competition very competitive and missed out on the Last 16 knock out round, with three of them losing in the deciding group matches – Liam and Daniel in fifth ends.

The whole experience, which included opening and closing ceremonies, was one that all four players thoroughly enjoyed.



DANIEL MOSES VS LIAM McTIERNAN (photo by Didier Garçon)