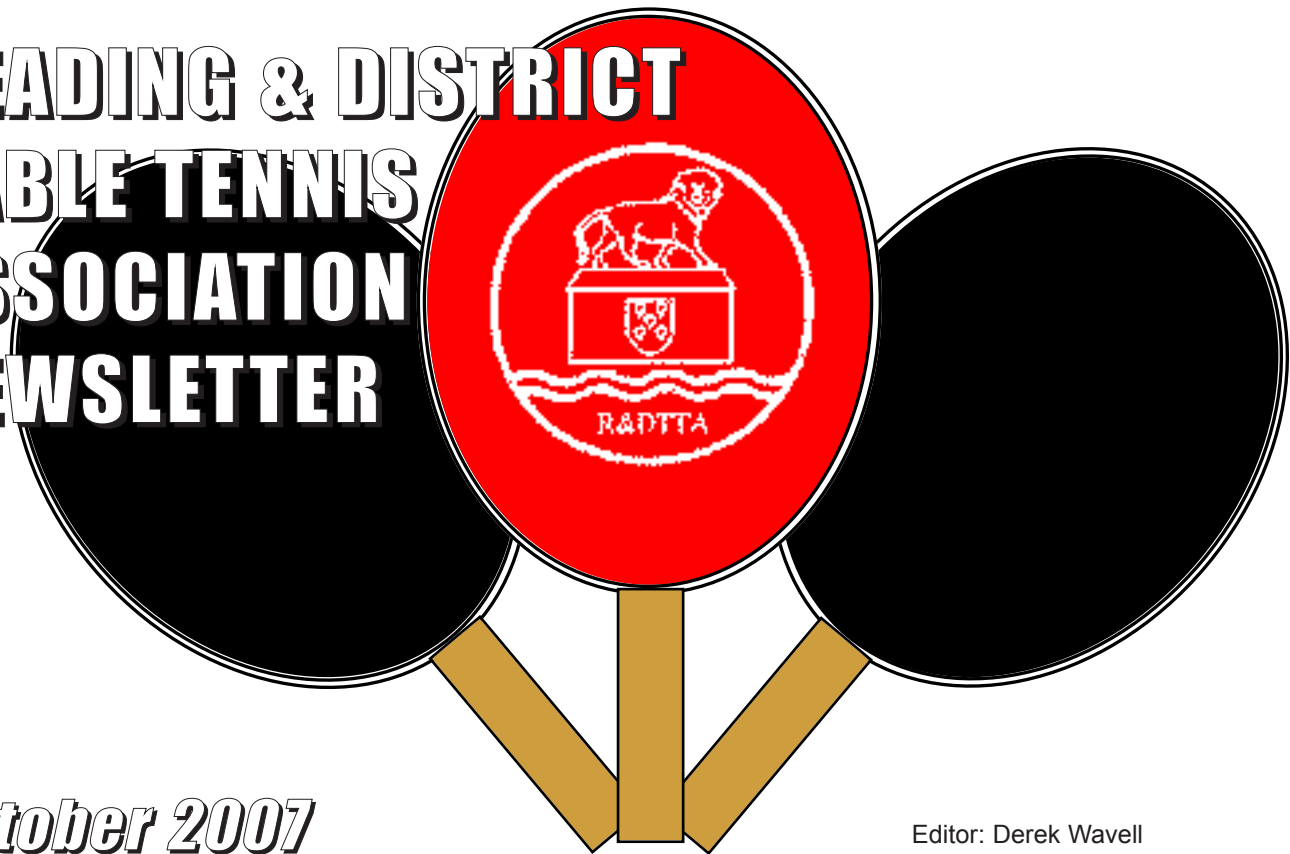


# READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



*October 2007*

Editor: Derek Wavell

## First Look at 2007 / 8

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*I hope you are enjoying the 2007 season - and a nervous hello from a new editor, thanks to rashly volunteering. I am Derek Wavell, taking over from Carol Byers, who (with massive assistance from her husband Colin) had done the job ever since October 2002. They have revolutionized the newsletter between them and I'll have a job to match up.*



*This edition of the newsletter has some superb reports on the various divisions. How can a divisional secretary see such a fascinating story from the bare scores of games he receives on the score cards? Mark Banks's [Div 1 report](#) is a fine example of the kind of colour that captains could also be supplying briefly on their score card.*

*I wonder if you are reading this newsletter on the Internet? And would you like it to be more Net-like? Would you like little fact pieces from players - for instance on robots? Or reviews, of new rubbers, glues etc? Check out my experiment - '[Your TT Insights](#)' on P5. If you have your own insights, grouses, proposals - send them to me on the Newsletter page of the web site.*

*Have a good season!*

**Derek**

*NB - the hyperlinks do work - e.g. to [remove magnification](#).*

## Diamond Dines



Not everyone can live up to the public's high expectations all the time. Jonny Wilkinson just missed out on the night, and so did Lewis Hamilton - but not Alan Dines, who has this season won a unique place in the record book - 60 years playing in Division One of the Reading League.

Back in 1947 Reading YMCA was heading towards a third title with young Alan playing his first Division One game. Now 60 years on he played against YMCA A for OLOP IMPACT - making a diamond jubilee.

Alan has also been coaching youngsters for 37 successive years through IMPACT.

## From our Chairman & Secretary, Nigel Maltby

### Individual Registration Forms

You should all have received registration forms, either via your club secretary or team captain. Please ensure yours is checked, completed and returned to John Harris, 39 Wayside Green, Woodcote, Reading RG8 0PR as soon as possible.

### Berkshire Intertown

Reading's players will wish to note that due to the lack of an elected Senior Intertown match secretary at the RDTTA's AGM in June, and with no other volunteer coming forward to organise entries for this season's Inter Town competition, the Reading Management Committee were left with no alternative but to decline entry into this season's competition. This is truly sad as it is a wonderful competition to play in and we will miss testing our skills against players from the Maidenhead, Bracknell and Newbury leagues. Let us hope that a volunteer steps forward in time for next season.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### IMPACT Challenge Shield:

**Monday 19th November 2007**

by invitation only, teams from Div 1 & 2.

### Berkshire Closed Competition:

**weekend 24th/25th November 2007**

at Kingfisher. Note change of date.

Forms from club secs or Sylvia Bruton.

### Individual Handicap Competition:

**Sunday 13th January 2008**

at Kingfisher. Forms from club secs or web site.

### Reading Closed Championships

**weekend 8th/9th March 2008**

at Cippenham Club, Slough.

Note change of date. Forms from web site.

Queries: Charlie Goddard on 01502 731846

### Deadlines for Newsletter

#### Contributions:

**Tuesday 18th December 2007**

**Tuesday 12th February 2008**

**Friday 28th April 2008**

## Top Sisters - Melanie and Rachel

What are the chances of players from the same family playing for England? Melanie and Rachel Farquhar, from Charvil, have fulfilled their early promise by both making it to the England squad.

Melanie, who was ranked 4 in the junior listings earlier this year, received national recognition when she won the National Junior championships by beating the England number 2, Emma Vickers. Now Melanie has moved into the England seniors, where she is already ranked number 18.

But coming through the system is her younger sister Rachel who pulled off an impressive win in the National under 15 trials tournament. England performance manager Steen Hanson was impressed - and now Rachel too has made her way into the England Training squad and is ranked number 10 among England's Cadet Girls.

## *CRI de COEUR* *by John Cunningham*

### **"TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE, WRONG PLACE"**

**A**s far as table tennis is concerned it is my view – others may think differently – that the amount of £739,000 that is allocated from National funding to table tennis, spread over three years, is too little, comes too late and - in the context of producing world-class players – is directed to the wrong place.

The amount in question would buy a large house in Reading and Wokingham. If properly allocated by the ETTA, it will certainly help a few promising players – including current local stars Melanie and Rachel Farquhar and Richard Andrews. Pumping money into the top tier elite, however, will not produce the world-class players we need to win medals in 2012. If sport is to go forward, funding must be directed at grass roots level to help locate and develop potential stars, many of whom are bypassed by the current system.

Participating numbers in table tennis rival many major sports. However, only a very small proportion of those who try out and play the sport are involved in structured table tennis linked to the ETTA. For many youngsters and adults the structure, format and playing times of local leagues – which lead to county, regional and national competitions, present too many barriers. Many teams and clubs seem happy with the status quo – with the same players playing together year after year – thus producing the current aging playing population at all levels.

If the sport is to progress, funding must be provided to find and nurture potential talent in local primary and junior schools through to senior schools with strong links to progressive clubs and coaching staff.

The small army of volunteers who provide thousands of hours of time, given freely every year, must be expanded and receive financial support.

Local authorities need to provide at least one centre with the necessary lighting, playing surface and storage space for cost effective coaching and training where tournaments and major competitions could be held.

In conclusion the funding for elite players, although inadequate, should go ahead. However, future funding should be aimed at linking schools and progressive clubs, with access to high quality arenas in schools or sports centres.

John Cunningham

Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Coordinator

*For weekly updates and reports see the*

**EVENING POST**

*every Wednesday or the*

**READING**

**CHRONICLE**

*on a Thursday.*

## *Laws of the Game* *by John Freeman, IU NR*

**T**here is a small addition to the wording of the service law which came into effect on 1 September 2007. The law now reads **"As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm and hand shall be removed from the area between the ball and the net"**.

The question of **foot stamping** has cropped up again and there seems to be confusion as to whether it is allowed. I will say straight away that foot stamping likely to cause a distraction, offend spectators or be otherwise detrimental to the sport whether in service or otherwise is not permissible.

In the early eighties foot stamping became such a problem that a law was introduced to provide that a player lost a point if he or his partner stamped a foot in service. In 1991 this provision was removed from the laws and an offender no longer automatically lost a point (in current terminology his opponent no longer scores a point).

