

# **KINGFISHER TABLE TENNIS CLUB**

**BRITISH LEAGUE 2009 – 2010**

**DIVISION 1 SOUTH AND MIDLANDS**

by Colin Dyke Team Manager

## **A DAY-THREE DUCK FOR KINGFISHER**

Kingfisher were without Tom Maynard for the second British league weekend at Crippenham TT Centre. Tom was called up by his Belgian club whose fixtures unfortunately clashed on this occasion. We however welcomed another newcomer to our team, Aled Howell from Llanelli in South Wales for the weekend's matches and he turned out to be the star of the weekend. But no matter how well he performed on the Saturday he couldn't prevent the team going down in both matches to the two teams at the foot of the table. Tom's absence meant that our players had to play up one position giving them tougher matches.

### **DAY 3 – 10<sup>th</sup> October – Not a good start**

#### **OLOP Impact I 6 Kingfisher 2**

We almost got off to a sensational start when captain Mark Banks took the first against Dave Barr (England ranked 57). Dave took the second but when Mark led 9-7 in the third it looked as though an upset might ensue. Unfortunately a thin edge and an unreturnable net levelled the scores and Dave took the next two points. Whilst Mark hung on bravely in the fourth Dave took it at 11-9 and we were 1-0 down. Lloyd then lost some close games with Neil Wright and Aled lost his only set of the weekend going down to his weekly practise partner, Stephen Gertson, in three straight games. Three more losses and at 6-0 down there was only pride to play for. And what a magnificent match we witnessed. Andy Smith (ranked 445) against Neil Wright (ranked 86). Neil won the first two games easily and went 10-6 up in the third. Andy hung on by his fingernails and pulled it back. In fact he played better and better until he clichéd the match at 11-6 in the fifth. A career best win which got him man of the match award. Aled then showed his class by beating Hari Gehlot in four games to make the match score a little more respectable.

Match details:

Mark Banks lost to Dave Barr 5 -5 -9 -9  
Lloyd Gregory lost to Neil Wright -6 -10 4 -9  
Aled Howell lost to Stephen Gertson -7 -7 -9  
Andrew Smith lost to Hari Gehlot -2 -3 -6  
Lloyd Gregory lost to Dave Barr -5 6 -2 -6  
Mark Banks lost to Stephen Gertson -10 -7 -2  
Andrew Smith beat Neil Wright -8 -4 12 9 6  
Aled Howell beat Hari Gehlot -9 9 7 8

Man of the match Andrew Smith

#### **Kingfisher 3 Brighton City 5**

This was a match we felt we could win but, to be fair, their league position belied their strength. Mark had a titanic struggle with Alex Ioannou just losing out 7 in the fifth after being 2-1 up and 6-2 up in the fifth. He missed an easy smash and then could gather only one more point as Alex turned up the pressure. Aled picked up two nice wins whilst Andrew also beat their No 4 but it was not quite enough to sneak a point.

Match details:

Lloyd Gregory lost to Cedric Scrivani -3 -8 -11  
Mark Banks lost to Alex Ioannou -4 6 7 -6 -7  
Andrew Smith beat Tim Holtam -7 5 -11 7 7

Aled Howell beat Marc Burman 11 3 -8 8  
Lloyd Gregory lost to Alex Ioannou -7 -6 -14  
Andrew Smith lost to Cedric Scriverani -8 -7 -8  
Mark Banks lost to Marc Burman -8 -8 12 -6  
Aled Howell beat Tim Holtam 7 3 5

Man of the match Cedric Scriverani