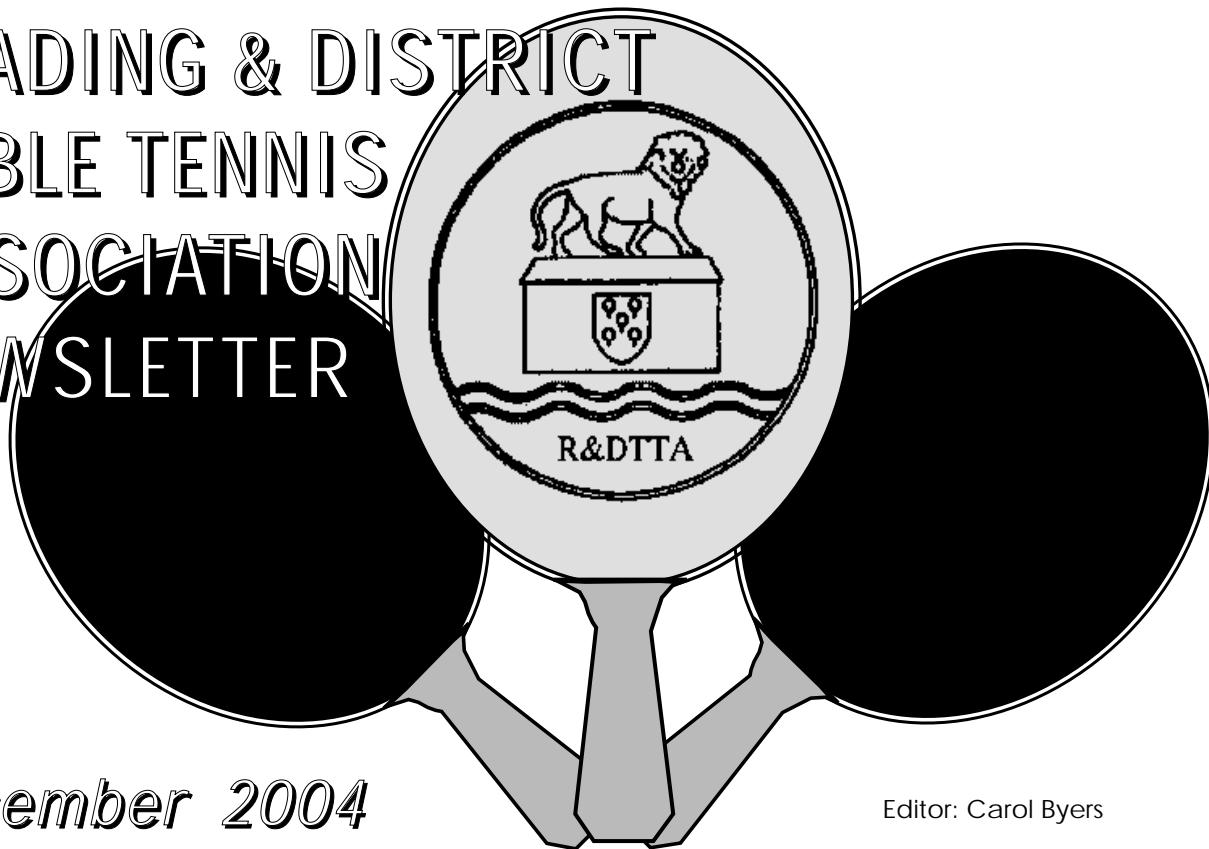


READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



December 2004

Editor: Carol Byers

A Year to remember?

Was your table tennis year one to remember or one you'd rather forget! Either way, a new one starts shortly when you can either "pick up where you left off" or "start afresh" with renewed enthusiasm and determination to do better.

Personally, I probably fall into the latter category and always want to do better than before. Perhaps in common with many of us, I have matches in which my inability to win is intensely irritating and then out of the blue, I beat players I've never before been close to. I

guess that's the beauty of most competitive sports.

Looking through the divisions so far, I have to say it seems that most divisions are much closer at this point of the season this year than last. No team seems to have lost all hope or opportunity of staying up and few of the winners look entirely foregone conclusions.

Just a couple of stats I've gleaned from this newsletter! A mention for the teams who have not yet lost this season, Kingfisher A and Polish A in Division 1, Sonning C&P A in Division 2, Curzon A in Division 3 and St Laurence in Division 6 - well done all! In the lower reaches, there are only two teams who have yet to win a match and I'm not unkind enough to mention them on the front page! There are 3 draw specialists, who have managed 4 each, Kingfisher G in Div 2, Tidmarsh F in Div 4 and Tidmarsh G in Div 5.

However, the stat I haven't got access to, but is easily the most annoying has to be the 6-4 defeats! I gather that Tidmarsh A have had their share in Division 1 and my own team in Division 3 have had 4, with 3 on the trot at one point. If you're suffering similarly, we at OLOP F sympathise!

Just one final thought, with last month's newsletter, I sent out a note to see if any of you could get your copy from the website. Just to reiterate, the newsletter is available on the website normally on a Sunday evening following deadline, rather than wait until the end of the same week following printing and postage. I can also email it if preferable, so if any of you out there could use this method, it's much better for me and for the league's finances - drop me a note if you're interested

Enjoy this latest newsletter and have a very Happy Christmas and successful New Year.

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Carol

NEWS ROUND-UP

Fairway Press Trophy

RESULTS – ROUND 1

**Reading YMCA "B" 7 (Bradley 3 Sym 3 Harris 1)
Tidmarsh "A" 2 (Lee Calcutt 1 Mitchell 1 Lisa
Calcutt 0)**

A good fight was put up by Tidmarsh, who were without Robert Hudson. In the opening match Lisa Calcutt pushed Mike Harris all the way losing in four very close games. Lee Calcutt and Clive Mitchell then lost in similar fashion to Bob Sym and Peter Bradley respectively and Tidmarsh found themselves 3-0 down having battled hard. Bob then beat Lisa comfortably to make it 4-0 before Clive recorded an excellent 3-1 win over Mike to give some hope at 4-1.

Lee tried to keep the match alive in an exciting close encounter with Peter but YMCA sealed their win with Peter closing out at -9, 2, 7, -5, 5. After this Bob beat Clive 3-0, Peter beat Lisa 3-1 (close) and it was left to Lee to gain some final consolation with a great -9, 9, 7, -8, 9 win over Mike.

Reading YMCA "A" v Kingfisher "F"

Unfortunately Kingfisher "F" were unable to field a side awarding a walkover to the YMCA "A" team.

**Kingfisher "D" 1 (Maynard 0 Beckett 0 A Gehlot 1)
Kingfisher "C" 8 (Murgatroyd 3 Civil 2 Putterford 3)**

The young Kingfisher "D" team played extremely well in this match against the far more experienced Kingfisher "C" team. They managed only one win when Abhay Gehlot beat Geoff Civil in the third set by 3-1. But there were some other great performances from the youngsters who made the "C" team fight all the way. Greg Beckett showed great promise whilst Tom Maynard took Geoff to five and at one time led 2-1. Tom also played well against Steve Murgatroyd losing in three very tight games. But match of the evening was Abhay's great five setter with Steve before losing -4, -7, 12, 4, -8. In form Cliff Putterford was never in danger of losing in his three sets.

**Sonning Common and Peppard "A" 2 (Maltby 1
Roberts 1 Jones 0) v
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) "A" 6 (Morten 2
Banham 3 Millward 1)**

If Nigel Maltby could have scraped the opening set against Barry Morten, things could have been so much different. Barry held on to win -9, 4, 5, -5, 9 and after this OLOP were soon 4-0 up. However Nigel then had a great win beating John Millward in three straight games to give Sonning some hope. But Clive Banham closed the match out making the score 5-1 when he beat Mark Jones 8, -11, 4, 2. Some further consolation for Sonning when Jason Roberts beat John by -10, 8, 9, 7.