Foot stamping is now controlled under the 'misbehaviour regulations' or the 'let law'. In a tournament or competition where the misbehaviour regula-

tions apply (generally speaking County matches and above) if a player persistently foot stamps after due warning a penalty point will be awarded to his opponent, then two points for a subsequent offence. A further offence will incur disqualification.

In a local league match or competition there is no provision for penalty points or disqualification, and foot stamping should be dealt with under the 'let' law. In short a let should be called every time such foot stamping happens.

Similarly the persistent **shouting or screaming** which we hear in another sport is not allowed in table tennis and is dealt with as for foot stamping.

I have been asked to say a few words about 'glue'. In short the position at present is that ITTF has withdrawn authorisation of ALL glues from the date the announcement was made, and any adhesive containing a volatile organic substance will be banned. The ban will take effect from 1 January 2008 for junior events and from 1 September 2008 for all other events. As from those dates there will be zero tolerance.

I understand that it is hoped that manufacturers will develop water based glues or self adhesive racket coverings which will eliminate the problem.



## British League

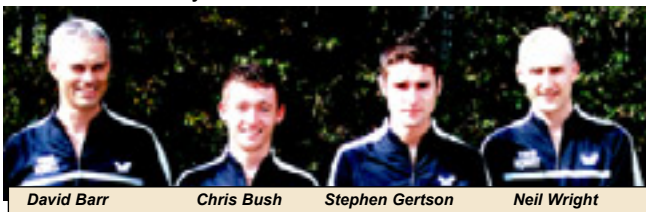
### Barr's Butterflies take off

### Outrim's young guns undefeated

David Barr and his OLOP IMPACT side – sporting their new TEES SPORT Butterfly kit - made a great start to their Division One British League season at the Cippenham Table Tennis Arena. For their opening match against Poliska One, Barr was joined by Hari Gehlot, Welsh ace Steve Gertsen and Surrey star Chris Bush – making his debut for the Earley club.

Barr gave his side a great start, beating Tomasz Gretschel 3-2, the Polish player coming back after losing the first two 11-9, 18-16 to square the set at 2-2, only to lose the decider 11-4 to the talented OLOP defender. Gertsen made the match score 2-0 with a 3-1 win over Darek Zurowski, only for the battling Poles to fight back - Bush and Gehlot losing 3-1 to Leo Veinsreider and Darek Kollsnk.

Up stepped Captain Barr to steady the boat with a good 3-1 win over Zurowski. Bush then recorded a hard fought 3-2 win over Gretschiel to turn the match against the top Polish side, leaving Gertsen and Gehlot to steer home an impressive 6-2 victory. David Barr received the Player of the Match award.



David Barr Chris Bush Stephen Gertsen Neil Wright

Neil Wright replaced David Barr for the second match against Oxford Fireplace Centre. Owen Clutterbuck gave the Oxford side an early lead with a surprise 3-1 win over Bush but from then on OLOP IMPACT took control, coasting to yet another 6-2 win, with Steve Gertsen Player of the Match.

Sunday started with a match against the home side Cippenham. Barr returned to replace Gehlot. The strength in depth of OLOP IMPACT with Gertsen and Bush undefeated voted joint players of the match, saw the team race to yet another 6-2 win.

Westfield (perhaps the division's strongest team) were the weekend's final opponents - fielding Ben Barlow, Chris Duran, David McBeath and Steve Cowley. Barr once again gave OLOP a great start by winning another five game set, this time at the expense of Duran. Westfield, however, stormed to a 3-1 lead as Barlow, Cowley and McBeath beat Gertsen, Bush and Wright. The team fought back, with Barr beating Barlow 3-1, Bush doing likewise against Duran and Gertsen winning a stunning 3-2 victory over McBeath 12-10 in the decider, giving his team a 4-3 lead. Cowley, however, proved too strong for Wright winning 3-0 and OLOP had to settle for a creditable 4-4 draw.

Barr was awarded his second Player of the Match – bringing the team's awards to a record five.

Seven points leaves OLOP IMPACT in second place well positioned for the next weekend of matches on 8th December at Cippenham.

The first weekend of British League's Division Three was held at the London Progress Table Tennis Arena in Southall. Berkshire's Susan Johnson and young cousins Abhay and Kuldeep Gehlot - following in the footsteps of British League veteran Hari Gehlot - joined Krasimir Ivanov, the Reading captain of OLOP IMPACT.

York Gardens was their first opponent of the weekend. Marcia Ma put the London side in the lead by getting the better of Ivanov in a close four game encounter. However, Niki Mills - York Gardens number one - failed to make the table and the Earley team were gifted two sets. A fighting win for Abhay Gehlot and a cracking five game victory for Johnson, over the talented Wayne Matthews, put their side 4-3 up. However, Campbell, with a hard fought win over Johnson, snatched a draw.

OLOP IMPACT followed up with another 4-4 result, this time against local rivals Cippenham TTC, represented by Phil Clarkson, Paul Elliott, Paul Baker and Steve Mason. Once again it was all-square at the halfway stage as Clarkson defeated Abhay Gehlot and Johnson lost out against Elliott. Ivanov and Kuldeep hit back with resounding wins to square the match at 2-2. Ivanov completed a maximum only for the Gehlot cousins to lose out in nail biting encounters against Elliott and Baker which saw Cippenham take the lead 4-3. Johnson then lost her first game 11-7 but to the delight of veteran captain Graham Outrim, his policy of giving youth a chance bore fruit, as Johnson held her nerve to win 3-1 thus snatching a dramatic draw.

Sunday followed a similar pattern as OLOP took on the Horsham quartet of Rory Scott, Steve Denman, Tom Baxter and James Denman. In what was proving to be the best match to date Johnson just failed to hold Baxter losing 3-2. With the match score at 2-2 another draw looked to be on the cards. From then on, however, OLOP took control, with all the squad winning well-fought matches 3-1. Ivanov's two wins over Scott and Denman gave him his first British League Player of the Match award and his side an emphatic 6-2 victory.

The final opponent of a great weekend of table tennis was Hastings. Ivanov was a shade unlucky to lose the opener 3-2 at the hands of Nick Standen. But the Gehlot cousins made the score 3-1 to OLOP as Abhay beat Nick Standen 3-1 and Kuldeep won 3-0 over Adam Douch. Johnson, however, could not match the all round play of Lisa Standen and the score was square at 2-2. A good win from Ivanov, 3-1 over Nick Standen and a fighting victory for Kuldeep over Roger Pingram put OLOP IMPACT back in the driving seat at 4-2. Unfortunately Hastings won the last two, for a 4-4 result.

All in all the club, Graham Outrim and the players were well pleased with the valuable five points from the eight available. This gives a good springboard for the second weekend on 8th/9th December. Full details of British League fixtures are available from John Cunningham – Tel. 0118 9665907

## TEAM NEWS

### Updates to the handbook

- **SC&P 'E'** - **Andy Boyd**, who did so much to put the team together as a Div 5 entity, tragically died before the beginning of the season. Phil Turton took his place as captain. (Tel: 9470447 Mob: 0770 325757)
- **Birch Copse 'C'** in Div 6 also has a new captain - Russell Moores ( Tel : 9411950)
- **Post Office 'B'** in Div 2 have changed their home evening from Thursday to Tuesday.
- **Kingfisher 'B'** in Div 1 have changed to Wednesday.
- **OLOP 'F'** in Div 3 - delete phone number.
- **Tidmarsh** have changed their name to Tidmarsh Integralis - their new sponsor is Integralis Ltd.



Reading President John Freeman (above left) presents the John Freeman Trophy to Martin Adams - one of the best players ever to play in the Reading league on a regular basis, and currently ranked number 30 in England - "a player and a gentleman". (JC)

## Your TT Insights

"The first thousand times are the worst" - Alan Dines  
 "Play drop shots onto the forehand of a chopper, not his backhand." - D.S.  
 "Always ask to see your opponent's bat!" G. Outrim  
 "2 pints of Guinness before a match is not recommended, 2 pints after the match, if you finish in time, is great!" - The Toucan  
 "It always does you good to be beaten by someone better than you." - John Creighton  
 "If you mess up a service, don't do the same one again because he'll be waiting for it. Surprise him!" - D.W.

