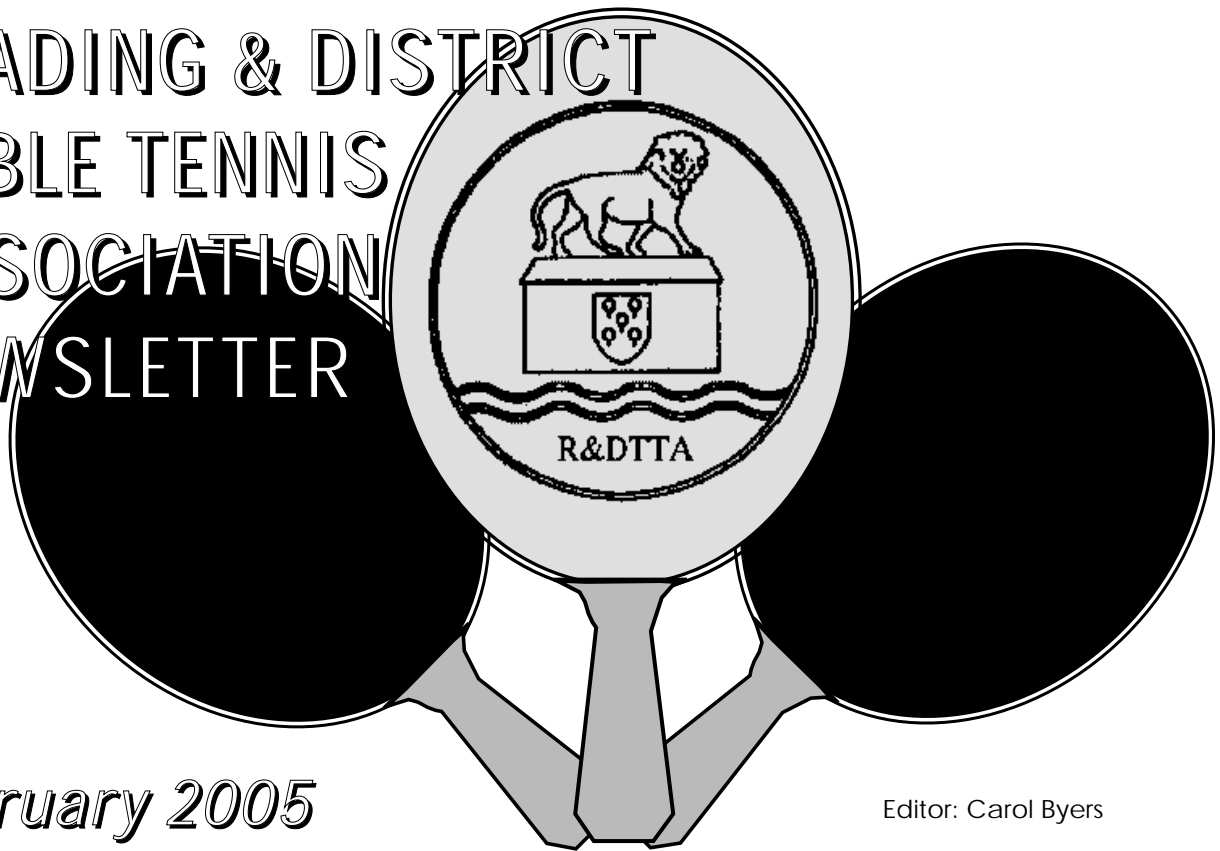


# READING & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



*February 2005*

Editor: Carol Byers

## Only a few weeks to go!

It seems difficult to believe, but we're into the last quarter of the season already!

Most teams have just 5 or 6 matches left to either play their way out of trouble or move on to confirm promotion or win their respective leagues.

Looking through the leagues, many of the issues at the top look to be almost settled, but relegation battles seem to be very close, especially in Division 1, where just 2 points separate the bottom 5 teams!

On to this edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to all of the usual contributors, but this time around, especially to Nigel Maltby, who has supplied two detailed reports on the Individual Handicap Tournament and Reading Closed Championships.

This year, we've decided to hold the last edition of the newsletter until all matches are complete and all knockout finals have been played. This hopefully means that the final newsletter will be a complete round-up of winners of all events, with final league tables, averages etc.

On page 2, you'll find a request for information from Derek Harrison, who's interested to find out the longest standing player still playing in RDTTA. If you have any thoughts on this, please feel free to forward them to Derek or me and we'll hope to publish this in a future issue.

Enjoy this latest offering and good luck in the final weeks of the season.

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*Carol*

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## *Who's been playing in RDTTA longest?*

Derek Harrison is looking to find out who is currently playing in the RDTTA that goes back the furthest.

After a recent match, several names came up as possibilities, but Derek is sure that there are many others that they missed. The list of long standing players they came up with includes; Eddie Cripps, Derek Crombie, Alan Dines, John Harland, Harold Hunt, Alan Holden and Tony Griffin.

If you can think of any other players who have been playing in RDTTA for many years - perhaps back in the 1950's or even the 1940's (and are still playing today), please write in to the newsletter and we'll try to work out who is the longest serving player.

On another related point, can anyone beat the record of Derek and Jim Brent who are currently playing their 46th season in a row as team mates? Not a team for regular changes, their "Junior" team mate, Geoff Johnson joined them just 25 years ago, since when they have played every season as a 3-man team!

## *More to life than Table Tennis???*

Congratulations to Bob Woodmansee, who plays for Berks Sports A, currently in Division 3, on a different sporting front.

Last season, Bob passed the 1000 games mark in his cricketing life. Playing currently for Wargrave CC, he has also played for Berkshire County Sports and the Bank of Ireland.



*Bob receiving an award to commemorate his 1000 games, from Lawrie Sanchez*

Apparently Bob has kept meticulous records of all of his matches, for the cricket enthusiasts among you, he has scored one century and 38 50s.

No doubt he also records all of his Table Tennis matches - perhaps we'll be publishing a similar "landmark" in Table Tennis soon!

I wonder how many TT sets he has played?

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Reading Masters  
Saturday 9th April 2005**

**RDTTA AGM  
Wednesday 8th June 2005**

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES**

**4th April 2005**

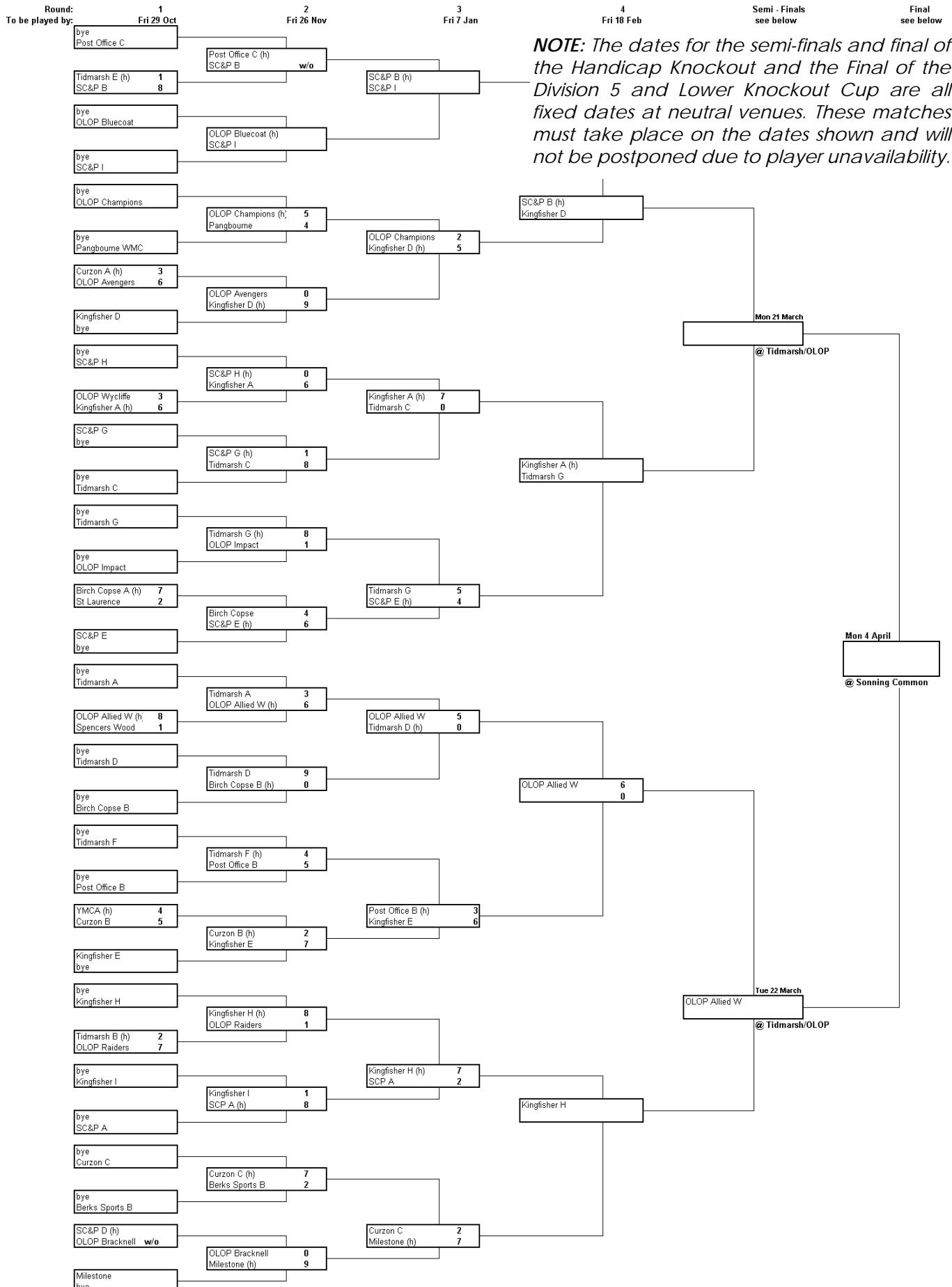
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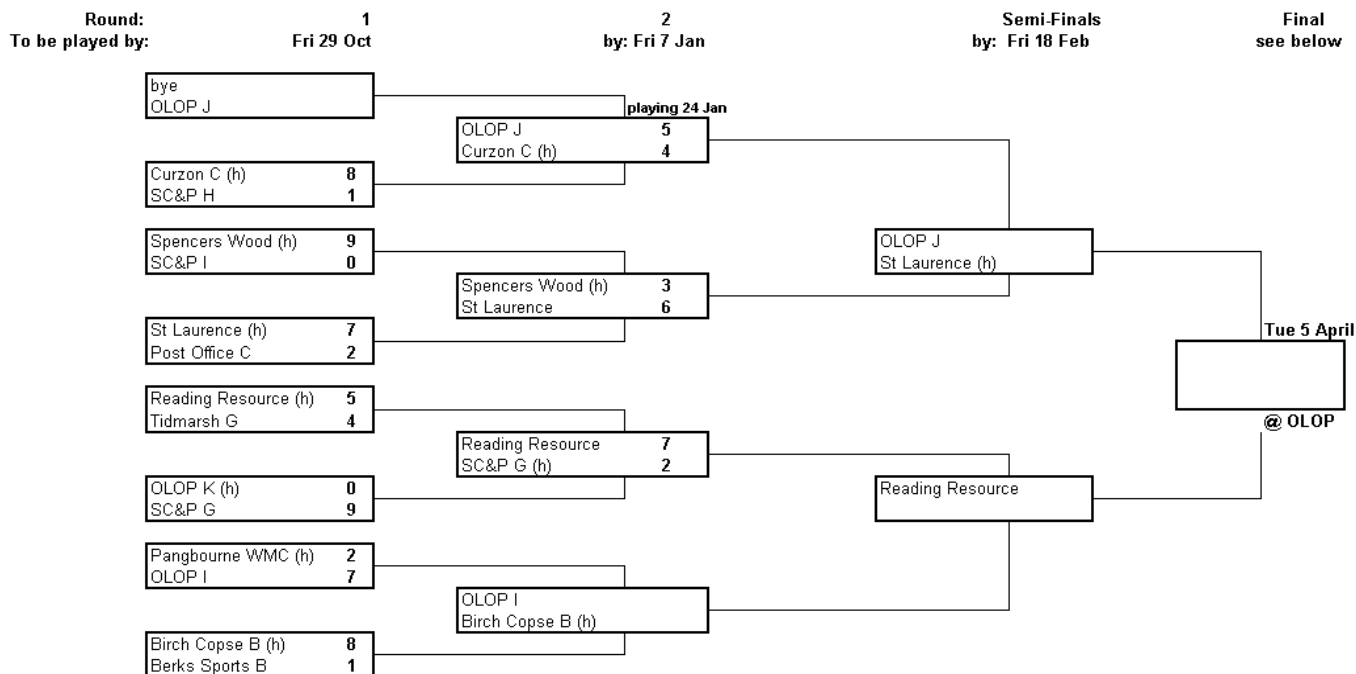


