

## Week Commencing 14<sup>th</sup> April 2003

Marconi only joined the Leamington League in 2001 and have not looked back. First they entered one team in Division 3 - and promptly won it with 20 wins from 20 outings. That was last year and so with Marconi's first team promoted to Div 2 they decided to have another crack at the div 3 title with a B side this season and so far they are unbeaten. With two more results in, Marconi B have 16 wins and a draw from 17 matches with 3 results to come - and they lead the pack with 128 points.

Marconi first picked up a 7-3 over Free Church D and then squashed Standard Photographic A 10-0. Against Church, Marconi's Steve Smith and Stan Render took trebles and Geoff Taylor a single whilst Ron Stanbridge and Mike Skidmore held one each and the doubles for the D's. Against Photographic, Steve Smith, Stan Render and Geoff Taylor were the Marconi's again on form though the match was not as one sided as the score suggests.

FISSC A currently lie in second place but the latest results finish their season with 123 points whilst other teams on their heels have matches in hand. First the Farmers picked up a 7-3 score over County Council C with braces from George Mudie, John Hunt and Mark Kingham plus the doubles from Mudie and Hunt. Doug Lowe kept his three for Council. Then they drew 5-5 with Free Church D with George Mudie taking the maximum, his three singles and the doubles with John Hunt, who also took the other single. Mike Skidmore and Barry Hobbins took two each and Graham Cooper the crucial one to give Church the draw.

Two more wins for Ashorne place them on 120 points, with one match left and so the likelihood of finishing above FISSC. First Ashorne edged past strong contender Blessed George Napier B 6-4 thanks to braces and the doubles from Simon Chalker and Roger Kelley plus crucially one by Chris Bowles. Janice Rowan took her three for BGN and son Daniel one.

Then Ashorne went two steps further against Myton A to win 8-2 led by a hat-trick from Simon Chalker, playing in his best form of the season, braces from Roger Kelley and Steve Bolton who has steadily improved recently plus the doubles went to Chalker and Kelley. Jim Quinn held onto two for Myton.

BGN B are also in the running to finish in the top three. A recent win over Eathorpe B 8-2 and a 5-5 draw with RNA E place them on 117 points from 18 matches and therefore two matches still to score. Against Eathorpe Janice and Daniel Rowan took three each and Michael Rowan added a brace. Ron Coats held onto one single for 'Thorpe's reply as well as the doubles. In the naval battle, BGN's Janice and Michael Rowan took two each and Michael the crucial single whilst RNA's Steve Proctor could not be stopped in singles or the doubles with Roy Weakes who also took a single.

County Council C played Eathorpe B and were held to a 5-5 draw. Tony Ford played his usual role for Council, winning his three singles and the doubles this time with Andy Woodfield while Pat Woolvin took a single. Eathorpe had been 5-2 up but could not gain the win. Michael Rossington and Ron Coats both took two for 'Thorpe, Calvin Woodings one. Even less luck for Eathorpe B in their match against Myton A which finished 6-4 to Myton, though with 5 games finishing on deuce the score could have been very different. Michael Rossington, Calvin Woodings and Ron Coats all held onto one for Eathorpe and Rossington and Woodings the doubles. However Myton's Jonny White and Paul Deavall were both undefeated in singles.

Two other close results for Myton A who drew 5-5 with Free Church D and squeezed past AP Sports C 6-4. Against Church Jim Quinn took his three and was supported with one each from Paul Deavall and Ray White. Ron Stanbridge gave Church a brace, Barry Hobbins and Graham Cooper one each

and critically the doubles went to Hobbins and Stanbridge. In the AP match, Jonny White took a treble, father Ray a brace and the doubles together to give Myton the victory. Carol Meredith kept two for AP, Ros and Charlotte Freeman one each.

AP Sports C also lost out to Free Church D 6-4 - and then went down 8-2 to Church in the reverse fixture six days later. First time round Richard Grover took his three for AP and the doubles with Ros Freeman but Ron Stanbridge, Graham Cooper and Barry Hobbins all took two each for Church's result. Next time around Richard Grover could only give AP one single but so could Charlotte Freeman. Church's Ron Stanbridge led his squad with a treble and the doubles with Mike Skidmore who added a brace as did Graham Cooper.

RNA E had it fairly easy to pick up an 8-2 win over Standard Photographic A as Photo were a player short. Jim Thomas took his two for the naval crew, Wilf Harris and Ken Hassall one each and the doubles were won by Jim Thomas and Wilf Harris. Photo's Brendan Leahy held onto two.

### Representative matches

Mixed results for Leamington Veteran A team in division 1 of the Midland League. First they lost 8-2 disappointingly in a close game away to Nottingham. Phil Paine held onto two of his games. This result puts paid to Spa's chances of coming second in the division. But it was the reverse when they travelled to Cheltenham where they won against Cheltenham B 8-2! In a real marathon match lasting 4 hours in a tough struggle with 5 games won or lost late in the fifth, Phil Paine took his three, Graham Hoskin and Allan Stockham two each and Paine and Hoskin added the doubles.

Another good result followed when Spa went to Shrewsbury to play their A team. Leamington won 9-1 with Phil Paine, Ron Vose and Earl Sweeney all taking their singles though the match was close and Spa were lucky to do so well, winning two in 4 and two in five. The doubles were unlucky for us - they went to the Shrewsbury pair 12/10 in the fifth!

Leamington Juniors played their fourth match of the season in the Midland League Junior Division 1 and were home to Gloucester and were unlucky enough to lose 7-3. Edward Freeman and Matthew Cooper both picked up one and Matthew gained another when his opponent was forced to retire at 2-1 up. Leamington still have to play Oxford but are safe in mid-division with two wins and two losses.

Leamington recently competed in the regional final of the National Cadet League held at Lichfield. Spa won through to the top division for the region but then could only come fourth out of this top four. Staveley won the division with Stafford the runners-up and so it is those two teams who will progress to the national finals. Spa's trio were Edward and Charlotte Freeman and Stephanie Hawkins.