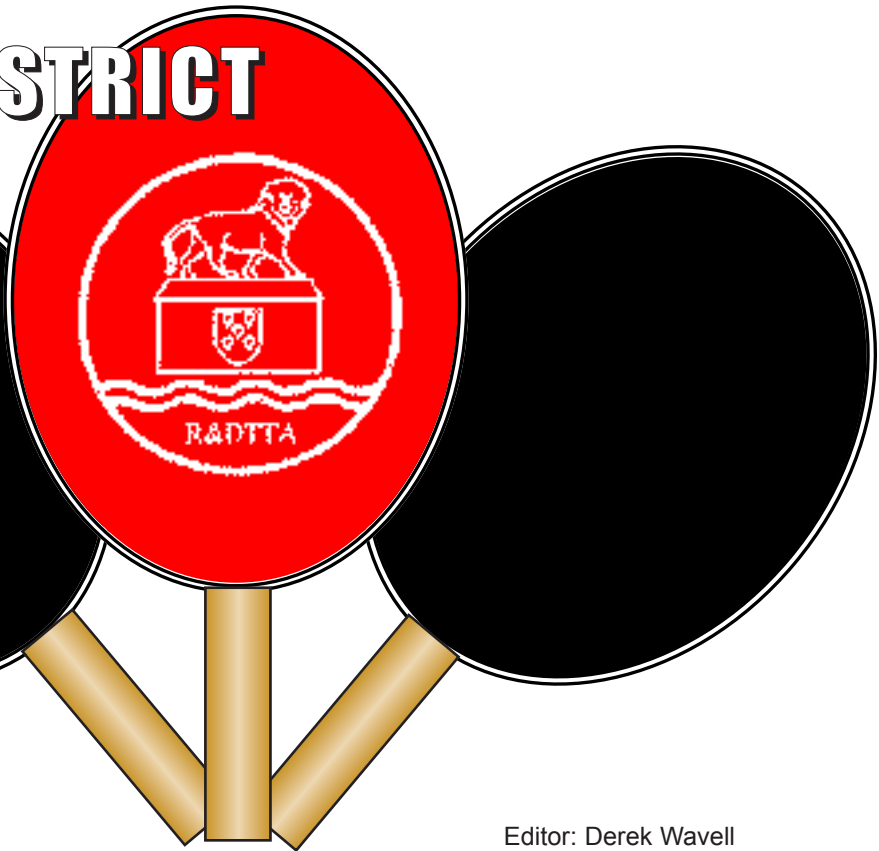


# READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



*December 2007*

Editor: Derek Wavell

## Whew! Half Time at Last...

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*T*hanks for liking my first Newsletter, in October. Mostly not my doing, but the brilliance and hard work of others.

There's plenty of Christmas goodwill this month, in sparkling reports from the guardian angels of all six divisions. Mark Banks's Div 1 report is a classic (Just what is he on? Not that I care as long as it hasn't been banned by the ITTF!) Other divisional reports are probably less heady, but have the great advantage of being written in English!

I see you've found the colour version of the Newsletter on the web site. Free, with live links and a bit different from the printed version - which doesn't even have a page 21.

This newsletter was on the web site two days before Christmas - long before the printed version reached captains. And you can print it yourself if you want. Please let me know of any mistakes I have made, through the input box on the [rdtta web page](#), and I will make corrections online.

Maybe (like me in the past) you'd like to look at the newsletter online more often, but can't be bothered to remember when it comes out, and always find nothing there? If so, here's an offer. Send me your email address to [derekwavell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:derekwavell@hotmail.co.uk), and I will ping you as soon as each newsletter goes online. Your address won't be used for anything else.

Wishing you festoons of chipolatas and buckets of brandy butter.

Derek



## Blues for Berkshire

by Martin Adams

Having impressively retained their spot in the Senior County Premier division last season, the Berkshire Senior squad of Martin Adams, Dave Barr, Hari Gehlot, Susan Johnson and Mary Allan were on local turf at Cippenham in November in an attempt to build up some first half points over three matches.

A tough first encounter against Essex, with a side including highly ranked players such as John Holland (15), Abigail Embling (5) and Sara Wang (11), proved too tough with Berkshire going down 2-8. There was an epic victory for Dave over Ashley Stokes 14-12 in the fifth and a great win for Hari over Vytautas Rybakas, ranked inside the top 40.

The next encounter against Middlesex proved more fruitful for the girls with both Sue and Mary overturning the Middlesex player, Lindsey Armstrong, in fine style. Despite some other matches going the distance, the Berkshire men were unable to significantly build upon this, their only victory being for Dave, who was certainly getting his money's worth, edging out Jimmy Walsh 14-12 in the fifth. 3-7 was the result.

The final match of the weekend was always going to be tough against last year's runners-up, Derbyshire. Another 2-8 defeat ensued with only Martin able to trouble the scorers with good wins over Allan Fullwood and Shaun Marples. Dave narrowly missed out to the talented Sam Perry, whose scintillating backhand attack was at times simply unreturnable, even for the likes of a top defender like Barr.

It's not all doom and gloom as Leicestershire, like Berkshire, are yet to score a point and Gloucestershire only have one. These will be crucial matches in the second half with two teams targeted for relegation, although we are also still to play both the top teams in Devon and Sussex. Come on you Blues!

### Barr's Team Heading for Premier Play-off

David Barr and his OLOP IMPACT first team stayed in contention for the British Premier Division play off with three wins and a draw in the Cippenham table tennis arena last weekend.

Saturday started well with Barr undefeated as his side beat Urban Progress 6-2. Chris Bush followed his captain's example by winning two while Stephen Gertsen and Neil Wright weighed in with one win each as Urban Progress threatened to go ahead.

Bedford Modern were the next OLOP victims with Barr again leading the way with a maximum – beating Martin Gray 3-1 and Kevin Gray by the same scoreline. Stephen Gertsen and Chris Bush were also undefeated as the Earley club coasted to another 6-2 win.

Sunday started well with a good 6-2 win over London Progress with Gertsen beating Matt Ware 3-2 to gain an early initiative. Neil Wright returned to form with wins over Jake Collins and Emran Hussain, while Gertsen defeated Ryan Collins to complete yet another maximum. Barr and Bush completed the scoreline with one win each.

The final match against Poliska, the top Polish national

## Portrait -



side, ended with a 4-4 draw. Gertsen won two, and Bush and Barr secured one each to return an unbeaten weekend and seven valuable points.

The team will travel to Cippenham on 6th January, where wins over Cippenham and Oxford could take the team to the top of Division One. At present they are just one point behind leaders Westfield North Hants who take on Poliska and London Progress.

### Berkshire Closed Championships

The senior singles championship of the Berkshire Closed - held at Kingfisher club - was won by Martin Adams for the third time running (and seventh time overall). He beat Mark Banks 11-8, 11-2, 9-11, 11-4 in the final.

Mary Allan took the ladies' title for the second time, beating Susan Johnson in the final, 11-7, 11-6, 11-9.

In the men's doubles, Martin Adams and Phil Prady beat Abhay and Kuldeep Gehlot in the final.

In the veterans' singles, Ramesh Gehlot won the title against Graham Outtrim.

The under-21 singles was an all-Gehlot party - with Kuldeep defeating Abhay 11-8, 11-4, 11-8.

# Laws of the Game by John Freeman, IU NR

## Wheelchair Play

There were some rather substantial changes to the laws in 2005-6 which largely seem to have gone unnoticed. The changes relate to disabled players or more specifically to those who play in wheelchairs because of a physical disability. I don't think we have any wheelchair players in our league today but some of our members may play in other leagues that do.

Prior to 2005 the only exception to the 'standard' laws related to service. Some leagues did have a rule allowing deviations, but strictly speaking such a rule was illegal and unenforceable, as ETTA Rules state that all competitive Table Tennis must be played under the ETTA approved Laws of the Game. That is the first object of the ETTA. Whether or not a league had a 'deviation' rule, wheelchair players assumed they had a right for either player to return the ball in a doubles match which is what they were allowed to do in disabled competitions. This was generally accepted at the match but there were often arguments about it outside of the match.

I am glad that the Laws were changed in 2005 to cater for wheelchair players and nowadays everyone must play to those new laws. They are slightly different from what used to be the general practice. The changes are:

1. The rally shall be a let if the receiver is in a wheelchair due to physical disability and the ball, provided that the

service is otherwise correct (i) leaves the receiver's half after touching it in the direction of the net (ii) comes to rest on the receiver's half (iii) in singles leaves the receiver's half after touching it in the direction of the net.

2. If two players playing doubles are in wheelchairs due to a physical disability, after a service has been returned by the correct player either player of the disabled pair may make subsequent returns. However no part of a player's wheelchair is allowed to protrude beyond the imaginary extension of the centre line of the table. If it does, the opposing pair are awarded a point.



I have to say I am puzzled about 1 (i) and (iii) above and have repeated the law verbatim.

The rules seem to be designed to prevent a service being deliberately aimed outside the reach of a wheelchair player. I did seek clarification but none was forthcoming. I was told wheelchair players will understand. Perhaps we all need to understand.

**Notes:** (i) In doubles there is no requirement for the two standing players to play if a third person of the team is in a wheelchair,

(ii) In doubles there is no requirement for the two wheelchair players to play if a third person of the team is standing,

(iii) no deviation is allowed if the doubles pair includes a wheelchair player and a standing player, so the ball must be returned alternately in the normal way and

(iv) there is no question of the (able-bodied) opponents having the choice for either player to return the ball.

How well do you know the rules? E.g:

Is a white or yellow shirt now permitted in the league? (11.5.2)

Can the other team suddenly announce they are going to use a yellow ball? (11.2.2)

If you 'play up' four times for three different teams, do you have to go up permanently? (12.5.2)

How late do players of the other team have to arrive before you could start claiming sets? (12.9.1)

What is the maximum time you can postpone a rearranged fixture? (12.11.5)

*The answers to all these questions are in the Handbook!  
Read it - and you won't get caught out.*

## Reading Sports Personality of the Year Awards

This glittering awards ceremony for 2007 was held at the Rivermead Sports Centre on 11th December. In amongst a host of awards to various sports, local table tennis was also highly featured with awards made to Nigel Maltby and John Cunningham (Helper/Loyalty awards), also to Melanie Farquhar (Junior Sports Personality of the Year) - who was England junior champion at 17.

Nigel received his award for his work as Chairman, Secretary and Press Officer of the Reading Table Tennis Association as well as running one of the largest clubs in the area. John received his for his dedicated efforts at the Our Lady of Peace TTC which he founded over 30 years ago and his dedication to developing table tennis in the community, and arranging grants for TT teaching and tables in primary schools.



# Malcolm, Goodbye



## MALCOLM GRIFFITHS THE TABLE TENNIS UMPIRE

Malcolm, who died on 26th November, was a stickler for the rules of the game and there were many arguments on the subject. But, Malcolm being a Yorkshire man, he always had the last word.

Umpiring at top level in the Premier Division of the British League- which is comprised of England's top 50 players – Malcolm's decisions were sometimes questioned. On one occasion a player twice his size in height and width made a move towards the umpire's table after a decision had gone against him.

Malcolm drew himself up to his full height and said: "We'll discuss your problem after the game. I've enjoyed the game so far. If you concentrate you might even win." The red mist lifted and the player returned to the table. At the end of the game all the players (as they always did) came over to shake his hand, including the disputer – appreciating the fact that he had skilfully allowed the game to flow.



## MALCOLM'S AWARD

Not surprisingly, he was nominated for – and won – The Courage in the Face of Adversity Cup at the annual Wokingham Borough Sports Council's awards. Malcolm was absolutely overcome by his selection. The Chairman said that his bravery and determination to overcome serious illness stood out. Illness prevented him from attending the ceremony but Nigel Legg, John Taylor and several children he had coached, presented him with the trophy at home – much to his delight.