# Team Knockouts with Tony House

## TEAM HANDICAP KNOCKOUT



# DIVISION 5 AND LOWER KNOCKOUT TOURNAMENT



## Reading Closed Championships - 12th/13th February 2005

The Reading Closed Championships were held over the weekend of the 12/13 February at the Cippenham club, Slough.

Mark Banks won a high quality Mens Singles final against Ian Packford 11-5 11-9 8-11 15-13 with both players now assured of a place in the Reading Masters at the end of the season. In the early group stages Mark eased to victory against Ian Cole, Nigel Maltby and Fang Zhou Gu, with Nigel also qualifying from the group after his 11-8 11-9 11-4 victory against Ian. Ramesh Gehlot could only finish as runner up in Group 2 after he lost to eventual winner Phil Prady 11-8 7-11 11-9 9-11 9-11. Group 3 was extremely well fought between John Barclay, Charlie Goddard, Mike Dorrington and Keith Winter. Keith eventually emerging as winner and John as runner up, John surviving a real scare against Charlie Goddard before winning 11-2 10-12 7-11 11-3 13-11. Ian Packford cruised to victory in Group 4, ahead of runner up Richard Andrews after his fine 11-5 5-11 11-2 11-7 win against Kuldeep Gehlot.

In the Quarter finals Mark Banks beat Richard Andrews 11-4 11-6 11-4, while Ian Packford was far too good for Nigel Maltby, beating him 11-5 11-3 11-7. Phil Prady scored a shock 11-6 11-1 6-11 11-4 success against John Barclay, while Ramesh Gehlot held off the challenge of Keith Winter 11-7 11-8 11-7. In the first semi final Mark Banks beat Phil Prady 11-4 11-3 11-9, while the other semi was a real classic between Ramesh Gehlot and Ian Packford. In a nerve tingling fourth game Ramesh, already 2 games to 1 ahead, had several chances to win before Ian somehow won it 16-14 before going on to take the decider 11-6 for a thrilling 4-11 10-12 11-4 16-14 11-6 victory.

In the final the first game saw few rallies with both looking to finish off the points quickly. Mark took it 11-5, and he continued to dominate early on in the next before Ian levelled and then went 8-6 ahead following a fine whipped backhand topspin. However a great cross table forehand from Mark saw him level at 9-all. Ian put his next service return into the net and Mark then also won the next point for a 2-game lead. Ian hit back in

the next as his game improved, playing some startling unbeatable attacking shots. The first decent rally came in the fourth game as Ian crept 4-2 ahead. At 6-all however Mark seized the initiative, playing a series of good blocks against the Packford topspin. With a 9-8 lead Mark looked to have won the next point only for Ian to somehow blast a return past him to level at 9-all. Both players then had chances as it entered deuce. A back hand error and a good Mark service finally opened up a chance for Mark and as the ball sat up invitingly he made no mistake to clinch the title 11-5 11-9 8-11 15-13.

Mary Allen retained her Ladies Singles title, once again depriving Lisa Bosley of a first success.



Mary Allen, Ladies Singles Winner

Lisa started well in the final, racing 4-0 ahead before going on to take the first 11-3. Mary started better in the next, blasting a great forehand drive past her opponent for a 3-2 advantage. Lisa levelled at 5-all before a backhand topspin just missed the edge of the table to ease Mary back into a 2-point lead at 7-5. A couple of terrific backhand punch shots from Lisa levelled once more, but Mary held her nerve to take the game 11-8.

In the third game it was Mary who clearly now held the advantage as she played a great counter attacking game. A rare chopping rally gave Mary a 7-3 lead, which she held on to comfortably to win that game 11-4. Lisa never recovered from that set back and Mary raced 6-0 ahead in the next as her opponent struggled to get back into the game. A final desperate backhand loop from a heavy chop from Mary, dropped into the bottom of the net to give Mary the Ladies title once again 3-11 11-8 11-4 11-2.



**Ladies Singles Runner-up, Lisa Bosley**

Mary Allen and Lisa Bosley breezed to an 11-4 11-4 11-4 victory in the Ladies Doubles final against significantly weaker opponents in Chen Chen Wang and Lyusja Kuzmina. Ramesh Gehlot and Mary Allen won the Mixed Doubles title in a very entertaining final against Colin Barnes and Lisa Bosley. Ramesh and Mary looked to be cruising early on at 6-2 ahead, but Lisa and Colin battled back to level at 7-7. It took two good serves from Ramesh to finally take the first by a narrow 11-9 margin. Ramesh and Mary easily took the next 11-4, only for Colin and Lisa to battle back to win a cliff hanging third game 14-12. Colin was now playing some fine defensive strokes with Lisa stepping in for the kill whenever she could. Level at the midway point in the next, it was only then that Ramesh and Mary finally pulled clear with Mary finishing the game off with a quick fire forehand to give them the title 11-9 11-4 12-14 11-8.

Not many of the audience gave Division 2 pairing Keith Winter and Phil Prady much chance against Ramesh Gehlot and Mark Banks in the Mens Doubles final, however the Tilehurst pair put up a great display. The first game could have gone either way with both pairings having chances before Ramesh and Mark finally won it by an incredible 19-17 margin. The next was equally close with Phil and Keith actually leading 10-7, only for Ramesh and Mark to claw their way back to level at 10-all. Keith and Phil had three further opportunities to close out the game but the luck finally went the way of Ramesh and Mark 15-13. Ramesh and Mark finally pulled clear in the next to take the title, ending rather unfortunately on a service error from Phil to gift his opponents the final game 11-8.

Ramesh Gehlot won the Veteran Singles, beating Geoff Civil in his semi final 11-5 11-7 11-9 and Colin Barnes in the final 11-5 8-11 11-3 12-10. The Senior Veterans title went to John Barclay who, after cruising through his group, beat Geoff Civil 9-11 11-8 11-8 11-8 after Geoff had earlier beaten Charlie Goddard 11-8 11-5 11-8 at the semi final stage.

The Division 2 event saw some excellent table tennis throughout. Lisa Bosley showed terrific form to defeat Phil Prady 13-11 11-6 11-9 11-9, but then came unstuck in the semi finals against ladies rival Mary Allen 6-11 11-9

13-15 2-11. Keith Winter knocked out Charlie Goddard in their semi final 11-9 11-9 11-8 and went on to retain his title with a thrilling five game victory over Mary in the final 11-9 11-2 8-11 9-11 11-8. Nigel Maltby won the Division 3 event with an excellent defensive display against Richard Andrews 11-9 11-8 5-11 9-11 11-3, Richard having earlier topped the favourite Jeremy Willis 11-8 2-11 11-6 11-6 in his semi final.

In Division 5 a determined Andrew Syed beat Fang Zhou Gu in the final 11-6 9-11 11-4 11-9, having earlier knocked out Reading Resource team mate Stephen Liebens. Dane White was the Division 6 winner after he defeated Resppice Kishari in the final 9-11 11-9 11-6 11-5. Chen Chen Wang won a gripping Youth Division semi final against Dane White 8-11 11-8 9-11 11-5 11-8, only to miss out in the final against Fang Zhou Gu 6-11 10-12 4-11.

Ben Gates won a great U21 singles final against Richard Andrews 8-11 9-11 11-3 11-7 11-2. Ross Saxby won both the Junior Boys and Cadet Boys title with victories over Richard Andrews in both, Richard particularly unfortunate in the Junior event before losing 8-11 8-11 11-5 11-9 10-12. In the Junior Girls Lisa Bosley retained her title, comfortably defeating Chen Chen Wang in the final 11-5 11-2 11-5. Cheng hit back to win both the Cadet Girls and U13 Girls events ahead of Fiona Taylor and Emma Ashley respectively. Ross Saxby and Richard Andrews teamed up to win the Junior Boys doubles.