**Polish "A", Kingfisher "A", Polish "B" and
Kingfisher "B" received byes.**

The draw for the quarter finals of the Fairway Press Challenge Trophy is as follows:

**POLISH "A" v POLISH "B"
KINGFISHER "A" v READING YMCA "A"
READING YMCA "B" v KINGFISHER "B"
KINGFISHER "C" v OLOP "A"**

Matches were to be played during week commencing 22nd November 2004.

Committee News

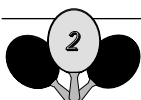
PLAYER SUSPENSION

It is with regret that the Reading Management committee issue the following statement:

"The Reading Management committee held a hearing on Tuesday 23 November at the Our Lady of Peace Club to discuss whether a breach of Association rule 10.1.1 had taken place in that the actions of Clive Payne during the Polish 'A' v Kingfisher 'A' match on 29 September 2004 were likely to bring the Association and the game of table tennis into disrepute.

It was the decision of the committee that the Allegation was proven and the committee have ruled that Clive be suspended from playing table tennis with or against or taking part in any table tennis activity or function under the jurisdiction of the Reading & District Table Tennis Association for the period from Sunday 28 November 2004 until Saturday 30 April 2005."

N MALTBY
RDTTA CHAIRMAN



Spotlight on Division 5 (well some of it anyway!)



Milestone B - currently second in Division 5 - (left to right) Gerard Thorp, Sam Stephens and John Crosfield



OLOP I - Iain Greenwood (England), Fang Zhou Gu (China) and Schug Bernhard (Germany), enjoying their division 5 table tennis and are steadily moving away from the relegation zone after suffering several 4-6 defeats.



Springfield B (bottom row) proved just too good for OLOP I (top row) in their recent Division 5 encounter

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Individual Handicap Competition
Sunday 9th January

Reading Closed Championships
12th/13th February 2005 at Cippenham

Reading Masters
Saturday 9th April 2005

RDTTA AGM
Wednesday 8th June 2005

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

9th February 2005
4th April 2005

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DIVISION ONE by *David Streak*

I am afraid, that since the last report, events off the table have seriously overshadowed those on the table. With the withdrawal of Polish A from the league the way is open for Kingfisher A to march on and take the title. Down at the bottom, however, things are really hotting up, with only four points separating the bottom seven teams. I am not going to predict who goes down, especially as it might be my team! Although Polish A have withdrawn the Committee have still to decide what will happen with regard to the matches they had already played. I have, therefore, not deleted their records from this report.

Kingfisher A lead the way at the halfway stage and I cannot see them losing a match. Without the services of Hari Gehlot for most of the season they have been well served by Mark Banks, Bela Hegedus and Ramesh Gehlot. Mark remains unbeaten, although he did have to save match points against Bob Davis, and Bela has lost just the once. Since the last report they have had emphatic wins over both YMCA teams, Tidmarsh A, OLOP C and Kingfisher B.

Polish B have had mixed results of late, comfortably beating YMCA A and OLOP A, 9-1 and 7-3 respectively, narrowly beating Kingfisher D 6-4 but losing by the same margin to YMCA B and Kingfisher B. Nick Heaps and Derek Wood have been the mainstays of the team with excellent support from Richard Rosinski. Nick secured maximums against Kingfisher D and OLOP A and Derek had a fine victory over Tony Reynolds, 11-7 in the fifth. They can also call on the services of top veteran David Reeves to push Kingfisher A.

YMCA B are enjoying an outstanding run of results, and are currently level with Polish B. Since the last report they have beaten Polish B, Tidmarsh A and YMCA A, all 6-4 and OLOP C 8-2. The only defeat came against Kingfisher A. Tony Reynolds and Bob Sym have been in inspired form but they have had solid backing from Peter Bradley, Mike Harris and 'supersub' John Golding whose two wins at Tidmarsh proved to be vital. Tony had maximums against OLOP C and YMCA A, twice coming from 2 sets down to beat Colin Wilkes and yours truly, and Bob secured an excellent treble against Polish B.

Kingfisher C have also had a superb run of results, winning four and losing only to Polish A. Cliff Putterford and Steve Murgatroyd have been the inspiration for this team and they have been ably assisted by Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen. Cliff had maximums against OLOP C, Kingfisher D

and OLOP A and Steve won all three against OLOP B and Kingfisher D. Roger secured a very important win in the 6-4 victory over OLOP C, beating Peter Martin 12-10 in the final set. This team also boast a formidable doubles record.

Kingfisher D have surprised a lot of people this season, me included, and under the expert coaching of Gareth Herbert I believe their performances will get even better in the second half. Abhay Gehlot has been an ever-present and his average is only slightly under fifty per cent. Not far behind come Ben Davis and Tom Maynard and there is able support from Greg Beckett and Chris Noakes. Abhay's maximums helped to secure 6-4 wins over OLOP B and OLOP C, with Ben getting doubles in these two wins. In the narrow defeat by Polish B doubles for Abhay and Tom were not quite enough.

YMCA A are having a fairly torrid time at the moment, having won one and lost four since the last report. Our solitary victory came in the 8-2 defeat of Tidmarsh A. Our squad of Bob Davis, Colin Wilkes, Ivor Hardman and myself are putting in a lot of effort but results are slipping away. Bob continues to play well and I have had one or two good wins but in order to move away from the bottom we need to turn some of the 6-4 defeats into wins or draws.

Kingfisher B have started to climb the table and this has coincided with the return of Dave Hilbeck. Dave's return and the form of Trevor Griffiths has produced three wins and only two defeats. The two defeats predictably came against Polish A and Kingfisher A, both 8-2. In the 7-3 defeat of OLOP B Dave won all three, including the scalp of Danny Baxter, and Trevor and John Morris both won two. Trevor starred in the defeat of Polish B and in the win at Tidmarsh A Dave got three, Trevor two and John beat Robert Hudson. With Colin Dyke and Alan Cummings to support these three I cannot see

LEADING AVERAGES

Mark Banks	(27/27)	100%
Bela Hegedus	(26/27)	96%
Derek Wood	(13/17)	76%
Tony Reynolds	(18/24)	75%
Dave Hilbeck	(13/18)	72%
Steve Murgatroyd	(21/30)	70%
Cliff Putterford	(18/27)	67%
Bob Davis	(15/23)	65%
David Streak	(18/29)	62%
Nick Heaps	(17/28)	61%



this side being relegated.

OLOP B continue to struggle to put out a settled side, having to rely on reserves a lot of the time. One of the reserves Todor Spasov (I hope I got the name right), who I suspect will be re-registered for this team in the not too distant future, starred in the 8-2 win against OLOP A, getting an excellent maximum. Wolfgang Stalder also secured a maximum in this match and his win over Bob Davis helped to get both points off YMCA A. With the likes of the Subhan brothers, Richard Skellett and of course Danny Baxter they should be too good to go down but it may all depend on availability for important matches.

OLOP A are having a disastrous time, managing just one point since the last report from a draw with Tidmarsh A. In this match John Millward won two and Barry Morten and John Barclay one each. This team, however, almost caused the biggest upset of the season, losing 6-4 to Polish A, Clive Banham netting a magnificent treble, beating Ian Packford, Craig Campbell and Paul Rattue. Heavy defeats came against Kingfisher C, OLOP B and Polish B. In order to pull away from the danger zone they need to try to get Graham Outrim to play in more matches in the second half.

Tidmarsh A, like OLOP A, have only gained one point since the last report. In this match their two key players, Robert Hudson and Lee Calcutt both won two and Clive Mitchell picked up one. Elsewhere, they lost 9-1 to Kingfisher A, 8-2 to YMCA A and 7-3 to Kingfisher B. The doubles proved crucial against YMCA B, Lee and Robert losing 11-9 in

the fifth. They have a strong pool of players to call on including Dave Wise, Lisa Calcutt and John Goodyer but have a hard task ahead of them if they are to retain their hard-earned Division 1 status.