## ING POH HII'S MESSAGE TO MALCOLM

When Our Lady of Peace player Ing Poh Hii went back to Malaysia, he wrote little messages for everyone and this is what he wrote for Malcolm.

"Malcolm: Your passion and dedication to table tennis is always inspiring to me, a hospital emergency, a broken arm (and still continue the game like nothing happen), doing sit-up and jogging everyday, coaching kids and you are now thinking of setting up a new team in Bracknell league. Where do you get so many energy from? From time to time you even do some DJ show for little pocket money. I wish I could still be so sporty like you when I get to my 70s."

## MALCOLM THE PLAYER

The story of Malcolm breaking his arm, yet playing on to win the game, thus taking his team into the final is well documented. He rang the next day to say that he didn't think he'd be able to play in the final. Even after his heart attack he played like a terrier around the table. Malcolm didn't lose. He had to be beaten.

## MALCOLM THE CAPTAIN

The Wednesday before he died John Cunningham went to see Malcolm, who was waiting for a blood transfusion and with his temperature rocketing. He was talking about the youngsters that he coached and his teams. In particular he was so proud of his G team who are doing well in Division 6. Just before John left, he said he thought he'd have to cut down on his playing and just manage the teams for a while.

## MALCOLM AS A FRIEND (From John Cunningham)

One being from Yorkshire and the other from Lancashire, we did not always agree. But over the years, while we always agreed to differ, as long as Malcolm got in the last word, Malcolm never let me, the team or his club down. A true gentleman and friend who will be much missed.

## TEAM NEWS

### Updates for the handbook

The sad death of **Malcolm Griffiths** in November, after only a short illness, left two Sonning Common and Peppard teams without captains.

**Jim McClure** has taken over the captaincy of **SC&P 'D'**, in Div 4. Address: 130 Kidmore Road, Caversham, RG4 7NB. Tel: 0118 947 2353. Email: jim.p.mcclure@btinternet.com

**Colin Selman** is the new captain of **SC&P 'G'**, in Div 6. His address is 2 Rowside Cottages, Kingwood Common, Henley, Oxon, RG9 5NE; and his number is 01491 628324.



## The SPORTING SPIRIT by Professor Abbas Syed

### "Elusive or abundant in the R&DTTA?"

Both my upbringing and education led me to believe that participation in sport brought many benefits to the individual and the community – local, national and international. These included a quest for excellence, the generation of healthy competition, a desire to win but entirely fairly, the development of a healthy mind and body, the breaking down of barriers, such as race and nationality, and the development of lifelong friendships transcending all such barriers – in short the development of a decent and rounded human being endowed with wholesome values.

Accordingly, when children came along in my family, we not only gave education but sport a pre-eminent place in their upbringing. All three did well – Andrew and Matthew in table tennis [both played for England - Ed]; Matthew also played cricket at Oxford and Rebecca was an Oxford Blue in Rugby most of her six years whilst reading medicine at Oxford. All three seem to embody the attributes which sport so poignantly helps cultivate and this has reinforced my faith in sport.

I am not naive enough to suggest that there are no exceptions to this general rule. But my experience as Special Competitions Secretary for the last 18 months has shown me that 'bad apples' are a rarity; but since these attract greater media interest on the national and international scene it tends to distort the image of sport unfairly and sets a bad example to the youth. I am delighted that I have been most impressed by the genuine sporting spirit shown by all the players and captains who have been in touch with me. Both team members and captains have been commendable for their commitment and good sense, and despite their many preoccupations have been so ready to accommodate the needs of their opponents by changing dates of matches, venues etc, despite great inconvenience to themselves.



## Your TT Insights

"Always treat a service with aggression. You may lose the point, but you'll learn something each time. Don't be passive or you'll be wide open." Peter Galea

"Before scoring points, first you have to get the ball on the table." - Nick Heaps

"Before getting the ball on the table, first you have to make contact with it!" [Ed]

"Against a penholder-grip player, play to his backhand side. Play long or wide to his backhand." - Zhang Pu

"If you give advice to a team mate between games - only tell him to use some tactic he can already do well. Otherwise he could get into even worse trouble!" DW

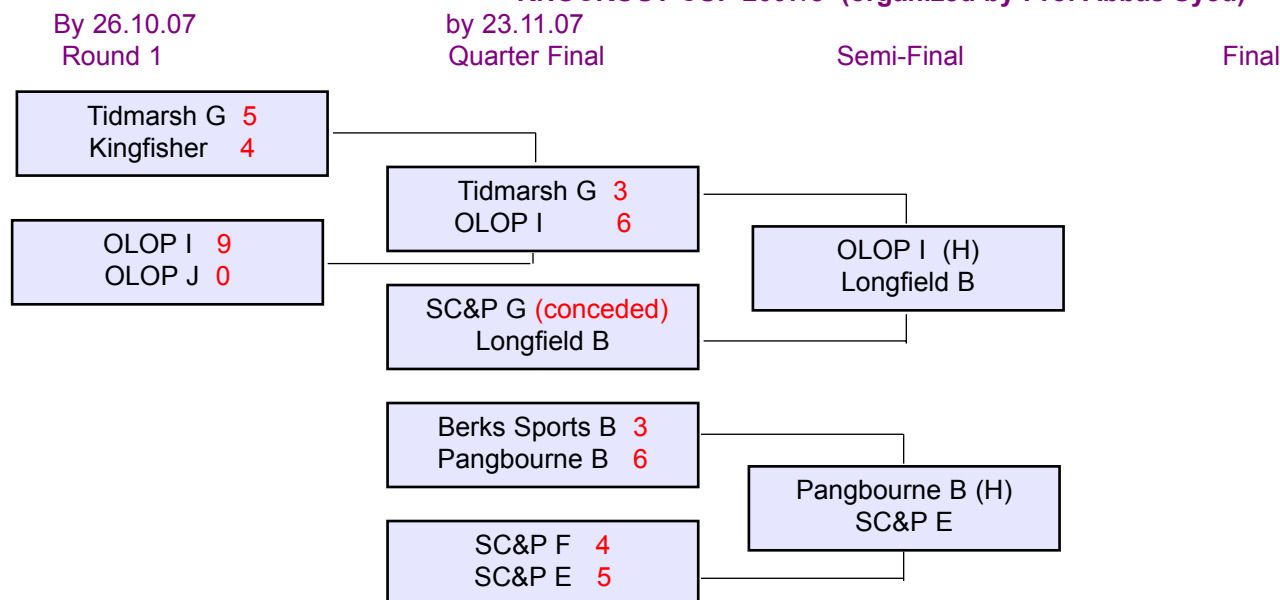
"Do not kick the barrier, hit your bat on the table nor smack the ball in anger. Conceal your frustration. Your chances and reputation will remain intact, as will the equipment." - A chilled-out TT player.

**If you have a moment, please throw in your own revelations - via the Newsletter page of the web site.**

I have been overwhelmed by the dedication of my fellow RDTTA committee members. One and all put in a great effort and hours of work to serve the table tennis fraternity in Reading in a highly professional way. In my view true professionalism embodies a genuine human concern for all, assistance with the promotion and development of sport and sporting spirit through full support to individuals and the teams and regard for their needs, application of the spirit of the rules, etc. I am glad to say all my fellow committee members are an epitome of these virtues.

This leads me to conclude that there is abundance of true sporting spirit in all our members and those on the committee and this bodes exceedingly well for the up-and-coming generation and sport in general.

### KNOCKOUT CUP 2007/8 (organized by Prof Abbas Syed)



# Team Handicap Competition 2007-08

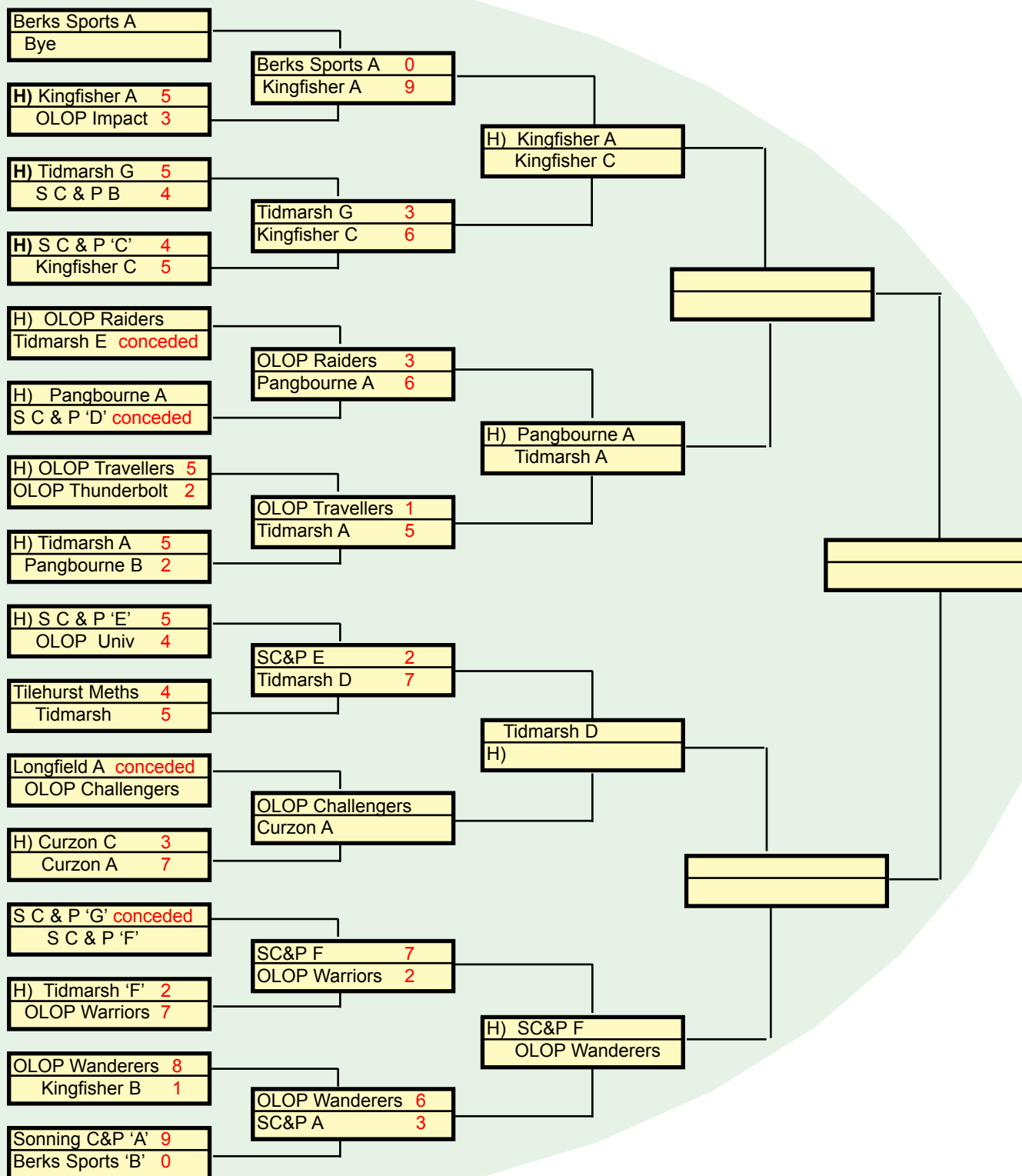
organised by Professor Abbas Syed

By 26.10.07  
Round 1

By 23.11.07  
Round 2

By 21.12.07  
Quarter Final

Semi-Final



## From our Chairman & Secretary, Nigel Maltby

### Individual Handicap Competition

This season's event will take place on **Sunday 13th January 2008** at the **Kingfisher Club**. Entry forms were issued to Club Secretaries for distribution at the start of the season and they are also available on the website or from Nigel Maltby. Entries should be sent to Nigel at 12 Queens Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8DL by the closing date of Friday 28th December. Players will be notified of their start time during week commencing 31 December.