## Roll of Honour

**Mens Singles** - Mark Banks bt Ian Packford 11-5 11-9 8-11 15-13

**Ladies Singles** - Mary Allan bt Lisa Bosley 3-11 11-8 11-4 11-2

**Mens Doubles** - Ramesh Gehlot & Mark Banks bt Keith Winter & Phil Prady 19-17 15-13 11-8

**Ladies Doubles** - Mary Allan & Lisa Bosley bt Lyusja Kuzmina & Chen Chen Wang 11-4 11-4 11-4

**Mixed Doubles** - Ramesh Gehlot & Mary Allen bt Colin Barnes & Lisa Bosley 11-9 11-4 12-14 11-8

**Veteran Singles** - Ramesh Gehlot bt Colin Barnes 11-5 8-11 11-3 12-10

**Senior Vet Singles** - John Barclay bt Geoff Civil 9-11 11-8 11-8 11-8

**Division 1 Restricted** - Ramesh Gehlot bt Kuldeep Gehlot 9-11 11-3 11-9 9-11 11-3

**Division 2** - Keith Winter bt Mary Allen 11-9 11-2 8-11 9-11 11-8

**Division 3** - Nigel Maltby bt Richard Andrews 11-9 11-8 5-11 9-11 11-3  
**Division 4** - Not Run

**Division 5** - Andrew Syed bt Fang Zhou Gu 11-6 9-11 11-4 11-9

**Division 6** - Dane White bt Resppice Kishari 9-11 11-9 11-6 11-5

**Youth Division** - Fang Zhou Gu bt Chen Chen Wang 11-6 12-10 11-4

**U21 Singles** - Ben Gates bt Richard Andrews 8-11 9-11 11-3 11-7 11-2

**U18 Boys Singles** - Ross Saxby bt Richard Andrews 11-8 11-8 5-11 9-11 12-10

**U15 Boys Singles** - Ross Saxby bt Richard Andrews 13-11 11-5 11-5

**U13 Boys Singles** - Winner: Richard Andrews

Runner-up: Fang Zhou Gu

**Boys Doubles** - Winners: Ross Saxby & Richard Andrews

Runners-up: Fang Zhou Gu & Dane White

**U18 Girls Singles** - Lisa Bosley bt Chen Chen Wang 11-5 11-2 11-5

**U15 Girls Singles** - Winner: Chen Chen Wang

Runner-up: Fiona Taylor

**U13 Girls Singles** - Winner: Chen Chen Wang

Runner-up: Emma Ashley

## *Individual Handicap Tournament*

The Reading Individual Handicap Competition took place at the Kingfisher club on Sunday 9th January and the winners trophy will be heading out of the County to Suffolk after Charlie Goddard made the long trip down from his home to become Reading's Individual Handicap tournament winner for 2005.



**2005 Individual Handicap winner, Charlie Goddard, with John Freeman presenting the trophy and Tony House (Tournament Organiser) behind.**

There were sixteen entries on the day, split into early groups of four players, with the top two qualifying for the knockout rounds. In Group 1 the determined Duncan Groves made full use of his handicap of +5 to win the group, beating Martin Hynes (+1) 21-11 23-21, Steve Barnes 21-7 21-11 with an 8 point start and completing his treble with a 21-14 21-15 victory over Lucia Kuzmina (+9). Steve Barnes clinched the runners-up spot after recovering to beat Lucia (+14) 18-21 21-16 21-15 and Martin (+9) 22-20 21-13.

In Group 2 Paul Treadgold came out on top after a lengthy battle with Diane Taylor (+8) 21-17 17-21 21-13, a comfortable 21-12 21-7 success against Alan Dines and finally managing an excellent 21-12 21-19 victory over reigning title holder Lee Calcutt with an 11 point starting handicap. Lee had already made sure of his qualification for the next round after early two-straight victories against both Alan (+5) 21-18 21-14 and Diane (+12) 21-19 23-21. Group 3 was the most exciting group with all bar one of the matches needing a third game decider. Charlie Goddard kept his nerve to top the group, surviving a marathon opening contest with Ted Cripps (+4) 23-21 19-21 21-14 and going on to beat Bernard Schug (+8) 21-16 7-21 21-16 and Michael Gu (+11) 14-21 21-13 21-17. It needed a games count back to decider the runners-up position after Bernard, Michael and Ted all won one set each, Ted denying Bernard of qualifica-

tion after he managed a 23-21 15-21 21-15 victory over Bernard in a tense final contest in the group. However it was Michael who qualified for the next round, courtesy of his earlier two-straight 21-12 21-13 victory over Ted from a 8 point start.

Milestone's John Evans won Group 4 playing some impressive table tennis to beat Ing Pong Hi (+2) 18-21 21-11 21-14 and Nigel Maltby 21-11 21-5 to clinch his qualification. Nigel fended off a spirited challenge from Ing Pong Hi (+8) to take the runners up position by beating him 21-19 16-21 21-13.

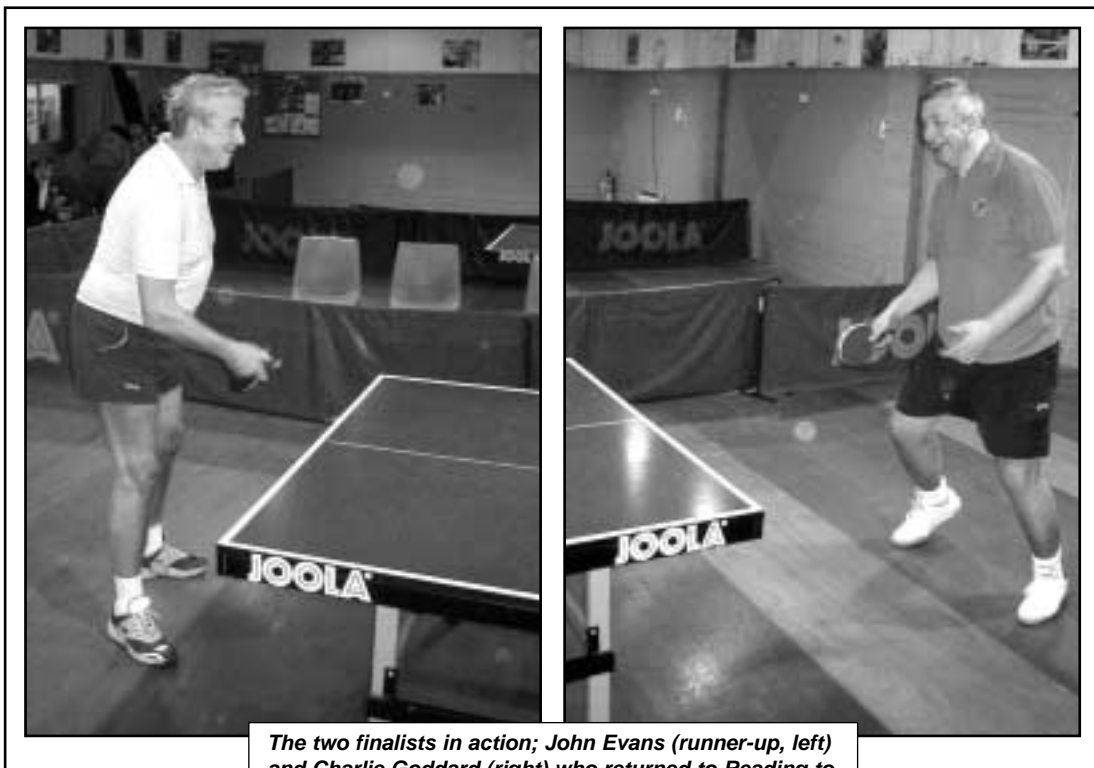
In the Quarter-Finals, Tidmarsh ace Duncan Groves (+7) proved far too hot to handle for Nigel Maltby, cruising to an easy 21-5 21-14 victory. John Evans (+7) made it past Steve Barnes 21-11 21-9, while Charlie Goddard (+5) ended the challenge of the holder Lee Calcutt 21-14 21-12. The other quarter final provided some thrilling rallies as young Michael Gu (+6) finally eased past the more experienced Paul Treadgold 21-11 20-22 21-7.



**Runner-up, John Evans of Milestone**

In the semi-finals Michael came up against the veteran blocker John Evans. John soon clawed back Michael's starting six point handicap at 12-all with his relentless blocking more than matching Michael's steady attacking play. Michael dug in well to hold John to 15-all before John finally broke clear to take the first game 21-18. In the next Michael started well, going 8-1 up, but it wasn't long before John regained his rhythm and he quickly pulled back Michael's advantage to level at 10-all. Michael now had no answer to John's relentless blocking game and John ran out a fairly comfortable 21-18 21-13 winner.

In the other semi Charlie Goddard came up against Duncan Groves (+7) and it was Duncan who started the brighter, racing 9-0 ahead and



**The two finalists in action; John Evans (runner-up, left) and Charlie Goddard (right) who returned to Reading to win the event.**

maintaining a healthy, seemingly invincible advantage towards the middle of the game at 16-9. However Charlie dug in deep at this stage and took the next seven points to level at 16-all, before going 19-16 ahead. This time it was Duncan's turn to dig in and he then levelled at 19-all. In a tense finish Charlie took the next two points to win that game 21-19 with Duncan's final smash hitting the bottom of the net. In the next Charlie was on top early on to close to within 4 points at 3-7. The contest saw some excellent attacking rallies from both players as Duncan once again held a six point cushion into mid-game. Again though, Charlie chose this moment to step up a gear and only a crucial edge shot kept Duncan 17-13 ahead. At 20-17 to Duncan all seemed lost for Charlie, but he wasn't to be denied and he fought back to level at 20-all. Two service errors from Duncan finally proved costly as Charlie went on to win 21-19 23-21 in some style.

In the Final John Evans (+6)

stormed into an early 9-0 lead against Charlie Goddard before Charlie clawed his way back to level at 11-all. A brilliant cross table forehand put Charlie 15-12 ahead and some determined play saw him go on to win the game 21-17. John's starting advantage of six points lasted no time at all in the next as Charlie incredibly won the first ten points to go 10-6 up. John rallied briefly, but Charlie was in no mood to let his lead slip, varying the placement of his returns very well to force the increasing number of errors from John. A superb final rally saw a seemingly winning attacking shot from John brilliantly retrieved by an agile Charlie with his return clipping the top of the net and flying beyond his despairing opponent to give Charlie the game and the title 21-17 21-13.

Thanks are due to tournament organiser Tony House and referee John Freeman.

RDTTA Web Site

*Get your copy of the newsletter online from the league's website!*

[www.rdtta.co.uk](http://www.rdtta.co.uk)

*Available to view or download several days before the printed version - usually from the Sunday evening*

*For weekly updates and reports see the*

**EVENING POST**

*every Wednesday or the*

**READING CHRONICLE**

*on a Thursday.*

# ***DIVISION ONE*** by *David Streak*

With the withdrawal of Polish A from the league Kingfisher A have almost clinched the title. Down at the bottom, however, things are really hotting up, with only two points separating the bottom five teams. Even though it has been decided that only one team will be relegated I am still not going to predict who goes down.

**Kingfisher A** are out on their own at the top of the table and have yet to drop a point. Captain Hari Gehlot has returned to lead the team and he boasts a 100 per cent record. The supporting cast of Mark Banks, Bela Hegedus and Ramesh Gehlot has helped to put the team in an invincible position. Since the last report they have beaten Kingfisher C 10-0, OLOP A and Kingfisher D 9-1 and OLOP B, Polish B and YMCA A 8-2. I cannot see this team dropping any points before the end of the season and they will be worthy champions.

**Polish B** remain in second place but are coming under a little pressure from Kingfisher C. Since the last report they have secured wins over OLOP B and OLOP C by a narrow 6-4 margin and a more comfortable 7-3 defeat of Tidmarsh A. Their one defeat came at the hands of Kingfisher A when they could only muster two players. Derek Wood and Nick Heaps are both having excellent seasons and are receiving solid support from Richard Rosinski. Against Kingfisher A Richard had an excellent win over Mark Banks and in the same match Nick beat Bela Hegedus. Derek had maximums in all three victories.