OLOP C are currently holding up the rest, having lost all matches since the last report. I believe they are another team whose survival could depend upon being able to put out their strongest team for the vital matches. Captain Peter Martin has led from the front, his double against Kingfisher D so nearly securing a point. Another narrow defeat came against Kingfisher C where reserve Ben Gates had superb wins over Steve Murgatroyd and Roger Woolven-Allen, both 11-9 in the fifth. In Sean Pickin they possess a player who could keep them up as long as he gets the support from Peter, George and Stuart White and Andy Walker.

Keep up to date, with the

Association's website!

www.RDTTA.co.uk

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher A	10	10	0	0	79	21	20
Polish A	9	9	0	0	76	14	18
Polish B	11	7	0	4	62	48	14
YMCA B	11	7	0	4	55	55	14
Kingfisher C	11	6	0	5	61	49	12
Kingfisher D	11	4	1	6	39	71	9
YMCA A	11	3	2	6	48	62	8
Kingfisher B	11	3	2	6	44	66	8
OLOP B	11	3	0	8	44	66	6
OLOP A	10	2	2	6	44	56	6
Tidmarsh A	11	2	2	7	42	68	6
OLOP C	9	1	3	5	36	54	5

DIVISION TWO *by Nick Lean*

It's the halfway point, and with Sonning C&P A and OLOP E pulling clear of all other teams in the Division, it would look as if the promotion places have already been nabbed. Meanwhile, at the bottom of the table, Kingfisher G seem doomed to relegation.

The top of the table clash resulted in a draw as Todor Spasov hit an impressive maximum for **OLOP E**, which included a 5-game win over Sonning A's Simon Berry (now registered for this team). Melanie Farquahar also won twice in her only appearance to date, but Ben Gates dramatically lost his unbeaten record, losing all three in this match, including 0-11 in the fifth to Jason Roberts. OLOP E then slipped to their only defeat to date when they visited Tidmarsh B, going down 4-6. OLOP E got back to winning ways with 6-4 wins over Post Office A and Kingfisher F - Ben Gates and Ian Cole providing the wins. But Chris Laker took an impressive scalp defeating Niall McGrane over 5 games to secure a vital set in the Kingfisher match. An earlier 7-3 win at Sonning C&P B, came thanks to maximums from Todor and Ben Gates.

Sonning C&P A have dropped just one more point since the first Newsletter - that being in the clash with OLOP E. Messrs Kemp, Berry and Roberts were far too strong for Longfield, as only two of the contests went beyond a third game in an easy whitewash. Short work was made of Tilehurst Methodists A in an 8-2 victory. Jason Roberts hit a maximum with Simon Berry and Andy Turton each winning twice. Turton, Roberts and Berry won two each in a 7-3 win over relegation candidates OLOP D.

Sonning B have dropped off the pace of the leading two having dropped points in three recent matches. They were no match for OLOP E, but surprisingly dropped a point to a weakened Tilehurst Methodists team.

In a delayed match, they did well to scrape a point from their match with OLOP D, thanks mainly to a solid

maximum from Malcolm Gregory, but helped by a victory for reserve Roy Smyth. Keith Swain returned to the team against Kingfisher G and hit his first maximum of the season, while Merrill Massey and Malcolm Gregory won two each. The Commoners kept up their push for promotion with a good 7-3 win over Kingfisher E, Malcolm Gregory taking the starring role, winning all three and pairing up with Brian Meheux to win the doubles.

Tidmarsh B have moved up to fourth place following three wins and a draw. Jim Stevenson hit a maximum and reserve Chris Browne won twice in a 7-3 win over a weakened Kingfisher F. Tidmarsh may have been flattered by the 8-2 scoreline as they won at Longfield with Jim Stevenson winning three while Steve Ricks and Kevin Brooker two apiece. Their third win on the trot was the excellent one over OLOP E in which Jim Stevenson, Kevin Brooker & Andy Stephens won two apiece. But they were brought back down to earth as Tilehurst Methodists took a 3-0 lead before two wins each for Andy Stephens & Jim Stevenson enabled Tidmarsh to scrape a draw. Most recently, Tidmarsh slipped to an unexpected defeat at home to OLOP D, despite Andy Stephens winning all three.

Tilehurst Methodists A, with two wins and two draws, have moved up to fifth place. They proved too strong for Kingfisher E, storming to a 7-0 lead before eventually winning 8-2. Phil Prady was in splendid form, losing just one end all night, with Keith Winter and Lisa Crick each winning twice. Then, an excellent maximum from John Virgo helped them to a good draw with Sonning C&P B, as Mary Allan and reserve Ian Cockling won one each. Defeat at Sonning C&P A was followed by another draw, this time in the match with Tidmarsh and despite taking a 3-0 lead. There were two wins each for Keith Winter and Mary Allan, with John Virgo also recording a win. In a crunch match at Post Office A, Keith Winter's maximum was

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
OLOP E	11	8	2	1	67	43	18
Sonning C&P A	10	7	3	0	71	29	17
Sonning C&P B	11	6	3	2	64	46	15
Tidmarsh B	11	4	4	3	56	54	12
Tilehurst Meths A	10	4	3	3	53	47	11
Kingfisher E	11	5	1	5	58	52	11
Kingfisher F	11	4	2	5	53	57	10
Post Office B	11	3	3	5	52	58	9
OLOP D	10	2	4	4	42	58	8
Post Office A	11	3	1	7	49	61	7
Longfield A	11	3	0	8	42	68	6
Kingfisher G	10	0	4	6	33	67	4



the foundation of a narrow win, with important contributions from Mary Allan and John Virgo.

Kingfisher E remain mid-table thanks to three wins from their last five matches. Tilehurst Methodists had proven too strong, but against OLOP D Phil Mead and Peter Goatly both hit maximums, with Steve Barnes winning two, as they won 9-1. Steve then returned to haunt his old team-mates, winning three to help his new team take both points in a 7-3 win over Kingfisher G. Phil Mead played well and won all three, with Alan Bruton winning two and Jeff Huggins one, as they then defeated Post Office B 7-3. Sonning B inflicted their fifth defeat of the season as they lost there 3-7, despite two wins from Alan Bruton and one for Peter Goatly – Steve Barnes recording an unexpected duck.

Kingfisher F's mixed season has continued with alternating defeats and wins. A weakened team lost 3-7 at Tidmarsh B, despite Sharon Mitchell winning two. Niall McGrane led the way as they eased to a 7-3 win over Post Office A, supported by Lisa Bosley who won two and Carole Chard. One of their players was struck down by 'flu on the day of the next match and Post Office B proved too much for Sharon and Lisa to handle on their own, losing 8-2. Charlie Goddard put in an appearance and was the star of the night hitting a maximum in their 7-3 win at Longfield. OLOP E were then pushed all the way by before eventually sneaking a 6-4 win in the last set of the evening. Niall McGrane won two and only lost in five games to Chris Laker, with Carole and Lisa picking up a win each.

Post Office B have improved their position with two wins and two draws in their recent matches. Against OLOP D they took a 4-1 lead, with Dave Mills and Feliks Ziembra winning two each, only to lose the advantage and have to settle for a draw. Despite two more wins from Feliks in the next match, they went down 3-7 to their club-mates. Dave Mills then hit a maximum against bottom team Kingfisher G, but with Ray Webb and Feliks only able to win one each, the resulting draw was a point dropped. When Kingfisher F were only able to field two players, this almost handed POB 2 points, though Dave still had to win two and Ray & Feliks one each. Despite Dave winning two, Kingfisher E were too strong and they were defeated 7-3. But they reached the half-way with a flourish as Dave and Feliks both hit maximums in a convincing 8-2 win over fellow strugglers Longfield ... and they should now be clear of any relegation threat.