### Reading Closed Championships

Entry forms are now available for the Reading Closed Championships which will be held at the **Cippenham Club, Slough** over the **weekend of the 8th & 9th of March 2008**.

Entry forms are available from Club Secretaries, via the website or by contacting Reading Assn secretary, Nigel Maltby, and completed forms should be sent to Charlie Goddard at 35, The Pastures, Oulton, Lowestoft NR32 4WT, to arrive no later than Friday 15th February 2008.

Please do try to support this worthwhile event. Entry remains free.

### IMPACT Challenge Shield

This competition is by invitation only from teams competing in Divisions 1 or 2.

In Round 1 Our Lady of Peace A beat YMCA A 7-2, Krasimer Ivanov just beating Dave Streak 11-6 4-11 11-4 6-11 11-7 and Simon Thorne beating Colin Wilkes 12-10 7-11 11-7 11-8. For YMCA Dave Streak enjoyed a notable 11-5 11-9 13-15 11-8 victory over Jared Smith. Tidmarsh A are also safely through after winning 5-1 at Our Lady of Peace E, Ian Packford and Marco Essomba both cruising to useful doubles while for OLOP, Daniel Moses had a brilliant 10-12 11-9 11-8 14-12 victory over Dave Wise.

Our Lady of Peace C managed a good victory over YMCA B while there were walkovers for Kingfisher D, OLOP D, Kingfisher A and Kingfisher B. In the all Kingfisher affair between Kingfisher C and Kingfisher E, the C team unfortunately played an ineligible player and therefore their 5-3 'victory' has been reversed and it is the E team who progress to a round 2 meeting with Tidmarsh A. The full draw for the Quarter-Finals is as follows:

OLOP D v Kingfisher D  
OLOP A v OLOP C  
Tidmarsh A v Kingfisher E  
Kingfisher B v Kingfisher A.



## DIVISION ONE by Mark Banks

Well, doesn't time fly hey. Welcome once again to the Christmas and New Year edition of Banksy's Div One Column. I have a bumper festive edition for you this time round. All your old favourites are back. The MVP, The One Liners, Ramesh, Pang, Dog Racing, the lot! I'm sure you'll also join me in thanking Derek Wavell for his fantastic production of this great Newsletter. Superb effort and Merry Christmas to you sir.

Ah, so yet another year slips by. A few more hairs have fallen out, a few more lines have appeared, the moobs have gotten bigger and a few more pounds have crept in from I don't know where, er, although at a guess I'd say that Mr Guinness and Mr Dominos have had something to do with it. Before writing this piece I checked out my December 2006 Column and blimey what a difference a year makes. Some big players who all got huge mentions in last year's Edition are now mixing their skills on table tennis tables elsewhere in the country or even farther afield than that. Ali Subhan, Hari Gehlot, Dave Reeves, Richard Andrews, Tom Maynard to name but a few were all massively at the forefront of this League's action towards the back end of 2006 and of course we miss having them playing in this League (yup even you Hari) but as with everything else in life we move on and hey, there's still some "big" players around aren't there, Ramesh. By the way, forgot to mention that of course some things never change – Yup the mighty Kingfisher "A" are still at the head of affairs. (Yawn!).

So it might be cold outside but the action on the tables is certainly hotting up and once again as per last year the real interest is what is happening at the bottom of the table rather than the top. Some familiar faces are scrapping it out down there but interestingly enough these sides are so desperate to stay in the top Division of one of the UK's top local leagues that each and every one of the teams now has a "Superstar" to call on – some even have two!! OLOP "D" now have the services of former top 100 senior male, Dorset County Senior Team member, Butterfly Grand Prix regular and British League Star, Neil Cartwright who has taken the division by storm with his 100% 9 victories out of 9 record and if Melanie can get a few games in between Uni commitments then it may not yet be a forlorn hope to get out of the situation that they find themselves in. OLOP "C" obviously have the classy Mark Hancock who almost single-handedly kept

them afloat last year. Tilehurst Meths have signed up former England Junior Star Gemma Chapman to help keep their dream alive, YM "B" who rely very heavily on star man Tony Reynolds can also call on the services of Basingstoke Champion Kevin Macken and Kingfisher "B"s Stuart Williams is starting to show what a player he is at this level by storming up the averages and helping the "B"s to some valuable points along the way. Phew. The strength in depth is amazing and whilst some of the players mentioned above show up for league action only occasionally it makes for another titanic struggle down there and I fully expect it to once again go down to the wire.

At the top it's a lot more straightforward to call and with our HUGE 4 point gap I hate to say it guys (and even though Derek Wood's having none of it) it looks like the trophy is once again going to take pride of place on the Gehlot mantelpiece. Sorry.

Anyway, before I get on to the action on behalf of all Div One Captains, players and coaches I have a couple of congratulatory messages to pass on. Firstly, one of our greatest ever players Martin Adams and more importantly his partner Marzena have recently given birth to their first child, Jacob James Adams. Born on 23rd October and weighing in at a healthy 6lb 11oz. Mother and son are both doing fine and so is er, Mr Adams who, unfortunately for the rest of us, is playing as well as ever after his Paternal break. Our next message is for Mr Timothy Pang who is to become (I think) the 2nd youngest Grandad in the Division. Congratulations Tim (I never knew you were THAT old) and hope it all goes well for your family in the coming months. The youngest Grandad in the Division by the way??? Wor Fil (Fenwick Prady, 40!!) One final message for Clive Banham who is back on the comeback trail and whilst still on crutches was in great humourous form when we played at OLOP the other day. Hope to see you back with a dodgy bat in your hand again soon buddy.

Now I was gonna enter a funny (er, and admittedly not entirely truthful) Christmas story about Ramesh here but I'm feeling particularly full of goodwill so I'm gonna give him a year off and let him enjoy this Newsletter without the traditional cringing (there you go buddy – I can be nice!) so as we close out 2007 a big personal thank you and a very Merry Christmas to all the captains and the big scorecard contributors that makes this role so enjoyable (mostly enjoyable!). You know who

you all are (especially John C, your scribbles have been great, Pete B, Geoff - you too guys - thank you) and here's wishing them and all the rest of you a great Christmas and a very successful and prosperous 2008.

Love & Peace

Mark x

Completely written off at the start of the season when word had gotten around that Hari was out of the country for a year **Kingfisher "A"** have defied their critics and are running away with the Div One title once again. Our closest challengers and arch rivals Polish "A" realistically needed to beat us in the game recently at Kingfisher to stand any hope of making up the deficit but although they were having none of it (Mr Wood), a draw far better suited us than them and I think they've given themselves too much to do in the 2nd half. We're all in pretty good form. Steve Munson especially. His victory over Ian Packford effectively sealed the victory in that potentially tricky one up at Tidmarsh and Abhay and Kuldeep have been playing frequently and well to help us core players out. Ramesh, fresh from recent draw-fixing allegations has taken December off to chop wood (not Derek), Bela's new bat was a cause for concern but he's kinda started getting to grips with it now and I'm off to Dorset for a well-earned Christmas break.

**M.V.P. Steve Munson**

**Banksy One Liner: Polish, OLOP, Tidmarsh, YM – You boys have let us in again – Thank You & Merry Christmas!**

Still there or thereabouts **Polish "A"** have had a big blow to their slim hopes with the news that Derek Wood, who was starting to play really well again, injured his arm at a recent over 60's tournament and is now out for some time. Get healed soon buddy! So presumably with Reevesy still a no show this gives them major availability issues and with a last ditch attempt to swipe Neil Cartwright from under OLOP's noses failing narrowly I think 2nd place at best is all that they can wish for now. On the bright side Daddy Adams is back in full flow and once again gives them back their 3 or 4 nil start. Nicky Neaps (re-named by me this year) is playing exceptionally well again and is always a tough nut to crack and Richard, though slightly patchy this season is still very capable of top stuff and crucially took the scalp of rapidly improving Simon Thorne to help his side to a draw against other top rivals OLOP "A". You never know with this lot. Neapsy is always likely to pull something out from up his sleeve but unless it's something more than his dirty hanky this time then it's runners-up medals all round.

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

**Banksy One Liner: Better sign someone soon guys. You're gonna have to wait at least 10 Years for the services of Jacob Adams.**

Another side who seem to be having a few availability issues are

**OLOP "A"**. Top class on their day they could probably do with one more player to take them to that extra level that separates the winners from the rest. In truth they may just have missed a trick to do that. Most would argue that putting Neil Cartwright into OLOP "D" in a desperate attempt to avoid relegation may have just been better served by slipping him into this side and saying there you go guys – go and bring the title home for the OLOP Club. Anyway, that's my own personal opinion but in any case this is a great side and I'm sure Simon Thorne is learning shed loads alongside seasoned professionals Jared & Krasi. They'll push Polish all the way for the remainder and will no doubt be all guns a blazing versus us too so there's more damage for them to inflict but it's probably a bridge too far for the title. Oh and a shame we haven't seen Michael Childs for a while by the way. Hope you're ok buddy.

**M.V.P. Jared Smith**

**Banksy One Liner: Thanks very much for the card John. Have you missed a trick with Mr Cartwright though??????**

Altogether now... It's fun to play at the YMCA, It's fun to play at the YMCA!! (er, sorry everybody). But it IS fun to play at the YMCA Club (as long as that heater gets sorted) – well certainly if you're playing for **YMCA "A"** that is. Every time I write about this team I say the same stuff. They're playing well, they're having a great time, individually they're all sound and er, Bob might even start saying sorry after getting a net!! The usual. But it's absolutely true. These guys are absolutely flying. The recent 10 nil destruction away from home of a strong Kingfisher "C" side was top drawer and just the perfect performance. But these guys do this sort of thing week in week out and whilst the top 3 will probably always be a shade too strong, the rest of you had better watch out.

**M.V.P. Bob Davis**

**Banksy One Liner: Sorry seems to be the hardest word!! Ha Ha. Sorry Bobby!! (there you go, it's easy)**

If **Tidmarsh-Integralis "A"** had as much luck on the table as they do down at the dog track then they'd win this division by a country mile. Trap 1, Trap 2, Trap 3, Trap 4, Trap 5 and even Trap 6 come steaming in on the bunny when the money's down but on the table it's been a story of mixed fortunes rather than big fortunes! Big successes have come hand in hand with big losses and whilst there is no relegation fight as per last year they may just be slightly disappointed that they haven't been able to sustain a more prominent challenge. There's always pluses mind you and Duncan Groves has made the transition from 2 to 1 pretty well and has been having some good wins. Ian turns up week in week out and whilst he had a rare loss to Steve Munson the other night he's clearly one of the best we have. Marco turns out for the big ones but has been abroad and Lee's quite literally gone to the dogs!! Dangerous customers though are the boys from Tidmarsh and trust me we in Kingfisher "A" are glad to have got them out of the way twice.

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

**Banksy One Liner: All Bookmakers be afraid. Be VERY afraid!**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher 'A'	12	11	1	0	99	21	23
Polish 'A'	12	8	3	1	77	43	19
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'A'	11	7	3	1	67	43	17
Reading YMCA 'A'	12	8	1	3	72	48	17
Tidmarsh-Integralis 'A'	12	7	0	5	66	54	14
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'B'	12	5	1	6	53	67	11
Kingfisher 'C'	12	4	2	6	51	69	10
Kingfisher 'B'	10	3	2	5	44	56	8
Reading YMCA 'B'	10	3	0	7	43	57	6
Tilehurst Methodists 'A'	11	2	2	7	45	65	6
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'C'	10	1	1	8	32	68	3
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'D'	10	0	0	10	21	79	0



Safely in mid-table are the Basingstoke **OLOP "B"** boys plus the grandad to be. They haven't quite been hitting the heights that we know they can but it just goes to show that a team creamed (er, crammed) with so much talent can only be 6th in this tough old League. My old buddy Tim hasn't played for a while but I guess he's got bigger things on his plate and Murgy and Alex along with Peter and Andy are busy juggling their Basingstoke fixture list with that of Reading. They're doing all right though and won't be too disappointed with their position.

