

## Week Commencing 7<sup>th</sup> April 2003

The three top teams in Division 1 are still locked in battle but the tide could be turning towards Whitnash. Defending champions have picked up three wins in their last three matches but it may not be enough. First they defeated Wellesbourne 6-4, with Mark Jackson and Phil Paine taking two each and the doubles and Clive Irwin cementing the win with a single. Wellesbourne's Andy Cockerill and Pete Dunnnett both kept braces in reply. Then Council did better against St. Georges A, succeeding 7-3 thanks to Mark Jackson taking a hat-trick, Phil Paine and Clive Irwin two each. Mike Bishop and Earl Sweeney gave the Saints one each and the doubles. Finally the Council trio of Jackson, Paine and Irwin cruised to 10-0 victory over AP Sports A.

This puts Council on 154 points from 19 matches. Whitnash A are not far away. Current results put 'Nash on 150 points from one less match with an easier run in to go.

First Whitnash picked up their first loss this season when they slipped 6-4 to third placed Colebridge A. Jon Williams and Mark Woolerton kept two each for Whitnash but none could stop Colebridge's Wazeem Shahzad who took his three and the doubles with Graham Hoskin who added a single as did crucially John Chandler 12/10 in the fifth. Then Whitnash A squashed Wellesbourne 9-1 with Jon Williams and Mark Woolerton unbeaten in singles and doubles and Ian Perry adding a brace. 'Bourne's Andy Cockerill stopped the whitewash.

Colebridge B picked up two victories. First they defeated Blessed George Napier A 9-1, with three points picked up for free as BGN were one short. Neil Wheatley and John Taylor took two each, Michael Rinnhofer one and the doubles went to Rinnhofer and Wheatley whilst Paul Rowan kept one for BGN's pride. Then Rinnhofer, Wheatley and Taylor cruised to a 10-0 whitewash of Phoenix A.

Phoenix also lost out to Nuneaton Bucks. Alan Hewitt and Dave Grundy took their two for Nuneaton and Neil Matthams one, while Phoenix's Martin Tallis held one point only. Phoenix only had two players and failed to play the doubles so forfeited 4 points to Nuneaton and the score-line was therefore 9-1.

St. Georges A gained an 8-2 result over relegation doomed County Council B. Mike Bishop took his singles and the doubles with Martyn Todd, who picked up a brace as did Bert Banks. Derek Harwood played well to keep two for Council B.

St. Georges B look unassailable to pick up promotion from Division 2. They were relegated last season and were determined to return to the top flight. Their latest result shows them defeating Whitnash B 7-3 led by a treble from Rob Bennett and braces from Tracey Fletcher and Alf Chapman. Paul Riman kept two singles and the doubles with Dennis Woodhead for 'Nash.

Free Church A chose to move to div 2 at the start of this season as they thought their side was too weak for Div 1 standards - but they also look set for promotion and so will have a chance to prove themselves next season. Hugh Matthews and Les Booth were unstoppable in singles and doubles for Church and John Taylor added a brace for a 9-1 result. Chris Atkins consoled opponents Eathorpe A with a single.

This is Eathorpe's first season in Div 2 and they hope to remain there. RNA A lie in third place and keep their position with a 7-3 score over struggling RNA D. Ken Southwell and Tony Thomas took hat-tricks for the A crew, and Ian Stevens supported them with a single. D's Steve Kurle and Pam Beedham kept one single each and Steve Shaw partnered Richard Lancucki successfully for the doubles.

Marconi A edged past RNA C 6-4 with three, two, one respectively from Dennis Mockford, Roy Joiner and Gordon Tucker. Naval crew Graham Heath, Andy Davies and Daryl Burgess all took one single and Heath and Davies added the doubles. Another 6-4 saw Free Church B just in front of AP Sports B. Tom Brocklehurst gained an excellent treble and the doubles with Cherry Matthews, who added a single as did Ian Rourke to give Church the victory. Eddie Stafford and Tony Williams kept two each for AP.

AP Sports B and RNA B are both at the bottom of the division and so it perhaps was fitting that their match should end with a 5-5 draw. Eddie Stafford and Gerald Taylor picked up two each and the doubles for AP whilst Duncan Hall kept his three for the navy, Richard Miles and Tony Bennett one each.