**Kingfisher C** are having an outstanding season and will, I believe, push Polish B all the way for the runners up spot. They suffered the predictable loss to Kingfisher A but otherwise have beaten Tidmarsh A and YMCA B 8-2, and Kingfisher B and YMCA B 6-4, in the latter match coming back from 4-0 down. (I still don't know how we managed to lose that one!!). Cliff Putterford and Steve Murgatroyd are the mainstays but are well backed up by Geoff Civil and Roger Woolven-Allen. Cliff has been in particularly good form, taking the scalp of Dave Hilbeck in his maximum against Kingfisher B.

**YMCA B** have only played three matches since the last report, securing a 10-0 victory against a weakened OLOP B side and losing 8-2 to both Kingfisher C and Kingfisher D. Despite this, the team are enjoying a very good season. Tony Reynolds and Bob Sym have been in inspired form but they have had solid backing from Peter Bradley, Mike Harris and John Golding.

**YMCA A** have improved their position and are now in a comfortable mid-table position. Wins have been obtained over OLOP A and Kingfisher D by 7-3 and 9-1 respectively. A hard earned draw was secured with Kingfisher B and defeats suffered by Kingfisher C and Kingfisher A. Our squad of Bob Davis, Colin Wilkes, Ivor Hardman and myself are now performing well and have had some notable individual successes, particularly Colin's defeats of Graham Outrim and Ramesh Gehlot and Ivor's win over Steve Murgatroyd.

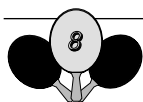
**Kingfisher B** have continued to climb the table and are level with YMCA A. Dave Hilbeck is their star but he has been very well supported by Trevor Griffiths, John Morris, Colin Dyke and Alan Cummings. Since the last report they have beaten OLOP A and Kingfisher D, drawn with YMCA A and lost to OLOP C and Kingfisher C. Dave had maximums against YMCA A, OLOP A and Kingfisher D but his doubles against Kingfisher C and OLOP C could not prevent 6-4 defeats. Trevor had a maximum against Kingfisher D and won two against OLOP C.

**Kingfisher D** have had a torrid time since the last report recording just one win and four defeats. They are, however, a talented squad of young players and I sincerely hope they remain in the top Division. Abhay Gehlot is their most consistent performer but he has excellent support from Ben Davis, Greg Beckett, Tom Maynard and reserve Richard Andrews. Abhay had a fine maximum in the 8-2 win over YMCA B, with doubles for Tom and Richard. In the 6-4 defeat by OLOP A Abhay beat Barry Morten 11-9 in the fifth and Ben lost to Barry by the same scoreline. Tom beat John Morris 13-11 in the fifth in the 7-3 loss to Kingfisher B.

**OLOP C** have picked up five points since the last report but remain in a precarious position. They have beaten both Tidmarsh A and Kingfisher B 6-4,

## ***LEADING AVERAGES***

Mark Banks	(39/41)	95%
Bela Hegedus	(35/38)	92%
Tony Reynolds	(24/27)	89%
Derek Wood	(24/29)	83%
Dave Hilbeck	(26/33)	79%
Steve Murgatroyd	(32/45)	71%
Robert Hudson	(25/36)	69%
Bob Sym	(18/27)	67%
David Streak	(29/44)	66%
Nick Heaps	(24/37)	65%



and lost by the same scoreline to OLOP B and Polish B. They drew with OLOP A and lost 7-3 to YMCA A. Sean Pickin has only played in one of these matches and they could really do with his services for the rest of the season. The rest of the squad, notably Peter Martin, George and Stuart White and Andrew Walker will be fighting all the way. Notable performances included Stuart's first Division 1 maximum against OLOP B and Andrew's defeat of Nick Heaps.

**Tidmarsh A** have only gained three points since the last report, beating Kingfisher D and drawing with OLOP B. Defeats came against Kingfisher C, Polish B and, very narrowly, OLOP C. Robert Hudson is having an excellent season and, along with Lee and Lisa Calcutt, Dave Wise and Clive Mitchell they will have to pull out all the stops to retain their hard earned Division 1 status. I hope they do it. Robert had maximums against OLOP C and Kingfisher D and Clive secured a crucial double in the draw with OLOP B.

**OLOP B** are level on points with Tidmarsh A and also only took three points since the last report. I cannot really believe that this extremely talented squad of players is languishing at the bottom of the table. The problem seems to stem from lack of availability of star players Danny Baxter and Ali Subhan. Wolfgang Stalder has been the mainstay and his double along Ali's helped secure the 6-4 win over OLOP C. As important was Wolfgang's maximum in the draw with Tidmarsh A. The signing of Todor Spasov, re-registered before the deadline, has strengthened the squad but time is running out.

[www.RDTTA.co.uk](http://www.RDTTA.co.uk)

Keep up to date, with all the latest RDTTA news, results, averages etc. on the Association's website!

[www.RDTTA.co.uk](http://www.RDTTA.co.uk)

**OLOP A** are also level on points with OLOP B and Tidmarsh A and have also taken just three points since the last report. This very experienced squad of veteran players comprising Barry Morten, John Millward, Graham Outrim, Clive Banham and John Barclay has struggled to pull away from the danger zone. Clive's maximum and two from Barry helped to get a 6-4 win over Kingfisher D. In the draw with OLOP C Clive got two, Barry and John one each and the doubles. John beat Peter Martin 11-5 in the fifth in the last match of the evening. Despite fielding Graham and the two Johns against YMCA A they still lost 7-3.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingfisher A	16	16	0	0	131	29	32
Polish B	15	11	0	4	89	61	22
Kingfisher C	16	10	0	6	88	72	20
YMCA B	14	8	0	6	70	70	16
YMCA A	16	6	3	7	82	78	15
Kingfisher B	16	6	3	7	77	83	15
Kingfisher D	16	5	1	10	58	102	11
OLOP C	15	3	4	8	64	86	10
Tidmarsh A	15	3	3	9	64	86	9
OLOP B	15	4	1	10	60	90	9
OLOP A	14	3	3	8	57	83	9

# DIVISION TWO *by Nick Lean*

With just a few matches to go, Sonning C&P A and OLOP E have all but confirmed their promotion to the top flight, while at the bottom there is still much to play for as three teams look to be battling to avoid the drop.

**Sonning C&P A** have continued their determined pursuit of promotion with six more wins, showing no mercy as they whitewashed their opponents in four of these matches. Not surprisingly, Graham Kemp, Simon Berry and Jason Roberts all appear in the top few positions of the averages, having hit maximums in all of their recent appearances. Andy Turton has started to do the same in his recent matches.

**OLOP E** remain hard on their heels with five wins from their most recent six matches. During these, Ben Gates hit four maximums in as many matches and Ian Cole has had 10 wins from 12. But an unexpected defeat came when a weakened OLOP team was fielded against Post Office B. Realistically, no one will catch either of these teams, but the outstanding fixture between the two of them on 24th February should be a good one to watch.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the table it has developed into a 3-way battle with OLOP D, Longfield A and Kingfisher G currently all on 10 points, three points behind everyone else.

**OLOP D** have dropped into the relegation area having collected just 2 points in the second half. These came from draws at Longfield and Tilehurst as the players seem to take it in turns to pick up two wins in a match - Chris Hadley did in the first of these matches and Mark Bullion in the second. Ian Davis also won two against both Post Office A and Kingfisher F, but with insufficient support from his

team-mates, OLOP suffered narrow defeats in each of these matches. They will need to all put it together on the same night and to pick further points from the teams above them, and they need to do this if they are to avoid a swift return to Division 3. However, the crunch may come with their match with Kingfisher G - which is being played as I submit this report.

**Longfield A** ended a run of 8 straight defeats with a draw at Tilehurst Methodists, thanks to two wins apiece for Brian Chinneck and Ian Fletcher. This was followed by a draw with OLOP I as Ian won another two and Jim Spencer did the same. A potentially decisive defeat came when they were forced to play with two players at fellow strugglers Kingfisher G, but this was offset by a terrific 7-3 win over Kingfisher E as Jim Spencer scored a maximum. Longfield's last three matches of the season will be crucial for them as they face the teams currently in 7th, 8th and 9th places in the table, all of whom they lost to the first time around.

Having previously said there was little hope for **Kingfisher G**, they proceeded to win three of their next four matches. Well I never said I was clairvoyant! Much of this success has been down to Trevor Organ, who won three in a 6-4 win at Tidmarsh, and was well supported by wins from Dave Duncan and Peter Bennett. Trevor hit another maximum in a 7-3 win over Kingfisher F, with Peter winning twice. Both players might have won maximums against Longfield, but were only prevented from this by the lack of a third opponent. The team slipped back into losing ways against OLOP E and Tilehurst Methodists, but that impending match with OLOP E looks to be their most important fixture.

Aside from the promotion & relegation issues,

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Sonning C&amp;P A</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>OLOP (Impact) E</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Sonning C&amp;P B</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Tilehurst Methodists A</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Tidmarsh B</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Kingfisher E</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Kingfisher F</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Post Office B</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Post Office A</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>OLOP (Impact) D</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Longfield A</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Kingfisher G</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>10</b>

**Sonning B** stand clear from the rest in third place having remained unbeaten in the second half of the season. Keith Swain and Malcolm Gregory won two each in a 6-4 win over Post Office B, then they drew at Tidmarsh thanks to Brian Meheux winning twice and another two from Malcolm. Not forgetting Merrill Massey who picked-up a critical win in each of these matches. Keith Swain returned to win all three in the clash with Kingfisher F which, with two more wins for Malcolm, helped the team get another point. Sonning B then beat Longfield 8-2 as Keith and Brian both hit maximums. *The opposition has called off two of Sonning B's matches and I would like to remind the relevant Captain's that dates have yet to be arranged for these fixtures.*

The mid-table melee is lead by **Tilehurst Methodists A** who have also not lost a match in the second half, except for the fixture with OLOP E, which had to be conceded when TMs could not raise a team. Apart from this, there have been wins over Kingfishers F and G, 10-0 and 7-3, in which Keith Winter, Phil Prady & Mary Allan scored maximums in the first of these, while Lisa Crick and Phil won three each in the second. Between these wins were draws with Longfield, Post Office B and OLOP D, thanks to two wins each for Mary & Keith, then Phil & Keith and in the last of these Mary won all three.

**Tidmarsh B** remain solidly in the top half of the table having picked-up four points from their last six matches. Their best result was holding Sonning B to a draw as Jim Stevenson & Andy Stephens won two each, then paired-up to win the doubles. Three wins for Andy and another two for Jim ensured a draw at Kingfisher E, while Kevin Brooker appeared and won twice to help the team record their only win in the second half (to date), 7-3 over Post Office B, as Jim and Andy also won two each. Defeats came against Kingfisher G and Post Office A despite Jim & Andy keeping up their consistent two wins each. Pointing no fingers, but Steve Ricks is clearly struggling and perhaps needs a bit of luck to help him win and the team pick up a few more points.

**Kingfisher E** have also picked up four points from their most recent six matches and remain mid-table. Defeats came at the hands of the top two in the Division, but also at Longfield A where they went down 3-7. Before this, came draws with Tidmarsh B and Kingfisher F, Jeff Huggins recording two good wins in the latter. A win at Post Office A was due Phil Mead hitting a super maximum, supported by two from Steve Barnes, who's having a mixed (inconsistent?) season.