**M.V.P. Murgy**

**Banksy One Liner: Who's that walking down the street?..... It's Grandad, Timmy Pang! If you've got a song.....**

A similar level to OLOP "B" and again, pretty much safe from anything dark and murky happening below them are much loved **Kingfisher "C"**. Big social side this lot at this time of year – they even bring out the Wags for their annual pilgrimage to Sweeney Todds and providing they don't overdo it on the pies than they'll be fine for the 2nd half. Eric is a top fella and a good player. Rather worryingly his form has just dipped a little of late leaving a minor blemish on his outstanding record to date but as long as he leaves his Korfbal\* hat in the mixed changing rooms then he'll be back as strong as ever in the New Year! Cliff was going along quite nicely but a knee injury in his final match of 2007 just hampered his progress a little. I hope it's not so serious that it will keep him out of action. Geoff and Roger keep the spirits up when things are going against them whilst chipping in with the odd win too! So all in all a great year to date and they are more than making up for the lucky "lifeline" they were given when placed back in Div 1.

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

**Banksy One Liner: \*Korfbal – A game played mainly on the continent between mixed-gender teams and very big in Belgium and Holland - similar to Netball. The after-match showers are great!!!**

You'd think it would be the other way round given the team names (all the OLOP teams are in the right order) but sitting below Kingfisher "C" are **Kingfisher "B"** who were finding things a little tough going but who do have the skills of British League player Stuart Williams to call on and two great wins on the trot against Tidmarsh and crucially against fellow relegation contenders OLOP "C" with an inspired Alan Cummings on board and rock steady performances from big Everton fan Johnny Morris, David Bishop and Colin Dyke have lifted them to 8 points and a big gap between them and the OLOP sides has now developed. They have a tried and tested squad rotation formula and you're gonna be OK guys methinks so brilliant stuff and let's see if you can justify your "B" status by catching and overtaking the "C" team.

**M.V.P. Stuart Williams**

**Banksy One Liner: David Moyes for Manager of the Year hey John??**

Why do you do this to me **YMCA "B"**? Every time I think you guys are gonna be OK and get yourselves safe you slip deeper and deeper into trouble. Not all your own doing though accepted. Injuries have significantly hampered progress - the key one being to Kevin Macken's back and Tony can't do it all on his own. In Peter's own words they were very fortunate to steal all 2 points from a 2 man OLOP "D" and they could be crucial points come the shake up at the end. Jason is capable of much better than he's shown so far. A recent victory over a shivering Bela Hegedus should hopefully give him the confidence to play a bigger supporting role. Oh and nice to see Mike Harris back and playing again. I had many good moments with Mike in Slough all those years ago – just don't mention Swindon Town though!

**M.V.P. Tony Reynolds**

**Banksy One Liner. And what IS that heater all about down at the YM Club???**

Brilliant in Bracknell – not so brilliant 7 miles down the road in Reading is the message to the players from **Tilehurst Meths "A"**. It just shows the gulf in class that a team 3rd bottom in Reading can be so far clear in Bracknell's Premier Division you need a telescope to see them! Thing is they're actually playing OK (in patches). Fenwick Prady, a man never seen without a lady or 3 on his arm, always has a smile on his face when he's playing - unless it's against

John Barclay - and is actually playing some decent stuff again after a dodgy start to the campaign. They've signed Gemmy Gems Chapman from Maidenhead and she'll be an important factor if they're to stay up. Quite how they've managed to get Gemma and Mary playing in the same team is beyond me so soon after all the trouble that Ramesh caused between them at the Berks Closed (that guy has got a lot to answer for!!) but I'm assured that they've quite rightly both placed the blame firmly on the man with the big samosas and all is well and harmonious within the camp! Back to things on the table and Gary is having a season off the nets and edges and his form is suffering because of it and Keith nearly took out International Korfbal star Van Looy from Belgium in what would have been one of his biggest career wins. Well supported by Jackie who does the driving to the pub they all know what I think of them. I'm not really allowed favourites but along with King "C" they're a special side and my job wouldn't be the same without them. xxxxxx

**M.V.P. Wor Fil Fenwick Prady**

**Banksy One Liner: Er, more Wine than Mistletoe with this lot I can tell yer!**

One of the most enjoyable matches my team has had this year was against **OLOP "C"**. OK those guys are serious on the table and of course they want to win but off the table they don't stop cracking jokes and it was a right old laugh. At one point a particularly wayward Susan Johnson shot landed directly into the biscuit tin. Quick as a flash Barry piped up with "What a Cracker Sue!!" Priceless. As I mentioned earlier Clive Banham showed up to give his support and was also in great form as he recovers from the hip replacement(s). Trouble is the table doesn't lie and once again they're fighting for survival. Susan's playing exceptionally well, John's doing OK and Barry came up with a vintage defensive display coupled with phenomenal shooting to take out Bela Hegedus. Mark Hancock is obviously the key here. He was the saviour last year, can he do it again? I'm not sure but what I do know is that they'll go down (if they do go down) with a snarl and a smile all at the same time!

**M.V.P. Susan Johnson**

**Banksy One Liner: No point. These guys do much better one liners than me!**

So bringing up the rear as they have been doing all year are **OLOP "D"**. If you'd asked me 3 weeks ago I would have said down - no shadow of a doubt – but they've since pulled off a major coup with the signing of Neil Cartwright and if Melanie comes back and joins in the fun then they may just may pull it off. They need points on the board though and fast. Ian's playing some more controlled stuff and well in defeat and if they'd only had a 3rd player against YM "B" then who knows what might have happened. It's gonna be tough and realistically they're all but down but you just never know in this game. Do Ya?

**M.V.P. Neil Cartwright**

**Banksy One Liner: Don't think he's on Nicky Neaps's Christmas card list though!**

### LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	PL	W	%
Martin Adams	Polish 'A'	16	16	100
Neil Cartwright	OLOP 'D'	9	9	100
Steve Munson	Kingfisher 'A'	14	15	93.33
Mark Banks	Kingfisher 'A'	18	20	90
Ramesh Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	23	26	88.46
Ian Packford	Tidmarsh Integrals 'A'	23	26	88.46
Tony Reynolds	Reading YMCA 'B'	23	27	85.19
Stuart Williams	Kingfisher 'B'	10	12	83.33
Kuldeep Gehlot	Kingfisher 'A'	9	11	81.82
Jared Smith	OLOP 'A'	19	24	79.17
Marco Essomba	Tidmarsh Integrals 'A'	9	12	75
Krasi Ivanov	OLOP 'A'	17	23	73.91



# DIVISION TWO *by Barry Carter*

Welcome to another dose of Barry's ramblings. OLOP 'E' look well placed for promotion as they have established a healthy four point cushion. Tidmarsh 'C', after a stuttering start, are back in the promotion race following six wins in a row. Kingfisher 'D' are also well placed two points behind the second promotion spot. So that is two of my tips in the top four, my third tip are slightly languishing. Come on the guys at Sonning C&P 'A' what are you playing at? Anyway, on with the weekly match reports.

## Week 7 : A win at last for Post Office 'B' !

Post Office 'B' finally won at the sixth time of asking as two each from Mick Grantham, Ray Webb and Denise Weller saw them to a 7-3 win over Kingfisher 'G'. Curzon Club 'A' moved up to third with a 7-3 win over Kingfisher 'F'. Jon Willcocks led the way with another maximum, his fourth successive one. Nick Lean registered his first win of the season 11-9,11-8,11-7 over Matt Sutatham. OLOP 'E' maintained their grip on the championship as they overwhelmed Post Office 'A' 9-1. Both Julian Talford and Mike Burrow won three and young Daniel Moses chipped in with a good victory over Simon Hopkins 11-8,11-7,11-9. Tidmarsh 'C's climb up the table continued with a 7-3 victory over Kingfisher 'D'. Two each for Derek Kalwarczyk, Duncan Groves and Steve Rollason saw them home. Sonning C&P 'A' recorded a fine win over promotion-chasing Kingfisher 'E'. Andy Turton's maximum included a 11-5,9-11,11-4,11-4 win over Niall

McGrane. Nigel Maltby found some form at last as he won two games in a match for only the second time this season, beating both Carole Chard and Sharon Mitchell.

## Week 8 : Tidmarsh 'C' produce great fightback!

Tidmarsh 'C' produced the fightback of the season so far. After two Niall McGrane victories over Duncan Groves 7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 9-11, 11-5 and Dave Reynolds Snr 13-11, 11-13, 11-8, 11-6 and by Sharon Mitchell over Duncan and Andy Stephens had given Kingfisher 'E' a 4-1 lead, Tidmarsh 'C' began their fightback with an Andy Stephens 11-9, 9-11, 11-6, 5-11, 11-7 win over Carole Chard and it was completed with what I have been told was a really good performance by Andy to defeat Niall 11-9, 11-7, 11-7 in game ten. The sandwich included a titanic battle between Dave Reynolds and Sharon Mitchell which Dave edged 11-4, 18-16, 4-11, 6-11, 11-4 and a Duncan win over Carole 11-9, 12-10, 11-5. OLOP kept top spot with an 8-2 defeat of Sonning C&P 'A'. Peter Galea and Daniel Moses both returned maximums. Sonning C&P 'B' leapt into second with a close 6-4 win over Curzon 'A', Malcolm Gregory's 11-9, 11-6, 12-10 win over Nick Lean in game ten secured both points. This week's Kingfisher derby saw the 'D' team beat the 'G' team 7-3 to move up to third in the table. Phil Mead won all three. Eric Holmes playing up from a lower division had a great result as he beat Allan Bruton 11-9,11-8,7-11,8-11,16-14. In the other match

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'E'	10	8	1	1	75	25	17
Tidmarsh 'C'	9	6	1	2	56	34	13
Kingfisher 'E'	10	4	3	3	56	44	11
Kingfisher 'D'	9	5	1	3	52	38	11
Post Office 'A'	9	5	1	3	47	43	11
Sonning C & P 'B'	9	4	2	3	47	43	10
Curzon Club 'A'	10	4	2	4	46	54	10
Sonning C & P 'A'	10	3	0	7	37	63	6
Post Office 'B'	9	3	0	6	36	54	6
Kingfisher 'F'	9	2	1	6	31	59	5
Kingfisher 'G'	10	1	2	7	37	63	4



maximums by John Simmonds and Colin Hardman saw them win 8-2 against Kingfisher 'F'.

### **Week 9 : A dent in the Sonning C&P 'B' promotion bid!**

Kingfisher 'F' moved out of the bottom two with a Trevor Organ inspired 6-4 win over a promotion chasing Sonning C&P 'B'. In his first treble of the season he recorded victories over Keith Swain 11-5,11-3,10-12,7-11,11-7, Brian Meheux 8-11,11-6,11-8,13-11 and Merril Massey 11-6,12-10,11-4. Dave Gostelow weighed in with wins over Brian and Merril. Keith Swain replied with two and Merril one. The leaders OLOP 'E' lost for the first time as they went down 7-3 to rapidly improving Tidmarsh 'C'. Curzon Club 'A' overcame a stubborn Post Office 'B' to finally clinch the points in a 7-3 win. Mick Maynard led the way with three, Jon Willcocks's good run came to an end as he won only two. This match saw a welcome return to table tennis of George White and he returned a solitary victory over Nick Lean 11-4,11-7,5-11,11-5. Post Office 'A' overwhelmed Sonning C&P 'A' 8-2 to move within a win of the promotion places. In the other match Kingfisher 'E' defeated Kingfisher 'G' 7-3 with Niall again winning all three.

