

Week Commencing 21st February 2005

Three excellent wins for St. Georges A in Division 1 place them top of the pack for the present, a place they will want to keep having been eclipsed into second in December. First they crushed Marconi 10-0 with straight sets success by Ian Packford, Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop in singles and Packford and Bishop in the doubles. Then nearly as good at 8-2 over Colebridge A, with Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop taking trebles, Ian Packford a brace. John Chandler kept one single and the doubles with Graham Hoskin for Colebridge. Another 8-2 over club-mates St. Georges B, with a treble from Ian Packford, braces from Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop plus the doubles between Packford and Sweeney. Pete Kirby and Rob Warnes held onto one each for Saints B.

Three wins for Free Church teams in Division A. First Sam Smith and Steve Richards picked up their singles for Church F's 4-1 win over Eathorpe F, though the father and son pairing in the doubles of Michael and Robert Fay meant opponents Eathorpe F held onto one point. Ben McNally and Luke Hobbins made it a clean sweep in singles and doubles for Church G with a 5-0 score-line over St. Georges F. Closer for Church H who played Riverhouse B, before Chris Blowey and Anita Whitehouse took the last game, the doubles, in the fifth, to add to Chris' brace and the match for Church at 3-2. Nathan Lee and Joe Shaw held one each for Riverhouse. An Eathorpe derby saw the experienced C side of Eric Smith and Richard Freeman overcome promoted Eathorpe F 5-0, though the match was not as one-sided as the score suggests. Rugby have notched up their fourth success, this time 5-0 over St. Georges F with Stephen Maddison and Jack Randle taking singles and doubles.

Mixed results for LCP Groovers in Division B. First they went down 5-0 to clubmates LCP Inkers for whom Nicky Barrett and James Dex took singles and doubles. Then they whitewashed new team Free Church M 5-0, Chris Bennett and Katie Pett inflicting the defeat, though Church M were unlucky not to hold one point, only lost at 15/13 in the fifth. Free Church J were able to take out the Groovers 4-1 with a brace from Ross McDermott, a single by Philip Booth and the doubles together. Chris Bennett held one point in reply. Then Groovers were sunk by St. Georges E 5-0 in three setters, Phil Morby and Steven Johnson picking up the singles and doubles for Saints. Saints E also saw off LCP Packers 4-1 with Steven Johnson's brace, Phil Morby's single and the doubles together. Steve Deeley kept one single for the Packers.

Quarter-final matches in the team handicapped Southwell Trophy saw two Eathorpe teams through. Both from div 2, Eathorpe A playing off scratch overcame Free Church B (off +2) 6-3 in a close encounter with three games finishing at the tightest point 41/40. Allan Stockham gave 'thorpe a treble, Matthew Cooper a brace and the doubles together whilst Tom Brocklehurst, Emma Churchley and Chris Mulligan all held one for Church. The youngsters from division B, Eathorpe G/H, used their generous head start of +35 to reach the target of 41 before their div 2 opposition Free Church C could from scratch. Alastair Nicholson (11) and Jack Henderson (12) both gained two and the doubles together and William Henry (12) chipped in with a useful single for the 6-1 result. Stuart Mills kept hold of one for Church's consolation. Free Church F/K from the 2-aside league saw off div 2 based AP Sports, winning at 6-3. Church's +26 start helped Stephen Richards to a treble, Sam Smith to a brace and the doubles together for the match. Eddie Stafford, Edward Freeman and Andrew Meredith all kept one for AP. Fourth semi-final place goes to a Free Church side, Church H/I, following a local derby against another Church team, J. H/I from div A played off scratch versus a +24 start for the J's from div B but Chris Blowey still took his three, Ricky Fell two (both at 41/40) and finally Chris partnered his brother Phil for the doubles and the match at 6-3. Philip Booth, Ross McDermott and Anthony Reeve all kept one for the J side's reply. Amusingly, the semi-finals will have Eathorpe G/H playing Eathorpe A and Free Church F/K playing Church H/I so I can confidently predict an Eathorpe/ Church Final. LCP B will take the last place for the quarter-finals of the individually handicapped Coronation Cup, following a walkover over Free Church A.

The Leamington Closed Championships are being held on Saturday and Sunday this weekend at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington Spa. The top seeds for the Mens Singles are Mark Woolerton and Jon Williams, both previous winners, followed by Ian Packford and Mark Jackson. Earl Sweeney, Phil Paine, Pete Dunnett and Gary Webb take the next 4 seeded positions. Mark Jackson and Mark Woolerton have joined forces for the Mens Doubles and are seeded first, then Jon Williams with Earl Sweeney, followed by Gary Webb with Stuart Kurle and Phil Paine and Richard Arnold. Mark Jackson and Jon Williams are also seeded one and two for the Mixed Doubles with Mark partnering Jane Dickens and Jon with Julie Richardson.