OLOP D have picked up 5 points in the last 6 matches to give them a small amount of breathing space. They did well to come back from 1-4 down at home to Post Office B, thanks mainly to a maximum from Dave Tilbee, but also from a key singles win by Chris Hadley over Eddie Cripps. Ian Davis then hit a maximum in a draw at Kingfisher G, with Mark Bullion and Pat Daniels winning one each. They felt hard done by going down 1-9 to Kingfisher E, especially Ian Davis who lost each of his contests in the fifth game, as Dave Tilbee got their only win of the night, beating Steve Barnes. Ian and Dave won two each in a draw at Sonning C&P B, with Chris Hadley winning one. Sonning A were even tougher opponents, although Dave Tilbee did well to win two and Pat to win one. (When I eventually receive the scorecard, I'll know who beat whom.) And finally, a good win at Tidmarsh D as Dave Tilbee and Pat Daniels won two each and took the doubles, with Mark Bullion winning a crucial single.

Post Office A have had a couple of wins, which keeps them in with a chance of avoiding the drop. In the 7-3 win over their clubmates, John

DOUBLES AVERAGES

Sonning C&P A	9	10	90%
Sonning C&P B	8	11	73%
Tilehurst Meths A	7	10	70%
Kingfisher F	7	11	64%
Kingfisher E	6	11	55%
OLOP E	6	11	55%
OLOP D	5	10	50%
Post Office A	5	11	45%
Tidmarsh B	4	11	36%
Kingfisher G	3	10	30%
Longfield A	2	11	18%
Post Office B	2	11	18%

Simmonds hit a maximum with Dave Reynolds (Jnr) winning two and Simon Hopkins one. They went down to Kingfisher F by the same score before defeating a below-strength Longfield, also 7-3. Mick Grantham returned for the match at OLOP E, which the Posties only lost, but only 4-6, with John winning two, Dave and Mick one each. Another narrow defeat came at the hands of Tilehurst Methodists, as Dave and Simon won two each in John's absence. Relegation could be a close run thing unless all four of this team can win a few more games, sets & matches.

Longfield A have dropped from fourth to eleventh following a dreadful series of results – 7 defeats in a row – despite the efforts of the team's mainstays, Brian Chinneck and Ian Fletcher. Heavy defeats came against Sonning A and Tidmarsh before a two-man team went down 3-7 at Post Office A, despite two hard-fought wins by Brian Chinneck. Brian won another two in defeat to a strong Kingfisher F, then Post Office B completed the sequence of defeats. Can they turn it round in the second half and avoid relegation? – I'm not sure they can.

Kingfisher G are still looking for their first win as they start to see the teams around them move slowly away. A good point was won against OLOP A as Dave Duncan (their leading player in the averages – 47%) won two, supported by Dave Gostelow and Mike Ridley and a crucial doubles win. Another draw, this time with Post Office A, came thanks to two wins from Trevor Organ in his first appearance of the season and back-up again from Messrs Gostelow & Ridley. Despite a Pete Bennett double they lost 3-7 'away' to Kingfisher E, then 2-8 to Sonning B. I fear there is little hope for this team avoiding relegation – sorry Dave.

Set of the session (since the previous Newsletter) must be Ian Davis vs Steve Barnes: 10-12, 12-10, 13-11, 3-11, 12-14.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you all.

LEADING AVERAGES

Graham Kemp	Sonning C&P A	9	9	100.0%
Todor Spasov	OLOP E	9	9	100.0%
Phil Prady	Tilehurst Meths A	11	12	91.7%
Ben Gates	OLOP E	25	30	83.3%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher F	19	24	79.2%
Jim Stevenson	Tidmarsh B	19	24	79.2%
Simon Berry	Sonning C&P A	9	12	75.0%
Jason Roberts	Sonning C&P A	19	26	73.1%
Dave Tilbee	OLOP D	13	18	72.2%
Malcolm Gregory	Sonning C&P B	20	30	66.7%
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher E	16	24	66.7%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher E	14	21	66.7%
Keith Swain	Sonning C&P B	14	21	66.7%

DIVISION THREE by Derek Harrison

Curzon Club 'A' continue to dominate with John Willcocks and Mike Maynard in outstanding form. At home to OLOP 'F' John and Mike both gained 3 straight maximums with John Walker winning two. John Willcocks repeated his OLOP success against Milestone and with Mike winning two and Nick one this helped them to a 7-3 win. At home to Sonning Common & P 'D' who were without Jeremy and Roy the side romped home 8-2 with John Willcocks and Nick both gaining hat tricks and John Walker a fine double. In the big top of the table clash they won 3-7 at Sonning Common & P 'C' with Mike, John Willcocks and Nick all winning two each. Looking at the scorecard both Nick and Mike had to go to a 5th game to beat Mark winning 9-11 and 10-12 respectively. At Tilehurst Meths they just got home 4-6 with Nick and John Willcocks winning two each with Mike winning one who also teamed up with John to win the vital doubles.

Doubles average 89%

Despite that 3-7 defeat against Curzon 'A' **Sonning Common & P 'C'** look destined for the second division. In that defeat Nigel Maltby had two good wins beating John Willcocks 11-6 11-7 11-6 and Nick 11-9 11-7 11-8 with Paul beating Mike 11-7 11-9 12-10. Earlier they beat Pangbourne 'A' 8-2 with Mark Jones and Nigel both hitting trebles and Paul a double. At OLOP 'F' it took a great team performance from Nigel, Paul and Mark who all won two each to give them a 4-6 victory. In their local derby against a full strength 'D' team they won 6-4 thanks to doubles from Nigel and Paul and a single from Mark plus that important doubles win that saw Nigel and Paul beat Jeremy and Roy 12-14 11-7 11-8 11-8. This week they beat Curzon 'B' 8-2 thanks to a great maximum from Mark and doubles from Nigel and Mick Reynolds.

Double average 30%

Sonning Common & P 'D' have dropped vital points when their two star players have not been available. At home to Kingfisher they only managed a draw despite a Jeremy Willis hat trick. Pete Harman and Alan Holden won one each by beating David Fudge. It was business as usual against Tilehurst Meths with Jeremy and Roy Smyth both gaining trebles, which gave them a 6-4 win. At Curzon 'A' minus Jeremy and Roy they crashed 8-2 with reserve Paul Treadgold winning the only single by beating John Walker. Next came Tidmarsh 'C' and it was Roy who was on top form by beating Dave Reynolds 11-8 11-8 11-6, Alison 11-6 11-3 11-7 and Chris 11-6 11-9 11-6 and with Jeremy winning two plus a vital 2-11 13-11 11-9 8-11 14-12 win for Alan over Alison this gave them a close 6-4 win. Against their 'C' team Jeremy was in top form by gaining a fairly comfortable maximum but with Roy only winning one by beating Mark they went down 6-4. At home to Berks Sports it was a great team performance that saw them win 7-3. Alan, Roy and Jeremy all gained doubles by beating Bob and Dave.

Doubles average 50%

Berks Sports 'A' lost 6-4 at a strong Tilehurst Meths with Nigel Goodman and Paul Scrivener both gaining doubles and then bounced back by beating

Milestone by the same score with Nigel and Bob Woodmansee winning two each and Paul wearing prescription sunglasses and looking like Roy Orbison picking up a single by beating Richard Woolven-Allen. At Kingfisher Nigel and Dave Chard both gained doubles with Bob winning one by beating Mike Dorrington 6-11 2-11 7-11. At home to Tidmarsh 'C', who fielded 3 reserves, they won 7-3 with Nigel winning all 3 and Paul and Dave winning two each. Bob says "are we back in the promotion race?" I do not think so Bob. Then who am I to Judge! I have just been proved correct because I have just received the score card showing they lost 7-3 at Sonning 'D' despite a brilliant treble from Nigel who beat Alan 11-13 5-11 11-9 5-11, Roy 11-9 7-11 9-11 6-11 and Jeremy 11-4 9-11 11-6 7-11 10-12.

