

## Week Commencing 11<sup>th</sup> October 2004

Flavels have set out to make their mark on Division 2 after slipping down from top-flight match play at the end of last season. Two wins in 4 days gives them a good start. First they rolled over Ashorne 10-0. Ashorne had played their previous matches in Division 3 finishing as the runners-up. Mick Bennett, Roger Potts and Trevor Bradley took the singles for Flavels in straight sets and Bennett and Bradley added the doubles. Then Flavels looked set to do the same in their match against RNA D, who also had come up from div 3 which they had won. Mick Bennett and John Earles took singles and doubles for Flavels but they could not field a third player so the naval crew were let off possibly lightly and the match finished at 7-3. RNA C have also succeeded in both their matches this season. First they cruised over County Council B 7-3 and then edged out Eathorpe A 6-4. Against Council, Daryl Burgess picked up a treble and Graham Heath and Dot Macfarlane braces. Derek Harwood held onto two and the doubles with Sue Clarke for Council's reply. In the Eathorpe match, the naval crew of Graham Heath, Dot Macfarlane and Daryl Burgess all made braces. But none could halt Matthew Cooper who took his three and the doubles with Chris Atkins for Eathorpe. St. Georges D also got the better of promoted RNA D. Bert Banks gained his three, Gary Edwards and Tracey Fletcher two each and the doubles together for the 8-2 victory. Jim Thomas and Pam Beedham kept hold of one each for the naval reply. Saints B then drew 5-5 with Free Church B led by Bert Banks and Tracey Fletcher who took braces with Gary Edwards chipping in with the crucial single. Tom Brocklehurst led his Church team with two singles and the doubles with Emma Churchley who added a single as did Ian Rourke. Free Church C were able to slip in front of County Council B when Stuart Mills and John Taylor took the doubles in the fifth set to put the match score at 6-4. Mills had already gained three singles and Taylor two. Council's Derek Harwood scored twice, Reg Warnes and Sue Clarke once.

In Division 1 Free Church A gained another win, this time 7-3 over St. Georges B. Stuart Kurle and Alan Jones joined up to give Church singles and doubles. Alf Chapman, Brian Aston and Bert Banks all kept one for Saints. Champions Whitnash A are also off to a good start to their campaign. They also won at 7-3, Jon Williams and Richard Arnold taking their singles and Mark Woolerton, who only joined in for the doubles, doing so to good effect with Jon Williams. Opponents Colebridge B had to settle for one each for Mike Rinnofer, Neil Wheatley and Navinder Matharu. Runners-up County Council A started with a 10-0 against BGN A, the singles taken by Pat McCabe, Phil Paine and Clive Irwin and the doubles went to Pat and Phil. BGN were unlucky enough to have only two players able to play in the match as Simon Nolan had to scratch at the last moment - his knee injury is likely to rule him out of sport for some time to come.

A promising beginning for Standard Photographic in Division 3. They won 9-1 against newcomers LCP Spartans. Brendan Leahy and Geoff Taylor took singles and the doubles and Chris Fincham a useful brace. Steve Deeley took one for LCP's reply and was unlucky not to get a second, only losing at 10 in the fifth. BGN B gained their second win with a 7-3 over AP Sports B. Malcolm Macfarlane, Keith Woodcock and Michael Rowan took three, two, one respectively and Malcolm and Keith sealed the win with the doubles. Stephanie Hawkins held onto two for AP with one won at 12-10 in the 5th and Charlotte Freeman kept one.

Second wins in Division A for Eathorpe C and Free Church E and both matches finished at 4-1. Eric Smith took his two, Richard Freeman one and the doubles together to give Eathorpe C 4-1 against St. Georges E. Philip Morby stopped the whitewash, keeping one for Saints. Keith Knott led Free Church E with his two and the doubles with Estyn Williams who chipped in with one single. Steve Richards played well for opponents Free Church F, winning his one point by holding on to take the 5th set at 12/10. Free Church G, in their first match, inflicted perhaps an unexpected defeat at 4-1 on

defending champions Riverhouse B. Ben McNally took his two, Adam Cooper one and the doubles together for Church whilst Riverhouse's Mark Peart held onto one.

Another good win for Eathorpe E in Division B. The father and son Hawker duo saw off Free Church K 4-1, dad Dave taking both his singles and the doubles with daughter Katie who added one single. Thomas Smith worked hard to keep one in the fifth for Church. St. Georges F picked up their second win, this time 4-1 over fellow new faces LCP Inkers. Karen Toozer took two for Saints, young Lawrence Sweeney one plus the doubles together. James Dex took his first point in league play for the Inkers. Antony Rowe celebrated his debut for Free Church J by winning one single and the doubles to add to the brace from partner Philip Booth. Opposition Eathorpe H could only hold onto one point in the 4-1 match which was taken by Alastair Nicholson for his first point. In an Eathorpe local derby between the G's and the F's it was the F's who came out on top with a 5-0 whitewash. Robert Fay and Chris Long took the singles and Robert was joined by his dad Michael to win the doubles.

It is with regret that the Leamington League reports the recent death of Mark Read. Mark, aged 28, was one of Warwickshire's best players who regularly turned out to play for the county in the first team and usually made the final stages of events at the Warwickshire Closed. A member of the Birmingham League, he was killed in a bike crash on 23 September. Leamington League give their sympathy to his family and friends.