

Week Commencing 31st March 2003

County Council B are set to depart from Division 1. This team have yo-yoed between Divs 1 and 2 for many seasons and came up to Div 1 in September after finishing runner-up last year in Div 2. This season they have only won one match so far from 20 outings and are now so far behind the next placed teams that they are incapable of avoiding the drop! Their latest losses were to Colebridge A and Wellesbourne. Against Colebridge and a player short, Council went down 9-1 with Derek Harwood hanging onto the sole point. Graham Hoskin and Barry Hunt took braces, John Chandler a single plus the doubles fell to Hoskin and Hunt. Wellesbourne overcame Council 7-3 with Andy Cockerill and Gary Stewart taking singles and doubles for 'Bourne. Reg Warnes, David Fordham and Derek Harwood all kept one for Council.

Whitnash A move into the lead with a 9-1 thrashing of Blessed George Napier A. Jon Williams and Mark Woolerton took maximums in singles and doubles and Ian Perry added a brace for Whitnash whilst Simon Nolan stopped the whitewash for BGN.

Its tight at the bottom of Division 2 with four teams (AP Sports B, RNA B, RNA D and Free Church B) all in contention for the bottom two spots and automatic relegation to Div 3 for next season. AP Sports B slipped 7-3 to RNA C to keep AP on the base-line though they have matches in hand compared to some of the others. Gerald Taylor took a brace for AP and Stephanie Hawkins a single. Naval crew Graham Heath, Andy Davies and Daryl Burgess cruised to three, two, one respectively and Heath and Davies took the doubles.

RNA D also picked the wrong end of a 7-3 score, theirs against Whitnash B. Richard Lancucki, Robin Fox-Strangways and Steve Shaw all kept one single for the D's and the navy were unlucky to lose the doubles 12/10, 10/12, 11/13, 11/8, 10/12 to Dennis Woodhead and Peter Elliott from Whitnash. Woodhead and Paul Riman both took trebles for 'Nash.

RNA D however then swam to 8-2 success against Marconi A led by a hat-trick from Richard Lancucki and aided by braces from Steve Shaw and Robin Fox-Strangways, with the doubles going to Lancucki and Shaw. Dennis Mockford held onto both points for Marconi. Free Church B had little luck in two matches, losing 9-1 to St. Georges B and then 8-2 to colleagues Free Church A. In the Saints B match, Tom Brocklehurst worked hard to keep one for Church, whilst Rob Bennett and Tracey Fletcher took singles and doubles and Alf Chapman two singles for Saints. In the Church local derby Emma Churchley and Tom Brocklehurst both retained one single for the B's and Hugh Matthews and Dave Daniels creamed off singles and doubles for the A's and John Taylor chipped in with a single.

RNA A currently lie third in the division and keep up the pressure on the leaders with a 9-1 result over Eathorpe A with three each from Tony Thomas and Ken Southwell, a brace from Kim Wong plus the doubles from Thomas and Wong. Eathorpe's Matthew Cooper held onto the consoling point. RNA C picked up another 7-3, this time against Free Church C. Dot Macfarlane and Andy Davies took their three singles and Daryl Burgess contributed one single whilst Church's father and son Pete and Kevin Rourke took one each in reply and Kevin Rourke partnered Stuart Mills for the doubles.

FISSC A and BGN B are in competition for second place in Division 3 but neither could achieve better than a 5-5 draw recently. First BGN B drew 5-5 with AP Sports C with Janice and Daniel Rowan taking two each and Michael Rowan one. Reserve Richard Grover gave AP his three singles and the critical last game doubles 13/11 in the fifth to achieve the draw. His partner Ros Freeman also took one single. FISSC A gained their 5-5 draw with Myton A with John Hunt taking his three and

being supported by one each from Mark Kingham and Brian Marston. Jim Quinn and Jonny White took two each for Myton and the doubles for the draw.

Also in contention for the top is Ashorne, aided by two recent wins 9-1 over Eathorpe B and 7-3 over AP Sports C. Against Eathorpe Roger Kelley, Chris Bowles and Steve Bolton all took their singles for Ashorne but could not hold the doubles against the determination of Calvin Woodings and Michael Rossington. In the AP match Simon Chalker, Roger Kelley and Chris Bowles all gained braces and Chalker and Kelley the doubles for Ashorne whilst AP's star reserve Richard Grover held two and Charlotte Freeman one.

County Council C saw their first 5-5 draw in their match versus RNA E. Doug Lowe took his singles and the doubles with Tony Ford and Pat Woolvin chipped in with a crucial single for Council. Naval crew Jim Thomas and Steve Proctor took braces and Wilf Harris a single. RNA E then fell 7-3 to Free Church D though Steve Proctor took two and Wilf Harris one for the navy. Church's Graham Cooper took a treble, Mike Skidmore a brace and the doubles together and Ron Stanbridge added a single.

Free Church D gained another 7-3 in their match against Standard Photographic A, three points courtesy from Photo who were a player short on the night. Ron Stanbridge took two for Church, Graham Cooper and Mike Skidmore one each. Photo's Brendan Leahy picked up a brace and the doubles with Chris Fincham.

Standard Photographic B and Free Church G look set for relegation in the 2-aside league from Division A down to Division B. First Free Church G were crushed 5-0 by FISSC B, George Mudie and Derek Nelson the farmers in control. Then Standard Photographic went down 4-1 to St. Georges C though Brendon Leahy held one in reply, Richard Grover taking his two for Saints, his dad Derek one and the doubles together.

Top team Free Church E had an unexpected loss 4-1 to Eathorpe C. Charles Wragg took his two for 'Thorpe, Eric Smith one and the doubles together whilst Paul Nason saved one for Church. Eathorpe C also pipped Free Church F to the post with Charles Wragg taking his two singles and the doubles with Eric Smith to give 'Thorpe the 3-2 success. Jonathan Mason and David Whittaker held onto one each for Church F.

In Division B Free Church H keep in the lead with a 5-0 over the girls from Eathorpe E. Ben McNally and Adam Cooper were the Church players in front in the singles, Cooper and Chris Blowey in the doubles, though with one game only won deuce in the fifth the match was closer than the score implies.

Free Church J also gained a 5-0 result - also against Eathorpe E. Phil Blowey and Tom Crellin taking the singles for Church, Blowey and Ricky Fell the doubles. A local derby between Eathorpe teams also finished 5-0 with the D side of Sophie Cooper and Jim French overcoming the less experienced duo from Eathorpe F.

Free Church H eclipsed their nearest rivals Church I 4-1 to probably place the H's in an unassailable position. Chris Blowey took his two singles, Ben McNally one single and the doubles with Adam Cooper for the H's, Luke Hobbins hanging onto one for the I's. A close match between Eathorpe F and St. Georges D finished 3-2 to the Eathorpe side. Ian and Lawrie Western picked up one single each and the doubles to give them the match but Saints' Philip Morby could not be stopped in singles.

The final Coronation cup semi-final place went to a Free Church team - which was hardly surprising as the quarter-final was a local derby between Free Church F / G from Division A and Free Church B

from Division 2. It was the lower side that triumphed in this individually handicapped match with the F / G's swamping the B side 5-0. Jonathan Mason and David Whittaker took two each and Peter Mason added the useful single. They will go on to play Free Church A whilst in the other semi-final Eathorpe A will be matched against AP Sports A / B.