*If you can spare a moment please contribute your own insights into the game - blinding, helpful or amusing - on the Newsletter page of the web site.*



This is the first newsletter since the departure of Ing-poh Hii (above far right) in July. Over 100 players and friends turned out at the OLOP TTC to say goodbye to this Malaysian player, who did so much for the club and table tennis during his three years in Reading. Representatives from many clubs joined his OLOP team mates for a barbecue and training session. (JC)

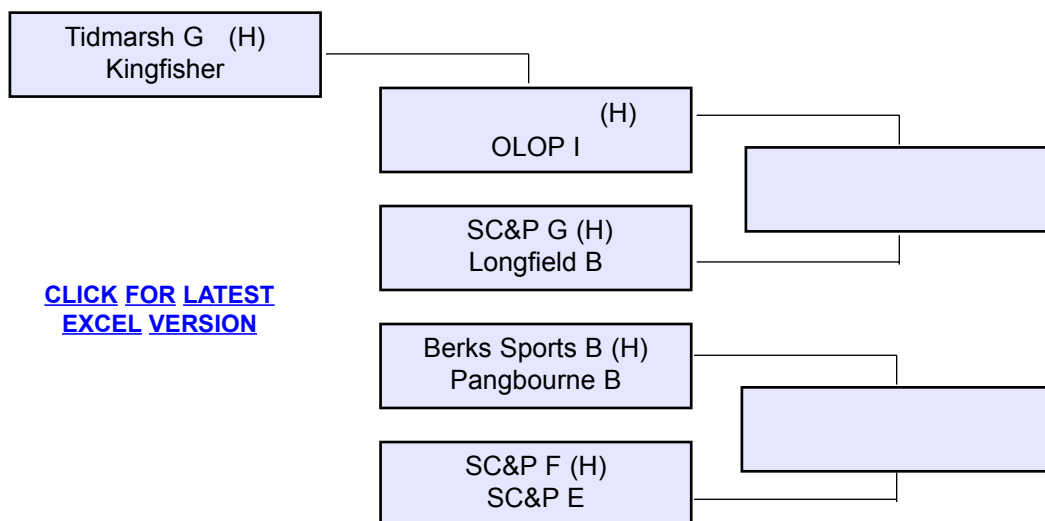
### KNOCKOUT CUP 2007/8

By 26.10.07  
Round 1

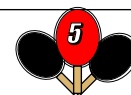
by 23.11.07  
Quarter Final

Semi-Final

Final



[CLICK FOR LATEST EXCEL VERSION](#)



# Team Handicap Competition 2007-08

organised by Professor Abbas Syed

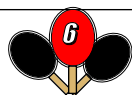
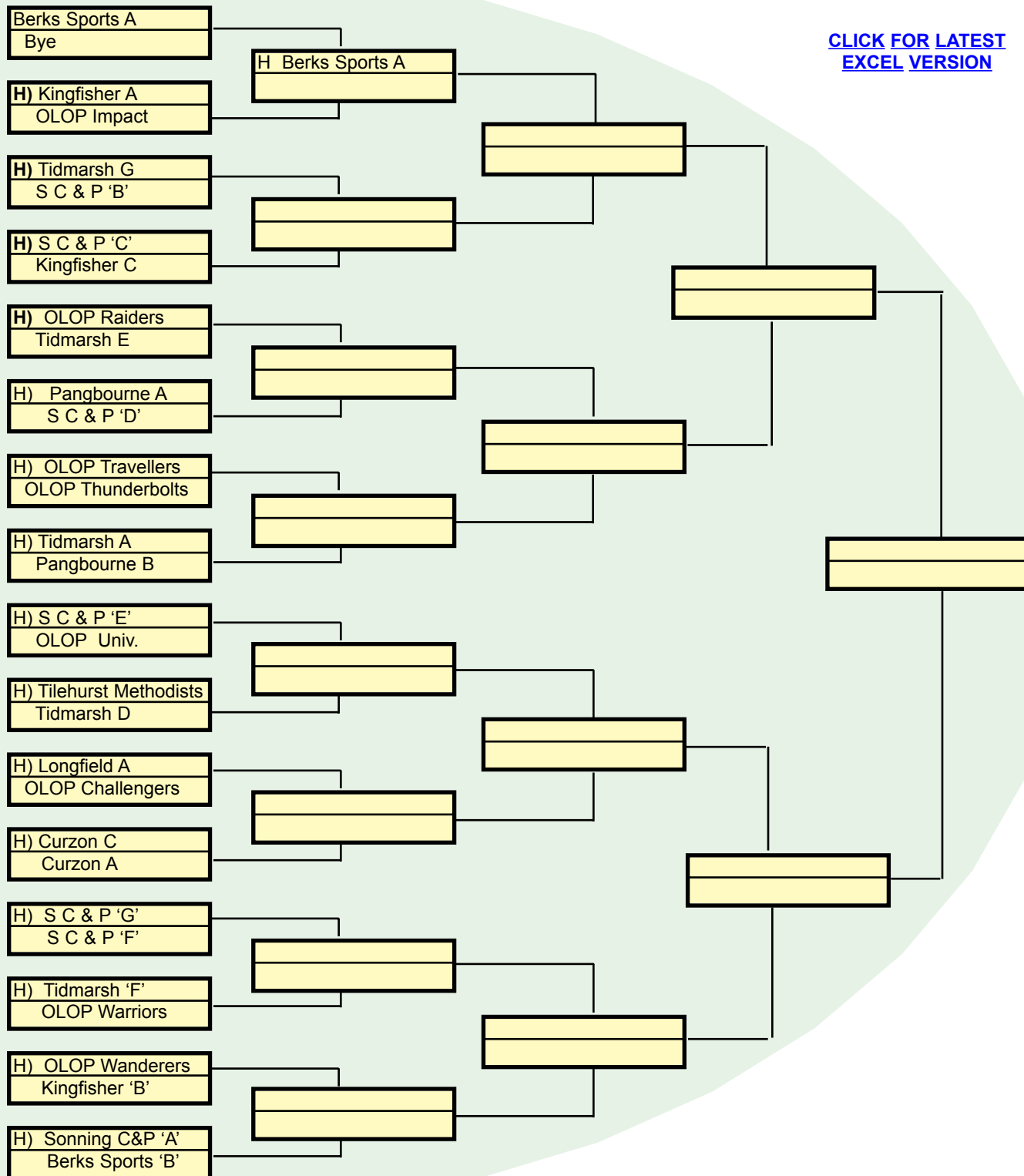
By 26.10.07  
Round 1

By 23.11.07  
Round 2

By 21.12.07  
Quarter Final

Semi-Final

[CLICK FOR LATEST EXCEL VERSION](#)



# DIVISION ONE *by Mark Banks*

Hi guys. Here we go again then. How have you all been? OK? Good. I'm hoping that after all of the drama of last season (especially at the bottom) that I'm given an easier ride in the usually more difficult second season in charge. No 3-way play offs PLEASE!! Actually talking of the play-offs after all that we went through, after all of the delays and time that it took to actually get the things on and played – none of the teams involved actually ended up going down! In fact even OLOP D who finished rock bottom were given a lifeline when Tidmarsh "B" (so impressive in winning Div 2) had to withdraw at the last minute due to availability issues.

Apologies, by the way, that this October edition of the Banksy update is much watered down compared to my previous columns. I've been the victim of a very unwell little boy this past 10 days and I haven't had the spare time or energy for that matter to sit down and write about you lot all over again. Plus we're all pretty much as we were last year anyway. Of course we have one or two new faces – Eric Van-Looy, Kevin Macken & Simon Thorne in particular have proved already that they can only strengthen the Division. One or two have left us – albeit in Hari's case temporarily and one or two have transferred to other clubs. Mr Murgy immediately springs to mind.

All your old favourites such as the one liners and MVP's will have to wait until the next edition I'm afraid and the averages, whilst not in this edition either will appear on the website too soon but I'm happy to write a few lines about each team as normal and if you don't get a mention it's not that I don't like you it's just time pressures – honest!

Right, here we go then. Who shall I start with? Mmmmmm let me think. Oh, go on then, good old Kingfisher "A". Yup! once again we lead the way despite the fact that our leader

and bestest player is now mixing it with Europe's finest on the tables in Sweden. Now, I never EVER thought I'd say this but I actually miss Hari. Mainly because he was always around to keep his younger brother Ramesh in check, coaching him during changes of ends and ensuring that he made sure the samosas were offered around fairly rather than having him scoff them all himself. Anyway with Hari miles away that job has now fallen to me! GREAT! Coaching Ramesh at changes of ends is actually quite easy. A lot easier than getting a fair share of his samosas anyway. Ramesh, just hit the ball as hard as you possibly can, I tell him. Simple. It's no good trying to tell him to do anything else 'cos he won't listen anyway!! And it seems to be paying off. He's actually playing quite well – coming out (of his brother's shadow) and finally winning some games for us for once. Steve Munson on his day is top drawer and has contributed loads. Bela, although receiving some bad news before the OLOP "A" game is also in good form and Kuldeep has transferred from the now disbanded 06/07 "B" side, has matured as a player and is much improved. Oh and I'm unbeaten by the way (well it is my column hey) now there's a challenge!! Are we gonna win it again? Murgy thinks not but when challenged he couldn't name another side to take our title so I guess we're worthy favourites but well aware that things can change ever so quickly especially with the standard that we have this year. Read on.

Our old adversaries **Polish "A"** have also made a strong start but go into the next 6 weeks without their star man and best player this league has seen for many a year Martin Adams. He's off having a baby now (god I know all about what that brings – and I'm not just talking about my 2.5 stones weight gain) so it will be interesting to see how they fare without him. I have first hand information as to how Nick & Derek are playing and it's actually very well –

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	6	6	0	0	53	7	12
Polish 'A'	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Tidmarsh Integralis 'A'	6	4	0	2	35	25	8
Reading YMCA 'A'	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'A'	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Kingfisher 'C'	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'B'	6	2	1	3	26	34	5
Reading YMCA 'B'	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Kingfisher 'B'	5	0	2	3	17	33	2
Tilehurst Methodists 'A'	5	0	2	3	16	34	2
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'C'	3	0	0	3	9	22	0
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'D'	4	0	0	3	8	32	0

they've certainly upped their games since last season and whilst Richard is just a little inconsistent at the mo he can on his day give anybody a tough ride. If they get through the post natal period unscathed then obviously they're gonna be a threat once again but drop points and they could end up leaving themselves with just a bit too much to do when a much heavier Martin Adams resurfaces before Christmas.

Clearly **Tidmarsh Integralis "A"** are a very, very good side when they turn out with Marco & Ian and the equation for them is simple. Play these guys in every possible game and potentially win the league – struggle to turn them out and you could end up finishing no better than 5th. Marco was injured early doors but with Martin Adams out of the way for a bit he of course clearly inherits the best player in the league hat for the time being. Ian's started strongly and Dave and Lee as always quietly go about their business picking up wins here and there. Mmmmm extremely interesting to have this team in the League though and with their new shiny shirts and the air of unpredictability who knows how it will all turn out!