Doubles average 30%

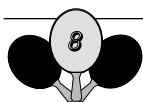
Tidmarsh 'C' should be doing better but with Dave Reynolds, Barry Carter and Chris Browne missing games they have dropped some unnecessary points. At Milestone, where they lost 6-4, Dave won two and Barry and Alison Cheers won one each. At home to Kingfisher Barry and Dave both gained trebles with Alison picking up a single, which helped to an 8-2 win. At Sonning 'D' Dave won two by beating Jeremy and Alan while Chris Browne picked up a single and teamed up with Dave to win the doubles in a 6-4 defeat. At Berks Sports Duncan Groves playing up from the 5th won two by beating Paul and Dave while the other reserve Chris Webb teamed up with Duncan to win the doubles.

Doubles average 80%

Tilehurst Meths 'B' had a fine 6-4 win over Berks Sports thanks to a great team performance with Colin Childs and Ian Cockling winning two each, and Phil Jones winning one and then Colin and Ian winning the doubles by beating Nigel and Paul 12-10 9-11 11-8 9-11 11-6. At Sonning 'D' Tony Griffin, Ian and Phil all won one each by beating Pete but the side went down 6-4. Wendy Porter came into the side against Pangbourne and celebrated with a fine double and with Ian and Tony gaining maximums this gave them a 8-2 win. At home to Curzon 'A' they fought hard before going down 4-6. Colin was the star with a brilliant hat trick, which included an 11-7 11-9 9-11 11-6 win over Mike and an 11-9 11-9 11-9 victory over John Willcocks, Phil was the other winner by beating Mike.

Doubles average 44%

Mainly through Jon Willis efforts **Milestone 'A'** are keeping out of trouble but on saying that it was a great performance that saw them beat Tidmarsh 'C' 6-4. Jon Willis hit a fine treble and Richard Woolven-Allen won two by beating Barry and Alison and then teamed up to win the doubles. At Curzon 'A' Jon won two by beating Nick and Mike and Hugh Crossfield picked up a fine single by also beating Nick. In the 7-3 defeat at Berks Sports they raced into a 0-3 lead only to lose 6-4, Richard and Hugh won one each while Jon picked up a double by beating Paul and Nigel. Away at Pangbourne, which they won 3-7, Richard gained his first maximum in over a year and with John also winning 3 and Hugh picking up a single, this was enough to give them both points. This week they drew with



OLOP, John Evans came back into the side and won two as did reserve John Crosfield, Hugh played his part by gaining a single.

Doubles average 30%

Kingfisher 'H' after gaining 2 wins in a row came back from 4-1 down to gain a draw at Sonning 'D' thanks to good doubles from Richard Andrews and Mike Dorrington who also teamed up to win the doubles. At Tidmarsh Richard and Mike won one each by beating Alison but the side went down 8-2. At home to Berks Sports they lost 4-6 with Richard and Steve Woolnough winning two each. The big surprise was the nil return from Mike. This week they entertained Pangbourne and went down 3-7 Richard did well by winning two when he beat Roger Stevens and Pete Welch. Steve picked up a single by beating Roger 11-8 9-11 11-8 11-8.

Doubles average 30%

Curzon 'B' started a mini revival by winning 3-7 at Pangbourne with yours truly gaining a very good maximum and Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson both gaining doubles. The following week we beat OLOP 6-4. I obtained another treble although I have to say all of my matches went to a 5th game. Geoff weighed in with a double and Jim scored that vital single. Last night our run came to an end when going down 2-8 to Sonning 'C' I managed the wins by beating Mick Reynolds and Nigel.

Doubles average 33%

At the time of writing **Pangbourne 'A'** by winning twice since my previous notes have hauled themselves off the bottom of the table. At Sonning 'C' they lost 8-2 with Tom Johnson beating Paul 11-9 2-11 11-4 11-13 9-11 and then teaming up with Leroy Wilson to win the doubles. They were away again at OLOP and came away with both points by winning 4-6. Leroy, Tom and Roger Stevens all won two each. At home to Curzon 'B' Tom and Roger obtained singles by beating Jim and Geoff respectively, they also won the doubles in their 3-7 defeat. At Tilehurst a weakened team lost 8-2 with Tom winning the only singles game by beating Wendy. At home to Milestone Tom and Roger obtained singles

each by beating Hugh but the side went down 3-7. Next came that second win by beating Kingfisher H 7-3 and here Tom hit a brilliant maximum with Pete Welsh winning two and Roger gaining a single.

Doubles average 60%

LEADING AVERAGES

John Willcocks	Curzon A	24/27	89%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P D	24/27	89%
Colin Childs	Tilehurst Meths B	13/15	87%
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh C	18/21	86%
Mick Maynard	Curzon A	20/24	83%
Jon Willis	Milestone A	22/27	81%
Roy Smyth	Sonning C&P D	18/24	75%
Nigel Maltby	Sonning C&P C	22/30	73%
Nigel Goodman	Berks Sports A	17/24	71%
Derek Harrison	Curzon B	19/27	70%
Colin Byers	OLOP F	13/21	62%
Nick Lean	Curzon A	13/21	62%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh C	11/18	61%
Mark Jones	Sonning C&P C	18/30	60%

OLOP 'F's first game since my previous notes saw them lose 9-1 at leaders Curzon 'A' with Colin Byers saving the whitewash by beating John Walker. At home to Pangbourne Colin hit a great maximum by beating Leroy 9-11 11-6 11-4 11-3, Tom 11-9 11-4 11-8 and Roger 11-8 11-7 11-5 but sadly for him the side lost 4-6. In their next match they again lost 4-6 against Sonning 'C' with Colin winning two by beating Nigel and Mark and Carol picking up a great single by beating Paul 11-3 11-5 11-5. At Curzon 'B' Dave Holt won two by beating Jim and Geoff and Pat Daniels won one by also beating Jim 12-14 in the 5th. They also won the doubles in a 6-4 defeat. Last night they drew with Milestone and therefore went above Pangbourne on games difference. Colin and Dave Godfrey won two each besides teaming up to win the doubles.

Doubles average 67%

Finally all the best for Christmas to you all and a Happy and Healthy 2005.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curzon Club A	9	9	0	0	69	21	18
Sonning C&P C	10	7	1	2	60	40	15
Sonning C&P D	10	7	1	2	56	44	15
Berks Sports A	10	4	2	4	51	49	10
Tidmarsh C	10	4	2	4	51	49	10
Tilehurst Meths B	9	4	0	5	46	44	8
Milestone A	10	3	2	5	45	55	8
Curzon Club B	9	2	2	5	37	53	6
Kingfisher H	10	2	2	6	42	58	6
OLOP F	9	1	3	5	38	52	5
Pangbourne WMC A	10	2	1	7	35	65	5

DIVISION FOUR by Barry Carter

First off I would like to apologise for the lack in updates on the web and reports in the Evening Post and also for the brevity of this report but I have only just returned from holiday. I hope to get everything up to date over the Christmas period.

On to the table tennis Tidmarsh 'D' are on course for promotion with the other promotion spot likely to go to one from Springfield 'A', Tilehurst Meths 'C' or Kingfisher 'I'. At the other end things are looking 'dodgy' for OLOP 'H', Birch Copse 'A' and Tidmarsh 'E'.

Tidmarsh 'D' have powered their way to the top with a string of fine results. Pete Sinclair, Bruce McKenzie and Chris Webb all won two in the 7-3 win against Birch Copse 'A'. Chris was made to work hard by Darius Weithers to win his maximum in the 9-1 win over OLOP 'H' he eventually ran out 10-12,11-7,11-9,6-11,11-7. Chris won three and Pete two in the 5-5 draw with a strong Polish 'C' team.

