

Week Commencing 20th December 2004

Free Church I have won Division B in the 2-aside league. They amassed a fantastic 41 points from the maximum possible of 45 points from the season's nine matches, all of which they won. From January 2005 they will play in Division A, leaving behind their division compatriots who may well be relieved to see them go. From their last 2 matches Church I picked up 10 points in two straight 5-0 whitewashes. First Ricky Fell and Phil Blowey took the singles, and Tom Crellin with Phil Blowey the doubles in a straight sets win over the youngsters from Eathorpe H. Then Tom Crellin and Phil Blowey took the singles and Crellin with Ricky Fell the doubles in the closer match over Free Church J.

Eathorpe F have finished in second place and so will join Church I in div A next year. They finished with 35 points after swamping LCP Groovers 5-0 in their final match, Robert Fay and Chris Long taking singles and dad Michael Fay joining his son Robert for the doubles. St. Georges F finished their matches with two sets of 5-0 results, Laurence Sweeney and Karen Toozer taking singles and doubles in both matches. First they cruised over Eathorpe G, though G were unlucky not to have kept one point with one single lost at 9 in the fifth. Then it was Eathorpe H which were decimated, though this time it was the doubles they only lost at deuce.

Eathorpe G were also on the wrong side of a 5-0 score, with club-mates Eathorpe E the victors. Katie Hawker and Matthew Jackson took singles and doubles for the E's, who still have one match to play but E will not reach higher than third whatever the final score is. Closer for Free Church K in their latest two matches to be reported. First they picked up a 4-1 success over Eathorpe G with Thomas Smith taking two, Michael Turner one and the doubles together, whilst Jack Henderson kept one point for Eathorpe. Then they squeezed past LCP Inkers 3-2 when Tom and Michael won the doubles to add to their one single each. Neither could stop Inkers' James Dex who took his two singles comfortably.

It looks like Free Church G who will finish top of the pack in Division A. Their latest scalp was close rivals Free Church E in a tense local derby which the G's won with a 3-2 score to put them on 33 points from 8 matches with one match to play and the next placed teams on 28 points. In the Church match Luke Hobbins took his two singles for the G's, Adam Cooper one with Ron Stanbridge keeping one and the doubles with Estyn Williams for the E's. Church E then bounced back to cruise over Eathorpe D 5-0, Estyn Williams and Ron Stanbridge working hard to take singles and doubles in a match not as one sided as the score suggests.

Church E now have 28 points with one match to play. Eathorpe C have finished on 28 points after their last result, a 4-1 win over Free Church F. Charles Wragg took two for Eathorpe, Richard Freeman one and the doubles together whilst Sam Smith battled on to prevent the whitewash, winning one for Church F in the fifth. Closer for Church F in their derby with Church H, which the H's won at 14/12 in the fifth of the doubles for a 3-2 scoreline. Sam Smith and Steve Richards took one single each for F but Chris Blowey took his two singles and the doubles with Anita Whitehouse for H's victory.

Riverhouse Henley B who won last season could still make the runner-up spot. After their latest match they are on 25 points with one match left. Recently they saw off LCP Packers 4-1 with Steve Shaw taking his two and the doubles with Nathan Lee who added one single. Steve Deeley kept one for LCP's only point, though with only 7 points from the season they will be relegated to div B next month where they should do better. St. Georges E are likely to be the second team to be relegated. Last week they lost 4-1 to LCP Dreamers with Nick Blackmore taking two, Simon Dainty one and the doubles together for LCP and Philip Morby keeping one for Saints, who are now on 9 points, though with 2 matches to play could theoretically catch up the next placed team Eathorpe D 7 points above.

Eathorpe D however had helped their cause by beating Free Church H 4-1 led by Peter Nicholson who took his singles and the doubles with Sophie Niepceron. Tom Hunt held one for Church H.

In Division 3 BGN B keep their winning record with a really tight match over St. Georges C, which finished at 6-4 to BGN, inflicting a first defeat on the Saints team. For BGN Keith Woodcock and Gary Jackson took braces and the doubles together with Malcolm Macfarlane adding the critical point. Martin and Rob Bennett both kept two for St. Georges. St. Georges followed that with a 5-5 draw against Eathorpe B to finish with 51 points and out of possible promotion. Rob Bennett took his three for Saints and brother Tony two for the draw. For Eathorpe Michael Rossington took two, Ron Coats and Paul Deavall one each and the doubles went to Rossington and Coats. NB apologies for the wrong familiar relationships in the Bennett clan in previous weeks.

RNA B look set to return to div 2 in a few weeks time. Two 10-0 results have pushed them back to the top. First they saw off Standard Photographic, Richard Smith, Steve Poole and Duncan Hall taking the singles and Smith and Poole the doubles. Then they walloped struggling LCP Spartans in straight sets, Steve Poole, Duncan Hall and Richard Miles picking up the singles and Poole and Hall the doubles.

Whitnash C pulled off a good 7-3 victory over AP Sports B with Paul Riman and Dennis Woodhead unstoppable in singles and doubles. Stephanie Hawkins, Tony Williams and Ros Freeman all held onto one for AP's reply. AP then beat County Council C 6-4 led by braces and the doubles from Ros Freeman and Stephanie Hawkins and a crucial single from Tony Williams. Tony Ford held onto his three for Council and Howard Rodgers one. FISSC A rolled over Eathorpe B 9-1 with Mark Kingham, George Mudie and John Hunt all taking hat-tricks for the Farmers. Calvin Woodings and Ron Coats held onto the doubles for Eathorpe's consolation.