One team who have definitely strengthened up is **OLOP "A"**. Simon Thorne looks like a potential star of the future and the heavy practice he is putting in (Trust me, he's even up at Kingfisher more than Ramesh!!) is starting to pay off and he's getting some big wins. Jared has been out of action for a while and isn't quite firing as we know he can but Krasi and Michael are quality (yup even you Childsy! Ha Ha!!) so expect them to be there or thereabouts again. Crucially though they've dropped 3 already and must avoid dropping any more to become serious contenders.

It's hard to know what to say so far about **YMCA "A"**. They're clearly one of the best in this Division but seem to have a few availability issues at the mo which is hampering their progress and may mean that they finish no better than mid-table this time around. Having said that they're always a great laugh to play against and enjoy it more than most. I like this team. Never take themselves too seriously and always acknowledge when they've been done by better players. Keep on smiling guys and surely you must know by now to go easy on the samosas hey Bob!

An early award for one of the finds of the season surely has to go to **Kingfisher "C"** who have signed on Mr Eric Van Looy from Belgium. What a start that man's had. Already taken the scalps of Jared Smith, Krasi Ivanov & me old mucker Ramesh Gehlot. Super stuff from the rookie and his victories combined with a rejuvenated Cliff Putterford, Geoff Civil and Wolfgang-Allen have catapulted this team up the league and looking quite healthy at 5 above the relegation zone. So much different from last year hey. Who needs Murgy now I can hear them singing! Keep it up guys. You know I love you and long may it continue.

Who's next then? Ah yes. **OLOP "B"**. A good side OLOP "B". Murgy, Garlick, Martin, Pickin Walker & **PANG**. Some of the best that Basingstoke has to offer. Er, do you live in Basingstoke too Tim? Anyway, the main thing about this lot is that one feels that they just need to be a bit more consistent. Murgy who comprehensively beat Ian Packford has since lost some games that that form just

doesn't justify. But that's what's great about this game hey. Beat a superstar one day – lose to Ramesh the next. So frustrating but OLOP "B" WILL upset some good sides this season so watch out.

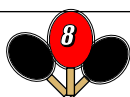
Another side with a big "Basingstoke" influence is **YMCA "B"**. New signing Kevin Macken comes across to Reading with a big reputation and despite making a stuttering start will no doubt be the solution that Pete was looking for and alongside star man Tony Reynolds will be the partnership that guarantees that they won't be involved in the shenanigans of the relegation battle that they faced last year. This team look dangerous and much like OLOP "B" will be causing one or two upsets along the way.

No, don't worry, it's not the all firing **Kingfisher "B"** kids of last season. No, this lot are, shall we say are a little bit more advanced in years than Maynard, Andrews and co and are effectively the team that won promotion from Division 2 last season. Consisting of Johnny Morris (not the animal geezer), Colin Dyke, Dave Bishop, Alan Cummings & new signing from Southampton - British League player Stuart Williams - this team have so much experience in their ranks and will certainly hold their own this season methinks. No wins as yet but a solid start with a couple of draws and more to come. By the way, they play on Wednesdays now so update your handbooks if you haven't already.

Right, look I'm not having it guys. Already I'm hearing whispers that the Prady Bunch, **Tilehurst Meths "A"** are writing their own division one obituaries already just 6 games into the season. Ridiculous. You're not going down OK so stop it. Just stop it. Er, having said that you are going to have to improve a bit though guys and get Gemma turning out a bit more regularly than she has (er, that's been never so far). Keith took out Murgy for a good win, Cricky beat Ramesh and Phil – well he's just Phil I guess. Mary and Jacqui are always on hand to keep the spirits up though (and keep the spirits in the Tilehurst pubs going down) and I'm sure they're gonna be fine. Love Ya!

So, we find ourselves in the relegation zone then and with some usual suspects propping up the table in **OLOP "C" & "D"**. Unconvincing starts from both teams so far but Barry Morten won't be worried about his side as they were in a similar position last year for much of the season and proved all of the doubters wrong by staying up in their own right. Can lightning strike twice? Mmmm. I'm not so sure but never EVER write them off. I'm not going to and I suggest that you don't either as they may just have something (or even someone) up their sleeve. As previously mentioned Alan's "D" side replaced Tidmarsh "B" at the last minute and in truth look like a side who would be more suited to Division 2. With Mel away at Uni they've been really struggling at this level and it's gonna be a long dark season methinks. Good doubles record though so they're obviously enjoying themselves and hey – unless you're Hari Gehlot then that's what it's all about – isn't it??

Love & Peace  
Mark x



# DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2007/2008 season. This will be my first season as division two DFS as Nick Lean is off on his sabbatical (have a good one you lucky person) so I am just keeping the seat warm so to speak until Nick returns next season?

I will start with my predictions, the usual suspects Berks Sports, I have left behind in division three so who will get the "Barry bad luck charm" this season? Well that falls to Tidmarsh 'C' who actually won the division last season but have since lost the services of their Polish stars hence the fiasco at the start of the season. I also think that Kingfisher 'D', last season's third place finishers, are in with a chance and of course there is Sonning C&P 'A' with a potential team of Simon Berry and Phil Stafford. Have a good season.

**A piece of admin news: Post Office 'B' have a new night it is TUESDAY and not Thursday as printed in the handbook.**

... and onto the season so far.

## **Week 1 : Strong starts by Kingfisher**

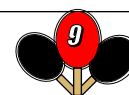
Kingfisher 'D' got off to a flying start as they overwhelmed Post Office 'B'. Phil Mead won all three and with support from Peter Goatly and Allan Bruton, who won two each, they romped to an 8-2 success. Kingfisher 'G' also enjoyed success with a 7-3 win over a weakened Sonning C&P 'A' team. Steve Woolnough won a fine battle with Nigel Maltby before clinching his maximum with a 12-10, 9-11, 8-11, 11-7, 11-8 victory. In the other match Kingfisher 'E' and Sonning C&P 'B'

played out a close fought draw. OLOP 'E' registered their intent with a 10-0 victory over Curzon Club 'A'. Peter Galea, Daniel Moses and Mike Burrow all winning three. Kingfisher 'E' and Sonning C&P 'B' shared the points in a 5-5 draw. Niall McGrane won all three for Kingfisher whilst Brian Meheux won two for Sonning.

## **Week 2 : We three Kings**

Kingfisher 'D' underlined their status as one of the favourites for promotion with a comfortable 8-2 win over Kingfisher 'F'. Allan Bruton got the better in a titanic match with Trevor Organ 8-11, 11-7, 13-11, 6-11. Trevor was the 'F' teams only singles winner as he defeated Peter Bennett 11-7, 8-11, 11-6, 14-12. Kingfisher 'G' held last seasons division 2 winners Tidmarsh 'C' to a draw. Steve Barnes was the star as he won all three which included the match drawing set victory over yours truly 5-11, 11-3, 12-10, 11-9. Dave Reynolds also won two which included an exciting win over Mike Dorrington 11-9, 12-10, 4-11, 7-11, 12-10 the winning point a rather fortuitous edge! Sonning C&P 'B' came from 3-5 behind to draw for the 2nd week in a row. Keith led the fightback with a 4-11, 13-11, 11-7, 11-4 win over Julian Telford of OLOP 'E'. Earlier Mike Burrow had defeated Brian Meheux 7-11, 11-8, 5-11, 13-11, 11-1 to give OLOP a 3-2 lead. Post Office 'A' got their campaign up and running with a well earned point against Curzon 'A' despite only playing with two players. John Simmonds won three and Dave Reynolds Jnr two. Post Office 'B' slumped to bottom after they lost 7-3 to Kingfisher 'E'. Dave Mills continued his good start with two wins over Niall McGrane and Carole Chard.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Our Lady of Peace (Impact) E *</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sonning C&amp;P 'B'</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Kingfisher 'D'</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Kingfisher 'E'</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Curzon Club 'A' *</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Post Office 'A'</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Kingfisher 'G'</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tidmarsh 'C'</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Kingfisher 'F'</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sonning C&amp;P 'A'</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Post Office 'B'</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>0</b>



### **Week 3 : OLOP 'E' take over**

If OLOP 'E' continue to play their strongest side they will be promoted as champions. With Peter Galea and young Daniel Moses in their team they will be unstoppable. The 9-1 win over Post Office 'B' lifted them to top spot. Daniel Moses and Peter both won three relatively easily although Peter dropped ends to both Mick Grantham and Ray Webb, it was Ray who won Post Office 'B's only game with a 5-11, 11-5, 5-11, 11-9, 11-9 win over Mike Burrow. Kingfisher 'D' preserved their unbeaten record as they battled back from 1-5 to draw with Kingfisher 'E'. Peter Goatley certainly had his money's worth as all his three matches went to five. Peter Bennett finally rescued the point with a victory over Carole Chard. Kingfisher 'G' lost for the first time, as they went down 4-6 to Kingfisher 'F'. Matt Sutatham won all three for the 'F' team whilst Steve Woolnough and Steve Barnes won two each for the 'G' team. Curzon Club found it easier to play against three than they did against the two from the Post Office 'A'. John Willcocks and Mick Maynard both returned trebles whilst Sonning 'A', another of my tips for promotion, crashed, to their second defeat of the season. In the other match Post Office 'A' defeated Sonning 'B' 7-3.

