

Week Commencing 31st January 2005

Champions of Division 1 from the autumn competition, County Council A have got off to a mixed start for the spring with a 5-5 draw against Whitnash B. Clive Irwin and Phil Paine held braces for Council and Pat McCabe a crucial single whilst Alan Hewitt took his three, Justin Rai one and the doubles together for Whitnash. St. Georges A had been pipped into second place before Christmas but their first match resulted in a 6-4 success with braces from Ian Packford, Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop. For opponents Colebridge B Neil Wheatley took two, Michael Rinnhofer one at 12/10 in the fifth plus the doubles together. St. Georges B did better against Colebridge A with a 7-3 score-line, led by Ron Vose who took his singles and the doubles with Peter Kirby. Peter Kirby chipped in a brace and Rob Warnes a single. Barry Hunt, Graham Hoskin and John Chandler all kept one for Colebridge's reply. Wellesbourne found promoted RNA C to their taste, going home with an 8-2 win. Pete Dunnett and Sven Rudolph took singles and doubles and Jim Betts chipped in with one single for Wellesbourne, whilst Andy Davies and Dot Macfarlane did well to gain their first wins for this naval side playing in division 1. The trio of Gary Webb, Hugh Matthews and Dave Daniels for Free Church A all took trebles and Webb and Matthews the doubles for Church's 10-0 whitewash of promotees Marconi. Whitnash A did not have it all their own way when they played Flavels, the top team promoted from div 2, in a match where one game was won at 16/14 in the fifth and two others at deuce in the fourth for a 7-3 score. Jon Williams, Richard Arnold and Jane Dickens picked up three, two, one respectively for Whitnash plus Mark Woolerton partnered Jane Dickens for the doubles whilst Roger Potts kept two for Flavels and Mick Bennett one.

County Council B in Division 2 also start with a 5-5 draw. Derek Harwood took his two and the doubles with Nilton Green, who also made a brace, but Derek had to concede his third single and thus the match was left as a draw. For opposition RNA A, just demoted from div 1, Tony Thomas took two, Kim Wong and Ian Stevens one each. AP Sports A edged their first match of the spring at 6-4 over Eathorpe A with the treble from Andrew Meredith the deciding factor. Edward Freeman also gave AP two and Gerald Taylor one. For Eathorpe Matthew Cooper took two, Allan Stockham one and the doubles between them. BGN B and RNA B were both promoted into Division 2 last week and their first match was against each other - the opposite of the autumn competition when they met in the last match! This time BGN B were on fine form and sailed over the naval crew 9-1. New Leamington league player for BGN Wei Dong, playing in his first competitive match in years, won a brace whilst team-mates Keith Woodcock and Malcolm Macfarlane took their singles and the doubles. Steve Poole held one for the navy.

In Division 3 the two teams demoted from div 2 have started in good form. RNA D stormed to a straight sets 10-0 over LCP Spartans, with Steve Kurlle, Jim Thomas and Robin Fox-Strangways the naval crew for the singles and with the two latter taking the doubles. Ashorne only could raise a team of two, but even so won 7-3 against new entrants Free Church Z. Chris Bowles and Roger Kelley were the Ashorne duo on form. Church Z were unlucky not to pick up the doubles which they only lost in the fifth. Four other matches also ended at 7-3. Whitnash C were unlucky to come third before Christmas and so lose out on promotion, but they look set to do well now and overcame FISSC 7-3. Paul Riman and Dennis Woodhead took singles and doubles, whilst the Farmers threesome of Brian Marston, Mark Kingham and John Hunt all held onto one. County Council C overcame Standard Photographic, though three points came because Photo were a player short. Tony Ford took his two for Council, Howard Rogers one and the doubles with Andy Woodfield whilst Photo's Geoff Taylor took two, Brendan Leahy one. Samantha Apostol (better known as Samantha Meredith) celebrated her return to league play after a few years gap with a treble for AP Sports B and the doubles with Stephanie Hawkins, who also produced a hat-trick. Pete Rourke, Lleryn Brocklehurst and Ron Stanbridge all held onto one for newly formed Free Church D. This was also a good result for St Georges C. They overcame Eathorpe B 7-3 with brothers Martin and Tony Bennett taking singles and

doubles for Saints. Eathorpe's Ron Coats, Paul Deavall and Michael Rossington all kept one.