### **Week 10 : OLOP 'E' extend lead to six points!**

Daniel Moses and Julian Talford led the way as OLOP 'E' beat an under strength Kingfisher 'G' team 9-1. OLOP now look a really good bet for promotion to division one (although a few seasons ago Wolves were in a similar situation and somehow failed to gain promotion – absolutely scandalous!). The only victory for Kingfisher was when Eric Holmes defeated Mike Burrow 12-10,11-5,7-11,13-11. Tidmarsh 'C' moved into their highest position of the season as they won their fifth successive match in the 7-3 victory over Post Office 'A'. Duncan Groves said farewell to the 'C' team in style with a good maximum as he moves onward and upward to help the 'A' team bid for the division one championship. (Thanks Duncan!) Simon Hopkins and Colin Hardman won one each over Derek Kalwarczyk and Andy Stephens respectively. Nigel Maltby was pleased as punch as Sonning C&P 'A' won their first match in three attempts as they moved out of the relegation zone with a 7-3 victory over Kingfisher 'F'; a result that dumped Kingfisher 'F' in their place. Simon Berry's first maximum of the season put them on their way and Paul Jarvis also found some consistency as he won two. Kingfisher 'D' kept their promotion ambitions alive with a close fought 6-4 win over Curzon 'A'. Allan

Bruton won the crucial game ten match against Jon Willcocks 11-13,12-10,13-11,11-7 to clinch both points. The two Peters - Bennett and Goatly - also helped out with three wins between them, although it could have been so much better for Peter B as he narrowly lost to Jon Willcocks 11-9,11-9,7-11,2-11,10-12. Ray Webb produced his best return of the season as he won all three against Sonning C&P 'B'. The win over Keith Swain must have been especially pleasing. Dave Mills also won three for the first time this season as they won the match 7-3.

### **Week 11 : Kingfisher 'E' finally play again!**

Kingfisher 'E' played for the first time since November 8th and it looked as if the team holiday was worth it as they stormed to an 8-2 win over Curzon 'A'. Niall returned his customary treble but this time he was well supported by both Carole Chard and Sharon Mitchell who defeated Nick Lean and Derek Harrison. Mick Maynard was the home team's only winner. I have now got one vote for the best refreshments in the division and that goes to Nick Lean and Curzon Club 'A'. Post Office 'A' won 7-3 at Kingfisher 'G', a result which, coupled with Post Office 'B's 7-3 win at Kingfisher 'F', left the 'G' team at the bottom. Trevor Organ (Kingfisher 'F') and George White (Post Office 'B') had the longest end as Trevor finally ran out a 21-19 winner in the fourth. In the other match Tidmarsh 'C' maintained their recent good form as they outgunned Sonning C&P 'A' 8-2.

Well that's all from me for this year. Sorry but the week 12 results will have to wait until the next newsletter as I am off on a week's break. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best wishes for a Happy 2008.

### **LEADING AVERAGES**

Player	Team	PL	W	L	%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher 'E'	30	25	5	83.3%
Philip Mead	Kingfisher 'D'	21	17	4	81.0%
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh 'C'	18	14	4	77.8%
Jon Willcocks	Curzon Club 'A'	27	21	6	77.8%
Daniel Moses	Our Lady of Peace 'E'	29	22	7	75.9%
Keith Swain	Sonning C & P 'B'	15	11	4	73.3%
Dave Reynolds (S)	Tidmarsh 'C'	15	11	4	73.3%
Allan Bruton	Kingfisher 'D'	21	15	6	71.4%
David Mills	Post Office 'B'	21	15	6	71.4%
Colin Hardman	Post Office 'A'	21	14	7	66.7%
Andy Turton	Sonning C & P 'A'	15	10	5	66.7%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C & P 'B'	6	4	2	66.7%



# DIVISION THREE *by Derek Harrison*

**Longfield 'A'** continue on their march back to the second division. At home to one-time promotion favourites Berks Sports 'A', they won 6-4. Ian Fletcher obtained his first treble of the session, with Jim winning two and Mike gaining a single by beating Bob Woodmansee. Martin Pugh came back into the side against Tidmarsh 'E' and promptly won all three in straight games. He beat Steve 2-11, 5-11, 5-11; Barry, 5-11, 7-11, 7-11; and Richard Hudson 8-11, 3-11, 8-11. Brian won one and Ian two, which helped towards a 3-7 win. At Polish 'B' a good team performance saw them come away with a 3-7 victory. Jim Spencer, Ian and Brian all won two each. Then they thrashed Curzon Club 'B' 8-2. Brian was on top form, gaining a three-straight treble, with Ian and Mike winning two each. They then went to Springfield, who were without Phil Burke and won at a canter 0-10. Jim won all three straight, and Brian and Mike were the other hat trick men.

**Doubles 7/9 - 78%**

It looks as if **OLOP 'F'** will go up with Longfield after winning six in a row. They had a close 6-4 win over Kingfisher with Mark De-Arriba Smith winning all three with ease. Chris Sabourin won two, with the two of them winning the doubles. They also had a 4-6 win at Berks Sports. New signing Oliver Shaw won all three, with Harry Brough winning two. Harry beat Dave 11-7, 11-9, 11-13, 11-13, 10-12 and beat Bob 11-0, 7-11, 5-11, 14-16. Oliver Grist gained a good double against Polish 'B' by beating Andy Yon and Krys Milerski and with Oliver Shaw winning three and Chris winning two, this helped towards a 2-8 victory. The two Oliver's then starred against Tidmarsh 'E' by both hitting trebles, which saw them gain a 7-3 win.

They came unstuck this week by not playing their best side, so went down 7-3 at Polish. Oliver G won two and reserve Alex Fear one.

**Doubles 6/10 - 60%**

**Berks Sports 'A'** are still in with a chance, but I feel they will just dip out. At Longfield they went down 6-4.

Paul Scrivener did well to beat Jim 11-5, 7-11, 11-13, 12-10, 8-11, and Mike 11-6, 2-11, 6-11, 7-11. Nigel Goodman also beat Mike. After four games without a win they then came good by beating Tidmarsh 'D' 6-4. Nigel and Dave Chard won two each by beating François and Steve while Bob Woodmansee, playing in his 496th Reading league game, won one by also beating Steve. They were unlucky to lose 4-6 to OLOP. Dave and Bob won one each with Paul winning two by beating Harry and Oliver G. A good team performance saw them beat Kingfisher 'H' 6-4. Nigel, Paul and Dave all gained doubles. Bob, Paul and Nigel then hit doubles in their 3-7 win at Tidmarsh 'E'. I must mention that four players: Chris Webb, Krys Milerski, Chris Pusey and Barry Carter, have all hit trebles against Berks Sports and have lost the match.

**Doubles 5/9 - 56%**

**Springfield 'A'** have done better than I expected, and had a nice 4-6 win at Tidmarsh 'E'. Phil Burke won three and Seth Martin two. Ian Boaden gained a vital single by beating Richard Hudson 4-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-13. Phil was missing at Polish and as a result they went down 9-1. Ian beat Andy to save the whitewash. Phil came back into the side and won all three straight, to help them beat Curzon 7-3. Ian and Seth both won two each. Next, at Kingfisher came a 3-7 win with Phil winning all three, which included an 11-9, 0-11, 3-11, 8-11 win over Dave Duncan. Des Hele won two and Seth won one. The ever-reliable Phil again won all three, which helped them share the spoils with Tilehurst Meths 'B'. Des won one and the two of them won the doubles. They then crashed 0-10 to Longfield. Phil was not playing. Protecting your average, Phil? (Only joking).

**Doubles 3/9 - 33%**

**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** had a bad night at home to Polish 'B' when they went down 3-7. Phil Jones won two and Ian Cockling won one. Phil broke his bat in this match. At Curzon, Ian hit his first maximum in ages by beating Jim 11-6, 11-8, 9-11, 7-11, 4-11; Geoff 7-11, 11-6, 19-17, 8-11, 9-11, and Jon 5-11, 3-11, 8-11. Ray Yau also won 3, with Wendy Porter winning one by beating Jim. John Virgo, playing in only his second game of the season, won twice, as did Ian to help them draw with Springfield 'A'. Wendy beat Ian 11-9, 11-9, 12-10. They then had a 4-6 win at Kingfisher 'H'. Ray hit a 3-straight treble, with John and Ian winning one each. The doubles was vital; Ray and John beating John and Allen 7-11, 9-11, 9-11.

**Doubles 5/9 - 56%**

## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	18	18	100%
Jim Spencer	Longfield 'A'	15	18	83%
Brian Chinneck	Longfield 'A'	17	21	81%
Krys Milerski	Polish 'B'	22	27	81%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh 'E'	20	27	74%
Jon Willis	Curzon Club 'B'	13	18	72%
Ray Yau	Tilehurst Meths 'B'	15	21	71%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh 'D'	14	21	67%
Mike Shore	Longfield 'A'	10	15	67%



Since my previous notes, **Polish 'B'** have done quite well and started with a 9-1 win over Springfield. Krys Milerski and Krys Szymanski (formerly Duma) both hit trebles and Andy Yon gained his first ever double by beating Des and Seth. At home to OLOP, they crashed to a 2-8 defeat. Krys S won the two. The big surprise was Krys M's duck. They then roared into a 1-4 lead at Tidmarsh 'D' but in the end they had to settle for a point. Krys M won all three, with Krys S won two. At Tilehurst Meths they came away with a 3-7 victory. Krys M hit yet another maximum. Bob Walker had a good 11-4, 10-12, 6-11, 6-11 win over Wendy. Leaders Longfield proved too good for them by winning 3-7. Krys S beat Ian and Jim while Krys M beat Brian. This week they beat OLOP 7-3. Krys M hit a very good treble while Krys S won two and Andy one. In the doubles they won 16-14 in the 5th, and Andy's win over Mark was 18-16 in the 5th.

**Doubles 6/10 - 60%**

**Tidmarsh 'D'** are one of the four teams who could go down with Curzon 'B', and team selection could decide their fate. At Berks Sports, despite a hat trick from Chris Webb, they went down 6-4. François Durand won the other game by beating Bob. Amazingly, Chris lost all three at home to their 'E' team and with François and Mike Aistrop only winning one each, they went down 3-7. A good team effort saw them gain a point with Polish after being 1-4 down. Chris won two and Mike and François won one each, besides Mike and François winning the doubles 11-9 in the 5th.

They then gained a very easy 2-8 win at our place with Chris and François winning all three. Mike did well by gaining a double.

**Doubles 3/9 - 33%**

**Kingfisher 'H'** have had a bad run, and this started by only drawing with Curzon. John Creighton and Dave Duncan won two each with Chris Pusey winning one by beating Jim 11-5, 9-11, 11-7, 11-13, 12-10. They gave it a go at OLOP, but just dropped out 6-4. Dave won two and Chris and Allen both picked up singles. In their game against Springfield, Dave won two by beating Seth and Des while reserve Diane Taylor had a nice 11-6, 13-11, 11-5 win over Seth in their 3-7 defeat. At Berks Sports 'A', Chris hit a brilliant treble by beating Nigel 10-12, 8-11, 11-6, 6-11, Paul 11-6, 5-11, 10-12, 4-11, and Dave 11-13, 3-11, 11-8,

11-9, 5-11 but sadly they lost 7-3. John won two and Dave and Allen won one each in their 4-6 defeat at home to Tilehurst. This week they beat Tidmarsh 'E' 6-4. Dave won all 3 with Chris winning two and Allen one.