Springfield 'A' have moved up to second place following an unbeaten run of six matches. Phil Burke won a three straight maximum and Seth Martin and Des Hele two each in the 7-3 win over Tilehurst Meths 'C'. The same trio then demolished Tidmarsh 'E' 9-1 although Des was made to sweat for his treble by Dave Edwards before he won 11-7 in the fifth. They overcame a spirited Kingfisher 'I' team 7-3 where yet another Phil hat-trick was supported by Des and Pete Whittington.

Tilehurst Meths 'C' have kept up the pressure on the top two with wins over Birch Copse 'A' (6-4) and Polish 'C' (7-3) in both these games Nigel Rowland has won maximums and continues to play well. In the Polish match he defeated Jacek

Werner 11-4,7-11,8-11,14-12,11-9. Nigel is supported well by Mal Collis who won two in the Birch Copse match and Chris Taylor who defeated Jacek Werner 11-6,11-5,11-4 in the Polish match.

Kingfisher 'I' have enjoyed 7-3 wins against both Tidmarsh 'E' and Tidmarsh 'F' in recent weeks to maintain their promotion challenge. Allen Pack won all three in the wins over the 'E' team and 'F' teams. Ken Robb chipped in with two against the 'F' team as did new signing Martyn Reeves who looks as if he could make the difference and steer them finally to promotion after several near misses.

Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' must still fancy their chances of promotion despite the set back when they lost 6-4 to OLOP (Wycliffe). Simon Blake is in great form at the moment, this was proved with an impressive 6-11,11-7,11-7,8-11,17-15 win over Pat Daniels of OLOP 'G' in the 8-2 win. Graeme Streets also chipped in with two. Mick Reynolds won three and Paul Treadgold two in the 5-5 draw with Tidmarsh 'F'.

Polish 'C' have slumped in recent weeks but still have a good chance of promotion if they can get back to winning ways. Krzysztof Duma won two in the 8-2 defeat against Tidmarsh 'E'. Krzysztof Milerski won two and Andy Yon one in the 5-5 draw with the leaders Tidmarsh 'D'. Krzysztof Duma, Jacek Werner and Andy Yon all won one each in the 7-3 defeat to Tilehurst Meths 'C'.

OLOP 'G' have only picked up one point in recent weeks and that came against Tidmarsh 'E'. Peter Manners-Smith had a busy night with two five set matches over Bob Griffiths 11-7,11-13,9-11,11-5,11-9 and Mick Osborne 9-11,7-11,11-1,11-5,5-11. Phil Mannion was the other victor with two wins. Dave Godfrey won two which included a 7-11,11-9,8-11,13-11,11-7 win over Chris Webb but it wasn't enough to prevent a defeat to Tidmarsh 'D'.

Tidmarsh 'F' needed a maximum from Mick Osborne to salvage a point against OLOP 'G'. Bob Griffiths won two in the 7-3 defeat to Kingfisher 'I'. Dave Smith returned to form with a good win over Simon Blake 7-11,13-11,11-5,11-4 to help them to a 5-5 draw with Sonning C&P 'E'. Despite being only three points above the relegation zone I expect them to pull away and possibly challenge for promotion with a strong second half showing unlike Reading hey Terry!

Tidmarsh 'E' have at last started to pick up points with wins over Polish 'C' and Birch Copse 'A'. John Harland played his best table tennis of the season

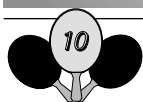
For weekly updates and reports see the

EVENING POST

*every Wednesday
or the*

**READING
CHRONICLE**

on a Thursday.



to secure his maximum and two points in the 8-2 win over Polish 'C'. Dave Edwards and Mike Bundy also weighed in with two good wins each. Francois Durand returned to the team and starred with a treble in the 7-3 win over Birch Copse 'A'. Mike once again contributed two with a good win over ex-Tidmarsh player Roy Hull 7-11,7-11,16-14,11-9,11-6.

Birch Copse 'A' have found the return to Division Four a little harder since the last newsletter as they have only picked up one point since and that was against Springfield 'A'. Terry Spice won two and Roy Hull one. Duncan Abbott also won one but was involved in one of the longest matches of the season when he narrowly lost to Pete Whittington 15-17,11-5,11-9,4-11,23-25. They have suffered two 7-3 defeats as well and they came against Tilehurst Meths 'C' and Tidmarsh 'E'.

OLOP 'H' won their first match of the season against Sonning C&P 'E' with Osiri Weithers the main man when he returned a maximum and Bernie Schug won two. Darius Weithers won the other match to seal the 6-4 victory. Darius Weithers was the only winner in the 9-1 defeat to Tidmarsh 'D' although Hersell Williams took Chris Webb to four before losing 4-11,11-9,2-11,10-12.

Sorry once again for the shortness of the report. It's that time of year again, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and here's to a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

RDTTA Web Site

Ever wanted to see the results to date of one of the other teams in your Division?

Or even those of your own team!

- Well you can soon.

A new facility is being added to the RDTTA Web site which will allow you to display the results to date of any team in any Division.

Watch out for the announcement of its arrival.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tidmarsh 'D'	10	8	1	1	66	34	17
Springfield 'A'	11	6	3	2	63	47	15
Tilehurst Methodists 'C'	10	7	0	3	56	44	14
Kingfisher 'I'	9	6	0	3	52	38	12
Sonning Common 'E'	11	4	2	5	58	52	10
Polish 'C'	11	4	2	5	54	56	10
Our Lady of Peace 'G'	10	3	2	5	48	52	8
Tidmarsh 'F'	10	2	4	4	42	58	8
Tidmarsh 'E'	9	3	0	6	36	54	6
Birch Copse 'A'	9	2	1	6	40	50	5
Our Lady of Peace 'H'	8	1	1	6	25	55	3

DIVISION FIVE *by John Sant*

At the halfway stage of the season, Milestone 'B' seem to me to be hot favourites for the title. Gerard Thorp has managed to field the same team in eight of the ten matches played so far and Sam Stevens and John Crosfield have supported him splendidly.

The relegation issue is more difficult to assess as both OLOP teams, although near the foot of the table are capable of resurgence, particularly in view of their recent signings.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the players in division 5 a Happy Christmas and a sporting New Year and may this division continue to play in the best traditions of the game.

LONGFIELD 'B' have a strong squad of players who are formidable opposition for any team in division 5. Although they beat OLOP 'I' (9-1), Spencers Wood (6-4) and Reading Resource (6-4), they unfortunately dropped both points when only able to field two players against strugglers Sonning C & P 'G' (2-8). Another point was dropped when they came up against Tidmarsh 'G' who had Duncan Groves in top form.

Doubles average: 55%

TIDMARSH 'G' are the draw specialists of division 5 having shared the points in four of the five matches in the period. Duncan Groves has been in prime form, eight straight maximums giving him the only unbeaten record in the division. A particularly fine performance was his maximum at Longfield which included an 11-2 11-3 7-11 11-2 win over the previously unbeaten Ken Park. With a little more support from his colleagues, Tidmarsh could figure prominently in the promotion race in the second half of the season.

Doubles average: 64%

READING RESOURCE are having a rather up and down season. Excellent wins against Spencers Wood and OLOP 'J' have been followed by defeats by Tidmarsh 'G', Longfield 'B' and Tilehurst Meths 'D'. Despite these variable results, Neil Havard has been very consistent, his only defeat in the period was by Alan Clarke of Spencers Wood. Maureen Allchurch secured a good maximum against OLOP 'J' and Roy Allen a treble at Spencers Wood. These performances apart, however, Neil has not had enough support for the team to mount a serious challenge.

Doubles average: 18%

SPENCERS WOOD have only one point to show for their efforts in the four matches they have played in the period, a draw against Tidmarsh 'G'. Alan Clarke did well to beat Neil Havard 13-11 5-11 11-9 11-6 and Martin Wetherell is still very consistent, but a little more help is needed from the other members of the squad if they are going to climb the table significantly. They do however, have a good doubles record.