### **Week 4 : Daniel Moses, what a performance!**

OLOP 'E' maintained their good start to the season. A fantastic performance against the Kingfisher 'D' trio of Allan Bruton, Peter Bennett and Peter Goatly was the main reason for a good 6-4 win. Daniel overcame Allan 12-14, 11-5, 4-11, 11-8, 11-6 and then the two Peters Bennett 11-9, 11-4, 12-10 and Goatly 11-7, 11-4, 11-8. This was Kingfisher 'D's first defeat of the season. Kingfisher 'E' drew their third match in four, this time in a bad tempered local derby against the 'F' team. In another local derby Sonning 'B' got the better of Sonning 'A'. Keith Swain made it 6 out of 6 with a win over Paul Jarvis 11-3, 12-14, 11-9, 11-6. Malcolm Gregory and Brian Meheux helped the cause with two each as they ran out winners 8-2. Curzon Club 'A' recorded a great 7-3 win over Tidmarsh 'C'. Mick Maynard battled back from 0-2 and 1-8 to beat Dave Reynolds Snr 9-11, 9-11, 12-10, 11-8, 11-5 en route to a good maximum.

### **Week 5 : Contenders achieve first points**

Sonning C&P 'A' finally got off the mark at the third attempt after they defeated fellow pointless Post Office 'B' 6-4. The win was achieved when Paul Jarvis beat Mick Grantham 11-4, 9-11, 11-9, 11-9 to give them a 6-3 lead. Andy Turton returned his first maximum of the season and Paul defeated Denise Weller to win his other

match. This should be seen as a springboard to promotion! Sonning 'B' won 6-4 at Tidmarsh 'C'. Merrill Massey had a very good evening as she defeated both Steve Rollason and Chris Browne. Andy Stephens did his best to rescue a point for (second season syndrome) Tidmarsh 'C' but it was to no avail. Curzon Club and Kingfisher 'G' shared the points in a close battle. Mike Dorrington won the battle of the 'funny' bats with a 11-9, 5-11, 3-11, 11-7, 11-9 win over Mick Maynard. Steve Barnes could only win one match in his worst return of the season so far and that was a 11-7, 11-7, 12-10 win over the luckless, down under bound Nick Lean. OLOP 'E' remained top with a 6-4 win over Kingfisher 'E', young Daniel was brought down to earth by the experience of Niall McGrane and Sharon Mitchell. Post Office 'A' inflicted Kingfisher 'D's second defeat in a row to move level on points with them.

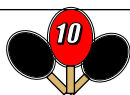
### **Week 6 : A win at last for Tidmarsh 'C'**

Tidmarsh 'C' finally won a game at the fourth time of asking. They defeated Post Office 'B' under the glare of the floodlights of the New Wembley stadium (only joking Eddie) 9-1. Andy Stephens continued where he left off as he won all three in three. Dave Reynolds Snr came back from 0-2 down to beat Dave Mills 6-11, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9, 11-9. Dave Mills was their only winner as he defeated me 11-5, 11-9, 11-3. Sonning 'B' maintained their early season form as they overcame Kingfisher 'G' 7-3 with Malcolm Gregory winning all three. Jeremy Willis made his debut and went home with two wins over Steve Woolnough and Mike Dorrington. Kingfisher 'D' returned to winning ways with a 7-3 win over Sonning 'A'. Phil Mead defeated Andy Turton 10-12, 6-11, 11-6, 11-3, 12-10 on his way to winning three. Kingfisher 'E' won the other match 8-2 against Post Office 'A'.

That's all for now.

### ***LEADING AVERAGES***

<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>PL</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>%</b>
Philip Mead	Kingfisher 'D'	15	13	2	86.7%
Colin Hardman	Post Office 'A'	6	5	1	83.3%
Matt Sutatham	Kingfisher 'F'	6	5	1	83.3%
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh 'C'	6	5	1	83.3%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'E'	18	15	3	83.3%
John Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A'	15	11	4	73.3%
John Simmonds	Post Office 'A'	12	8	4	66.7%
Dave Reynolds (S)	Tidmarsh 'C'	9	6	3	66.7%
Michael Burrow	Our Lady of Peace 'E'	12	8	4	66.7%
Daniel Moses	Our Lady of Peace 'E'	15	10	5	66.7%
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher 'D'	12	8	4	66.7%



# DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

Hello everyone, it's nice to be back in div 3 even if it is only for one season! On behalf of you all I want to thank Derek for doing the newsletter job and wish him well.

At this early stage I expect **Longfield A** to gain promotion back to the second division despite losing to OLOP 4-6. In their first match of the season they smashed Tilehurst Meths 'B' 10-0. Jim Spencer, Mike Shore and Brian Chinnock were the maximum men. At Kingfisher 'H' they came away with a 1-9 win. Again Jim and Brian hit trebles, with the skipper Ian Fletcher obtaining a good double. At a good Tidmarsh 'D', they won 3-7. Martin Pugh did very well by winning all three, with Brian winning two and Ian one. In that OLOP game, Jim won two and Ian and Mike won one each. Jim's win over Chris was impressive, beating him 6-11, 9-11, 10-12.

**Doubles 75%**

For the rest of my report I will take the teams in the order I think they will be at the end of the season. Despite their poor start, I expect **OLOP 'F'** to finish second. Without their normal side in their first three matches, they did not gain a point. They first went down 7-3 at Curzon 'B'. Mark Bullion did well by winning two, which included a 9-11, 9-11, 8-11 win over Jon Willis. Pat Daniels won one by beating Geoff Johnson. At home to Springfield, Pat and Harry Brough both gained singles in a 2-8 defeat. At Tilehurst Meths they lost 6-4 despite a brilliant treble from Julian Trelford. Harry won one by beating Wendy Porter and was unlucky against Phil Jones, going down 7-11, 15-13, 7-11, 18-16, 16-14, which cost them a point. Their match against Longfield was won 6-4 thanks to a superb hat trick from Mark Dearbo Smith and two good wins from Chris Sabourin plus the two of them winning the doubles.

At Tidmarsh 'D', Chris and Julian both hit trebles and Oliver Grist beat François. Chris had a close game against Mike, beating him 19-21 in the 5th.

**Doubles 40%**

So far, **Berks Sports 'A'** have not played well, but I expect them to improve. In their first match they beat Polish 'B' 6-4, thanks to a great performance from Bob Woodmansee, Nigel Goodman and Paul Scrivener, who all won two. At home to Curzon, they shared the spoils with Dave Chard and Nigel gaining doubles and Paul picking up a vital single. At Springfield, Dave won two and Bob and Nigel one each, which helped them gain a draw. They then went down 4-6 at home to Tilehurst. Dave won two and Nigel and Paul picked up singles.

**Doubles 25%**

Now that Ray Yau has hit form and John Virgo has started playing, I expect **Tilehurst Meths 'B'** to do well. On saying that, they crashed to a 10-0 defeat at Longfield in their first match. I won't mention the team! At home to Tidmarsh D, they went down 4-6. Ray won two by beating Mike Aistrop and François Durand. Phil won one, with Ian Cockling and Ray winning the doubles. Next came a close 6-4 win over OLOP 'F', Ray and Phil won two each by beating Steve Purchase and Harry. Wendy Porter played her part by also beating Steve. Phil and Wendy had a great doubles win by beating Steve and Julian 10-12, 11-5, 6-11, 11-7, 11-5. At a good Berks Sports side they came away with a 4-6 win. Ray did the business with a brilliant hat trick. John and Ian gave him good support by beating Nigel and Paul and then Ian teamed up with Ray to win the doubles. This week they went down 3-7 to Tidmarsh 'E'. Ray won two by beating Richard and Terry Hardie. Phil also beat Richard.

**Doubles 40%**

I cannot separate Kingfisher 'H', Tidmarsh 'D' and Tidmarsh 'E' so I will take them in alphabetic order.. **Kingfisher 'H'** started by beating Tidmarsh 'E' 6-4. John Creighton and Dave Duncan won two each, with Chris



Derek Harrison, this year's winner of the Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship Award

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Kris Milerski	Polish 'B'	9	9	100%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	9	9	100%
Brian Chinneck	Longfield 'A'	8	9	88.89%
Jim Spencer	Longfield 'A'	10	12	83.33%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh 'E'	12	15	80%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'B' *	7	9	77.78%
John Creighton	Kingfisher 'H'	6	9	66.67%
Dave Chard	Berks Sports 'A'	6	9	66.67%
Des Hele	Springfield 'A'	6	9	66.67%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh 'D'	6	9	66.67%
Mile Shore	Longfield 'A'	4	6	66.67%

Pusey winning one by beating Richard Hudson. At home to Longfield Dally - sorry, Dave - saved the whitewash by beating Ian 11-5, 11-6, 11-2 in game ten. At Tidmarsh 'D', Alan Pack hit the jackpot by winning all three, with John winning one. There were two 11-0's in this match, Pete beating Dave 10-12, 11-8, 4-11, 11-9, 11-0 and François beating John 11-2, 9-11, 11-6, 11-0. Against Polish they romped to a 9-1 win, with Dave and John both getting maximums.

#### Doubles 75%

**Tidmarsh 'D'** had a great start by beating Springfield 'A' 6-4. Chris Webb hit a good maximum by beating Des Hele 11-5, 11-5, 11-8, Ian Boaden 11-7, 8-11, 11-3, 11-6 and Seth Martin 11-6, 11-6, 11-5. Mike Aistrop gave him good support by winning two besides teaming up to win the doubles. They then won at Tilehurst 4-6. Chris again won all three with François Durand winning two and Mike picking up a vital single. At home to Longfield, François won two by beating Brian and Ian while Pete Sinclair also beat Ian. Sadly, Chris lost all three, which meant they lost 3-7. They then shared the spoils with Kingfisher. Mike and François won two each, with Pete winning one. At home to OLOP they went down 2-8, with Mike and Steve winning the games. I have to say that all of the close games went against them.