**Doubles 3/10 - 30%**

**Tidmarsh 'E'** are another side having a bad time, and as I mentioned in my previous notes they will have to keep hold of Barry Carter if they are to survive. Even with Barry they went down 4-6 to Springfield. Barry beat Ian and Seth, with reserve John Harland also beating Ian. Richard Hudson was unlucky against Ian, going down 4-11, 11-9, 11-5, 5-11, 11-13. At home to Longfield, they lost 3-7. Steve Ricks had a nice win over Brian while Barry won two by also beating Brian as well as Ian. Steve then had a great night against their 'D' team by beating François 6-11, 11-9, 11-13, 14-16, Mike 7-11, 5-11, 8-11 and Chris 9-11, 5-11, 5-11. Both Barry and Dave Sheppard won two each in their 3-7 win. Dave, Barry and reserve Terry Hardie all won one against Berks Sports. Barry hit a great treble but with Steve and Dave failing to score, they went down 3-7. Away at Kingfisher they went down 6-4. Steve did well by beating Chris and Allen. Dave also beat Allen.

**Doubles 4/10 - 40%**

**Curzon Club 'B'** have only one point to show for their efforts in the last 5 games, and that was at Kingfisher, where Jon Willis gained a great treble. Geoff Johnson won one while Jon and myself won a close doubles 13-11, 11-9, 7-11, 8-11, 4-11. At Springfield we went down 7-3. Geoff and Derek both obtained singles, while Jim and Geoff thrashed Ian and Seth 6-11, 11-8, 11-7, 9-11, 10-12 in the doubles. At home to Tilehurst Meths we lost 2-8. Jon and Geoff both beat Wendy while the luckless Jim cannot break his duck. He went close with Ian going down 4-11 in the 5th after being two games up. Jon was our only scorer when he beat Ian and Mike in our 8-2 defeat at Longfield. Jon was missing at home to Tidmarsh 'D' so we went down 2-8. Geoff had a good win over Mike, beating him 14-12, 4-11, 4-11, 11-6, 15-13.

**Doubles 5/9 56%**

Finally I would like to wish you the compliments of the season, and hope you all have a healthy new year.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Longfield 'A'	9	8	0	1	68	22	16
Our Lady of Peace (University) 'F'	10	6	0	4	53	47	12
Polish 'B'	10	5	1	4	51	49	11
Berks Sports 'A'	9	4	2	3	48	42	10
Springfield 'A'	9	4	2	3	43	47	10
Tilehurst Methodists 'B'	9	4	1	4	41	49	9
Tidmarsh 'D'	9	3	2	4	42	48	8
Kingfisher 'H'	10	3	2	5	46	54	8
Tidmarsh 'E'	10	3	0	7	45	55	6
Curzon Club 'B'	9	1	2	6	33	57	4



# DIVISION FOUR *by Nigel Rowland*

Many thanks to all for your comments on score cards, please keep them coming in. The feedback I constantly receive is how sporting and enjoyable your evenings have been; this is so important in keeping the spirit of the game alive. This season is proving to be one of the most fascinating for a while, as players and teams keep out-performing their table position. Just recently I have had feedback that Milestone, OLOP G and St Laurence (that will please Dan) are to be added to the list of promotion contenders to join my tips of OLOP H and SC&P C. Pangbourne are now off my list, sorry Leroy. At the bottom Tidmarsh are losing touch with Tilehurst, SC&P D and Pangbourne. We can all look forward to a fascinating second half in 2008. On a sad note we will all miss Malcolm Griffiths - tea will never be the same at Sonning! Have a great Christmas and New Year.

**SC&P C** are still in joint top spot having seen off Milestone, Pangbourne and Tilehurst 7-3, 9-1 and 8-2. The only surprise was a loss to St Laurence 1-9, the only game Jeremy Willis did not play. Jeremy Willis continues his domination remaining 100% unbeaten. Paul Treadgold 8/11 best performance was a treble against Milestone. Graham Streets 5/8 best performance was a treble against Tilehurst. Derek Wavell 1/6 best performance against John Crosfield. **Doubles 0/4.**

**Milestone A** share joint top spot with a run of 4 wins against Tilehurst, Kingfisher, OLOP G and SC&P D 7-3, 8-2, 6-4 and 8-2. Hugh Crosfield 10/12, including 2 trebles against Kingfisher and SC&P D. John Tucker 5/9 best performance against Cedric Dias. John Evans 4/6 best performance against Mark Bullion. John Crosfield 5/6 best performance a treble against Kingfisher. **Doubles 4/4.**

**OLOP H** have lost their way this term, losing to St Laurence and Kingfisher 3-7 and 1-9 but hammered Tilehurst 10-0. Stephen Purchase 5/9, Alex Fear 3/6, Harry Brough 3/3 all scored triples against Tilehurst. Phil Mannion 1/6, best performance against Ben Clowney. **Doubles 1/3.**

**OLOP G** have been the biggest improvers this term beating St Laurence, SC&P D, Tidmarsh and Pangbourne 9-1, 7-3, 9-1, 8-2 but lost to Milestone 4-6. Ian Davis 11/12 best performance against Chris West. Pat Daniels 8/9 best performance a treble against Pangbourne, Cedric Dias 5/12 best performance a treble against Tidmarsh. Mark Bullion 6/9 best performance a treble against St Laurence. **Doubles 4/5.**

**St Laurence** remain mid table beating OLOP H, Tidmarsh 7-3, 9-1 and a superb 9-1 win against table topping SC&P C but lost to OLOP G and SC&P D 1-9 and 4-6. Ralph Jack 11/15 best performance trebles against OLOP H and SC&P C. Dan West 6/9 best performance treble against SC&P C. Chris West 5/12 best performance against Steve Purchase. Ben Clowney 4/9 best performance against Graham Streets. **Doubles 4/5.**

**Kingfisher I** had good wins against OLOP H and Pangbourne 9-1 and 6-4, drew against Tidmarsh and lost to Milestone 2-8. Ken Rob 9/12 best performance doubles against Pangbourne and OLOP H. Eric Holmes 7/9 best performance triples against Pangbourne and OLOP H. Arifur Rahman 4/6 best performance a treble against OLOP H. **Doubles 3/4.**

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sonning C&P 'C'	8	7	0	1	57	23	14
Milestone 'A'	9	7	0	2	58	32	14
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'H'	8	6	0	2	48	32	12
Our Lady of Peace (Impact.) 'G'	9	5	1	3	55	35	11
St Laurence Church	9	4	2	3	51	39	10
Kingfisher 'I'	9	3	3	3	44	46	9
Pangbourne WMC 'A'	9	2	2	5	39	51	6
Sonning C&P 'D'	9	3	0	6	34	56	6
Tilehurst Methodists 'C'	9	1	3	5	33	57	5
Tidmarsh 'F'	9	0	1	8	21	69	1



## DIV 4 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P 'C'	20	20	100
Ian Davis	Our Lady of Peace (Impact.) 'G'	14	15	93.33
Martyn Fenner	Sonning C&P 'D'	18	21	85.71
Paul Treadgold	Sonning C&P 'C'	16	20	80
Hugh Crosfield	Milestone 'A'	21	27	77.78
Stephen Purchase	Our Lady of Peace (Impact.) 'H'	18	24	75
Jan Wright	Tilehurst Methodists 'C'	11	15	73.33
Pat Daniels	Our Lady of Peace (Impact.) 'G'	15	21	71.43
Ralph Jack	St Laurence Church	17	24	70.83
Dan West	St Laurence Church	14	21	66.67
Arifur Rahman	Kingfisher 'I'	12	18	66.67
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Methodists 'C'	12	18	66.67
John Evans	Milestone 'A'	12	18	66.67
Mark Bullion	Our Lady of Peace (Impact.) 'G'	13	21	61.9
Tim Raby	Sonning C&P 'D'	9	15	60

**Pangbourne A** have slipped back in the table having drawn against Tilehurst and suffered 3 losses against SC&P C, Kingfisher and OLOP G 1-9, 4-6 and 2-8. Leroy Wilson 4/12 best performance against Nigel Rowland. Roger Stevens 3/9 best performance a double against Kingfisher. Pete Welch 1/6 best performance against Derek Crombie. Tom Johnson 1/3 (welcome back) best performance against Cedric Dias.

**Doubles 2/4.**

**SC&P D** had a good win against St Laurence 6-4 and Tidmarsh 8-2 but suffered losses against Kingfisher, OLOP G and Milestone 3-7, 3-7 and 2-8. Martyn Fenner 10/12 has been in outstanding form this term, best performance a triple against St Laurence. Tim Raby 8/12 best performance triples against St Laurence and Tidmarsh. Jim McClure 0/6 (welcome as the new captain) best performance taking a game off John Tucker. Ian Ayres 0/3 best performance losing in 5 sets to Mark Bullion. **Doubles 1/5.**

**Tilehurst Meths C** are slipping down the table, drawing against Pangbourne and losing to Milestone, OLOP H and SC&P C 3-7, 0-10 and 2-8. Jan Wright 6/6 best performance triples against Milestone and Pangbourne. Nigel Rowland 3/6 best performance a double against Pangbourne. Dave Jones 0/9 best performance lost in 5 sets against Alex Fear. Mal Collis 0/6 best performance taking games off Alex Fear and Harry Brough. Chris Taylor 0/9 losing to John Tucker in 5 games. **Doubles 1/4**

**Tidmarsh F** are currently losing touch with the pack but got their first point drawing with Kingfisher but lost to OLOP G, SC&P D and St Laurence 1-9, 2-8 and 1-9. Terry Hardie 4/9 best performance a double against Kingfisher. Mick Osborne 2/12 best performance against Derek Crombie. Bob Griffiths 2/6 best performance a double against Kingfisher. Dave Smith 0/9 best performance losing to Cedric Dias in 5.

Happy Christmas to all from a rejuvenated Milestone TTC! While it may not last, we will guzzle our mince pies and drink rivers of mulled wine safe in the knowledge that for the first time in my memory both our teams are at the top (or near the top) of their respective divisions. Divvy 4 appears to be open to any of 5 or 6 teams to win it, the competition is at the fiercest yet most sporting that I can remember. Fantastic.

*Hugh Crosfield*

### Back to Division 1 for a moment...



### A Sponsor for Tidmarsh: Integralis Ltd

Sponsorship is important in modern-day sport, and earlier this year the first division team formerly known as Tidmarsh 'A' proudly announced their ongoing sponsorship contract with locally Theale based company Integralis Ltd, who, Lee Calcutt tells us, are established fore-runners in the field of IT Management Security Services. The team is now known as Tidmarsh-Integralis 'A', and its members are shown displaying their new team shirts.

# DIVISION FIVE *by John Harris*

In the last few weeks there have been some significant developments affecting both the top and the bottom of the table. Although Curzon remain in pole position, Birch Copse 'B' and Longfield 'B' have both moved up places, while Birch Copse 'A' and Spencers Wood have fallen back somewhat. At the other end of the Division, OLOP have gained valuable points and would seem to be clear of the drop zone, but Sonning 'F' have done nothing to improve their chances of avoiding relegation. In common with the many other contributors to this Newsletter, I would like to extend the season's greetings to everyone playing in Division 5. I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

## **BIRCH COPSE 'A'**

Chas Dean's team has played five matches and gained four points since the previous Newsletter. They defeated Kingfisher by a margin of 7-3 and, as in recent meetings with the personnel from Sonning 'F', had a very close-run match which ended in a 6-4 victory for Birch Copse. However, having been beaten by Birch Copse 'B', Curzon and Spencers Wood, it would appear that Birch Copse 'A' are now all but out of contention for one of the top spots. Matthew Rowland continues to be their best player, although both George Kennett and Jes Eassom have won about half of their games.

## **SPENCERS WOOD**

Brenda's team has faced some of the best teams in the Division in recent weeks and, as she fully expected, her team has fallen several places in the table. Although Spencers Wood defeated Birch Copse 'A' and gained a draw with Kingfisher – with Brenda winning one rubber to secure this result – they have been defeated by the three teams at the top of the table. Martin Wetherell – with a maximum against Birch Copse 'A' and braces against Curzon and Longfield - continues to be their top player, although Alan Clarke, who won two games in the matches with Longfield, Curzon and Birch Copse

'B', is giving Martin excellent support. Derek Chapman is clearly struggling at the moment and I wish him well for the future.