Doubles average: 70%

SONNING C & P 'G' are perilously close to the drop zone after suffering heavy defeats at the hands of Tilehurst Meths 'D' (0-10), Milestone 'B' (1-9) and OLOP 'I' (2-8). Points were picked up however, against Tidmarsh 'G' (5-5) and Longfield 'B' (8-2) when both opponents could only field 2-man teams. James Betts was outstanding in these two matches beating Bob Sunerton and Richard Hudson at Tidmarsh and John Belcher and Rod Janes at Longfield, all in straight games.

Doubles average: 55%

OLOP 'I' Although OLOP 'I' are still uncomfortably near the bottom of the table, I expect them to make rapid progress upwards in the New Year. New signing Hii Ing Poh, a Malaysian pen-holder is proving something of a sensation, scoring maximums in their last two matches against Sonning C & P 'G' and high flyers, Springfield 'B'. These matches were won by 8-2 and 6-4 respectively. With Iain Greenwood having an excellent season, with four maximums already, OLOP 'I' are likely to be the surprise package of the second half.

Doubles average: 44%

CURZON CLUB 'C' have fallen away rather badly after leading the table in the last Newsletter. A 6-4 win over OLOP 'J' and a point in the drawn match with Kingfisher 'J' have been the only return from the last five matches. A crushing 1-9 hammering by Milestone 'B' and 4-6 defeats at

LEADING AVERAGES

			%
Duncan Groves	(Tidmarsh 'G')	24/24	100
Ken Park	(Longfield 'B')	17/18	94
John Burke	(Springfield 'B')	21/24	88
Neil Havard	(Reading Resource)	24/27	89
John Freeman	(Tilehurst Meths'D)	28/33	85
Martin Wetherell	(Spencers Wood)	21/27	78
John Beardmore	(Longfield 'B')	18/23	78
John Crosfield	(Milestone 'B')	21/27	78
Sam Stevens	(Milestone 'B')	21/27	78
Iain Greenwood	(OLOP 'I')	19/25	76
Alan Clarke	(Spencers Wood)	11/15	73
Jack Ridley	(Kingfisher 'J')	17/24	71
Linda King	(Curzon Club 'C')	20/29	69
David Jones	(Tilehurst Meths 'D')	18/27	67
Philip Mannion	(OLOP 'J')	14/21	67

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TILEHURST METHS 'D'	11	9	1	1	72	38	19
MILESTONE 'B'	10	8	1	1	68	32	17
SPRINGFIELD 'B'	11	7	1	3	60	50	15
TIDMARSH 'G'	11	5	4	2	63	47	14
LONGFIELD 'B'	11	6	1	3	63	47	14
CURZON CLUB 'C'	11	6	1	4	59	51	13
KINGFISHER 'J'	11	3	3	5	49	61	9
SPENCERS WOOD	10	2	3	5	48	52	7
READING RESOURCE	11	3	1	7	50	60	7
OLOP 'I'	11	3	1	7	42	68	7
SONNING C & P 'G'	11	2	1	9	38	72	5
OLOP 'J'	11	0	3	8	39	71	3

the hands of Tilehurst Meths 'D' and Springfield 'D' have seen a slump to mid-table.
Doubles average: 30%

SPRINGFIELD 'B' are cruising in a comfortable third place in the table but got a shock last week when OLOP 'I' turned up with Hii Ing Poh to support Iain Greenwood and caused a massive upset by beating Springfield's strongest team by 6-4. Springfield were also defeated by Milestone 'B' (1-9) when they were forced to play with a depleted side (without John Burke and Ian Boaden). However, comfortable wins over Kingfisher 'J' (7-3), OLOP 'J' (7-30 and Curzon Club 'C' (6-4) keep them very respectably placed for a second half challenge.
Doubles average: 70%

KINGFISHER 'J' have made excellent progress up the table after an indifferent start to the season. They have had wins against OLOP 'J' (7-3), OLOP 'I' (6-4) and Sonning C & P 'G' (6-4), drawn with Curzon Club 'C' and suffered just one defeat (v Springfield 3-7). Jack Ridley has been in splendid form with three maximums in the five matches. Against Sonning, Derek Spicer cashed in with rare maximum.
Doubles average: 36%

MILESTONE 'B' are the team of the season so far. A settled side of Gerard Thorp (60%), Sam Stevens (78%) and John Crosfield (70%) have generally hammered all before them; Springfield 'B' (9-1), Curzon Club 'C' (9-1), Sonning C & P 'G' (9-1), although OLOP 'I' had them somewhat rattled with a close 6-4 result. It will be interesting to see whether Gerard and his team can keep up this sort of form in the second half. Sam and John have

scored maximums in four of their last five outings.
Doubles average: 60%

TILEHURST METHODISTS 'D' have won all five matches in the period to keep them on top at present. Veteran campaigner, John Freeman has been outstanding with four maximums in these matches. David Jones, Catherine Venning and John Sant have given useful support. Catherine in particular has been in great form lately with a maximum against Sonning C & P 'G' and doubles against Curzon Club 'C' and Reading Resource. David Jones and John Sant have an 8/9 record in doubles matches.
Doubles record: 82%

OLOP 'J' have collected only one solitary point from a draw at Tidmarsh in their last five matches. This leaves them firmly rooted to the foot of the table despite some solid performances by Philip Mannion and Steve Purchase. Perhaps if Mark Kirton, who beat Richard Hudson at Tidmarsh could play more often, Philip and Steve would benefit from more support and maybe get out of the danger zone.
Doubles average: 18%

BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE PERIOD

Newcomer, Hii Ing Poh's maximum for OLOP 'I' against Springfield 'B'
v John Burke (3-0), v Ian Boaden (3-1) and Martin Hynes (3-0)

CLOSEST MATCH OF THE PERIOD

Catherine Venning (Tilehurst Meths 'D') v Stephen Lebens (Reading Resource)
11-8 18-20 8-11 11-9 12-10

DIVISION SIX *by John Harris*

With the season at its half-way point the table seems to have split into three sections. The two leading teams have opened up what could well be a decisive gap between themselves and their closest rivals, Post Office, Birch Copse and Springfield 'C', while the other teams, I feel, are unlikely to be competing for the honours in March. Indeed, it would appear that Sonning C + P 'I' and OLOP 'K' will be arguing over the 'wooden spoon'!

Berks Sports 'B'

John Fuller's team have played six matches since the previous Newsletter, but have gained four points only and remain in the same position in the table. When John (16/30) and Richard Vose (16/21) both play, the team seems to stand a good chance of securing at least one point, but, as I have said before, they need a third player who can support John and Richard more ably. The team's most convincing performance to date was a 6-4 defeat of Springfield 'C'. In their most recent game, against Springfield 'D', they were defeated by 6-4, a net cord, in favour of Springfield, at 10-9 in the fifth game of the doubles perhaps playing a decisive role.
Doubles record:- 4 from 10

Springfield 'D'

Colin Jones' team has had a rather successful run in recent weeks; from the five matches played since the last Newsletter they have picked up seven points, won all five doubles games, and moved two places up the table. Nigel Outhwaite (20/27) is undoubtedly their top player, but, as with a few other teams, Nigel does not always have the support around him and, to state the obvious, one player cannot win a match by himself! Nonetheless, I feel that Springfield 'D' will continue to make headway up the table, particularly if Colin and Nigel both play in matches.
Doubles record:- 6 from 10

Post Office 'C'

Barbara Gatward's team are the in-form team! Having lost their opening four games, they have won their last six and have moved from the foot of

the table to third. Admittedly, they have not had to face the other title contenders in recent weeks, but twelve points from six games is still impressive. Linda Davis is, predictably, their most successful player, but she is being well supported by the 'other Davises' – Pat and Gary. I think Sonning 'H' and Birch Copse need to watch Post Office carefully from now on – St Laurence, I suspect, need not worry too much!
Doubles record:- 5 from 10