#### Doubles 20%

**Tidmarsh 'E'**, provided they keep Barry Carter, will be OK but if he was to move up to the 2nd they could very well slip into trouble. At home to Kingfisher they lost 4-6 despite a very good Barry maximum. Dave Sheppard picked up a single by beating Chris. Next came a home 3-7 defeat to Polish 'B'. Barry won two with Steve Ricks winning one. They then won at Curzon 'B' 7-3. Barry, Steve and Dave all won two each. One of these days I will beat you, Steve! This week they won 3-7 at Tilehurst. To prove my point about Barry, he hit a great treble which included a fine win over Ray. Terry Hardie did well by winning two.

#### Doubles 50%

**Springfield 'A'** without Phil Burke went down 6-4 at Tidmarsh 'D' with Des Hele winning two and Ian Boaden and Seth Martin winning one each. At OLOP they won 2-8. Phil managed a treble with Des and Seth winning two each. Phil then hit a 3 straight treble against Berks Sports by beating Nigel 11-6, 11-9, 15-13; Bob 11-8, 11-3, 11-7 and Dave 11-9, 11-6, 14-12. Des played his part by winning two., I am not sure what you meant re your comments on the card, Des.

#### Doubles 33%

**Curzon Club 'B'** started with a good 7-3 win over OLOP. Derek Harrison hit a good maximum while Jon Willis won two and Geoff Johnson won one. At Berks Sports, Jon obtained a great treble besides teaming up with me to beat Nigel and Dave 8-11, 7-11, 11-2, 12-10, 5-11 in the doubles. I also beat Paul to give us a draw. At home to Tidmarsh 'C', I beat Barry in game one but it then went wrong as I then lost to Dave and Steve. Geoff played well by beating them both. Jim Brent came back to the side after injury without success. At home to Polish B we lost 4-6. Jon won two by heating Krys Duma and Bob while Geoff and I also beat Bob.

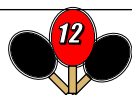
#### Doubles 50%

**Polish 'B'** went down 4-6 to Berks Sports despite a three straight treble from star player Krys Milersky, who also teamed up with Krys Duma to win the doubles. Krys M again won all three to help the side to a 3-7 win at Tidmarsh 'E'. Krys Duma won two and Bob Walker won one by beating Dave 12-10, 11-7, 8-11, 9-11, 10-12. They were without Krys M at Kingfisher and as a result they lost 9-1. Krys D won the only game.

At Curzon they came away with a 4-6 win with Krys M gaining a 3-straight maximum which included a first-ever win over Jon 10-12, 11-13, 9-11. Krys D did well by winning two.

#### Doubles 75%

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Longfield 'A'	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Springfield 'A'	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Kingfisher 'H'	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Tidmarsh 'D'	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Polish 'B'	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Tidmarsh 'E'	5	2	0	3	25	25	4
Berks Sports 'A'	5	1	2	2	24	26	4
Our Lady of Peace (University) 'F'	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Tilehurst Methodists 'B'	5	2	0	3	19	31	4
Curzon Club 'B'	4	1	1	2	19	21	3



# DIVISION FOUR *by Nigel Rowland*

Welcome to all, this is my first season as a D.F.S. At the start of the season my predictions for promotion were between Pangbourne A, OLOP H and SC&P C. I believe the rest of the teams are very evenly matched so the battle to avoid the drop will depend on teams fielding strong sides. Please can I ask for as many comments as possible on score cards, Many thanks to captains keeping me informed of results by phone during the postal strike. I should like to give a mention to Malcolm Griffiths who is currently ill and undergoing hospital treatment, our thoughts are with you Malcolm.

**SC&P C** leap to the top of the table this week on points difference, having cruised to four 8-2 wins against Kingfisher, OLOP G, SC&P D, Tidmarsh; and one 7-3, Milestone being the spoilers. Jeremy Willis has been in outstanding form with 15 wins out of 15 and currently the only unbeaten player - who can spoil his 100% record? Paul Treadgold follows with an almost unblemished 11/12 with solid support from Derek Wavell and Graham Streets 5/9. Doubles 3/5.

**OLOP H** are also unbeaten having also won 5 out of 5. Firstly narrowly beating OLOP G 6-4 (Julian Telford's crucial win against Cedric Dias in the 10th won the points), then on to defeat SC&P D and Tidmarsh F 7-3, Milestone 6-4 and Pangbourne 8-2. Steve Purchase has led the way with 10/12 including 3 hat tricks. Phil Mannion 5/9, best performance beating Pat Daniels. Alex Fear 4/9, best performance beating Ian Ayres. Mark Kirton 2/6, best performance beating Bob Griffiths. It will be interesting to see how they manage without Julian Telford 6/6 who moves up a league. Doubles 4/5.

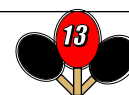
**Milestone A** have been the surprise team this year, winning their first 3 games 9-1, 6-4 and 7-3 against Tidmarsh, St Laurence and Pangbourne respectively. Recently they have run out of steam, losing narrowly 4-6 to OLOP H and then 3-7 to SC&P C. Hugh Crosfield has led the way with 11/15 a crucial win against St Laurence in the 9th against Dan West won them the points. John Evans 8/12, best performance was a superb hat trick against Pangbourne. John Tucker 4/12 and John Crosfield 2/6. Doubles 4/5.

**Pangbourne A** started strongly, beating SC&P D 9-1 and Tidmarsh 8-2, but have since fallen away losing 3-7 to Milestone then a draw with St Laurence and losing 2-8 to OLOP H. Leroy Wilson has led the way 11/15; best performance was a crucial hat trick against St Laurence. Roger Stevens 7/9 with 2 hat tricks. Tom Johnson 5/9 and Pete Welch 2/6. The two losses coincided with having to draw on players from lower divisions. Doubles 2/5.

**St Laurence Church** have had mixed results so far, draws with Tilehurst and Pangbourne, then losing 4-6 to Milestone and a good win against Kingfisher 7-3. Dan West 8/12, best performances beating Jan Wright and Arifur Rahman. Ralph Jack 6/9, best performances beating Nigel Rowland and Roger Stevens. Chris West 4/6 and Ben Clowney 0/9 narrowly losing to Jan Wright and Roger Stevens in 5 games. Doubles 3/4.

**Tilehurst Methodists C** started the season as the draw specialists against St Lawrence and Kingfisher then lost against OLOP G 3-7 and SC&P D 4-6 but finally got their first win against Tidmarsh 6-4. Nigel Rowland leads with

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sonning C&P 'C'	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'H'	5	5	0	0	34	16	10
Milestone 'A'	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Pangbourne WMC 'A'	5	2	1	2	27	23	5
St Laurence Church	4	1	2	1	21	19	4
Tilehurst Methodists 'C'	5	1	2	2	23	27	4
Kingfisher 'I'	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
Our Lady of Peace (Impact.) 'G'	4	1	1	2	18	22	3
Sonning C&P 'D'	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Tidmarsh 'F'	5	0	0	5	12	38	0



## DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	15	15	100%
Paul Treadgold	Sonning C&P 'C'	11	12	91.67%
Stephen Purchase	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'H'	13	15	86.67%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Methodists 'C'	9	12	75%
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone 'A'	11	15	73.33%
Leroy Wilson	Pangbourne WMC 'A'	11	15	73.33%
Arifur Rahman	Kingfisher 'I'	8	12	66.67%
John Evans	Milestone 'A'	8	12	66.67%
Dan West	St Laurence Church	8	12	66.67%

9/12 with 2 hat tricks. Jan Wright 5/9, best performance a hat trick against Tidmarsh. Dave Jones 3/6, best performance beating Ralph Jack. Mal Collis 3/12, best performance beating Tim Raby. Chris Taylor 2/6, best performance beating Cedric Dias. Doubles 1/5.

**Kingfisher I** have had mixed results losing against SC&P C 2-8 and St Laurence 3-7 then 2 draws against Tilehurst and OLOP G and finally a first win against SC&P D 7-3. Arifur Rahman is a star find, new into the division with 8/12 best performance a hat trick against SC&P D. Kenneth Rob 6/12 best performance beating Mark Bullion. Derek Crombie 1/15 (started playing in 1954) finally got his win against SC&P D. Sylvia Bruton has proved to be a great reserve 5/6, a hat trick against OLOP G won a draw. Doubles 2/5.

**OLOP G** started poorly losing 4-6 and 2-8 to OLOP H and SC&P C but then had a good win against Tilehurst 7-3 then a draw against Kingfisher. Mark Bullion 7/12

best performance a hat trick against Tilehurst. Pat Daniels 7/12 best performances also a hat trick against Tilehurst. Cedric Dias 1/12 best performance beating Derek Crombie in the last game to earn the team a point. Doubles 3/4.

**SC&P D** started badly, losing 1-9, 3-7, 2-8 and 3-7 to Pangbourne, OLOP H, SC&P C and Kingfisher but had a good win against Tilehurst 6-4. Martyn Fenner 8/9 with 2 hat tricks. Tim Raby 3/9, best performance beating Dave Jones. Ian Ayres 1/6, best performance beating Tom Johnson. Jim McClure 0/9, best performance taking a game off Jeremy Willis. Colin Selman stepped up as reserve to win 2 crucial games against Tilehurst. Doubles 0/5.

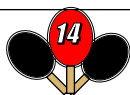
**Tidmarsh F** are the strongest team in the division holding us lot up and the most sporting with it. All the feed back I get is they all enjoy their table tennis. So far results have gone against them, when playing Milestone, Pangbourne, OLOP H, SC&P C and Tilehurst: 1-9, 2-8, 3-7, 2-8 and 4-6. Bob Griffiths 6/15 best performances against Leroy Wilson and Tom Johnson and giving Jeremy Willis a scare before finally losing in the 5th game. Alison Cheers 2/6 best performance against Mal Collis. Mick Osbourne 1/9 best performance against Mark Kirton. Dave Smith 1/12 best performance beating Mal Collis. Terry Hardie 0/3. Doubles 2/5. Notable doubles win against SC&P C.