## **CURZON CLUB 'C'**

Linda's team have kept up their push for promotion with four victories from their last five matches. Even though Tracy Maynard has been suffering from an injury and been unable to play in any of the recent games, Curzon have defeated Pangbourne (8-2), Birch Copse 'A' (7-3), Spencers Wood (6-4) and Birch Copse 'B' (7-3). However, perhaps significantly, in the top-of-the-table clash with Longfield, Curzon lost by a margin of 6-4, with Ken Park beating each of the Curzon players. With Tracy absent, Linda and Terry Spice have been carrying the Curzon flag; Linda has averaged two wins per match, while Terry has lost only once in the last five matches. At the same time, of course, Mick Gillard deserves mention. Although his record is not quite up to the standard of Linda's and Terry's, he has, nonetheless, played a valuable supporting role in recent weeks.

## **BIRCH COPSE 'B'**

Duncan Abbott's team have won four of their last five matches and climbed to second place in the table. The significant victories were over Spencers Wood (6-4) and club rivals Birch Copse 'A' (7-3). During the same period of time, however, they suffered a 7-3 defeat by Curzon and, although Birch Copse 'B' are, I feel, one of the three contenders for promotion, the top spot is, I think, unlikely to be theirs. The team has been strengthened in recent weeks by the return of Roy Hull, who has won 15 of the 18 games played. On the other hand, Duncan may be a little disappointed with his recent form; after an excellent start in which he won 11 of the first 12 games, his record has now slipped to 17 from 24. Roy and Duncan have continued to get good support from Ken Sherry who, a couple of years ago, did not even want to play in this Division, and, occasionally, from Mike Williams.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curzon Club 'C'	10	9	0	1	73	27	18
Birch Copse 'B'	10	6	3	1	61	39	15
Longfield 'B'	9	6	2	1	60	30	14
Birch Copse 'A'	10	6	0	4	56	44	12
Spencers Wood	10	5	2	3	56	44	12
Sonning C&P 'E'	10	4	2	4	51	49	10
Kingfisher 'J'	10	2	4	4	44	56	8
OLOP 'I'	9	3	0	6	31	59	6
Tidmarsh 'G'	10	1	3	6	38	62	5
Pangbourne WMC 'B'	9	1	2	6	32	58	4
Sonning C&P 'F'	9	1	0	8	28	62	2



### KINGFISHER 'J'

Sylvia's team has struggled somewhat in recent weeks and has managed just two draws - against Spencers Wood and Pangbourne - from five matches. Defeats by OLOP (6-4), Longfield (9-1) and Birch Copse 'A' (7-3) have resulted in Kingfisher remaining just below the half way mark in the table. Nonetheless, there have been some notable individual performances during this time. Diane Taylor won two games in the matches against Pangbourne and OLOP, Derek Spicer achieved a brace against Spencers Wood, while captain Sylvia won two in each of the matches against Spencers Wood, Pangbourne and OLOP and won one game against Longfield.

### SONNING COMMON & PEPPARD 'F'

I am afraid that there is very little in the way of joy to report here! We have lost all of our recent matches, thus remaining on a grand total of two points and are now firmly rooted to the foot of the table. In fairness to my team, however, I feel that I must say that we have often been involved in some close and tense battles, only to lose out in some way. Perhaps if more of the luck had been in our favour we might just have picked up a few more points along the way. As with Kingfisher, there have been one or two performances worth mentioning; for example, I scored a maximum against Pangbourne, Malcolm Faulkner did likewise against OLOP and Mike Casserley won two against Birch Copse 'A'. At the same time, however, the same three players have put in some fairly average - or below average - performances and have often snatched defeat from the jaws of victory. Tony House undoubtedly has the potential to win at this level but, unfortunately, is not getting to the winning post first in many games, while Derek, Shep and Harold have yet to record a victory this season. Perhaps things will change in the New Year when we are expecting Pete Harman to be fit and raring to go after his recent knee operation.

### TIDMARSH 'G'

Although Bob's team have continued to find points hard to come by, they have picked up three valuable ones in recent weeks and have lifted themselves just clear of the relegation places. One of the points was gained in the drawn match against fellow strugglers, Pangbourne, but the other two were at the expense of promotion hopefuls, Longfield. Longfield were unable to field their full-strength squad - or chose not to do so - and Tidmarsh took full advantage of the situation presented to them and won the match by a margin of 8-2. Bob is an almost ever-present captain and has 10 victories from 30 games, while John Smith has won 9 from 24. The other mem-

bers of the team, John Harland, 7 from 9, Dave Humphries, 7 from 9, and Mike Bundy, 4 from 15, would, I feel sure, contribute a good deal if they were able to play more regularly.

### SONNING COMMON & PEPPARD 'E'

Phil Turton's team have had a very successful time in recent weeks and have moved themselves into a mid-table position. They have collected seven points out of eight in their last four games, in a string of results which has included victories over OLOP (8-2), Tidmarsh (7-3) and Sonning 'F' (8-2). However, perhaps they would see the draw against Longfield, in which Jo and Matthew Stone each won two games as well as the doubles, as the best result. Undoubtedly, Jo, with 17 wins from 27 games, is playing well, but she has been well supported by brother Matthew, with 7 from 9, father Ron, with 4 from 9, and Phil with 8 from 15. Warrick Mayes, with 5 from 18, appears to be struggling a little at present, while Simon Blake, with 3 from 9, could, I am sure, be a useful asset to the team if he were to play more often.

### OUR LADY OF PEACE 'I'

After a somewhat slow start to the season, Alistair Richardson's team have won three of their last five matches and have hauled themselves off the foot of the table. The victories, over Tidmarsh, Kingfisher and Sonning 'F', were all by the narrowest of margins but, nonetheless, they were each worth two points. Alistair, who has played in all but one of the team's matches this season, has won 6 games from 12 in recent weeks. Chris Moses is also a regular in the squad, but the third member of the team on a given night could be any one of about ten players!

### PANGBOURNE WMC 'B'

Although Pangbourne started the year in a disappointing manner, they have had a reasonable measure of success in recent weeks - particularly if their record is compared with that of my own team! They have won one and drawn two of their last five matches and were beaten by Birch Copse 'B' and Curzon. They defeated Sonning 'F' by a margin of 7-3 and shared the points with Kingfisher and Tidmarsh. Geoff Chivers, Colin Thomas and John Taylor each won two games in the Sonning 'F' match, while John and Tony Hatto did the same against Kingfisher. However, the award for the best performance so far must be given to Geoff for his winning of two games in the match with Curzon.

### LONGFIELD 'B'

I think that everyone would agree that if Longfield were to put out the combination of Ken Park, John Beardmore and John Belcher every week they would win every match. Ken has lost once only in 21 games, John Beardmore has won 17 of his 21 games, while skipper John Belcher has a 50% average and, hence, plays an excellent supporting role. However, when Ken does not play, the team is a little vulnerable; Sonning 'E' gained a draw, even with the two 'Johns' playing, while Tidmarsh won by a margin of 8-2. It is unfortunate, therefore, for the Longfield team that both Ken and Rod Janes are likely to be sidelined for a while. I do, of course, wish them both a speedy recovery and hope that they will be back playing again as soon as possible. In the meantime, however, Johns Belcher and Beardmore, along with Tony Eames and Colin Field, will be endeavouring to keep the Longfield flag flying high.

### DIV 5 LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
T.Maynard	Curzon Club 'C'	15	15	100%
K.Park	Longfield 'B'	20	21	95%
M.Wetherell	Spencers Wood	24	27	89%
T.Spice	Curzon Club 'C'	21	24	88%
R.Hull	Birch Copse 'B'	15	18	83%
J.Beardmore	Longfield 'B'	17	21	81%
A.Clarke	Spencers Wood	16	21	76%
M.Rowland	Birch Copse 'A'	22	31	71%
L.King	Curzon Club 'C'	17	24	71%
D.Abbott	Birch Copse 'B'	17	24	71%



# DIVISION SIX *by Duncan Groves*

In my October report, I commented on how open the Division 6 title appeared to be this season. My crystal ball gazing skills are not letting me down. Half way through the season now and still only six points separate leaders Post Office C (19 pts) and sixth placed Springfield B (13 pts + game in hand).

The table is starting to look a bit like two halves with the OLOP J youngsters not quite hanging on to Springfield B but topping the lower half of the table on 11 points.

At the bottom, Birch Copse have managed just one win to date but are still close to the next three teams, Berks Sports and the two Polish sides, with BBC Club just a point further ahead. With one or two players ranked highly in the averages, these bottom half teams are sure to have a say in the title shake up.

At the top, Post Office keep accumulating points while Milestone and Sonning look dangerous contenders. The Springfield teams and Kingfisher K will need some great form and good fortune to sneak above Post Office but anything is possible.

Here is my week by week summary:

## **Week 7: Post Office blip – Milestone cruise**

Polish C select new signing, Paul Kantyka, to play alongside Krys Szczygiel and each picks up two singles wins against leaders Post Office. In a fantastic match, Polish win the doubles to take a 5-2 lead, only for Post

Office to storm back to earn a draw.

Meanwhile, Milestone hand out a 9-1 pasting to Springfield B to make clear their title ambitions. Sonning stay in the hunt with a 7-3 win over Polish D and Springfield C shade Kingfisher K 6-4 thanks to three from Nigel Outhwaite.

Birch Copse C register their first victory of the season over Berks Sports. The 6-4 scoreline included a battling treble from Russell Moores, two from Elizabeth Hull and a 5-set doubles victory.

Lastly, OLOP secure a point at BBC Club, for whom John Scott and Phil Peat won braces and claimed the doubles. Hanson Xu kept up his 100% singles record for OLOP.

## **Week 8: Hanson's record goes**

Following their first win in week 7, Birch Copse manage an excellent draw with OLOP's youngsters. Peter Sheppard picks up all three for Birch Copse and so ends Hanson Xu's 100% singles record.

All the matches are tight this week. Post Office see off title rivals Sonning Common G by 7-3 with only Colin Selman showing any resistance to a strong looking PO side comprising Linda Davis, John Walker and John Gatward.

Milestone enjoy an even narrower victory over BBC Club, the 6-4 win including a treble from Gerard Thorp. Polish D pick up a useful two points away at Berks

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Post Office 'C'	12	9	1	2	81	39	19
Milestone 'B'	10	8	0	2	68	32	16
Springfield 'C'	11	7	1	3	64	46	15
Kingfisher 'K'	12	7	1	4	74	46	15
Sonning C&P 'G'	8	7	0	1	55	25	14
Springfield 'B'	11	6	1	4	60	50	13
Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J'	10	4	3	3	59	41	11
BBC Club	12	3	1	8	52	68	7
Polish 'C'	10	2	2	6	37	63	6
Polish 'D'	11	2	1	8	42	68	5
Berks Sports 'B'	10	2	0	8	25	75	4
Birch Copse 'C'	11	1	1	9	23	87	3



## LEADING AVERAGES

Player	Team	W	P	%
Hanson Xu	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J'	23	24	95.83
Colin Selman	Sonning C&P 'G'	20	21	95.24
Paul Kantyka	Polish 'C'	14	15	93.33
Gerard Thorp	Milestone 'B'	27	29	93.1
Krys Szczygiel	Polish 'C'	16	18	88.89
Peter Sheppard	Birch Copse 'C'	8	9	88.89
Ollie Bonser	Milestone 'B'	20	23	86.96
Nigel Outhwaite	Springfield 'C'	18	21	85.71
Linda Davis	Post Office 'C'	20	24	83.33
John Scott	BBC Club	15	18	83.33
Liam McTiernan	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J'	14	18	77.78
AJ Read	Kingfisher 'K'	17	22	77.27
Adam McTiernan	Our Lady of Peace (Impact) 'J'	9	12	75
Ray Morrell	Springfield 'B'	9	12	75
John Walker	Post Office 'C'	10	14	71.43
Chris Speight	Springfield 'B'	18	27	66.67
Chris Johnson	Sonning C&P 'G'	16	24	66.67
John Gatward	Post Office 'C'	16	24	66.67
Marek Biegaj	Polish 'D'	10	15	66.67

Sports, while Springfield C see off Polish C despite that man, Paul Kantyka, taking a treble. Finally, Kingfisher K are held to 5-5 by Springfield B in a topsy turvy encounter. AJ Read rescues a point in Game 10 with a 5 set victory over Jeff Morgan.

