

Week Commencing 24th February 2003

Three good results from FISSC A have put them into the driving seat of Division 3.

Other teams in the division have matches in hand and are not far behind and so it remains to be seen for how long the Farmers can keep in front. First FISSC saw off Blessed George Napier B 8-2, capitalising on the fact that BGN were a player short. Brian Marston and George Mudie won two each and George Mudie and John Hunt took the doubles for the Farmers, which with the three voided points gave them the win whilst Janice and Michael Rowan both held onto one for BGN. Then the same 8-2 scoreline against Eathorpe B, George Mudie and John Hunt picking up singles and doubles, with one from Mark Kingham for FISSC with Calvin Woodings and Michael Rossington both holding onto one for 'Thorpe's reply.

Closer for FISSC against AP Sports C in a match which ended 6-4 to the Farmers, John Hunt and George Mudie gaining braces and the doubles and Mark Kingham adding the crucial single. AP's junior reserve from Division A Richard Grover took his three and Ros Freeman one. Favourite for the division title Marconi B keep in contact with an 8-2 result themselves over Eathorpe B with a treble from Stan Render, braces from Steve Smith and Geoff Taylor plus the doubles went to Render and Smith. Eathorpe's Michael Rossington and Ron Coats both kept one.

Blessed George Napier B recovered to edge out County Council C 6-4 with braces from mother and sons, Janice, Michael and Daniel Rowan. None could halt Council's Doug Lowe who picked up his three and the doubles with Pat Woolvin. Council bounced back in their next match when they met Free Church D. The pairing for Council of Doug Lowe with Tony Ford gave them the maximum in singles and doubles; whilst Church's Mike Skidmore, Ron Stanbridge and Graham Cooper all took one single for the 7-3 result.

Myton A caught up on an outstanding match by playing their home and away fixtures against Standard Photographic A in the same week - and nearly got the same scoreline. In the home version Myton won 8-2, Jonny White and Paul Deavall braces and the doubles, James Quinn a treble whilst Photo's Brendan Leahy kept two. In the away version, Myton went one further to 9-1 with James Quinn and Jonny White taking singles and doubles and Paul Deavall a brace. Sean Care stopped the whitewash for Photo that time.

Nuneaton had a couple of tight matches recently in Division 1 and only managed to win them both with the close score of 6-4. First Nuneaton Bucks met St. Georges A. Matt Hobday took his three singles, Dave Grundy two and the duo paired up for the doubles for the final game which they gained in the fifth set. Earl Sweeney kept two for the Saints, Mike Bishop and Martin Todd one each. Then the Bucks came across AP Sports A and picked up success with braces from Sohail Caratella, Dave Grundy and Arun Jogi. None could stop AP's Ron Vose who took all his games including the doubles with Andrew Meredith.

County Council A were able to pick up more emphatic wins. First they knocked out Blessed George Napier A 8-2 led by a maximum from Phil Paine and supported by braces from Mark Jackson and Clive Irwin. Jackson and Paine also took the doubles. Simon Nolan held onto two for BGN's reply. Then County Council A played their B colleagues and crushed them 9-1. Phil Paine and Clive Irwin were unstoppable in singles and doubles and Mark Jackson added two more. Derek Harwood clung onto one in the fifth to avoid the whitewash for the B side.

Colebridge B were unlucky to only come away with a 5-5 draw when they met Wellesbourne. Neil Wheatley took his three for Colebridge and John Taylor and Vikas Bakhshi one each but the victory

escaped them when Andy Cockerill and Pete Dunnett picked up the doubles 13/11, 9/11, 11/8, 10/12, 11/3 for 'Bourne. Cockerill and Dunnett had already taken two singles each. Colebridge B however had even less luck in their next match - they went down to a 10-0 whitewash by St. Georges A, Martyn Todd, Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop the Saints in control.

Colebridge A were in better form and stormed over Phoenix A 9-1 with Graham Hoskin, John Chandler and Barry Hunt picking up the singles for 'Bridge. Phoenix's Allan Stockham and Alan Jones had a late revival and edged the doubles for Phoenix 12/10 in the fifth.

Blessed George Napier A recovered from their previous week's loss to defeat AP Sports A 7-3 with braces from Simon Nolan, Sam Clarke and Paul Rowan plus the doubles from Nolan and Clarke. Ron Vose once again came to AP's aid and took his three singles.

Two good results for leaders St. Georges B in Division 2. First they rolled over AP Sports B 7-3 with hat-tricks from Rob Warnes and Alf Chapman plus one from Tracey Fletcher. Tony Williams and Gerald Taylor held onto one single each and Taylor partnered Eddie Stafford for the doubles for AP's points. Then the Saints' trio of Gary Edwards, Tracey Fletcher and Alf Chapman rolled over two-man Free Church C 10-0.

