

Week Commencing 25th November 2002

County Council A have put their Division 1 set-back last week behind them - just about ! They edged to 6-4 victory over Wellesbourne in an exciting and excellent match which stood at 4-4 after 8 games and the final outcome was undecided until the fifth set of the final game of the evening. The ninth went to Council's Mark Jackson, for his second win of the night, - at 15/13 in the fifth with three other deuce sets involved and where Mark had been 2 sets down (11/13, 10/12, 14/12, 11/8, 15/13). Phil Paine had already given Council two singles and Clive Irwin one. For Wellesbourne Andy Cockerill had taken his three showing his tremendous form and Alan Cotton one. The final game that night was the doubles which, with the match score at 5-4, was obviously crucial. It took the fifth set in an evenly matched doubles fully representative of the whole night's play before Council's pairing of Mark Jackson and Clive Irwin sneaked ahead to take the game 11/8, 8/11, 10/12, 11/7, 11/7 and the match 6-4.

Len Coonan may have discovered that this season he is classified as a 'vet' but he did not let it stop him getting two excellent games for Flavels against the might of St. Georges A. Len's possible treble was thwarted in a very close encounter by Martyn Todd 11/8 in the fifth as Martyn's mind was also set on a treble. Martyn went on to win his three for Saints, which, assisted by a brace from Earl Sweeney and a single from Tracey Fletcher, put the trio in the winning stretch. Martyn Todd and Tracey Fletcher then combined to win a fifth set decider in the doubles to give Saints the 7-3 victory. Flavels' third point came from a single from Trevor Bradley. Easier for Colebridge A, whose threesome of Barry Hunt, Graham Hoskin and John Chandler sped to a 10-0 whitewash of County Council B.

Two of the leading teams in Division 2 posted 9-1 wins this week. St. Georges B eclipsed Free Church B 9-1 whilst Free Church A had the same score in their favour over RNA B. For Saints B Rob Bennett and Rob Warnes took singles and doubles and Gary Edwards added a brace whilst Tom Brocklehurst held onto one to salve Church B's pride. For Church A Hugh Matthews and Les Booth took three each, John Taylor two and the doubles fell to Matthews and Taylor. Naval B crewman Richard Miles kept one in reply.

Whitnash B have been finding the going harder recently. First they were held to a 5-5 draw by Marconi A and then they squeezed the 6-4 win over RNA D. Against Marconi Jane Dickens took her three for 'Nash, Graeme Cunnington and Dennis Woodhead one each. Marconi's Dennis Mockford and Dave Kelly took the final game doubles to secure the draw 11/7, 11/8, 10/12, 8/11, 11/7 to add to their one singles each had already achieved and Richard Jardim's two. Against RNA D Dennis Woodhead took his three and the doubles with Paul Riman who took one single as did Jane Dickens. Naval defensive play at a high standard earned two points for Robin FoxStrangways and Richard Lancucki added another brace for the naval crew.

FISSC A earned two successes in Division 3 in four days with wins over Standard Photographic A and Myton A. Brian Marston and Mark Kingham took two each for the Farmers against Photographic, John Hunt a single and Marston and Hunt sealed the match 6-4 with the doubles. Ashley Smith played exceptionally well to give a hat-trick to Photographic and Chris Fincham added a single. Against Myton George Mudie took singles and the doubles with Brian Marston, who chipped in with a brace and Mark Kingham a single for the 7-3 score-line. Myton's Jonny White held two and Paul Deavall clung onto one 19/17 in the fourth.

Free Church D's experienced threesome picked up a tremendous 9-1 result over Standard Photographic A with Paul Nason and Mike Skidmore taking maximums, Ron Stanbridge a brace and Skidmore and Stanbridge the doubles. Ashley Smith held onto one to salve Photographic's pride. County Council C scuppered RNA E 8-2 led by three each from the talented duo of Tony Ford and

Doug Lowe and supported by a single from Pat Woolvin and the doubles went to Woolvin and Ford in the fifth set. Jim Thomas and Wilf Harris both kept one for the navy.

The two-aside league will play the other teams in their smaller divisions three times over the full season. As a result now in the 8th week, most of the teams have played each other once and so likely positions are shaping up well.

In Division A there has only been one result reported this week - between the top two teams. Free Church E took the doubles to give them 3-2 success as Keith Knott and Estyn Williams had already won one each. Opponents St. Georges C kept two points - both taken by Richard Grover, who remains unbeaten with a 100% average !

In Division B leaders Free Church H dropped club-mates Church K 4-1 with two singles each from H's Chris Blowey and Adam Cooper. The K's duo of Sam and Thomas Smith kept the doubles 11/9, 12/10, 13/11. Free Church I are just behind the H's, I's latest result moving them ever closer to the H's. Luke Hobbins and Joseph Cox picked up singles and doubles for the I's 5-0 result over Eathorpe F despite a gallant attempt by the less experienced Thorpe team. St. Georges D overcame Free Church J 4-1 with a brace from Philip Morby, one from Ryan Fenwick and the doubles between them. Ricky Fell had to fight hard to give Church one point 11/9 in the fifth and was unlucky not to get a second. Eathorpe D were given a closer encounter than the 5-0 score suggests in their local derby against the inexperienced young ladies from Eathorpe E. Jim French and Sophie Cooper were the D's in control in this entertaining match with the highspot the doubles which the E's nearly pulled off in the fifth.

Warwickshire Closed

The Warwickshire Closed Championships will be held on Sunday 5th January 2003 as in recent years at St. Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick. Entry forms have been sent to team secretaries and a copy can also be gained from the web site. Entries must be returned to Malcolm Macfarlane by Friday 13th December. An innovation this year is that there are new restricted events for men, women, boys and girls. These exclude the top 500 men, 200 women, 250 boys and 100 girls from the ETTA ranking list, so giving the rest of us a chance of glory! The age limit for juniors and cadets is now determined by age on 1 January rather than the June/July date used previously.