BBC Club

In recent weeks BBC have had a somewhat rocky ride; they have faced *apparent* strugglers Pangbourne, but also Post Office and St Laurence. Consequently, to have picked up four points from the last five games is perhaps not too bad. Nonetheless, they have dropped two places in the table since the first Newsletter. Motjaba Safavi continues to be their best player, with Dave Pearson playing a good supporting role. If only these two could play together more often, along with either Robina Hacker or John Scott, I feel sure that rapid progression up the table would result. I hope that Phil Peat will be playing again soon; the team needs you, Phil!
Doubles record:-4 from 10

Sonning C + P 'I'

I am afraid that Warrick Mayes' team is having a somewhat difficult time. Having won their opening two matches, against Birch Copse and OLOP, they have lost the last seven – five of them by a margin of 6-4 - and, as a result, have dropped steadily down the table. Ian Ayres (21 from 23) is – by some distance – their most successful player, but, unfortunately, he seems to be getting very little support from the rest of the team. Perhaps the New Year will bring a change of luck.
Doubles record:- 3 from 9

Sonning C + P 'H'

Apart from suffering a 10-0 defeat at the hands of St Laurence, my own team seems to be doing well – at the moment! We have had some extremely hard-fought matches with the eventual scores not always reflecting the closeness of the games. For example, the match score against Pangbourne was 8-2, but almost every game was extremely close and competitive, while in our most recent game, against Springfield 'C', the score was 3-3 before the doubles and there was a very real danger of our losing the match. We did eventually win by 7-3. Although we do not have a 'star' player, we have a good squad so that we are capable of supporting each other – no matter who plays in any given match.
Doubles record:- 8 from 10

Birch Copse 'B'

Mary Joyce's team have played three matches, picked up three points and dropped one place in the table in recent weeks. They were, predictably, beaten by St Laurence and had a close encounter with Springfield 'C', which ended in a

LEADING AVERAGES

			%
C. West	St Laurence	27/27	100%
D. West	St Laurence	15/15	100%
B. Clowney	St Laurence	15/15	100%
I. Ayres	Sonning C + P 'I'	21/23	91%
R. Morrell	Springfield 'C'	18/21	86%
J. Harris	Sonning C + P 'H'	18/21	86%
L. Davis	Post Office 'C'	21/27	78%
M. Casserley	Sonning C + P 'H'	14/18	78%
M. Faulkner	Sonning C + P 'H'	16/21	76%
R. Vose	Berks Sports 'B'	16/21	76%
K. Sherry	Birch Copse 'B'	18/24	75%
N. Outhwaite	Springfield 'D'	20/27	74%
M. Safavi	BBC Club	15/21	71%

draw. They have a game in hand – against OLOP - on Post Office and, consequently, it would appear that Mary's team will be battling it out with Post Office and Sonning 'H' for the runners-up position in the table. Birch Copse have already defeated Post Office, while they have yet to be visited by Sonning 'H'. Although Mary has played in only one match so far this season, Ken Sherry and Chas Dean are performing well – although, as is the situation with some other teams, they do not have consistently good support from the third player in the team. Elizabeth Hull is finding it hard to achieve any degree of consistency, while Sean Murphy has not been a regular this year.
Doubles record:- 5 from 9

Springfield 'C'

Gerald Higgs' team seem to be the most unpredictable team in the division. On the one hand, they are the only team, so far, to have taken a point from St Laurence, while, on the other, they lose to Pangbourne and Berks Sports, who are both lower in the table than them. Other matches have included a draw with Birch Copse and a very close encounter with Sonning 'H'. Consequently, since the previous Newsletter report, Springfield 'C' have played six matches and collected a mere four points. Ray Morrell (18/21) is their in-form player, although Gerald and Derek Edney are both playing well. Springfield's problem would appear to be their lack of success in the doubles; had they not been defeated in the last six doubles games, they would have gained four more points. May I take this opportunity to welcome back Ken Martin after a gap of two years. He and I had an epic battle recently and, I am sure that, with some match practice, he will soon prove to be a challenge for any player in this division.
Doubles record:- 2 from 8

St Laurence Church

I have no doubt whatsoever that Ben Clowney's team will finish the season as champions. Ben,

Chris and Dan are the best players in this division and thoroughly deserve the success. In our recent match, we were simply out-played and, although we managed to scrape a few points, we were never in any danger of winning the match! Apart from the draw against Springfield 'C', when St Laurence fielded a weakened team, Ben's team have not yet given away more than three games in a match.
Doubles record:- 9 from 9

Pangbourne WMC 'B'

Colin Thomas' team have played six matches and gained five points in recent weeks, yet remain in third from bottom place in the table. Although Geoff Chivers (8/12) and John Taylor (14/24) have reasonably good individual records, the team as a whole seems unable to play well consistently. Final match scores do not appear to reflect the closeness of the individual games played. Perhaps, results would improve if Geoff were able to play more regularly; a combination of Geoff and John could well reap rewards. I hope that the injury and illness problems suffered by the Pangbourne players will clear up in the near future and that all will be back to being fully fit.
Doubles record:- 5 from 10

OLOP 'K'

Joe Rassool's team, I am afraid, continue to struggle to find any level of consistency. Although Bill Ayres, when he plays, is able to more than hold his own, he is unable to win matches single handedly and so the team will find it extremely difficult – if not impossible – to move above the foot of the table. All that I can say is – keep enjoying your table tennis; you are always a pleasure to play against and to entertain.
Doubles record:- 1 from 8

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sonning C + P 'H'	10	9	0	1	74	26	18
St. Laurence	9	8	1	0	70	20	17
Post Office 'C'	10	6	0	4	58	42	12
Birch Copse 'B'	9	4	2	3	45	45	10
Springfield 'C'	9	3	3	3	46	44	9
BBC Club	10	3	3	4	44	56	9
Berks Sports 'B'	10	4	0	6	42	58	8
Springfield 'D'	10	3	2	5	42	58	8
Pangbourne 'B'	10	2	2	6	43	57	6
Sonning C + P 'I'	9	2	0	7	35	55	4
OLOP 'K'	8	1	1	6	25	55	3

YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP by John Cunningham

Daniel Haile was the winner of the Division One ranking tournament in the Youth League at Blue Coat School on Friday evening. Haile recorded a good win over Michael Gu, he beat his League team team-mate Dominic Gosling 9-11 11-7 11-5 and defeated all but Ravinder Dosanjh to take the top spot. Gu, the pre-match favourite took the second place, Gosling third, Dosanjh fourth, Gareth Terry fifth and Alex Curran sixth. In the division two singles Sean Cole held on to defeat his brother Siad and Liam Curran in a very close Round Robin event.

With just one week to go in the first half of the Youth League, preparation is now in hand to form two divisions, in the New Year. New players or teams from schools and clubs would be most welcome. Details from John Cunningham Tele 0118 9665907.

Chinese cadet Michael Gu regained his number one spot at the OLOP IMPACT Round Robin on Sunday at Our Lady of Peace Community Centre. Gu beat the current number one Dane White 9-11 11-7 9-11 with wins over Simon Thorne, Daniel Taylor, Gareth Terry and Heidi Gu which saw him stay undefeated to win Gold. White held on to take Silver while Terry played well to win Bronze in the club's Grade one event.

The Grade Two Round Robin proved to be a real



New Youth League team, Luis Daniels, Sean and Siad Cole

cliffhanger with three players - Daniel Thorpe, Fiona Taylor and Gary Perry all winning two sets each. It took a countback to allocate the medals with the Gold going to Thorne by virtue of a 2-1 win over Taylor. Taylor's victory over Perry saw her take a first Silver medal leaving newcomer Perry with the Bronze on his first visit to the club.

OLOP IMPACT Coaching, Practice and Competition takes place every Sunday at Our Lady of Peace Community Centre from 10 till 12. Details are obtainable from John Cunningham Tele 0118 9665907.

RDTTA Web Site

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BLACK TONE SAMPLES

