

Week Commencing 17th January 2005

Birmingham Table Tennis

By Bob Brown

Kingshurst Bribar are three points clear in Division Three (South/Midlands) of the British League following the latest round of matches. Ian Ferguson gave the Birmingham side the lead against Sutton Hawks, but Bribar were soon 4-1 down, before Scott Prime, Mike Browne and Jason Essex levelled the match. Nearest challengers Oxford were then crushed 7-1, with only Prime losing, but he put up a tremendous fight against Earl Sweeney, before being beaten 11-5 in the fifth. Warwickshire Cadets look assured of third spot in Division One 'A' 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 No 1 player Paul Leck was forced to miss the matches through illness.

Helen Turner inflicted the first defeat of the season on Curdworth's Andy Hare in the Premier Division of the Birmingham League, winning 11-5 in the fifth and the Sutton 'A' player also beat Phil Burwell. Curdworth won 8-2, however, to retain their iron grip on the title, with Ian Ferguson now the only player with a 100 per cent singles record. Smithereens edged out Sutton in Division One by a 6-4 margin, as Norman Harvey recorded a maximum. Bhavesh Amlani was unbeaten for Bournville 'A' in their 7-3 win over Land Rover 'C', which included an 11-8 in the fifth success over Chris Allen. Land Rover 'B' hammered Sandwell Unison 8-2, with Bob Allcock and Barry Clarke both winning three singles. Steve Pinder was in fine unbeaten form for Division Two promotion hopefuls Hockley Heath 'A' in their 7-3 victory over St Chads. Colebridge Eagles gained a 7-3 win at Streetly 'B', with Mahroof Hussain enjoying treble singles success. Bournville 'B' did well against high fliers. Colebridge Hawks and Colebridge Giants in Division Three. Martin Clayton and Pete Haslam won two each in their 5-5 draw with Hawks, although Mick Walsh recorded a splendid maximum for the visitors. Giants scraped home 6-4, but Bournville reserve Harry Ford inflicted a shock defeat over Frank Cotter by 11-9 in the fifth, only the third defeat of the campaign for Cotter, who was thwarted by Ford's stonewall defence. Hawks got back to winning ways against Sutton 'E' with a 6-4 success, with Walsh again winning three. Walmley 'A' remain top of the pile in this division, following a 7-3 win against Land Rover 'D', with reserve Stan Willis, Alan White and Colin Lewis all winning two singles. Dean Hicks remains unbeaten for Hockley Heath 'B' in Division Four, as he helped his side to a 7-3 victory over Land Rover 'F'. Sutton 'H' beat their 'G' team 7-3, Nabil Kalfey gaining a maximum. Tim Stevens recorded another maximum for Walmley 'B' in their handsome 8-2 triumph over Kingshurst Bribar 'F'. Tile Cross 'C' crushed Lodge Road 8-2 in Division Five, as Alan Buck and Ray Copley were both unbeaten. Bournville 'C' overwhelmed Streetly 'C' 9-1, Bruce Barrett and Nigel Collins winning three each. Stuart Oakes gained three wins for Streetly 'D' in their 6-4 success at Baverstock 'C' in Division Six.