

Week Commencing 29th November 2004

Free Church H / I had a close result against Standard Photographic in the team handicapped Southwell Trophy. Standard were the higher div 3 team working from a scratch handicap against the combined Church team from the 2-aside divisions, who started on +12, on the hunt to 41. Standard led all the way to be 5-3 up but lost the last 3 matches to go down 6-5. Standard found, like many have in handicap competitions, that the singles tend to go to the higher division players whilst the doubles favour the lower sides. Standard's Brendan Leahy won his three, and Andy Beeston two. For Church Chris Blowey took two, brother Phil Blowey one and Ricky Fell one in the singles and they took both the doubles with Chris partnering Phil in one and Ricky in the other. Free Church C also did well, overcoming Eathorpe E / F 6-4 with this time the lower side with a handicap of + 25 losing out. John Taylor picked up his three for Church and league newcomer Mandy Thomas did well to win two of her singles (one of which was the winning match) and one of the doubles with Cherry Matthews. For Eathorpe Katie Hawker kept two singles, Michael Fay one and Michael partnered son Robert for the second doubles. A third Church win in the Southwell Trophy was gained with Free Church B giving away 22 points to LCP A and still coming on top with a 6-2 scoreline. The very experienced Church team even picked up the doubles, which is unusual, though the scores at 41/38 and 41/39 were tight. Tom Brocklehurst took his two singles and both the doubles partnering Ian Rourke in one and Chris Mulligan in the other. Ian and Chris also took one single each. Simon Dainty and Steve Deeley held onto one each for LCP and were unlucky not to get a third single which, with no deuce in these matches, slipped away on the last point to end at 40/41. AP Sports from div 2 had an easier time against the combined Church teams E / G from the 2-aside competition, who only were given a +14 start. Andrew Meredith, Gerald Taylor and Eddie Stafford took three, two, one respectively in the singles to take the match at 6-0. Church struggled well but were not able to get close to the AP players.

In the only first round match of the individually handicapped Coronation Cup AP triumphed in the last game in their match against Free Church C to win with a 5-4 result. Eddie Stafford won this game, his only win of the night having lost his other two both with the unlucky scores of 60/61. Previously his AP club mates Andrew Meredith and Eddie Freeman had taken two each. Disappointing for Church C who had been 4-1 up. John Taylor won two, Stuart Mills and Cherry Matthews one each.

In the Heart of England Cadet League Leamington beat Rugby B 6-4. Phil Blowey won his two singles and the doubles with Steve Johnson and the team gained from 3 walkover points as Rugby were one short. Ironically Leamington lost to Rugby C 6-4 with Steve Johnson holding his three and Phil Blowey one. The Leamington trio then went down 10-0 to a strong Nuneaton 'A' team. With all 10 teams now having played six matches, Birmingham A are in the lead with 12 points, having won all their matches, but are closely followed by Kidderminster who have 10 points. Evesham, Nuneaton A and Rugby A are 3rd, 4th and 5th respectively with 8 points each. Next come three sides with 4 points - Birmingham B, Rugby B and Leamington. Rugby C have 2 points and lastly Nuneaton B have still to get off the ground. Leading the averages table are Alan Caffrey, Andy Bryant, Tristan Gretton and Jamie Morgan who are all on 100%.

In Division 1 of the Leamington League, St. Georges A have notched up their 8th victory from 8 outings to place them well in front with 61 points. With the season finishing at Christmas after 10 matches it may well be the Saints who lift the trophy. Earl Sweeney and Ian Packford took trebles and Mike Bishop added one to give Saints the 7-3 success against opponents Free Church A. Stuart Kurlle and Hugh Matthews held onto one each and the doubles together for Church's reply. Previous league winner Whitnash A also gained a win at 7-3 over Colebridge A to give them 51 points from 7 matches (6 wins and a draw), 10 points behind Saints with a match in hand. Mark Woolerton and

Richard Arnold took singles and doubles for Whitnash, whilst Barry Hunt, Graham Hoskin and John Chandler all held onto one each for Colebridge. County Council A improved their scores with an excellent 9-1 against Colebridge B. Matthew Hobday, Phil Paine and Clive Irwin all took hat-tricks for Council whilst Michael Rinnhofer and Neil Wheatley combined together for good effect to keep the doubles for Colebridge. St. Georges B also were on a winner. They saw off Riverhouse A 8-2 led by Rob Warnes who took a maximum with his singles and the doubles with Brian Aston who added a brace, as did Alf Chapman. Simon Griew held onto two for Riverhouse, who look fairly set for relegation to div 2 in the New Year with only 14 points from 7 matches.

AP Sports A had been doing well in Division 2, not having lost so far - until they met also unbeaten Flavels. The trio from Flavels, Mick Bennett, Roger Potts and Trevor Bradley were on top of their form and cruised over AP taking all the singles and Potts and Bradley the doubles for a 10-0 result. The match was definitely not as one-sided than the score suggests with 9 of the games going to 4 or 5 sets and the winning match captain reports "that it was the perfect game of pingpong". Flavels could not keep up this form and were edged out in their next match by RNA C 6-4. John Earles kept two for Flavels, Len Coonan and Roger Potts one each. For the navy Dot Macfarlane battled to a treble and the doubles at 11/9 in the fifth with Andy Davies, who chipped in with a single as critically did Daryl Burgess. AP Sports A bounced back to play really well against RNA D - and picked up a 10-0 whitewash to put them just in front with 49 points from 8 matches and 2 points in front of RNA C. Andrew Meredith, Edward Freeman and Eddy Stafford all took trebles and Meredith and Stafford the doubles. The naval D team were unlucky not to get at least one point with one game actually lost at deuce in the fifth. Eathorpe A put up a strong performance to gain braces from Chris Atkins, Matthew Cooper and Allan Stockham, and as well the doubles went to Atkins and Stockham for the 7-3 win. Chris Mulligan kept his three singles for opposition Free Church B, one at 15/13 in the fifth.

RNA B keep at the top of the Division 3 table with a 5-5 draw against Whitnash C to give them 36 points from 3 wins and 2 draws. Whitnash C and St. Georges C are close behind, both with 35 points from 6 matches. For naval B Richard Smith took his three, Duncan Hall and Richard Miles one each. For Whitnash C Dennis Woodhead and Paul Riman picked up braces and the doubles to force the draw. St. Georges C are also unbeaten with two wins and four draws, scoring a 9-1 against strugglers LCP Spartans. Rob and Tony Bennett took three each, nephew Luke Bennett made a brace for his first league points plus the doubles with dad Martin. Steve Deeley held one to salve LCP's pride.