**Kingfisher F** are one of five teams who have picked up four points to date in the second half of the season. Before Christmas they were trounced 10-0 by Tilehurst Methodists, despite Niall McGrane & Charlie Goddard being in the team, but bounced back to win 6-4 at OLOP D as Niall won three, Colin Turrell & Sharon Mitchell one each. The New Year started with defeat to Kingfisher G, despite two wins for Carole Chard, the a draw with Kingfisher E as Niall returned and won a maximum, helped by two good wins for Sharon. Another good point came from a draw with Sonning C&P B as Sharon again won two, while Niall could only win one, as did Lisa Bosley.

## DOUBLES AVERAGES

Sonning C&P A	15	16	93.8%
Tilehurst Meths A	11	15	73.3%
Sonning C&P B	9	15	60.0%
Kingfisher F	9	16	56.3%
Post Office A	9	16	56.3%
Kingfisher E	9	17	52.9%
OLOP E	7	16	43.8%
OLOP D	7	16	43.8%
Tidmarsh B	6	17	35.3%
Longfield A	6	17	35.3%
Kingfisher G	6	17	35.3%
Post Office B	4	17	23.5%

The two Post Office teams have both had good points returns from their recent matches. **Post Office A** have taken six points from three wins, 7-3 over OLOP D and Kingfisher G, then recently 6-4 at Tidmarsh. John Simmonds won three in the first of these, Simon Hopkins hit the max in the second and it was John again against Tidmarsh. Dave Reynolds wins have also been essential, as have the doubles successes – only two teams have a better doubles record in this division. It will be important that all three contribute in their remaining matches, if they are to keep a few points between them and the relegation battle.

**Post Office B** have taken 5 points from their last six matches, the most unexpected of these coming when they went to OLOP E and returned with both points, as Dave Mills hit a maximum while Feliks Ziamba and Denise Weller won one each. There were defeats to both of the Sonning teams, then a draw with Tilehurst Methodists, as Feliks won all three, including the scalps of Phil Prady & Keith Winter. There was defeat at Tidmarsh B, despite another Dave Mills maximum, then Dave & Feliks won three each as OLOP D were beaten 8-2. They probably need a couple more points to be safe, but with matches to versus two of the bottom three, they probably don't need to worry.

The outstanding contests of this quarter have been:

Malcolm Gregory coming back to beat Niall McGrane 9-11, 9-11, 11-1, 11-5, 7-11.

Dave Mills recovery to beat Andy Stephens 11-5, 11-9, 18-20, 4-11, 9-11.

Mark Bullion's come back against Keith Winter 11-5, 11-9, 13-15, 6-11, 10-12.

Good luck to everyone with the remaining matches

## LEADING AVERAGES

Graham Kemp	Sonning C&P A	21	21	100.0%
Phil Prady	Tilehurst Meths A	19	21	90.5%
Ben Gates	OLOP E	37	42	88.1%
Simon Berry	Sonning C&P A	23	27	85.2%
Jason Roberts	Sonning C&P A	36	44	81.8%
Keith Swain	Sonning C&P B	22	30	73.3%
Niall McGrane	Kingfisher F	26	36	72.2%
Jim Stevenson	Tidmarsh B	29	42	69.0%
Andy Turton	Sonning C&P A	22	32	68.8%
Malcolm Gregory	Sonning C&P B	28	42	66.7%
Andy Stephens	Tidmarsh B	26	39	66.7%
Ian Cole	OLOP E	26	39	66.7%

# ***DIVISION THREE*** by Derek Harrison

**Curzon Club 'A'** continue to lead the way and with the last quarter in sight have promotion in their grasp. In their local derby against us we went one up but they came back by winning the next 9. John Willcocks and Nick Lean both obtained great maximums. No old pals act here! At Milestone Mike Maynard came to the rescue by winning all 3 with ease while John won two and Nick won one besides Mike and John winning the doubles. At Tidmarsh they won 3-7 with John and Mike both obtaining trebles besides teaming up again to win the doubles, to make it 9 out of 9 for them. At home to Pangbourne the team won 10-0 with the two Johns and Mike doing the business by obtaining maximums. For John Walker it was his first of the season.

*Doubles average 92%*

**Sonning Common & P 'C'** look to be favourites to clinch the runners up spot and their match with their 'D' team could sway it either way. Since my previous notes Nigel Maltby has been in top form by winning 12 out of 12. He started by gaining a 3 straight maximum at Tilehurst Meths where he was ably supported by Mark Jones who also won three in their 2-8 win. The team had a set back at Kingfisher when they lost 6-4 despite Nigel's treble with Mark winning one. Next came a 9-1 win over Tidmarsh with Nigel, Mark and Paul Jarvis all recording maximums. At Berks Sports Nigel and Paul again obtained trebles which helped them to a 3-7 victory.

*Doubles average 36%*

**Sonning Common & P 'D'** are still in with a chance and in their game against Curzon 'B' which they won 8-2 Jeremy Willis hit a very easy 3 straight treble with reserve Paul Treadgold playing great table tennis to also record a maximum. Alan Holden did well to obtain a double. The Side then dropped a precious point against Pangbourne despite a Jeremy hat trick but with Paul and Derek Maltby only winning one a draw was the outcome. At Milestone Jeremy and Roy Smyth won two each besides teaming up to tin the doubles in yet another draw. This week they came unstuck against an OLOP side that included Michael Childs and went down 4-6. Jeremy and Roy both won two each and even managed to take an end from Michael who surely would win most of his games in the second let alone the third!

*Doubles average 43%*

**Tidmarsh 'C'** seem to have settled for a fourth place finish after losing vital games against the top two when star player Dave Reynolds was not available. With Dave they beat bottom side Pangbourne 8-2 with Dave and Dave Sheppard both gaining hat tricks, although Dave S had to work hard by beating Pete Welsh 15-13 in the 5th and Roger Stevens 11-9 in the 5th. At OLOP 'F' Barry Carter was the star by winning all 3 and giving him good support was Dave R who won two and Alison Cheers who picked up a fine single. They then lost 3-7 at home to Curzon 'A' with Barry, Chris Browne and reserve Duncan Groves all winning one each by beating John Walker. They then suffered their heaviest defeat for years when going down 9-1 at Sonning Common & P 'C' with only a doubles win to show for their efforts. Dave R came back to the side against Curzon 'B' and promptly recorded a maximum, which was repeated by Barry who won his 3 straight. Dave S played his part by winning two in their 9-1 win. At Tilehurst Meths they also came away with a 1-9 victory.

Again Dave R and Barry hit trebles with Dave S winning two only losing to Phil.

*Doubles average 81%*

**Berks Sports** have had a poor season by their standards but did beat Pangbourne 2-8 with Nigel Goodman and Paul Scrivener both gaining trebles. For Paul it was his first of the season. Bob Woodmansee gained a single by beating Pete Welsh 11-5 9-11 13-15 6-11. At home to OLOP they crashed to a 1-9 defeat. Dave Chard saved the whitewash by beating Dave Godfrey. They then entertained Sonning 'C' and lost 3-7 Nigel and Paul won one each by beating Mark. In the doubles Nigel and Paul beat Sonnings Nigel and Paul 5-11 11-9 12-10 11-6. This week they beat Curzon 'B' 8-2 thanks to a great treble from Nigel and fine doubles from Bob and Paul. By the way get well soon Dave, I hope they can sort you out quickly.

*Doubles average 43%*

**OLOP 'F'** by winning 4 out of 6 since my previous notes have pulled themselves out of trouble mainly due to the efforts of Colin Byers. At Kingfisher Colin gained a fine maximum against their best side. Dave Holt gave him great backing by winning two besides the two of them winning the doubles to give them a 4-6 win. At home to Tidmarsh Colin won two which included a fine 11-9 11-8 11-7 win over Dave Reynolds, Dave Godfrey won one by beating Alison in their 3-7 defeat. Next game they lost 4-6 to Tilehurst with Colin winning two and Dave and Carol Byers both picking up singles by beating Wendy. At Berks Sports they came away with a 1-9 victory thanks to a great treble from Colin and a double from Dave. Ex Reading champion Michael Childs made his debut and won two out of two - Dave Chard had to concede his game against Michael due to injury. At Pangbourne Colin hit another treble and with Dave winning two and the two of them winning the doubles this gave them a 6-4 win. Their doubles record is very good and has gained them 5 extra points. This week they put the brakes on Sonning Comm P 'D' promotion push by winning 4-6. Michael showed his class by winning all 3 with Colin and Carol picking up vital singles.

*Doubles average 67%*

**Kingfisher 'H'** have had a good run although they lost 4-6 to OLOP in their first game since my previous notes. In that match Richard Andrews won two and Steve Woolnough and Mike Dorrington won one each. Next came a brilliant team performance that saw them beat Sonning 'C' 6-4. Richard and Mike won two each by beating Mark and Simon Blake with Steve also beating Simon plus that important doubles that saw Steve and Mike beat Mark and Nigel 11-1 11-9 11-8. At Curzon 'B' young Richard won all 3 with Steve winning two which helped them gain a draw. At home to Tilehurst Meths Mike Dorrington hit a great maximum by beating Wendy 11-13 14-12 11-7 11-7, Ian 11-6 9-11 12-10 11-9 and Colin 12-10 6-11 9-11 11-8 11-9. Steve and reserve Allan Pack won one each by also bearing Wendy. In the doubles Mike and Steve beat Ian and Colin to give them a 6-4 win. Last night they beat Milestone 2-8 with Richard and Mike both recording maximums, with Stan Smith returning to the side winning one.