Free Church A also picked up two good results. They eclipsed Marconi A 7-3 with singles and doubles from Hugh Matthews and Dave Daniels. Richard Jardim, Dennis Mockford and Nuri Gumez all kept one for Marconi. Then Church A dominated AP Sports B to the tune of 9-1 with Dave Daniels and Les Booth unbeaten in singles and the doubles plus a brace from John Taylor. Gerald Taylor stopped the rout with a single for AP. Marconi A recovered to edge out Eathorpe A 6-4 courtesy of Roy Joiner's treble, a brace from Dennis Mockford and the doubles together. Chris Atkins held onto two for 'Thorpe, Matthew and Colin Cooper one each, a much improved result on the autumn. Free Church C's other match result was also an improvement. They had drawn 5-5 with RNA A thanks to two each and the doubles from Chris Mulligan and Stuart Mills. The naval A crew were led by an excellent treble from Tony Thomas and supported by one each from Ken Southwell and Ian Stevens.

There were two local derbies from RNA teams - and one did not go to form. The RNA A team went down 6-4 to RNA C. Tony Thomas took two singles and the doubles with Ian Stevens and Ken Southwell chipped in with a single for the A squad's points but Daryl Burgess, Graham Heath and Andy Davies picked up three, two, one respectively for the C's success. However RNA B ran out the 8-2 victors in their battle with RNA D. Richard Smith and Steve Poole swept up singles and doubles for the B's and Tony Bennett added one single. Robin Fox-Strangways and Steve Shaw both held one for the D's.

A good two weeks for Free Church F in Division A. First they defeated division leaders Free Church E 3-2 for the second time this season and the only losses incurred by the E's. Then they rolled over FISSC B 4-1. Against Church E Jonathan Mason and David Whittaker took one each and the critical doubles whilst Paul Nason held his two for team E. Against FISSC David Whittaker took his two, Jonathan Mason one and the doubles together whilst Mark Kingham replied for the Farmers.

FISSC B had a better time against St. Georges C. First off all Saints had only one player so that gave 3 points away and the only two points played for were shared to give a match score of 4-1 to the Farmers. Brian Marston took one for FISSC, inflicting the first defeat on Saints' Richard Grover who took the other point.

Three good matches for the Free Church I duo of Luke Hobbins and Joseph Cox in Division B. First they ran over Eathorpe F 4-1, then edged out Church I 3-2 and then squashed Church J 5-0. Against

'Thorpe Luke Hobbins took two, Joseph Cox one and the doubles together whilst Ian Western held onto one in reply. Then Joseph Cox took his two and Luke Hobbins one in the local derby against Church K for whom Sam Smith clung onto one and the doubles with his brother Tom, both in the fifth. Hobbins and Cox did not have it as easy as the score suggests against Church J who put up a good fight.

Free Church H also gained a 5-0 result over Free Church J, Ben McNally and Adam Cooper taking the singles, Cooper and Chris Blowey the doubles. Eathorpe D are keeping on the pressure on the Church division leaders with two excellent wins. First the pair of Jim French and Sophie Cooper proved too strong for their E colleagues and they ran out 5-0 winners in straight sets. Then the doubles from Jim French and Sophie Cooper added to a brace from French gave Eathorpe D the match against St. Georges D 3-2, Philip Morby and Ryan Fenwick keeping one each for Saints D.

Eathorpe E, however, scored over their F squad-mates in yet another local derby, Katie Hawker and Nicola Rossington picking up one each and the doubles for the E's, Ian Western holding onto his two singles for the F's. Finally Eathorpe E gained a brilliant result by overcoming St. Georges D 4-1 led by Eugene Mawn in singles and the doubles with Nicola Rossington, who also added one single. Philip Morby held onto one for Saints D.

Leamington Closed

The Leamington Closed Championships takes place next Saturday and Sunday 1 and 2 March at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington Spa from 10am to 4pm each day. Spectators are most welcome. Mark Woolerton and Jane Dickens are the top mens and ladies seeds. Mark Woolerton was previously Mens Champion in 2001 but this is Jane's first season playing in the Leamington League.

Seeding is as follows:-

Men's singles 1 Mark Woolerton, 2 Andy Cockerill, =3 Jon Williams and Mark Jackson, =5 Phil Paine, Clive Irwin, Martin Todd and Kevin Ariss.

Ladies Singles 1 Jane Dickens, 2 Liz Haynes.

Fragmere Properties Mens Doubles 1 Mark Jackson / Mark Woolerton, 2 Phil Paine / Andy Cockerill, =3 Sohail Caratella / Arun Jogi and Earl Sweeney / Jon Williams.

Fragmere Properties Mixed Doubles 1 Jane Dickens / Mark Jackson, 2 Liz Haynes / Jon Williams.

Veteran singles 1 Phil Paine 2 Clive Irwin. Over 50 singles 1 Graham Hoskin 2 Brian Aston.

Piccolino's Pizzeria Youth Singles 1 Simon Nolan 2 Sam Clarke. Ford Motor Junior Singles boys 1 Simon Nolan 2 Sam Clarke.

The remaining events have not been seeded, either as a matter of policy (grades, handicap and parent/child) or because the number of entries is too small to need seeding.

However there is a large entry for the inaugural competition of the parent and child event with parents and children of all ages! A strong favourite must be Reg and Rob Warnes if for no other reason than the number of years they have spent playing table tennis with Rob already a veteran and Reg eligible to play in Over 70 competitions!