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# DIVISION FIVE *by John Harris*

As I sit here at my computer racking my brain about what drivel to write, the sun is beating down from a cloudless sky and I am struggling to believe that it is the end of October and that we are already about a quarter of the way through the table tennis season. Still, here we go! The divisional table shows that a pattern is emerging and, even at this early stage, it seems fairly clear to me which teams will be battling it out for the top places and which teams will be endeavouring to avoid relegation. I would like to express my thanks to all team captains for keeping me up to date with match results; your phone calls during the postal strikes were much appreciated.

## **BIRCH COPSE 'A'**

Chas will, I think, be very satisfied with the start his team has made to the season. Four wins from five matches is a solid opening, although I am quite sure that Chas and his team realise that the three victories were against those teams near the foot of the table. When competing against stronger opposition – Longfield – the result was an 8-2 defeat. Matthew Rowland is the in-form player, with maximums against Sonning 'E' and OLOP and braces against Pangbourne and Tidmarsh, while Jes Eassom, who achieved a maximum against Tidmarsh, and George Kennet offer great support to Matthew.

## **SPENCERS WOOD**

With four victories and one draw Brenda Finegan's team is, as yet, undefeated and riding high in the division. However, Brenda is not prepared to get carried away with the success; her team has so far played the teams in the bottom five places and has yet to play any of the

stronger teams in the division. Nonetheless, with Martin Wetherell, who has yet to lose a game, Alan Clarke and Derek Chapman, this team should, at least, finish in the top half of the table. Congratulations to Brenda who broke her early season duck a few days ago when she won two games against my team, Sonning 'F'.

## **CURZON CLUB 'C'**

With five straight victories, Linda King's team are the early season pace-setters and, will, I am quite sure, be part of the promotion battle at the end of the season. I realise that Curzon have yet to face Longfield, Spencers Wood and the Birch Copse teams but I feel that they have a greater strength in depth than any of these. Tracy Maynard is undefeated in five matches, while Linda, Terry Spice and Mike Gillard are all capable of beating good players; they can also, during the first half of the season, call on the services of Nick Lean.

## **BIRCH COPSE 'B'**

Duncan Abbott's team has made a solid start to the season. With victories over both Sonning teams and draws against Tidmarsh, Kingfisher and, most recently, Longfield, they are running neck and neck with Longfield. Undoubtedly, much of the team's success so far has been down to Duncan, who has won 12 from 15, while Ken Sherry, 8 from 12, and newcomer Mike Williams have provided good support. Roy Hull has just played his first match of the season; he opened his account by defeating Ken Park, Colin Field and John Belcher to help secure the draw against Longfield.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curzon Club 'C' *	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Spencers Wood	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Birch Copse 'A'	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Longfield 'B'	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Birch Copse 'B'	5	2	3	0	31	19	7
Kingfisher 'J'	5	2	2	1	26	24	6
Sonning C&P 'E'	6	1	1	4	23	37	3
Sonning C&P 'F'	5	1	0	4	15	35	2
Tidmarsh 'G'	6	0	2	4	18	42	2
Pangbourne WMC 'B'	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'I' *	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

### KINGFISHER 'J'

I think that Sylvia will be quite happy with the start her team has made to the season. They have beaten both Sonning teams (although I must say that the 6-4 win over my team was a very close-run and tense affair with the result being in the balance until the end) and drawn with Tidmarsh and Birch Copse 'B', while they have lost only to high-flyers, Curzon. Unlike several other teams, Kingfisher does not have a 'star'; each of their players is solid and reliable and will finish the season with an average of about 50%. Nonetheless, I must single out one performance: Derek Spicer's victory over Duncan Abbott of Birch Copse 'B'. In spite of losing the first two games – 11-4 and 11-7 – Derek won the next three – 13-11, 13-11, 11-7.

### SONNING COMMON & PEPPARD 'F'

In spite of the injection of some new blood this season, I am afraid that the results so far have shown no improvement over those of last year! Although we defeated Tidmarsh in the opening game of the season, we have since been defeated by Birch Copse 'B', Curzon, Spencers Wood and Kingfisher. I may be clutching at straws but I am still hoping that we will be able to gain some points when we play fellow strugglers Pangbourne, OLOP and Sonning 'E'. Tony House, 8 from 12, has the best record so far but Malcolm Faulkner and Mike Casserley are both perfectly capable of winning games – so I remain optimistic!

### TIDMARSH 'G'

I feel sure that Bob Sunerton is somewhat disappointed with the start his team has made this season. After a disastrous first match – an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Sonning 'F' – the results have not improved a great deal. Drawn matches with Kingfisher and Birch Copse 'B' have given the team their only points thus far, as they have been beaten by Curzon, Spencers Wood and Birch Copse 'A'. I would guess also that the team members are rather disappointed with their own individual records; Bob has won 3 from 18, Dave Humphreys 4 from 6, John Smith 5 from 12 and Mike Bundy 4 from 12, while Helen Daniels and John Harland have each played in one match only so far. Still, as I tell my team when we lose week after week, it is the enjoyment of playing that counts!

### SONNING COMMON & PEPPARD 'E'

Phil Turton's team have struggled a little to come to terms with the standard of play in this division and, from their six matches so far, have picked up three points only – a draw against high-flying Spencers Wood and a victory over Pangbourne. In fairness, however, their defeats have been at the hands of teams such as Birch Copse 'A' and 'B', Curzon and Kingfisher. Jo Stone, with 8 wins from 15, has the best record to date but she is closely followed by Phil, with 6 from 12. Warrick Mayes scored a maximum against Pangbourne recently and now has 5 wins from 15 games. Simon Blake and the other members of the Stone family, Ron and Matthew, have yet to start playing regularly.

### OUR LADY OF PEACE 'I'

Alistair Richardson's team has had an extremely tough start to the season. In their first four matches they have played the teams sitting in the top four places in the table, namely Curzon, Spencers Wood, Birch Copse 'A' and Longfield. Talk about a baptism of fire! Not surprisingly, therefore, they have no points and are probably feeling somewhat disappointed. All that I can say is that things will improve; coming matches will be against weaker teams and OLOP 'I' will, I am quite sure, start to pick up points – but not, I hope, against my team!

### PANGBOURNE WMC 'B'

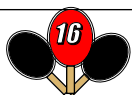
Geoff Chivers' team will, I am sure, be disappointed with their start to the season. Four straight defeats, even though three of these were against teams who are likely to be contesting the promotion places, is somewhat demoralising. Unfortunately, however, as much as I would like to offer encouraging words, I suspect that the team will continue to struggle and find points hard to come by. The results of the matches against OLOP, Tidmarsh and Sonning 'F' will, I feel, determine where the team finishes in the table next March. John Taylor, with 5 wins from 12 games, and Tony Hatto, 3 from 12, are holding the team's best averages so far, although I am sure that Geoff and Colin Thomas will begin to make more of an impact as the season unfolds.

### LONGFIELD 'B'

John Belcher's team have the potential to finish the season in one of the two promotion slots. They have a game in hand over their closest rivals, have defeated Birch Copse 'A' and drawn against Birch Copse 'B' and so they will view fourth place in the table as very encouraging. Ken Park, with 11 wins from 12 games, and John Beardmore, 9 from 9, are probably the team's strongest players, but they have been and I am sure will continue to be well supported by John Belcher, Colin Field – who scored a brace in the draw against Birch Copse 'B' – and Tony Eames; Rod Janes has yet to play this season.

## DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
M.Wetherell	Spencers Wood	15	15	100%
T.Maynard	Curzon Club 'C' *	15	15	100%
J.Beardmore	Longfield 'B'	9	9	100%
K.Park	Longfield 'B'	11	12	91.67%
D.Abbott	Birch Copse 'B'	12	15	80%
L.King	Curzon Club 'C' *	7	9	77.78%
T.Spice	Curzon Club 'C' *	7	9	77.78%
M.Rowland	Birch Copse 'A'	11	15	73.33%
T.House	Sonning C&P 'F'	8	12	66.67%
K.Sherry	Birch Copse 'B'	8	12	66.67%
M.Gillard	Curzon Club 'C'	6	9	66.67%



# DIVISION SIX *by Duncan Groves*

It looks as though Division 6 is going to be very open this season. The new teams to the Division, Kingfisher K, Milestone B and Polish D (not to mention the all-new line-up of Sonning C&P G) all seem to have key players capable of beating almost anyone. Results have fluctuated wildly in the first six weeks and the league has barely settled down as a result.

It promises to be an interesting run-in to Christmas and, you never know, might result in the closest finish to a Division 6 season for many a year.

Following the lead of other DFS's last year, I am going to provide a week by week summary of the matches, picking out any individual performances or highlights as I go through.

**Week 1 - Off and Running.....** Pre-season favourites, Post Office C, are out of the traps with a 7-3 win over Birch Copse C. Pretty routine this except for a certain Peter Sheppard who must be one of the few players in recent seasons to take three from this experienced Post Office side. Interesting.....

Dropping down from Division 5, Milestone B look good on paper and, on the table itself, proved useful against a 2 man OLOP J team, winning 8-2. Don't think Ollie Bonser and Gerard Thorp will lose too many this year (although well done to Tim Carter who took one off Gerard for OLOP).

I confess to knowing little about Kingfisher K other than, as a Kingfisher team, they are sure to be competitive. An 8-2 victory against Berks Sports first up for

them.

The local derby at Polish ended 5-5 keeping us all guessing as to their selection policy for the season. Krys Szczygiel's improvement during last season seems to have continued as he won all three.