*Doubles average 40%*

**Tilehurst Meths 'B'** on their day would be a match for anyone in the division but with their 5 player squad they

have dropped a lot of points. At home to Sonning 'C' they went down 2-8 with Phil Jones and Wendy Porter beating Tim Raby. Next they lost 9-1 at Curzon 'B' with Phil beating me in the opening game. Colin Childs came into the side at OLOP and won all 3 with Ian Cockling winning two and the two of them winning the doubles to give them a 4-6 win. They then gained their best win of the season by beating Milestone 9-1, Colin and Phil both obtained trebles with Ian winning two. At Kingfisher Colin and Ian won two each but sadly for their efforts they lost 6-4. At home to Tidmarsh they crashed to their second 1-9 defeat with Phil Jones beating Dave Sheppard 11-6 7-11 11-6 12-10.  
*Doubles average 40%*

**Milestone 'A'** started the second half of the season by going down 3-7 to Curzon 'A' with John Evans winning two by beating John Willcocks and Nick, Jon Willis winning one by beating Nick. At home to Curzon 'B' they gained two vital points by winning 6-4 with Richard Woolven-Allen, Jon and John all winning two each. At Tilehurst Jon saved the whitewash by beating Ian 7-11 8-11 9-11. In their game against Sonning 'D' it was a great team performance that saw them share the spoils with Jon and John winning two each and Richard gaining that vital single by beating Alan. At home to Kingfisher Jon was not available and as a result they lost 2-8 with John Evans and Richard Highfield picking up the singles.  
*Doubles average 20%*

**Curzon Club 'B'** went 1 up against our 'A' team when I beat Mike but then managed to lose the next 9 games. At Sonning 'D' I was again the only singles winner by beating Alan but sadly the only other victory was in the doubles in our 8-2 defeat. Next came Tilehurst and we recorded our best win for 6 years by winning 9-1. Jim Brent and Geoff Johnson both gained their first trebles of the season and I was the weak link by only winning two! At Milestone we went down 6-4 with Geoff winning two by beating Richard and Jon and I won one by beating John. Geoff and I won the doubles but alas this was not enough. In our vital game against Kingfisher we could only draw with yours truly winning two and only denied a hat trick by losing 13-11 8-11 11-6 4-11 11-13 to Richard. Jim and Geoff both picked up singles and

Geoff and I had a good doubles win over Steve and Richard. Last week we went down at Tidmarsh 9-1 with me winning the one by beating Dave S. Yesterday we lost 2-8 to Berks Sports with Jim beating Bob and Geoff beating Paul, I recorded my first duck of the season.  
*Doubles average 44%*

### LEADING AVERAGES

John Willcocks	Curzon A	35/39	90%
Dave Reynolds	Tidmarsh C	29/33	88%
Colin Childs	Tilehurst Meths B	21/24	88%
Jeremy Willis	Sonning C&P D	34/39	87%
Mick Maynard	Curzon A	31/36	86%
Nigel Maltby	Sonning C&P C	34/42	81%
Roy Smyth	Sonning C&P D	22/30	73%
Nigel Goodman	Berks Sports A	24/33	73%
Jon Willis	Milestone A	28/39	72%
Colin Byers	OLOP F	27/39	69%
Richard Andrews	Kingfisher H	26/39	67%
Barry Carter	Tidmarsh C	21/33	64%
Nick Lean	Curzon A	17/27	63%
Mike Dorrington	Kingfisher H	17/27	63%
Mark Jones	Sonning C&P C	26/42	62%
Paul Jarvis	Sonning C&P C	18/30	60%

Like us **Pangbourne** look destined for the 4th division with only 1 point gained since my previous notes. At Tidmarsh they lost 8-2 with Roger Stevens and Pete Welsh winning the games by beating Alison. At home to Berks Sports they again lost 2-8. This time Roger and Leroy Wilson won the games by beating Bob. Against a weakened Sonning 'D' they gained a fine draw with Leroy and Tommy Johnson winning two each by beating Paul Treadgold and Derek Maltby. The two of them had a great doubles win over Paul and Jeremy 11-6 6-11 9-11 4-11. Last week they went down 4-6 to OLOP 'F' with Roger winning two and Pete and Tom one each. This week they lost 10-0 at Curzon 'A' no further comment regarding who played!  
*Doubles average 47%*

Finally please write to Nigel Maltby with your nominations for the Harold Larcombe Sportsmanship award.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Curzon Club A</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Sonning C&amp;P C</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Sonning C&amp;P D</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Tidmarsh C</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Berks Sports A</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>OLOP F</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Kingfisher H</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Tilehurst Meths B</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Milestone A</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Curzon Club B</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Pangbourne WMC A</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>6</b>

# ***DIVISION FOUR*** by Barry Carter

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of the season. Tidmarsh 'D' look favourites to clinch the championship as they only need six points from their last five matches. Kingfisher 'I' are well positioned as they have opened up a three point gap over their nearest rivals although Sonning Common and Peppard 'E' are coming up on the rails quickly. At the bottom it is looking increasingly bad for OLOP 'H' as they are now six points from safety. The other spot could go to the last week of the season though with only five points separating the next five teams.

**Tidmarsh 'D'** (*Doubles Average : 53%*) have gone undefeated since the last newsletter with three wins and two draws. The two draws have been against Springfield 'A' and Tidmarsh 'F', whilst two of the wins have come against their two nearest rivals Tilehurst Meths 'C' (6-4) and Kingfisher 'I' (7-3). Chris Webb won all three in the match over Tilehurst Meths, which included a tense opener against Nigel Rowland which he won 7-11,11-7,12-10,12-14,11-4. Against Kingfisher 'I' it was Bruce McKenzie's turn to return a maximum which included a great 11-9,11-4,11-9 win over Martyn Reeves. Steve Andrews weighed in with a useful double as he defeated Allen Pack 12-10,11-9,9-11,10-12,11-9. The other win was against Tidmarsh 'E' (7-3) where Steve Andrews continued his great form to record a treble. Pete Sinclair defeated John Harland 11-8,11-3,12-10 to clinch the victory.

**Kingfisher 'I'** (*Doubles Average : 60%*) have won three, drawn one and lost one of their last five matches. The only loss was against the leaders Tidmarsh 'D' where despite two from Martyn Reeves they slipped to a 3-7 defeat. He became only the fifth person to defeat Chris Webb when he won 7-11,11-6,11-9,11-6. The draw was against a Mick Reynolds Sonning C&P 'E' team. Allen Pack won two and he was supported by Ken Robb and Chris Pusey who both defeated Derek Maltby. The wins have been comprehensive with two 9-1 wins and an 8-2 win. The two 9-1 wins were against the two OLOP teams in which Ken Robb and Allen Pack returned maximums in both. In the match against Tilehurst Meths 'C' which looked surprisingly one sided Martyn Reeves, Ken Robb and Allen Pack all beat Nigel Rowland three straight.

**Tilehurst Meths 'C'** (*Doubles Average : 71%*) have slipped in recent weeks with only one win in four matches and that was against Tidmarsh 'F'. Nigel Rowland won all three and was supported by Mal Collis who defeated Bob Griffiths 11-8,10-12,14-12,11-6 and Terry Hardie 14-12,11-7,14-12 and Chris Taylor who overcame Dave Smith 1-7,11-7,11-8. Two of the three defeats have been against the teams above them in the table Kingfisher 'I' (2-8) and Tidmarsh 'D' (4-6). Nigel Rowland suffered a rare blank night in the defeat to Kingfisher 'I' and it was left to Chris Taylor to win the only singles of the night 11-7,11-9,5-11,11-9 against Allen Pack. The doubles was the other win as Nigel and Mal overcame Martyn Reeves and Allen Pack 11-9,11-13,11-8,11-11,8. It wasn't until the last match of the evening that they succumbed to defeat against Tidmarsh 'D', earlier Nigel had won two against Bruce McKenzie and Steve Andrews and Mal had also defeated Steve Andrews in four 11-4,9-11,11-6,11-9.

**Springfield 'A'** (*Doubles Average : 64%*) have won twice and drawn one of their last four matches to lose ground on the leaders. The only win came against a Mick Reynolds-less Sonning C&P 'E' (6-4). Phil Burke had a good evening as he won all three in three straight, it was the crucial game nine match between Des Hele and Paul Treadgold that finally won them the points as he came from two games to one down to win 6-11,11-9,7-11,11-4,14-12. Seth Martin won the only other match 11-8,9-11,11-5,11-13,11-3 against Simon Blake. The draw came against the leaders as they came back from 3-5 to snatch a draw as Phil Burke won 11-2,8-11,9-11,11-2,11-8 against Chris Webb and then Seth Martin defeated Steve Andrews 11-9,12-10,11-7 to clinch a point. The other win came against Polish 'C' (6-4) with the high-

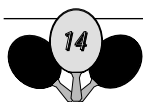
light Phil Burke's defeat of Jacek Werner 11-3,13-11,11-6. The only defeat came surprisingly against OLOP 'G' where they were beaten 7-3. Phil and Seth Martin won one each.

**Sonning Common and Peppard 'E'** (*Doubles Average : 56%*) are the form team at the moment with four wins, one draw and one defeat in the last six matches. It will depend on how many matches Mick Reynolds plays if they are to gain promotion. He has played in all the wins but missed the loss to Springfield 'A' where despite two from Graeme Streets they slipped to a 4-6 defeat. The draw came against Kingfisher 'I' where Paul Treadgold added two to Mick's customary three to earn a point, he had good wins over Chris Pusey 13-11,10-12,11-5,12-10 and Ken Robb 8-11,14-12,9-11,11-5,11-6. The four wins have been against Birch Copse 'A' (9-1) Derek Maltby beat Duncan Abbott 11-5,11-6,11-7 and Pete Sheppard 11-6,15-13,6-11,11-7. Tidmarsh 'E' gave them a fright but Sonning eventually ran out 6-4 winners. The other wins were an 8-2 victory over Tilehurst Meths 'C' where Simon Blake won two against Mal Collis and Chris Taylor and Polish 'C' where Graeme Streets added two to Mick's maximum to record a 7-3 victory.

**Polish 'C'** (*Doubles Average : 53%*) are the most inconsistent team at the moment with three wins and three losses from their last six matches. The three wins were against OLOP 'G' (8-2), OLOP 'H' (9-1) and Tidmarsh 'F' (6-4). The trio of Krzysztof Duma, Jacek Werner and Bob Walker all returned maximums in the win over OLOP 'H' although Bernie Schug made them all work for the victories over him. Richard Kasperczyk joined forces with Bob Walker in the doubles but they narrowly lost 11-5,7-11,11-8,8-11,9-11. Krzysztof Milerski played in the win over OLOP 'G' and was promptly man of the match as he won all three against the spirited Michael Gu, Alex Fear and Raju Rajuldevi. The other victory over Tidmarsh 'F' was a hard fought affair but three from Jacek Werner which incorporated the match winning game ten victory over Mick Osborne 11-7,3-11,11-7,14-12. The three losses were to Sonning C&P 'E' (3-7), Springfield 'A' (4-6) and Birch Copse 'A' (3-7). In the defeat to Birch Copse 'A' Bob Walker played some great table tennis and his hitting was very consistent but he was only rewarded with one victory and that was against Duncan Abbott 7-11,13-15,13-11,11-8,11-8. Jacek Werner won two games in the Springfield and Sonning C&P matches but couldn't prevent them from losses in both.

**Birch Copse 'A'** (*Doubles Average : 53%*) are having a good first season back in division four but are still in need of a few more points to guarantee safety. The period since Christmas has been productive with three wins, a draw and only one loss. The best win of the season so far came in the 9-1 romp against OLOP 'G', a game in which Duncan Abbott produced his first treble of the season. The wins were against Fitzroy Licorish 11-9,11-7,11-8; Paul Manners-Smith 11-9,11-4,11-6 and Alex fear 11-4,11-7,8-11,11-7. This match also saw Terry Spice return home with a maximum. The next win was against Tidmarsh 'F' where it was Terry Spice's turn to win a maximum and also where Roy Hull returned to the his previous club and won two against Dave Smith and Mick Osborne to show them what they were missing in the 7-3 win. The other victory was the 7-3 win against Polish 'C' where a good team effort from Duncan, Roy and Pete Sheppard where they all won two each. Duncan and Pete teamed up for the first time in the doubles to record an emphatic victory 11-8,11-9,11-8 over Krzysztof Duma and Bob Walker. They struggled to a draw against OLOP 'H' as they battled back from 3-5 thanks to wins by Duncan over Bernie Schug 11-5,10-12,7-11,13-11,13-11 and Terry Spice over Darius Weithers 12-10,11-3,12-10. Their only loss wasn't totally unexpected once they saw Mick Reynolds name on the scorecard and they duly ended up on the end of a 9-1 thrashing. The only victor on the night was Terry who overcame Derek Maltby 11-6,10-12,11-4,11-8.

