

## Week Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> December 2004

The final place in the quarter finals of the team handicapped Southwell Trophy has gone to a Free Church combination of the F team from Division A and the K team from Division B. They had a +12 start on their div A opponents which was a combined squad of Eathorpe C and D. For Church's 6-3 success Steve Richards took three, Sam Smith two and the doubles together. For Eathorpe Eric Smith kept two, including one at the tightest margin of 41/40 and Richard Freeman one. Free Church F / K will meet AP Sports next, whilst Free Church H / I will play Church J ensuring at least one Church team to go through. In the other half of the draw, Eathorpe G / H will play Free Church C and Eathorpe A will play Free Church B.

In Division A leaders Free Church G have finally been beaten to leave no team with a clear record. Church G picked up their sixth success beating Eathorpe D 4-1 but then slipped to mid-placed Free Church H 3-2. Against Eathorpe in a well-contested match Sophie Cooper and Peter Nicholson gave Eathorpe the first game with the doubles at 11/9 in the fifth but Ben McNally and Luke Hobbins took the singles for Church though two went to 4 sets and one was won at 17/15. In the Church derby Adam Cooper and Ben McNally took one each for the G side, whilst Chris Blowey kept his two for the H's, causing Ben McNally to lose his 100% record. It took the doubles to decide the match when Chris Blowey steered rapidly improving Tom Hunt to doubles victory at 14/12 in the fourth to give Church H the match. Even so Free Church G are well in front with 30 points from 7 matches. Eathorpe C are currently second. Their latest results put them on 24 points from 8 matches but could easily be caught by two other teams (Riverhouse B and Free Church E) who have matches in hand. This week Eathorpe C edged out Riverhouse B in their match 3-2 in a sound display when Eric Smith and Richard Freeman added the doubles in the fifth to the one single each they had already taken. Steve Shaw kept his two singles for Riverhouse. Free Church E had an easy week. Keith Knott and Ron Stanbridge took straight sets singles and doubles over struggling LCP Packers to give Church E a 5-0 score. LCP Packers also went down 4-1 when they played colleagues Dreamers, though Steve Deeley worked hard to take one at 16/14 to prevent the whitewash. Simon Dainty gave Dreamers his two singles and the doubles with Simon Walmsley and Nick Blackmore chipped in with a single. Free Church F had their third victory of the season when they overcame Eathorpe D 4-1 led by Sam Smith with two singles and the doubles at 11/9 in the fifth with Steve Richards who contributed one single. Sophie Cooper kept hold of one in reply for Eathorpe.

Free Church I must be storming to certain promotion out of Division B at Christmas. Two more victories put them on 31 points from 7 matches, all wins and the only team unbeaten in the division. First Phil Blowey and Tom Crellin took singles and doubles in an easy 5-0 over Eathorpe G. Then a closer match over St. Georges F before Ricky Fell and Phil Blowey took the final game the doubles and the match with a 3-2 scoreline, as Ricky Fell and Tom Crellin had already won one single each. Karen Toozer had worked hard to keep her two singles for Saints. Eathorpe F have moved into second place with two 5-0 victories to put them on 30 points but from 8 matches. First Robert Fay and Chris Long showed perseverance to take their singles in the match against Free Church J and Chris Long was partnered by Michael Fay for the doubles win. Church had put up a determined fight and had been unlucky not to keep at least one point. Then father and son Michael and Robert Fay worked hard to take singles and doubles for their whitewash of LCP Inkers. A closer encounter for LCP Inkers when they played Eathorpe E, which was only settled when dad and daughter Dave and Katie Hawker won a 4-set doubles which included 2 deuces and so gave the match to Eathorpe with the 3-2 result. New Eathorpe recruit Thomas Jamie had secured his first single and Katie Hawker another. James Dex produced a strong performance to give Inkers his two singles. St. Georges F picked up a 5-0 roll-over of LCP Groovers to give young Lawrence Sweeney his first brace in the league. Karen Toozer also took her two and partnered Lawrence for the doubles win.

Two excellent results for Free Church K will move them up the rankings. First Thomas Smith and Michael Turner took singles and doubles to give the K's a 5-0 creaming of Eathorpe H, though H played well and were unlucky not to get the doubles, which Church won at 11/9 in the fifth. Then closer against Church J where Thomas Smith took his two singles for the K's and Philip Booth and Anthony Reeve one each for the J's. The doubles went to the fourth set and deuce when Thomas Smith and his partner Michael Turner were the lucky duo for the game and the match for the K's at 3-2.

Division 3's RNA B continued their relentless quest for promotion back to div2. Another win was notched up this week against County Council C. Steve Poole gave the navy a treble, Duncan Hall and Dave Harding braces and the doubles went to Poole and Hall for the 8-2 victory. Tony Ford held onto two in reply for Council. St. Georges C are like RNA B still unbeaten, though with 4 draws so far are certainly equalled by some. This week Saints notched up their third win at 7-3 over FISSC A. Brothers Rob and Martin Bennett won hat tricks and Martin partnered son Luke successfully for the doubles. George Mudie, John Hunt and Brian Marston all kept one for the Farmers reply. For two teams down the bottom of the division it was a chance for one to do well. Eathorpe B was the lucky one, driving over LCP Spartans 10-0 with Ron Coats, Paul Deavall and Calvin Woodings picking up the singles for Eathorpe and Ron and Paul the doubles. However it was BGN B who have spring-boarded into the lead with their latest two results. They now have 49 points from 6 wins out of 6 matches - and 5 in front of RNA B. First they crushed FISSC 10-0. Keith Woodcock, Gary Jackson (in his first match) and Malcolm Macfarlane all took trebles for BGN and the latter two took the doubles. Then BGN played Standard Photographic, which started with an immense youth against experience match that just went to the experience at 11-8 in the fifth (from 8-8) of Photo's Geoff Taylor. After that it was all plain sailing for BGN, who finished the match at 9-1. Malcolm Macfarlane and Keith Woodcock again took hat tricks, Michael Rowan a brace and the doubles went to Malcolm Macfarlane partnering Janice Rowan.