Free Church G took Division A before Christmas but they have already fallen at the first hurdle. Riverhouse Henley B have set their mark on the division with a 5-0 result over Church G, with Steve Proctor and Steve Shaw taking singles and doubles. Equal second placed Free Church E squeezed past club mates Church F 3-2 when Estyn Williams and Keith Knott won the doubles at 11/9 in the fifth to add to Keith's brace in the singles. Sam Smith and Steve Richards both kept one single for the F's. Less good for the other team in second place from before Christmas, Eathorpe C. They met new league entry, Rugby, and discovered that Stephen Maddison and Jack Randle are a force to be reckoned with. Stephen took his two singles, Jack one and the doubles together for an excellent first competitive play result, whilst Eathorpe had to be consoled with just one point from Eric Smith. Promoted St. Georges F from div B, have started in good form, picking up a 3-2 victory in a close match over Eathorpe D. Karen Toozer took her two and the doubles with Lawrence Sweeney for the Saints, whilst Peter Nicholson and Sophie Niepceron both kept one for Eathorpe D. Div B winners Free Church I have also done well on their debut in div A. They overcame LCP Dreamers 3-2 with a brace from Ricky Fell and one from Tom Crellin. Simon Dainty kept one and the doubles with Simon Walmesley for the Dreamers. Free Church E followed on with a second victory when they saw off Eathorpe D 4-1 led by captain Keith Knott with his two singles and the doubles with Estyn Williams, who added one single. Sophie Cooper held onto one for Eathorpe's point.

LCP Packers struggled in division A before Christmas, only picking up 7 points in 9 matches, but relegation to division B has worked wonders as they have gained 5 points from just one match! Doug Smith and Steve Deeley cruised to easy 5-0 victory in singles and doubles over new team Free Church M. LCP Inkers also found that a new Free Church team were their first opponents and also ran out 5-0 straight sets success. James Dex and Nicky Barrett gave Inkers singles and doubles against the new players in Free Church L. St. Georges E were also relegated from div A, but on the first result look set to return. They overcame Free Church K 5-0, Phil Morby and Steven Johnson taking singles and doubles for Saints. The experienced duo from Eathorpe E had a comparatively easy local derby against the new team of 11 and 12 year olds Eathorpe I. Katie Hawker and Matthew Jackson gained singles and doubles for Eathorpe E. The local derby between Eathorpe's G and H teams was a lot closer with the H side only taking the win when Robert Young and Alastair Nicholson picked up the doubles at 11/8 in the fifth to win the match at 3-2, Alastair having already won his two singles, his first brace in the league. Not bad for a team who lost all 9 matches in the autumn, with only 4 points overall! William Henry and Jack Henderson held onto one single each for the G's reply.

Two more individually handicapped Coronation Cup matches saw two more Free Church teams through to the last eight. Against fellow second division team, AP Sports, Free Church B ran out 5-0 winners with braces from Lleryn Brocklehurst and Ian Rourke and a single from Emma Churchley. Free Church J did almost as well against LCP A, with a winning result of 5-1. Ross McDermott and Anthony Reeve took two each, Philip Booth one whilst LCP's Sara Hemp held onto one in reply.

Warwickshire Cadets look assured of third spot in Division One 'A' of the County Championships after victories over Gloucestershire and Sussex. Rachel Pilgrim (Nuneaton) and Charlotte Freeman (Leamington) won an incredible 15 of their 16 games, whilst the Kingshurst trio of Alan Caffery, Scott Tune and Jamie Morgan all played a part after the number 1 player Paul Leck was forced to miss the matches through illness.