**Tidmarsh 'F'** (*Doubles Average : 46%*) are going through a similar lean spell to Reading FC (sorry Terry, but ever since



you lost 4-1 to the mighty Wolves it's been downhill all the way!). They have only won once since Christmas and need to pick up a few more points if they are to survive. The win came away to OLOP 'H' where Bob Griffiths, Mick Osborne and Dave Smith all won two in a 7-3 win. Both Mick and Dave had titanic battles with Bernie Schug but ran out victors in five. The two draws have been in the two derby matches with the 'D' and 'E' teams. Against the leaders Dave was the star man winning two against Pete Sinclair 7-11,12-10,8-11,12-10,11-7 and Bruce McKenzie 11-7,9-11,4-11,11-4,11-9, he was supported by one each from Terry and Mick. In the 'E' team clash they came from 3-5 down to claim a point thanks to Terry's 11-6,11-8,11-5 win over Dave Edwards and Bob's 7-11,11-7,11-6,7-11,11-4 win over Mike Bundy. The defeats have been to Birch Copse 'A' (3-7), Tilehurst Meths 'C' (4-6) and Polish 'C' (4-6). Bob and Dave won one each in the defeat to Birch Copse. In the defeat to Polish six of the games went to five but the 'F' team only won three of them and that made all the difference. Mick had a good 11-6,11-5,10-12,6-11,11-9 win over Bob Walker.

**OLOP 'G' (Doubles Average : 29%)** have only one win to show for all their efforts and are now only one point above the relegation zone. The only win came against promotion chasing Springfield 'A'. Raju Rajuladevi and Ingpoh Hii both won three in impressive style to guide the 'G' team to their best win of the season. Team selection from a squad the size of Chelsea's will prove important if they are to beat the drop. Their next match will go a long way to deciding their fate as it is against Tidmarsh 'F' the team just above them in the table. The defeats have come against Tidmarsh 'E' (2-8) Michael Gu took Dave Edwards all the way before losing 13-11 in the fifth. Raju was the only winner on the night with a good double. Captain Alex Fear recorded a good 2-11,11-5,4-11,13-11,11-7 win over Chris Pusey of Kingfisher 'I' in the 1-9 defeat to them. Raju and Alex both won one each but the slipped to an 8-2 defeat against a full strength Polish 'C' team. Paul Manners-Smith was the most successful player in the 9-1 defeat to Birch Copse 'A' as he won 11-8,11-8,11-4 against Pete Sheppard.

**Tidmarsh 'E' (Doubles Average : 46%)** have played only four matches since Christmas and have won only once and that was an 8-2 victory over OLOP 'G'. Mike Bundy had a fine evening as he won all three. The match against Raju Rajuladevi was tight to say the least and he finally ran out the winner 15-13,10-12,11-7,9-11,14-12. John Harland and Dave Edwards also chipped in with two wins each, they both defeated Steven Purchase and Michael Gu. They

## LEADING AVERAGES

Mick Reynolds	Sonning C&P 'E'	30	30	100%
Chris Webb	Tidmarsh 'D'	42	37	88%
Phil Burke	Springfield 'A'	27	23	85%
Jacek Werner	Polish 'C'	33	28	85%
Nigel Rowland	Tilehurst Meths 'C'	42	33	79%
Allen Pack	Kingfisher 'I'	42	31	74%
Ken Robb	Kingfisher 'I'	30	21	70%
Bruce McKenzie	Tidmarsh 'D'	33	23	70%
Des Hele	Springfield 'A'	30	20	67%

drew the derby with the 'F' team only after surrendering a 5-3 lead. Francois Durand was the man of the match as he won all three although he was made to sweat by Bob Griffiths and Terry Hardie as they both took him to five. The two losses were to the leaders Tidmarsh 'D' (3-7) where Bob Sunerton playing up won one against Pete Sinclair 9-11,12-10,11-8,11-8 and Dave Edwards who won 11-13,11-7,10-12,11-6,11-4 also against Pete. Francois led the way with two against Sonning C&P 'E' but it wasn't enough to prevent defeat as they were eventually beaten 6-4.

**OLOP 'H' (Doubles Average : 15%)** look down and out as a result of a poor run of only one point out of eight. The only point came against Birch Copse 'A'. Osiri Weithers produced his best form of the season as he defeated the trio of Duncan Abbott, Terry Spice and Roy Hull. Darius Weithers added the other two to claim an impressive point. The other three games have been slightly one sided with heavy 9-1 defeats to both Kingfisher 'I' and Polish 'C'. Bernie Schug was the only victor as he beat Martyn Reeves (Kingfisher) 11-7,5-11,11-6,11-3 although Darius was close to adding to that against Allen Pack. The doubles pairing of Darius and Bernie was their only success against Polish 'C' although Hessel Williams did well to take an end off Bob Walker. Jez Beskin did well to defeat Dave Smith 11-9,11-5,11-1 in the 7-3 defeat to Tidmarsh 'F'.

Hopefully this report has made up for the shortness of my previous effort just before Christmas.

Can I just remind team captains to play any outstanding fixtures promptly as there is a potential for play offs at the bottom end of the table. The fixtures outstanding are as follows: OLOP 'H' v Tidmarsh 'E', Springfield 'A' v OLOP 'H', OLOP 'G' v Polish 'C' and OLOP 'H' v OLOP 'G'.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Tidmarsh 'D'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Kingfisher 'I'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Tilehurst Meths 'C'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Springfield 'A'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Sonning C&amp;P 'E'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Polish 'C'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Birch Copse 'A'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Tidmarsh 'F'</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>OLOP 'G'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Tidmarsh 'E'</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>OLOP 'H'</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>4</b>

# DIVISION FIVE *by John Sant*

Milestone 'B' would appear to have the Division 5 title comfortably in their grasp. They are unbeaten in the last 15 matches in which they have been able to field the same team of Gerard Thorp, Sam Stevens and John Crosfield. The second spot seems to be between Tilehurst Methodists 'D' and Springfield 'B', although the Methodists have been dealt a severe blow to their prospects with John Freeman out for the rest of the season. He has a medical problem which requires surgery and hospitalisation. I am sure that everyone associated with table tennis, not only in Reading and District but in a much wider field will wish John well. In the relegation issue, Sonning C & P 'G' appear to be doomed with the other place being between OLOP 'J', Kingfisher 'J' and Reading Resource.

**LONGFIELD 'B'** will find it much harder now that Ken Park has re-registered for the 'A' team. Heavy defeats at the hands of Milestone 'B' and Springfield 'B' together with loss of points to Tilehurst Meths 'D' and Curzon Club 'C' have seen them slip away from the promotion race. John Beardmore had fine maximums against Kingfisher 'J' and Curzon Club 'C' and a splendid win against John Burke of Springfield 'B' (11-2 11-7 9-11 11-7).

Doubles Average: 53%

**TIDMARSH 'G'** are still heavily dependent on Duncan Groves who remains unbeaten. His maximum and a successful doubles partnership enabled Tidmarsh to take a point off high flying Milestone 'B'. However, without Duncan they unexpectedly crashed 2-8 to Kingfisher 'J'. A draw with Tilehurst Meths 'D' and wins over Springfield 'B', Curzon Club 'C' and OLOP 'J' leave Tidmarsh handily placed in 4th position. Dave Humphrey had a very special match at Curzon Club, scoring a creditable maximum to support Duncan.

Doubles Average: 71%

**READING RESOURCE:** Neil Havard continues to score heavily for Resource, only dropping matches to Sam Stevens and John Burke in the period. Apart from solitary appearances by Chris Bartram and Roy Allen, the supporting cast has not been of the same quality. As a result only two matches have been won and four defeats suffered since the last Newsletter, leaving them dangerously close to the drop zone.

Doubles Average: 24%

**SPENCERS WOOD** have had very variable results in this period with wins against Kingfisher 'J' (7-3), Curzon Club 'B' (6-4) and defeats by Milestone 'B' (4-6), OLOP 'I' (2-8), Springfield 'B' (3-7) and OLOP 'J' (2-8). They lost at Milestone by the narrowest of margins despite the absence of Martin Wetherell, thanks to a superb maximum from Alan Clarke who beat Gerard Thorp (3-1), Sam Stevens (3-1) and John Crosfield (3-0). It is a pity that Martin and Alan don't play together regularly, because in combination they rarely lose.

Doubles Average: 59%

**SONNING C & P 'G'** are propping up the table and appear doomed with six consecutive defeats since the last Newsletter. Their best effort was in the 4-6 defeat at OLOP 'J' when the 2-man team of Ian Ayres and Jim McClure scored two wins each.

Doubles Average: 47%

**OLOP 'I'** are the form team of the second half of the season. Only a 4-6 defeat at Tidmarsh 'G' spoiled a perfect record in the period with wins against Curzon Club 'C' (9-1), OLOP 'J' (7-3), Sonning C & P 'G' (10-0), Spencers Wood (8-2) and Resource (6-4). These results have come about as a result of the superb form of Iain Greenwood and Hii Ing Poh with tremendous support from the rapidly improving 12 year-old, Michael Gu, who scored a great maximum at Sonning and a double at Spencers Wood. Although it is probably too late to take any honours this season, this team, if playing together next season will be a formidable combination.

Doubles Average: 50%

**CURZON CLUB 'C'** are lying comfortably in mid-table after winning two, losing three and drawing one recently. Linda King continues to lead her team with very consistent performances and Rod Clarke, Tracy Maynard and Mike Gillard generally give her solid support. The best individual performance was Rod Clarke's win over Alan Clarke of Spencers Wood (11-6 14-12 11-4)

Doubles Average: 31%

## LEADING AVERAGES

Duncan Groves	(Tidmarsh 'G')	39/39	100		
Neil Havard	(Reading Resource)	42/47	89		
Sam Stevens	(Milestone 'B')	38/47	81		
Martin Wetherell	(Spencers Wood)	36/45	80		
John Freeman	(Tilehurst Meths 'D')	37/47	79		
John Burke	(Springfield 'B')	32/41	78		
Iain Greenwood	(OLOP 'I')	33/43	77		
John Crosfield	(Milestone 'B')	36/47	77		
Alan Clarke	(Spencers Wood)	22/30	73		
John Beardmore	(Longfield 'B')	29/41	71		
David Jones	(Tilehurst Meths 'D')	28/41	68		
Jack Ridley	(Kingfisher 'J')	24/36	67		

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>MILESTONE 'B'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>TILEHURST METHS 'D'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>SPRINGFIELD 'B'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>TIDMARSH 'G'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>LONGFIELD 'B'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>OLOP 'I'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CURZON CLUB 'C'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>SPENCERS WOOD</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>READING RESOURCE</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>KINGFISHER 'J'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>OLOP 'J'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>SONNING C &amp; P 'G'</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>5</b>

**SPRINGFIELD 'B'** have maintained their challenge for promotion with five wins and only a defeat at Tidmarsh (4-6) to spoil their recent record. John Burke, Ian Boaden, Martin Hynes and Mo Wills have put in some splendid team performances. The most recent win against close rivals, Tilehurst Meths 'D', featured a fine maximum by Martin to secure two valuable points. Another impressive win was against the strongest Spencers Wood combination with John, Martin and Ian each winning twice.

