

Week Commencing 22nd November 2004

Last week was the first round of the team-handicapped Southwell Cup. So far two Eathorpe teams have made it through their first matches. Eathorpe A had it comparatively easy against LCP Groovers despite the lower side starting on +34 compared to Eathorpe's scratch start on the hunt to 41. Eathorpe ran out 6-0 winners with Matthew and Colin Cooper taking two each and Chris Atkins one. The doubles proved the trickiest with Chris Atkins and Matthew Cooper just edging it at 41/40. Eathorpe G and H combined to take on club-mates Eathorpe B and this time it was the lower side that finished in front. G/H started on +33 for B's zero and Jack Henderson, Alastair Nicholson and Hannah Saville took three, two, one respectively for G/H's 6-2 win. Only Calvin Woodings was able to overcome the heavy handicap for the B side, and took two in reply. Last minute problems meant that Free Church A (div 1) had to scratch their match against Free Church J (div B).

Some teams used the break from normal fixtures to catch up on matches. Free Church G had a good time in Division A and keep their unbeaten record to lead the division with 24 points from 5 matches. They rolled over their Church F colleagues 5-0 with Luke Hobbins and Adam Cooper taking singles and doubles for the G's. F were unlucky not to gain a point especially in the doubles which they only lost in the fifth. In Division B a 5-0 whitewash reflected the gulf between the top and bottom Eathorpe teams in the division. Robert Fay and Chris Long produced a strong display to give Eathorpe F the singles and dad Michael partnered Robert for the doubles. The youngsters from Eathorpe H played well even so and were unlucky not to get the doubles. Free Church I did well in their local derby against Church K. Tom Crellin and Ricky Fell gave the I's their singles, whilst Tom Smith and Michael Turner for opponents Church K did not give up but took the final game the doubles for the 4-1 result. Church I now are on top of the division and have yet to lose a match. They have 23 points from 5 matches and should well be looking at promotion at Christmas. Church K bounced higher in their next match against St. Georges F when the doubles sealed the match to Church at 3-2 for Church K's first victory. Thomas Smith and Michael Turner took one each and the doubles for Church and Karen Toozer took her two singles for the Saints.

Two results for Whitnash C in Division 3. First they overcame Standard Photographic 8-2, ruining Photo's so far unbeaten run. Paul Riman and Dennis Woodhead picked up singles and doubles for Whitnash and Suzi Lingard gained her first win in Leamington league. Andy Beeston and Brendon Leahy held one each for Photo's reply. Then Whitnash drew 5-5 with stronger St. Georges C. Paul Riman took his three singles, Dennis Woodhead and Suzi Lingard one each. Saints Robert and Martin Bennett took braces and denied Whitnash the win with a stupendous doubles win at the finish 9/11, 14/12, 11/6, 10/12, 11/9 to force the draw, Saints' fourth so far.

Whitnash B have also been catching up in Division 1. First they faced their A side and did well in the local derby to finish with a 5-5 draw. Alan Hewitt held his three for the B's and Ian Perry two. Mark Woolerton, A side supremo, was unlucky only to get a brace, losing his third at 11/13 in the fifth and the doubles with Richard Arnold, who added one single as did Jon Williams for Whitnash A's worst result this autumn. Then Whitnash B, were outplayed by County Council A who finished with a 9-1 victory. Matthew Hobday and Clive Irwin took singles and doubles for Council along with a brace from Phil Paine. Alan Hewitt consoled Whitnash B with one point. Colebridge A ran out with a 10-0 whitewash of struggling RNA A, who look set to go down to div 2 at Christmas. Barry Hunt, Graham Hoskin and John Chandler all took hat-tricks for Colebridge and Hunt and Hoskin the doubles.

In Division 2 County Council B rolled across Free Church B to give a 9-1 score. Derek Harwood and Sue Clarke took three each, Nilton Green two and the doubles went to Harwood and Green. Tom Brocklehurst held onto one to salve Church B's pride.