

Week Commencing 28th October 2002

Free Church E are currently at the top of Division A in the 2-aside League, but mainly because they have played more matches than anyone else in the division. Last week they played their 5th match, which they won by the narrow margin of 3-2 to place them on 17 points from 4 wins and 1 loss. But two other teams are quite capable of matching that, once the same number of results are in. (E have, of course, a head start in returning match cards, with E's captain being married to the Press Officer !!) Keith Knott gave Church E the victory with his brace and the doubles with Estyn Williams against their opponents Eathorpe C for whom Eric Smith and Richard Freeman both held one. St. Georges C also found 3-2 to be the score achieved when they met Free Church F in an all fathers and sons match. Richard Grover took his two singles and the doubles with dad Derek to give Saints the high ground. Jonathan Mason and his dad Peter held onto one each for Church F. John Hunt and George Mudie for FISSC B gained a 5-0 whitewash over Standard Photographic B in a match not as one-sided as the score suggests.

Free Church H continue to dominate Division B and gained their fifth victory. Ben McNally and Chris Blowey took their singles for Church against Eathorpe E, with the 'Thorpe lasses Katie Hawker and Nicola Rossington putting up a spirited defense to seize the doubles, with the final score 4-1 to Church. Church I also picked up a 4-1 result, but 3 of them came courtesy of the fact that the opposing team, St. Georges D, only had 1 player. Luke Hobbins won his single for Church - and Philip Morby did well to hang onto 1 single for Saints. A Free Church derby between the J's and the K's proved to be pretty even, though it was the K's who finished on top, 3-2 the score. Sam Smith took his two singles and brother Thomas one for the K's, Philip Blowey holding onto one single and the doubles with Ricky Fell for the J's. Jim French and Sophie Cooper for Eathorpe D finished with an excellent 5-0 from their derby with club-mates Eathorpe F.

In the 3-aside league Ashorne are at present the team to watch in Division 3. They took their 4th success last week, 8-2 over RNA E. Roger Kelley made it three for 'Thorne, Simon Chalker and Chris Bowles two each and Kelley and Chalker ran away with the doubles but Jim Thomas held onto a naval brace. Previously RNA E had cruised over AP Sports C 7-3 for their first victory this season with three, two, one respectively from Jim Thomas, Wilf Harris and Roy Weakes and the doubles from Thomas and Harris. Carol Meredith and sisters Ros and Charlotte Freeman had all kept one for AP's reply. Much more even for Eathorpe B who faced FISSC A. Michael Rossington picked up his first treble for Eathorpe and was well supported by singles from Dave Hawker and Ron Coates. George Mudie and Brian Marston took braces for the Farmers and Mudie partnered John Hunt to last game doubles success to make the final score a 5-5 draw, for the second time this month.

Whitnash B are still keeping in front in Division 2, though this week it was by the smallest margin 6-4 in their match against Free Church B. Graeme Cunnington was 'Nash's supremo with an easy hat-trick, Jane Dickens added a brace, only losing her third 12/10 in the fifth and Paul Riman chipped in with the crucial single. Tom Brocklehurst held onto two for Church plus the doubles with Emma Churchley, and Cherry Matthews one. Three more matches also finished in 6-4 score-lines. St. Georges B edged past AP Sports B and then so did Free Church A. RNA B did the same to RNA D for the B's first victory. For Saints B Rob Bennett took his three, Gary Edwards two and the doubles together whilst AP's Eddy Stafford kept two, Tony Williams and Gerald Taylor one each. Hugh Matthews dominated Church A's match against AP, taking his singles and the doubles with John Taylor, who added a brace. Gerald Taylor claimed two for AP, Eddy Stafford and Tony Williams one each. The naval battle ended with Richard Smith for the B's sailing away with a maximum, his doubles crew-mate Steve Poole adding a single as did Richard Miles. Steve Shaw retained a brace for the D's, skipper Pam Beedham and Robin Fox-Strangways one each. Another naval skirmish was completed more emphatically with RNA A cruising over RNA C 9-1. Ken Southwell and Tony

Thomas took trebles for the A's, Kim Wong a brace plus the doubles with Tony Thomas. Andy Davies salvaged the C side's pride with a single. Marconi A also found 9-1 a good result, this team trouncing fellow promotee from Div 3 Eathorpe A. Richard Jardim and Dennis Mockford took hat-tricks, Gordon Tucker a brace and the doubles also fell to Mockford and Tucker. Eathorpe's Chris Atkins clutched onto one. RNA A also gained another victory, this time 7-3 against Free Church C. Ken Southwell and Tony Thomas held their singles for the navy and Ian Stevens backed them up with one whilst Kevin Rourke and Chris Mulligan kept one each and the doubles for Church.

It has not been a good time for County Council B in Division 1. Only returning to top flight play in September they already look set for the doldrums. Within 3 days they not only lost 8-2 to Flavels but then faced their own club-mates (and reigning champions) County Council A, whereupon the B's sank almost without trace 10-0, only taking one game to 4 sets. For Flavels Len Coonan took three, Mick Bennett and Trevor Bradley two each, and the doubles went to Bradley and Coonan whilst Derek Harwood kept two points for Council B. Council A's team in control were the regulars Mark Jackson, Phil Paine and Clive Irwin. Wellesbourne's Andy Cockerill, Pete Dunnett and Alan Cotton were also in fine form, eclipsing Colebridge B 10-0. 'Bridge B fared slightly better against their A team which finished 7-3 to Colebridge A. Shahzad Waseem gave the A's his three singles and the doubles with Graham Hoskin, who added a single and John Chandler a brace. Neil Wheatley kept two for the B's, Michael Rinnhofer one. However, Nuneaton were able to gain two successive victories, firstly 7-3 against Wellesbourne and then 6-4 over St. Georges A. Against Wellesbourne, Matt Hobday and Neil Mathams made hat-tricks, David Grundy a useful single for Nuneaton whilst 'Bourne's Pete Dunnett kept two, Alan Cotton one. Against Saints A, Matt Hobday, Sohail Caratella and Mick Allsopp picked up three, two, one respectively for Nuneaton, whilst Earl Sweeney, Martyn Todd and Brian Aston all gave one single to the Saints and Sweeney and Aston the doubles. Previously Saints A had seen another 6-4 result, but this time in their favour for their effort over AP Sports A. Earl Sweeney, Brian Aston and Martyn Todd had all taken braces but none could gainsay AP's Ron Vose who picked up his three singles and the doubles with Andrew Meredith.

Representative matches

Leamington played their first Midland Junior League match of the season at Radford Semele last week against Kidderminster. Despite a good performance from the Leamington trio they lost 7-3. Kidderminster's points came from William Pritchard (3), Tom McDermott (3) and William Pritchard partnered Andy Thomas to doubles success. Spa's three points were one each from Matthew Cooper, Richard Grover and Edward Freeman. However, Leamington's strong Under 15 team of Edward and Charlotte Freeman and Stephanie Hawkins are in top form in the National Cadet League Midlands Division. They played 5 matches on the first day of this competition which was held in Wednesbury, and won all 30 games, which places them joint leaders with Staveley, both team's players having 100 per cent records. The Leamington trio, all now playing for AP Sports, won their matches 6-0 over Leckei, Tamworth Lions, Lichfield, Colebridge and Burntwood.

Two Leamington and three Coventry players have been selected to play for Warwickshire in the County championship matches to be held in Grantham in November where they will be joined by three Birmingham boys. Matthew Cooper is probably Eathorpe's first County player with Stephanie Hawkins from AP the other Spa selection. Paul Nicholls and sisters Rachael and Nikki Pilgrim are the Coventry choices.