

Week Commencing 3rd January 2005

And it was the dark horses from County Council A who have taken Division 1 for the Autumn competition. Always playing catch-up as an early postponement put them behind, last year's runners-up have sneaked in front by the narrowest of margins - 1 point. St. Georges A had led much of the time and finished their matches unbeaten with a tremendous 6-4 win over Whitnash A, last season's winners who actually now end up third. For Saints Ian Packford, Mike Bishop and Earl Sweeney took three, two, one respectively whilst Whitnash's Mark Woolerton kept two, Jon Williams one and the doubles together. Meanwhile County Council A took a 7-3 win over St. Georges B in a hard fought match and followed it with a 10-0 over Colebridge A to put them on 78 points to St. Georges A 77 points and Whitnash A's 71 points. In the Saints B contest Phil Paine took singles and the doubles with Clive Irwin, who added one single, and Matthew Hobday provided two. For the opposition Ron Vose kept two, Brian Aston one. Against Colebridge Mark Jackson rejoined Phil Paine and Clive Irwin to take the singles and Jackson and Paine added the doubles. Colebridge A got their revenge by crushing Riverhouse A 8-2, led by Barry Hunt and John Chandler who took singles and doubles and with a single from Bob Brown. Steve Proctor and Mark Dudley held onto one each but cannot stop Riverhouse from being relegated to div 2. RNA A are also set to move down to div 2, they went down 10-0 in their final match against Colebridge B, Mike Rinnhofer, Neil Wheatley and Peter Roddy picking up the singles and Rinnhofer and Wheatley the doubles. Whitnash B have won two matches at 6-4, firstly against St. Georges B and then against Wellesbourne. Justin Rai took two, Alan Hewitt one plus 3 forfeited points as Saints B were one short, but even so Ron Vose kept two singles, Brian Aston one and the doubles together. Against Wellesbourne, Alan Hewitt and Ian Perry took braces and the doubles at 15/13 in the fifth with Nigel Morris providing the critical point, Gary Stewart keeping two, Sven Rudolph and Jim Betts one each in reply. Wellesbourne have finished with a 5-5 draw with near neighbour in table Free Church A. Pete Dunnett and Gary Stewart took two each and the doubles together for Wellesbourne whilst Church's Gary Webb held onto a hat trick and Stuart Kurle and Hugh Matthews one each.

In Division 2 Flavels have secured the trophy with their ninth win out of ten with an 8-2 first defeat of St. Georges D to put them on 75 points. Mick Bennett gave Flavels a treble, Roger Potts and Trevor Bradley braces and John Earles joined Trevor Bradley for the doubles. Bert Banks and Tracey Fletcher held one each for Saints D. St. Georges D had already demolished Ashorne 10-0, Bert Banks, Gary Edwards and Tracey Fletcher taking singles, Edwards and Fletcher the doubles. This puts Saints in possible second place with 63 points equalling Marconi, though RNA C with one match still to play could beat them both. Ashorne also went down 10-0 in straight sets to Eathorpe A, Chris Atkins, Matthew Cooper and Allan Stockham taking singles, Atkins and Cooper the doubles. RNA D are set for demotion along with Ashorne. In their last two matches RNA D lost 9-1 to Free Church C and then drew 5-5 with Free Church B. Against the C's, Robin Fox-Strangway stopped the whitewash, but John Taylor and Cherry Matthews gave Church trebles, and first league success for Mandy Thomas with a brace and the doubles with Cherry. Against Church B, reserve Steve Poole gave the navy two and the doubles with Jim Thomas who added a single as did crew-mate Robin Fox Strangways. For Church Chris Mulligan kept his three, Tom Brocklehurst two. A Free Church derby saw the C's eclipsing the B's 7-3 with braces from Stuart Mills, John Taylor and Cherry Matthews plus the doubles from the men. B's reply came from an excellent hat trick from Tom Brocklehurst. Finally a tight 6-4 result from County Council B against AP Sports A with braces and the doubles from Derek Harwood and Nilton Green plus the crucial single from Sue Clarke. For AP Andrew Meredith took two, Eddie Stafford and Gerald Taylor one each.

With the match still left to play between them, the top two places in Division 3 have been settled as RNA B and BGN B, but not the order. Both teams will be promoted for the Spring competition into div 2, as no other team can catch them up, but their match against each other will decide who gets

what silverware for the autumn competition. BGN B's latest match saw them defeating two-man County Council C 9-1, with Malcolm Macfarlane and Gary Jackson taking braces and the doubles and Janice Rowan adding one. Tony Ford prevented the whitewash with one point held for Council. Better for Council C against Standard Photographic, in a match which gave Council their second win of the autumn at 8-2, though 3 points came because this time Photographic were one short. Tony Ford won his two singles plus the doubles with Pat Woolvin, and Andy Woodfield added his two. Brendan Leahy and Chris Fincham kept one each for Standard. Standard Photographic were also down to two men when they met AP, where they had little luck, despite fighting into four or five set games and so went down 10-0. Tony Williams, Stephanie Hawkins and Charlotte Freeman took their singles and doubles for AP. It was a tighter match for FISSC A against Whitnash C, which finished with Whitnash 7-3 up, though as the Farmers had lost a single and the doubles at deuce in the fifth they were unlucky not to have pulled off a draw. Paul Riman and Dennis Woodhead took singles and doubles for Whitnash's victory. George Mudie, John Hunt and Mark Kingham all kept one for FISSC.

Free Church G have definitely won Division A of the 2-aside league. In their last match they beat LCP Dreamers 4-1 to put the Church G team on 37 points from 8 wins and 1 loss. This is 9 points clear from their nearest rivals Free Church E, who have only 1 match left to play. The result of that match will determine the second placed team as currently Church E are tied with Eathorpe C, but Eathorpe have finished. For Church G Ben McNally and Luke Hobbins picked up their singles although two were at the narrow margin of deuce, whilst the doubles were won by Dreamers' Nick Blackmore and Simon Walmesley at deuce in the fourth. St. Georges E found their second win with a 4-1 score in a tight match against Free Church H. Steven Johnson gave Saints two singles, Philip Morby one and the doubles together whilst Church's sole point came from Tom Hunt. Free Church F finish their season with a good win at 3-2 over last year's division winners Riverhouse Henley B and in front of league president John Earles. Sam Smith and Steve Richards took one each and the doubles for Church whilst Joe Shaw had an impressive start to his league career at 17 by taking his two singles each in straight sets for Riverhouse's reply.

Eathorpe E's final match in the autumn competition in Division B has moved them up to third place in the division. Daughter and dad combination of Katie and Dave Hawker rolled over newcomers LCP Groovers in singles and doubles with a straight sets 5-0 defeat. There is one result still to come in this division, which will not affect the higher placings.