Finally, mixed fortunes for the Springfield teams. The C team picked up the points at home to BBC but the B team lost at home to Sonning C&P G for whom a certain Colin Selman appears to be the man to beat.

**Week 2 – Kingfisher make it 2 from 2.** In the battle of the teams from the league's "Big Two", Kingfisher emerged as victors 6-4. OLOP's Hanson Xu is already looking a class act with three comfortable wins but team mates struggle against Simon Guard, AJ Read and Gill Bennett and the doubles proves decisive.

Elsewhere, Springfield B bounce back with a win over BBC, despite a treble from John Scott, and Springfield C join Kingfisher at the top with a 9-1 win away at Birch Copse. Post Office also maintain their winning start beating Polish D 8-2 despite wins for Richard Kacperczyk over both John and Barbara Gatward.

Berks Sports battle gamely to defeat the other side from Polish 6-4. Already it appears that a pattern is emerging regarding the Berks Sports doubles pairing....they just don't like to lose doubles.

Finally, Sonning make it a four way tie at the top by beating Milestone 6-4. Milestone are missing Ollie B which might have cost them a point or two in this one.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Post Office 'C'	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Sonning C&P 'G'	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Springfield 'B'	5	4	0	2	38	22	8
Milestone 'B'	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Springfield 'C'	5	3	1	1	32	18	7
Kingfisher 'K'	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J' *	6	2	1	3	32	28	5
BBC Club	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Berks Sports 'B'	5	2	0	3	16	34	4
Polish 'C'	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
Polish 'D'	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Birch Copse 'C'	4	0	0	4	8	32	0

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Hanson Xu	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J' *	12	12	100%
Krys Szczygiel	Polish 'C'	11	12	91.67%
Colin Selman	Sonning C&P 'G'	11	12	91.67%
Linda Davis	Post Office 'C'	8	9	88.89%
John Scott	BBC Club	8	9	88.89%
Liam McTiernan	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J' *	8	9	88.89%
Gerard Thorp	Milestone 'B'	15	17	88.24%
Nigel Outhwaite	Springfield 'C'	10	12	83.33%
Ollie Bonser	Milestone 'B'	9	11	81.82%
Jeff Morgan	Springfield 'B'	7	9	77.78%
Ray Morrell	Springfield 'B'	9	12	75%
AJ Read	Kingfisher 'K'	10	14	71.43%
Chris Johnson	Sonning C&P 'G'	8	12	66.67%
Chris Speight	Springfield 'B'	8	12	66.67%
John Gatward	Post Office 'C'	9	15	60%
Pat Davis	Post Office 'C'	9	15	60%
Tim Carter	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J' *	5	9	55.56%
R.Kacperczyk	Polish 'D'	5	9	55.56%
Simon Guard	Kingfisher 'K'	9	17	52.94%

### Week 3 – Three teams retain maximum points

Post Office C see off Berks Sports with a 9-1 win. But, guess what, John Fuller and Dave West win the doubles for Berks Sports (how crazy is that?).

Wins too for Springfield C (over Polish D) and Sonning C&P G (over BBC) so the battle at the top remains tight.

With Ollie restored alongside Gerard Thorp, Milestone bounce back to take a 6-4 win at Kingfisher. Simon Guard picks up a nice win over Ollie for the losers.

**Week 4 – Sonning on a rollercoaster...** It looked like their toughest match yet, but Sonning make it 4 from 4 with a 7-3 win at Kingfisher. A treble from Colin Selman and a hard fought 5 set doubles win set up their victory.

Post Office keep in touch, however, winning 7-3 against a strong-looking OLOP team. Although Post Office proved to have too much experience for their young opponents, a magnificent treble from Hanson Xu is the highlight of the match. I will look forward to seeing Hanson in Div 2 (or possibly 1) next season.

In the battle at the foot of the table, BBC pull off a fine 7-3 win over Birch Copse, despite a second treble from the latter's Peter Sheppard. Polish D seem to be in trouble after going down 7-3 to Springfield B, but Polish C remain upbeat after an excellent 6-4 win at inconsistent Milestone. Polish may have discovered a star in Paul Kantyka given his 4 set win over Gerard Thorp.

**Week 5 – 100% record goes (twice!) Early pace-**

setters, Post Office C get a severe reality check with defeat at home to Milestone. Gerard and Ollie do the damage with a little help from Andy Benning. I suspect we might see Linda Davis and John Walker selected in the reverse fixture...we shall see!

The defeat is partially offset by the failure of Springfield C to retain its own 100% record. The 5-5 draw against OLOP J looks a fair result with Nigel's win over Liam McTiernan and Colin and Dan's doubles win sealing the point.

Elsewhere, there are wins for fast-improving Springfield B and BBC by 9-1 scorelines and a 7-3 win for Kingfisher K over Polish C (despite a dogged treble from captain Krys Szczygiel).

### Week 6 – Milestone still wreaking havoc.

First defeat of the season for Springfield C unsurprisingly at Milestone. Yes, you have guessed it...Gerard and Ollie back again to take 5 from 6 singles and the doubles to boot.

Meanwhile, Post Office C are back to winning ways against Kingfisher K. In a titanic struggle, the away team pip valiant Kingfisher 6-4. It must have been a late night for all as five matches went to 5 sets, Post Office only winning two of these, but sealing victory in the ninth game with John Gatward's 3 set win over Gill Bennett.

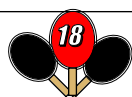
In another tight finish, Berks Sports pick up their second win of the campaign against BBC with the doubles again proving decisive (five doubles wins out of six so far!).

**Postscript:** Finally, before signing off this report, I must take the opportunity to issue a couple of reminders. First, please note that Russell Moores is the Birch Copse captain not Mary Joyce as advertised in the Handbook. Contact details for Russell should have been provided to all team captains but if anyone requires them, please contact me.

Secondly, matches must be played on the selected date or, if subject to postponement, must be agreed through me as the DFS. I have a couple of cards missing so will be chasing these up in due course!

Enjoy the run-in to Christmas and play well....

*Duncan Groves*



# YOUTH PLAYERS ROUND-UP *by John Cunningham*

## BLUES SPARKLE AT YOUTH LEAGUE

Playing for the first time in the Youth League, **Blue Coat Tigers**, started in style with a hard fought 3-2 win over **Wokingham Eagles**. Tom McIver gave his team early momentum by defeating the improving David Pymble 11-9, 7-11, 7-11, 11-4, 11-7. The Eagles' number one looked all set to make the match score 1-1 - only for Josh Cardy to take the deciding game 11-9 and the Sonning home side were ahead 2-0. Lee-White recovered to defeat McIvor and with the Wokingham duo taking the doubles the match was all square at 2-2. Player of the match Cardy, however, was not to be denied, beating Pymble 3-1 to win the match for his side.

**Kingfisher Knights** represented by Michael Houghton and James Smith proved just too good for the **Woodley Hammers** duo, Philip Brennan and Daniel Clark. The turning point in the contest, which was much closer than the 5-0 score line suggests was the 12-10 win in the final game of a good five game set.

Hanson Xu was in devastating form as IMPACT Thunderbolts edged home by a 4-1 score line over Kingfisher Knights.

Two promising newcomers Tom Burrow and James Cummings had the crowd on their feet in this match with Burrow coming out on top from 2-0 down to win 3-2.

In yet another great match **St Dominic Savio Challengers**, represented by Beth Wallace and Philip Saunders, lost out by the narrowest of margins to the Sonning Raiders duo of Liam McGarvey and Michael Legg. Challengers led 2-1 only for player of the match McGarvey to steal a 5 game set 13-11 in the decider to square the match at 2-2. Legg and McGarvey won the doubles to snatch the match from the jaws of defeat by a 3-2 score line.

This week on the reserve table Gus Thomis was the Round Robin winner with Leo Thomis and James McGovern in joint second place.

## SKILLS AWARD SCHEME LOCAL NETWORK FUND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

**Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club and IMPACT Coaching - supported by the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People - are organising a Table Tennis Skills Award Scheme in Reading and Wokingham. Junior and senior schools, interested youngsters, sports' teachers and clubs can obtain further information from John Cunningham on 0118 9665907.**

## NETWORK BOOST FOR LOCAL TABLE TENNIS

The development work that Our Lady of Peace Table Tennis Club has been doing in local schools has received a further boost with a substantial award from the Berkshire Community Foundation. The funding will provide tables, access to robot training equipment and coaching support to the schools involved in the project.

OLOP IMPACT are currently involved in a project partially funded by Wokingham Borough Council to kick start table tennis in Wokingham primary schools. The new funding will concentrate on up to ten senior and junior schools in Reading and the surrounding district. A major aim of the development project is to give the opportunity for a wide range of children from a variety of backgrounds to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to organise the sport.

Young people from the club, local leagues, schools and youth centres will be introduced at all levels to practice, play and its organisation, umpiring and coaching skills.

The initial course is to be the TT Networkers Table Tennis Leadership Award. The course is the first step on the coaching or administrative ladder for young people assisting at TT clubs, after school clubs, youth centres or school holiday schemes.

Young players from schools or clubs who would like to participate in the course or require further details of the project can contact John Cunningham (see below left) or Alan Dines on 0118 9311142.



Reading Post Winner Simon Thorne (right) with Reading Most Improved Junior, Daniel Moses, winner of the Standard Cup. Simon has now moved up into Division 1 of the senior league - see the Div 1 report on [P8](#) above: "One team who have definitely strengthened up is OLOP 'A'. Simon Thorne looks like a potential star of the future and the heavy practice he is putting in... is starting to pay off and he's getting some big wins." And see what the Div 2 DFS has to say about Daniel on [P10](#): "If OLOP 'E' continue to play their strongest side they will be promoted as champions. With Peter Galea and young Daniel Moses in their team they will be unstoppable."