### Week 9: Nigel's Week

The big upset of Week 9 is Springfield C's 6-4 defeat of Post Office C. Nigel Outhwaite proves the hero with three wins and a share of the doubles with Colin Jones. Colin and Dan Mortimer also chip in with singles wins over Pat Davis to seal an amazing victory.

Nearest rivals, Milestone B and Sonning G record comfortable wins over Birch Copse and Berks Sports respectively. Kingfisher K stay in the hunt with an 8-2 win at BBC Club, while Hanson is back to winning ways, taking all three in OLOP J's 8-2 win at Polish D.

Paul Kantyka registers another treble but can't stop Springfield B running out 6-4 winners against Polish C.

### Week 10: Contenders shape up

Post Office return to winning ways though Springfield B give them some jittery moments. At 3-3, the match could have gone any way, but a doubles win (12-10 in fifth) plus Linda Davis securing her treble is enough to clinch the match 6-4.

Easier rides for Milestone (8-2 winners), Kingfisher K (10-0) and Sonning G (8-2) as the form sides make their move to the top. The Sonning win is particularly sweet for them as it comes over Springfield C, conquerors of Post Office in Week 9. Unfortunately, no one can step into absent Nigel's shoes and the Selman, Johnson, Johnson combo run out easy winners.

Finally, there is a welcome win for BBC Club by a 10-0 scoreline over Polish C and a 9-1 victory for OLOP

over Berks Sports. In the latter, we have an interesting doubles clash where the combined ages of the OLOP pairing are 24 by comparison with 152 on the Berks Sports team! This time youth came out on top of experience.

### Week 11: B team wins the Springfield derby

With Nigel still out of the side, Derek Edney, captain of Springfield B, sees an opportunity to sneak a win over the C team. Although very tight, the B team manage a 6-4 victory thanks largely to a first treble of the season from Chris Speight.

Kingfisher K leap above Springfield C with a 6-4 win of their own – against Polish D. Two wins each for Simon Guard, AJ Read and Didier Garcon secure the points.

Krys and Paul team up again for Polish C in their 7-3 win at Birch Copse. Paul's three 3-set singles wins contrast with Krys Szczygiel's hard fought treble, including his 13-11, 11-5, 14-16, 7-11, 11-8 win over Russell Moores.

Leaders Post Office cruise to a 10-0 victory over BBC to stay clear of Milestone whose game was postponed.

### Week 12: Points in the bag

Only three result cards in as I write this report. Wins for Springfield C, Kingfisher K and Post Office C mean points in the bag for three of the Top 6 in the Division. There is a second 10-0 on the bounce for Post Office with Birch Copse on the receiving end this time round.

#### Outstanding fixtures:

**Week 4: Berks Sports B v Springfield C**

**Week 5: Sonning C&P G v Birch Copse C**

**Week 11: Berks Sports B v Milestone B**

**Week 12 (assume played but no cards received yet): Sonning C&P G v Springfield B, Polish D v Polish C, OLOP J v Milestone B.**

**Home captains - please advise me of the rearranged dates for the above postponements a.s.a.p.**

**Players! Would you like to be notified every time a new free, colour version of the newsletter lands on the web site?**

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# YOUTH PLAYERS ROUND-UP *by John Cunningham*

## READING BOYS IN NATIONAL FINALS

On Sunday, Reading Juniors' first team, represented by Richard Andrews and Tom Maynard romped to victory in their zone final to reach the national finals of the Carter Cup. Despite some spirited resistance from Guildford's Ross Saxby, Joe Cheong and Scott Ayres, Reading won 5-0. The closest and best set was the 3-2 win for Maynard over Saxby 11-9 in the decider.



RICHARD ANDREWS

The win over North Middlesex was even more emphatic with all the wins in straight 3-0 sets. Joe Richardson went close for the visitors losing out to Maynard 12-10, 12-10 before the Reading player then stepped up a gear to take the third 11-2, giving his team a 5-0 win.

In the play off for second place Guildford edged home 3-2 against a spirited North Middlesex team.

The Reading League would like to thank Our Lady of Peace for hosting the zone final and providing refreshments. On behalf of OLOP TTC John Cunningham and Alan Dines thank all the players and coaches for a sporting, top class table tennis event, which was a credit to the sport.

Reading Juniors' second team made the long trip to Brighton to take on the home side and Hastings. Simon Thorne and Daniel Moses started well by beating Hastings 3-2 but found Brighton just too good – going down 5-0 despite some close games. Second place, however, was a worthwhile result for the two Reading youngsters.

## WEEK ONE - KNAVES BEAT KNIGHTS

Kingfisher Knaves made a great start in Division One of the Youth League at Bluecoat School on the first Friday evening. George Dodd gave Knights an early lead with a 3-1 win over Michael Houghton. Knaves were soon 2-1 up, however, as James Smith just got the better of Stephen Thompson in a great five game set 3-2 and Houghton defeated young James Cummings 3-0. Dodd completed his maximum for the Knights to leave it all to the doubles, which Houghton and Smith won 3-0 to give their side a narrow 3-2 victory.

Wokingham Eagles were the surprise of the evening as they stormed to a 4-1 win over Bluecoat.

## WEEK TWO - KNAVES HIT BY THUNDERBOLTS

Hanson Xu and the fast improving eleven-year-old Liam McTiernan were undefeated as IMPACT Thunderbolts beat Kingfisher Knaves 5-0.

George Dodd and James Smith fought well for the Knaves with Dodd taking a game off Xu and going down in the best set of the evening 19-17, 5-11, 11-13, 9-11 to McTiernan.

Wokingham Eagles went top of Division One after a 4-1 win over Kingfisher Knights.

## DOUBLES NAIL-BITER

The Youth league end of term doubles encounter at Blue Coat School proved to be a nail-biting affair – the event finishing with a three way play off for the medal. In the end it was an inspired Moses and Legg who edged into first place, with McGarvey and Xu in second place and the early leaders Dodd and Houghton having to settle for third place. Young Cummings and Thompson came fourth by courtesy of a hard fought win over McTiernan and Pymble to complete a great doubles tournament.

The evening was completed by a family doubles round robin, which was won by Michael and Tom Burrow with Ian and Siad Cole second and Alan Cummings and James Legg in third.



Players and organizers at an OLOP youth tournament

# USEFUL TT WEB SITES

UPDATED  
29.12.07

Here are links to and brief reviews of the sites I have found most useful so far, from a consumer's point of view. If there are others you can personally recommend, please send them in for possible inclusion!

**ONLINE UK SHOPS (listed alphabetically) - all accept orders online, via secure server, and normally deliver within one or two days. They carry somewhat different stocks and sometimes one is cheaper for what you want, sometimes another - so it's worth shopping around.**

**1. Bribar Table Tennis (<http://www.bribartt.co.uk/tt/index.htm>)** (particularly allied with JOOLA)

All these online shops have catalogues containing table-tennis blades, rubbers, glues, clothing, tables, nets etc etc. Bribar always makes much of its special offers. It also has sections on News, Information, Advice and a picture gallery. Bribar is based in Canterbury - phone -1277 860569.

**2. Table Tennis Direct (<http://www.tabletennisdirect.com/Default.aspx>)**

A revamped web site with a wide range of stock. Buying online usually gives a reduction from their printed catalogue - though of course you still have to pay postage. They will make up bats to your specification, for £2.50. There are several pages of advice on which blade, rubber, glue etc to select and how to use them. TT Direct is based in Kent - on 01304 369 996.

**3. Tees Sport ([https://www.tees-sport.co.uk/index\\_2.html](https://www.tees-sport.co.uk/index_2.html))** (particularly allied with Butterfly)

Tees Sport's relationship with Butterfly gives them a bigger range of goods of this brand (as with Bribar / JOOLA), and they can also offer discounts on it. Nevertheless they have a full catalogue of TT goods. They also run a table tennis summer school for a week every August. Tees Sport is based in Middlesbrough - phone 0800 458 4141.

**3. Thornton's (<http://www.thorntonstabletennis.co.uk/index.html>)**

Thornton's stocks the usual range of makes and goods - plus a few names less often seen. They have a New Products section, and offer advice over the telephone (0161 761 6608). Thornton's is based in Bury, Lancashire.

## SPECIALIST SHOPS

**1. Hallmark Table Tennis Ltd (<http://www.hallmarktt.co.uk/index.php>)**

Their main products are available from the above web sites, but this is Hallmark's own web site, with the full range. Pimples are their speciality - and particularly long pimples. Some of their rubbers will not be approved after June 2008 - including **Original**, one of their best-known. **They give the full ITTF list of approved rubbers, with a note of which are likely to be banned as part of a clampdown on non-friction rubbers next summer.** Hallmark have been busy bringing out new rubbers to beat the ban. Hallmark offer a DVD on playing with long pimples - free with most purchases.

**2. LevoSports (<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/LevoSports>)**

LevoSports is not a full online store like the others; it works via eBay, and is based in Hong Kong - which is part of China. It sells only a limited range of Chinese (and "Japanese") bats, rubbers etc, but these include some good ones, and the price may be less than half what the British web sites charge. Postal costs are highish, so it is best to combine several items in one order - and waiting time varies from one to three weeks.

## PRODUCT REVIEWS

**1. Denis's Table Tennis World (<http://www.tabletennis.gr/equipment/>)**

This Greek site is the most marvellous find if you are thinking of buying new blades or rubbers for your bat. Players all over the world, and of all different standards, have sent in their reviews of a very wide range of products. Opinions may vary - but generally you can get some idea of which way to allow off, and I reckon the resulting kaleidoscope gives a much better 3D impression of a product than adverts from the manufacturer.

## BIG ORGANIZATIONS

The ETTA (<http://www.englishtabletennis.org.uk>) and ITTF (<http://www.ittf.com/>) web sites are already listed on our [Reading TTA web site](#) - but let me mention them here too.

## TABLE TENNIS DVDs ETC

**1. Vroco Sport Online Shop ([http://www.vrocosport.nl/shop/index.html?target=dept\\_510.html&lang=en-us](http://www.vrocosport.nl/shop/index.html?target=dept_510.html&lang=en-us))**

Vroco is an online shop in the Netherlands, and they have quite a range of DVDs from various manufacturers - mostly coaching videos. Prices range from 20 to 40 Euros.

**2. Tennis de Mesa en Madrid (<http://club.telepolis.com/tenisdemesatk/videos2004.htm>)**

A lot of clips of top class table tennis in 2004, which are free but you will need to install eMule software in order to get them.

**3. YouTube (<http://uk.youtube.com>)**

Just go to the YouTube home page and type "table tennis" into the search box, to find a large number of free clips.

## TABLE TENNIS COACHING AND CHAT

**1. Greg's Table Tennis Pages (<http://www.gregsttpages.com/>)**

Greg Letts, a full-time Australian player, has been expanding these pages for years - and fascinating they are too!

**2. Megaspin (<http://www.megaspin.net/articles/default.asp?view=jtip>)**

This American web site has an excellent section of coaching tips.

