

Week Commencing 5th December 2005

It was so near and yet so far once again for the Warwickshire's Senior A team in the County Championships played at Leamington at the end of November. For the last match of the weekend Warwickshire, with 4 wins from 4, faced Norfolk, also with 4 wins from 4, but Norfolk had a slightly better games difference so a win was essential. The first two games went right to the wire but both went to Norfolk and after that only a superb double from Rachel Pilgrim put any games on the board for Warwickshire, who went down 8-2. If those first two games had gone the other way it could well have been quite different. As a result, Warwickshire for the second year running finish second in the division and do not gain promotion.

There was a superb performance from Rachel Pilgrim (8 wins from 10), Scott Prime (7 from 10 at number 3) and Ian Ferguson (6 from 10 playing at number 1). As well solid performances by Mick Browne and Jane Dickens both finishing with 4 from 10 led to the team's wins over Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Suffolk all at 6-4 and 9-1 over Cambridgeshire Seconds. Special mention of the two girls who combined in the morning of Sunday to take 4 games from 4 against a Nottingham side that was strengthened greatly by the inclusion of Andy Trott at number 2 on the mens side. This excellent performance carried Warwickshire through to a tight 6-4 victory. No easy wins these and the girls held their games really well together under great pressure.

County Council C in Division 2 of the three-aside league fought well against Free Church B before going down at 9-1, but were playing under an age handicap. At 211 years they were probably the highest total aggregate age of any team that has ever played in the league. For the "youngsters" on the Church side, Chris Mulligan and Tom Brocklehurst gained singles and the doubles, Emma Churchley a brace. Doug Lowe kept one for Council. Cosewood (Coventry) cruised over RNA B 9-1, Steve Smith and Dennis Mockford trebles, Roy Joiner a brace and the doubles with Steve Smith. AP A also won at 9-1 over the same opponents. Andrew Meredith and Edward Freeman took their two singles, Samantha Apostol one plus the doubles with brother Andrew, plus three forfeited points as the naval side were one crewman short. Steve Poole kept one for naval solace in both matches. Two trebles from Matthew Cooper and Allan Stockham, one brace from Chris Atkins and a convincing doubles from Chris and Matthew gave Eathorpe A this clear 9-1 win over Free Church C although most matches were hard fought, in particular 3 deuce sets between Chris Atkins and John Taylor. Church's Cherry Matthews scored their consolation point late in the evening.

In Division 1, St. Georges B saw off RNA C 8-2 with trebles from Jimmy Pittaway and Bert Banks, plus a brace from Rob Warnes. Andy Davies held one single for the navy, William Fletcher and Dorothy Macfarlane the doubles. St. Georges A also won at 8-2, Colebridge B their opponents. Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop gave Saints singles and doubles, Ian Packford one single. For Colebridge Neil Wheatley picked up one in the fifth plus a forfeited game as one of Saints players withdrew injured. Colebridge B recovered to beat Wellesbourne 8-2 Michael Rinnhofer and Navinder Matharu trebles, Neil Wheatley a brace. Pete Dunnett kept one single for Wellesbourne, Gary Stewart and Jim Betts the doubles. Whitnash A did nearly as well, with 7-3 their win over BGN. Alan Hewitt and Ian Perry picked up hat-tricks for Whitnash, plus Alan partnered Jon Williams successfully for the doubles. Malcolm Macfarlane, Dong Wei and John Watson held one each for BGN. County Council B rolled over Flavels 9-1, Nilton Green and Simon Griew singles and doubles, and Derek Harwood a brace. Mick Bennett stopped the whitewash. Slightly better for Flavels against Colebridge A as they only went down 6-4. Trevor Bradley held two for Flavels and the doubles with Roger Potts, and Damon Fenton one. For Colebridge, John Chandler took three, Graham Hoskin two and Bob Brown one.

In Division 3, the young Eathorpe C players went down 9-1 to Ashorne but a whitewash was avoided by an excellent display by William Hancock taking his single. Steady performances from the three experienced Ashorne players ensured their convincing result (Steve Bolton and Roger Kelley trebles, Chris Bowles a brace and the doubles went to Roger and Chris. St. Georges D also won at 9-1, RNA D their victims. Rob and Martin Bennett three each and the doubles, Tony Bennett two. Bert McKay one for the navy. A closer match for Free Church D against AP B led to a 6-4 win for Church, Pete Rourke leading his team with a treble and crucially the doubles with Adam Cooper, who added one single as did Ron Stanbridge. Tony Williams and Stephanie Hawkins kept two each for AP's reply.

In the two-aside League, in Division A FISSC B crushed LCP Dreamers 5-0, Mark Kingham and Brian Marston taking all matches. Dreamers bounced back to see off Free Church G 4-1, Simon Dainty and Simon Walmesley taking their singles for LCP, Tom Crellin and Ricky Fell taking the doubles in the fifth in recompense. A close match Between Eathorpe D and St. Georges E was settled at 3-2 by the doubles win by Richard Freeman and Eric Smith, who both also took a single. Paul Nason twice a comfortable winner for St Georges.

Free Church I had an easy straight sets 5-0 win over LCP Groovers in Division B, Ross McDermott and Philip Booth taking singles and doubles. A very close contest in a local derby between Eathorpe F and Eathorpe G still saw the Hawkers of the F team sailing on with only one hiccup for a 4-1 victory. Katie two, dad Dave one plus the doubles whilst Tom Jamie took an excellent single for G's consolation point. LCP Inkers edged past Free Church H to succeed at 3-2 thanks to the doubles from Nicky Barrett and James Dex to add to their single each. Tom Smith kept his two for Church.