Doubles Average: 65%

**KINGFISHER 'J'** are a team whose performances fall well short of the apparent potential of the squad. They have been sucked into the relegation battle because they have secured only one win and lost five in the last six matches. Jack Ridley has had some fine performances including a maximum against Tidmarsh 'G' and Sylvia Bruton is as difficult to beat as ever, but more consistency is required from the supporting cast.

Doubles Average: 35%

**MILESTONE 'B'** are without doubt the potential champions, being three points clear of the field. Able to put out an unchanged team in the last fifteen matches they have only conceded points in draws with Longfield 'B', Tilehurst Meths 'D' and Tidmarsh 'G'.

Sam Stevens recorded a notable victory over Neil Havard (11-9 13-11 10-12 14-12).

Doubles Average: 65%

**TILEHURST METHODISTS 'D'** will be without John Freeman for the rest of the season and will there-

fore struggle to maintain their position in the runners-up spot. John has played superbly all season, generally in extreme discomfort. Catherine Venning has been in superb form lately and amongst her recent victims have been John Burke, Sam Stevens, Richard Hudson and Gerard Thorp. Dave Jones has been very consistent as usual with four trebles and eight doubles during the season. Doubles Average: 65%

**OLOP 'J'**: Steve Purchase has struggled manfully for his side despite having to field weakened teams for much of the season. However, they have collected their first two wins, Sonning C & P 'G' (6-4) and Spencers Wood (8-2) when Steve and Phil Mannion were able to join forces. If Steve and Phil play together more they should escape the drop.

Doubles Average: 29%

#### **BEST PERFORMANCE OF THE PERIOD**

There have been several notable performances but I would opt for 12 year-old Michael Gu's maximum against Sonning C & P 'G', v Phil Turton (13-11 11-3 11-8), v Jim McClure (9-11 9-11 11-9 11-7 11-8) and v Warrick Mayes (8-11 12-10 13-11 11-4)

#### **CLOSEST MATCH OF THE PERIOD**

Alan Clarke (Spencers Wood) v Ian Boaden (Springfield 'B')  
(8-11 11-3 9-11 12-10 15-13)

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# DIVISION SIX *by John Harris*

With five weeks of the season remaining the positions at the top of the table are still to be finally resolved. Although it would appear that St Laurence will claim the top spot, Sonning Common 'H' and Post Office are continuing to fight for second place – even though the odds are in favour of the Sonning team at present.

There are some postponed matches yet to be rearranged; can I ask team captains to finalise dates for these as soon as possible, please. I have had to impose a number of fines this season; late score cards and teams playing with two players only are the common offences.

## Berks Sports 'B'

John's team seems to be firmly fixed in one of the mid-table positions. Since Christmas they have won two matches and drawn another, which has resulted in a move of one place up the table. Richard Vose continues to have the highest average for the team with John being just below the 67% borderline.

Doubles record:- 5 from 14.

## Springfield 'D'

Colin Jones' team has had a torrid time so far in 2005. Not only have they not picked up a single point in their last five matches, but they were also heavily defeated in three of these. They lost by 8-2 to both St Laurence and Springfield 'C', while Sonning 'H' won by a margin of 9-1 with Chris Whittington winning the one game. Nigel Outhwaite holds his place in the list of leading averages, but it appears that his team mates are struggling at present.

Doubles record:- 8 from 15.

## Post Office 'C'

Had I written this report last week I would have been suggesting Post Office to be favourites to

gain the runners-up position at the end of the season. Having lost their first four matches of the season they then proceeded to win the next nine, including a 6-4 victory over Sonning 'H'. However, having put themselves into a strong position they then – in their eyes, I am sure – threw it away by dropping a point to Sonning 'I'. Admittedly, they had to contend with Ian Ayres, who is in sparkling form, but, nonetheless, Barbara's team would have expected to have gained two points from this match.

Doubles record:- 7 from 14.

## BBC Club

The BBC team have had a disappointing start to the New Year. They have been defeated in all four of their matches since the previous Newsletter and have slipped three places down the table.

Mojaba Safavi, Robina Hacker and John Scott seem perfectly capable of winning games, but their team mates are clearly struggling to find form at the moment. Perhaps, with forthcoming fixtures against one or two of the supposedly weaker teams, the BBC team will begin to climb back up the table.

Doubles record:- 6 from 14.

## Sonning C + P 'I'

Since the last Newsletter Warrick Mayes' team have averaged a point per game. They have beaten OLOP and BBC Club, drawn with Post Office and lost only narrowly to Sonning 'H' and Birch Copse. Ian Ayres is clearly the strength of the team and, when he plays, Sonning 'I' are usually assured of three games! Ian has lost two games this season so far, both to the St Laurence team. It is interesting to note that of the nine defeats this season, seven have been only by a margin of 6-4. Doubles record:- 3 from 15.

## Sonning C + P 'H'

Although Sonning 'H' remain at the top of the table, it is clear that this will not be their end of season placing – provided, of course, that St Laurence complete their fixture list! However, until two weeks ago it did seem reasonably certain that my team would finish as runners-up. Then came the defeat by Post Office, which opened up the promotion race again; assuming that Barbara's team could win the two games in hand, Sonning were only four points clear – which could easily change. Post Office then play Sonning 'I' and, would you believe it, drop a point, while Sonning 'H' hammer Springfield 'D' 9-1. The gap is now back to nine points with Post Office having played two games fewer. Sonning's strength is consistency with all players capable of winning

### LEADING AVERAGES

			%
C. West	St Laurence	38/38	100%
B. Clowney	St Laurence	23/23	100%
D. West	St Laurence	20/21	95%
I. Ayres	Sonning C + P 'I'	39/41	95%
J. Harris	Sonning C + P 'H'	28/33	85%
L. Davis	Post Office 'C'	31/39	79%
M. Faulkner	Sonning C + P 'H'	21/27	78%
R. Morrell	Springfield 'C'	30/39	77%
M. Casserley	Sonning C + P 'H'	22/30	73%
K. Sherry	Birch Copse 'B'	26/36	72%
N. Outhwaite	Springfield 'D'	23/33	70%
R. Vose	Berks Sports 'B'	24/36	67%
M. Safavi	BBC Club	18/27	67%

games, even though none are of outstanding ability.

Doubles record:- 14 from 16.

#### Birch Copse 'B'

Mary Joyce's team have won four and lost two of their matches since the previous Newsletter and remain in fourth position. The defeats were, some would say predictably and according to the form book, at the hands of Sonning 'H' and Post Office. Ken Sherry, Sean Murphy and Chas Dean form the backbone of the team and are all capable of winning games, although they do seem to trip up when playing the top of the table teams.

Doubles record:- 9 from 15.

#### Springfield 'C'

Gerald Higgs' team have picked up six points from the six matches since Christmas and remain in fifth position. The team appears to suffer from inconsistency; for example, the team has lost to Post Office (no surprise here!) and Berks Sports, drawn with Sonning 'I', BBC and Pangbourne and beaten BBC and, local rivals, Springfield 'D'. Clearly, when Gerald fields the strongest possible team, they are capable of defeating just about every team in the division. They have yet to play Sonning 'H' and the outcome of this fixture could well decide the runners-up position.

Doubles record:- 7 from 15.

#### St Laurence Church

St Laurence are, without doubt, the strongest team in the division and will, provided that Ben can re-arrange the outstanding fixtures, finish the season as champions. Ben, Chris and Dan are the most gifted players I have seen in this division for a long time – apart from the talents which were on

display from the Reading Resource team last season. Ben, I know that you have a problem with venues but please arrange dates for the postponed games and please ensure that you play three players in each match.

Doubles record:- 13 from 14.

#### Pangbourne WMC 'B'

After a somewhat poor start to the season, Pangbourne have started to play much better and have hauled themselves into a mid-table position. Since the New Year they have beaten Springfield 'D' and OLOP and gained a well-earned point in the match with Springfield 'C'. Colin Thomas' team could well have a part to play in the promotion race as they have yet to play both Sonning 'H' and Post Office. John Taylor seems to be the most consistent performer, with Colin and John Careless both capable of providing support. If Geoff Chivers could play more often, team success would, I am sure, come more regularly.

Doubles record:- 7 from 15.

#### OLOP 'K'

Joe Rassool's team are clearly struggling to achieve any kind of success. A draw against Berks Sports has given them their only point since Christmas, although I would like to point out that the matches against Pangbourne and the two Sonning teams were fairly close even though all three ended in defeat for Joe's team. I understand how difficult it can be to turn out week after week when you know that the result will almost certainly will be a defeat – I've been there in Division 5 in previous seasons – but we do all enjoy playing against you.

Doubles record:- 2 from 14.

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>Sonning C + P 'H'</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>St. Laurence</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Post Office 'C'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Birch Copse 'B'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Springfield 'C'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Berks Sports 'B'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Pangbourne 'B'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sonning C + P 'I'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>BBC Club</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Springfield 'D'</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>OLOP 'K'</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>4</b>

# ***YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND-UP*** by John Cunningham

## ***Juniors Reach Carter Cup National Finals***

Reading Juniors and Cadet Girls teams have both reached the National Finals of the Carter cup, while the Cadet Boys team have one more qualifying round to win to reach the same stage.

Under the management of Mick Maynard, the team first won through their Zone One matches, played at Kingfisher Club. They followed this up on January 23rd by winning through against Sutton and Crawley/Horsham (held at Sutton) to go forward to the National Finals.

The team is represented by Abhay Gehlot, Ben Davis and Tom Maynard who have all played their part in getting this far.

Their Zone One matches were against strong teams from Slough, Plymouth and Guildford and, although they lost narrowly to Slough, good wins against Plymouth and Guildford, in which Abhay won all of his matches, were enough to move forward. Slough also moved forward to different Zone Two opponents and Mick Maynard is confident that, should they meet Slough again in the finals, his squad can reverse this 5-2 defeat.

Reading Junior coordinator, John Cunningham would like to thank the Kingfisher Club for hosting the Zone One matches.

*For weekly updates and reports on RDTTA matches, see the*

**EVENING POST**

*every Wednesday  
or the*

**READING  
CHRONICLE**

*on a Thursday.*

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# BLACK TONE SAMPLES

