

Week Commencing 25th October 2004

In a new version of 'rain stopped play' Free Church B had to abandon their match on 19th October against RNA D in Division 2 uncompleted with the score at just 1-1. They had played two games and were just about to start the third when there was a power cut down the Cubbington Road. As this was the third power cut that week and was expected to last at least two hours the match had to be left at that point. The two teams are arranging to play the remaining eight games on another occasion. The previous week Free Church B had not been lucky, going down to top contender Flavels 9-1 despite a determined point from Tom Brocklehurst won in the fifth to stop the whitewash. Flavels' Len Coonan and Trevor Bradley picked up hat tricks, Mick Bennett a brace and the doubles went to Bennett and Bradley. Marconi may be on a roll. First they defeated County Council B 8-2 and then they squeezed in front of Eathorpe A 6-4 to make it three wins from three. Against Council Steve Smith took a treble, Dennis Mockford and Gordon Tucker braces plus the doubles went to Mockford and Smith. Derek Harwood replied for Council with two. Three, two, one for Dennis Mockford (two won at deuce in the fifth), Richard Jardim and Gordon Tucker in the marathon match at Eathorpe which finished at 11.30pm where Allan Stockham, Chris Atkins and Matthew Cooper all picked up one and Cooper and Stockham the doubles. Better for Eathorpe A in their match with Free Church C which finished at 6-4 to 'thorpe. New signing Allan Stockham led the way with a hat-trick, Matthew Cooper two and Chris Atkins the critical one for their first success. Church's Stuart Mills took two, Cherry Matthews one and the doubles together. Similarly AP Sports A saw off Free Church C with 7-3 the final score. Andrew Meredith took his three, Edward Freeman two and Gerald Taylor one and the doubles went to Meredith and Taylor. Church's John Taylor, Pete Rourke and Stuart Mills all kept one. RNA C had an emphatic 9-1 result against Ashorne, with Dot Macfarlane and Andy Davies taking trebles, Daryl Burgess a brace and the two men the doubles. Ashorne's Ian Reader kept the one point at 12/10 in the fifth. In a tough match St. Georges D pipped County Council B 6-4 with Tracey Fletcher and Bert Banks taking braces, Gary Edwards a single and the crucial doubles with Fletcher. Derek Harwood took his three for Council, Sue Clarke one.

The Whitnash teams in Division 1 have been having a winning streak. Whitnash A first beat Wellesbourne 7-3 and then rolled over Riverhouse A 10-0 to make it 4 consecutive wins. In the Wellesbourne match Mark Woolerton, Richard Arnold and Jane Dickens took three, two, one respectively and Mark paired up with Jon Williams to take the doubles. Wellesbourne's answer to Sven Goran Erickson took two and Jim Betts one! Jon Williams, Richard Arnold and Jane Dickens picked up the singles in the Riverhouse result with Jane taking the doubles partnering Mark Woolerton. Whitnash B have also started in tremendous form with 2 results in. First they edged out Free Church A 6-4 and then went one better for 7-3 against RNA A. In the Church match Alan Hewitt took his three for Whitnash, Justin Rai two and the doubles for the match between them. Church's points came from Hugh Matthews with two, Stuart Kurle and Dave Daniels one each. Against RNA Alan Hewitt and Ian Perry took singles and doubles leaving naval crew Tony Thomas, Ian Stevens and reserve Andy Davies with just one apiece. In an excellent contest, which was closely fought from start to finish, saw County Council A edge home 6-4 against Free Church A. Stuart Kurle, returning to the sport after an absence of six seasons, rocked Council with two splendid five set wins for Church and also helped Hugh Matthews win a terrific 16-14 deciding set doubles. Hugh also picked up one single. No less than six games were decided in the fifth set, with Church bagging four of them to keep the scoreline in check. Council were indebted to a hat-trick from Phil Paine, who used all his experience to recover from two sets down to beat Kurle, plus a brace from new signing Matthew Hobday and a single from Clive Irwin who was desperately unlucky to lose his other two singles 12/10 in the fifth set!

In Division 3, Standard Photographic have picked up their second win in two matches, which is one more win than they achieved in the whole of last year! This time they had edged past FISSC when

Brendan Leahy and Geoff Taylor took the doubles to give a 6-4 match score. Brendan had already taken his three singles and Geoff Taylor two. For the Farmers George Mudie held two, Mark Kingham and Brian Marston one. RNA B also found FISSC a good target in their hunt to return to div 2. Duncan Hall and Steve Poole took singles and doubles and crewmate Dave Harding added one for the navy's 8-2 result. Mark Kingham and John Hunt kept one each for the Farmers' reply. New entrants to div 3, LCP Spartans are struggling to find their form. This week AP Sports B crushed them 10-0, the experienced trio of Tony Williams, Ros and Charlotte Freeman taking the singles and Tony and Ros the doubles to give AP their first win in three outings.

Both Free Church I and Eathorpe E had started the autumn with two wins in the 2-aside league Division B, so someone was going to be unlucky when they met. In the event it was quite an entertaining match with every game going to 5 sets before Free Church finished 4-1 on top. Matthew Jackson saved the whitewash in his first match this season for Eathorpe, which would have been an unfair reflection on the play. Matthew's win was at 12/10 in the fifth after being 2 sets to 1 down. Young Phil Blowey took two good singles for Church against older players and a very long doubles involving 2 deuces partnering Tom Crellin. Tom had had to concentrate to get his single as he took the first 2 sets, lost the next 2 before winning at 12/10 in the fifth. LCP Groovers are off the bottom of the scoreboard with their first victory at 4-1 against Eathorpe H. Phillipa Daley picked up her two singles for the Groovers as well as the doubles with Kate Pett and team-mate Rob Mantell added a single. For Eathorpe Adam Kennedy held the consoling point and had been unlucky not to get a second. LCP Inkers were also in fine form. They cruised over Free Church J 5-0 with Nicky Barrett and James Dex taking singles and doubles. Eathorpe F also whitewashed a Church team 5-0, the K's the side to suffer. Robert Fay and Chris Long took singles for Eathorpe and dad Michael Fay and Chris Long the doubles.

First wins in Division A for Free Church F and St. Georges E against the same unlucky side LCP Packers. First Sam Smith and Steve Richards picked up their singles to give Church F the 4-1 win whilst Steve Deeley and Sara Hemp worked well to keep the doubles for the Packers reply in a match where 3 games went to 5 sets and the scoreline could have gone the other way. However Saints E were able to eclipse the Packers 5-0 with straight sets successes in singles and doubles by Philip Morby and Steven Johnson. In an Eathorpe local derby the C side beat the D team 4-1 with Keith Miles making a rare appearance to pick up his two singles, Richard Freeman one single and the doubles together. Sophie Cooper held one for the D's. Eathorpe D also went down 4-1 to titleholders Riverhouse Henley B with Peter Nicholson holding the consolation point for 'Thorpe. Steve Shaw took his two singles for Riverhouse along with the doubles with Nathan Lee who also picked up one single.

Richard Grover is still acting as Webmaster for the league even though he is not actually living in the area at present. That is the miracle of modern communications! He has just started as a student at Keele University but expects that that will allow for a little table tennis work in between the rest of his student life! He hopes to play some league matches for St Georges in the Leamington League at Christmas time but is keeping his hand in at present by playing for the University in Division 3 of the Potteries and District Table Tennis League. In his first match for Keele they played away against Penkhull A - the team lost 8-2 but Richard kept a brace

All the results from the 1st FC Tournament of the season held on 2nd October can be found on the website along with latest Graded Points totals