

Week Commencing 6th November 2006

It was a clash of the titans in Division 1 this week. Defending champions, St Georges A faced title hopefuls Flavels A. Flavels, having played fewer games than their rivals, were keen to pull back some points and did so by inflicting the Saint's first defeat of the campaign. Maximum man Paul Savins lead Flavels charge by, once again, despatching all challengers and putting in arguably his best performance of the season to date, by coming back from two sets down to beat two-time defending Warwickshire Champion Ian Packford, saving match points along the way. Ian demonstrated his pedigree by taking his other two singles and joining Earl Sweeney to take a straight-sets doubles. For Flavels, Mark Jackson and Pete Dasher both picked up two against a below-par Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop in their 7-3 victory. St Georges A may have suffered a slight setback against Flavels, but no such thing against BGN A as they rolled over them 8-2. Packford took his three, Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop braces. Bob Harman and Jason Adams replied for BGN, but a Packford/Bishop doubles completed the job. WCC A continue to enforce their own title challenge and overpowered St Georges C 9-1. Sasha Grokhotov and Clive Irwin both posted hat-tricks and took the doubles too. The Saint's lone reply came in the form of an outstanding five set win against Pat McCabe by Andy Caine. Navinder Matharu was in commanding form for Colebridge A, notching a good treble in their 6-4 win over Wellesbourne. Neil Wheatley and Mike Rinnhofer added singles and Mike and Nav the doubles. Pete Dunnett picked up two for 'Bourne; Gary Stewart and Michael Wilkins one each. Eathorpe A picked up their first points in the first division when losing 8-2 to St Georges B. Chris Atkins and Matthew Cooper picked up those crucial first points and will no doubt be looking to carry on the form. Saint's though, were far too strong over the course of a whole match and Jimmy Pittaway coasted to a straight-sets treble, with Rob Warnes, who won an extraordinary 19-17 set against Eathorpe reserve Phillip Hill, and Phillip Beesley adding braces.

Flavels B are picking up the pace as they moved joint top of Division 2, courtesy of a couple of 7-3 wins. First up were RNA B and John Earles was imperious as he claimed his three. Roger Potts added a couple, Mick Bennett one and the doubles together. Dick Smith and Steve Poole replied with two and one respectively. Flavels then repeated their act against RNA A. Hat-trick hero this time was Trevor Bradley. John Earles taking two, Roger Potts one and the doubles with Trevor. Tony Thomas won his remaining two; Dot Macfarlane a single for Navy. A third RNA side and a third defeat for the club. Unfortunately for the C's, this one was heavier than those suffered by their club mates. Robin Fox-Strangeways won a good five-setter against Copsewood's Roy Joiner, but that was all RNA could muster. Roy Joiner won his remaining two, with Gordon Tucker and Steve Smith taking singles and doubles in the 9-1 win that sees them join Flavels at the top of the table. AP Sports A, having lost three from three at the start of the season, have now won two on the bounce. This week they beat Whitnash 7-3. A fine treble from Terry Smith was supported by a brace from Andy Meredith and a single from Edward Freeman. Nash's Ken Southwell hit back with two; Ian Perry one.

Division Three looks to be shaping up to be a tight battle with three sides edging away from the chasing pack. Rugby C are one of these three and went level on points with FISSC A with a couple of wins. They beat Free Church F 9-1 - Rugby's Don Pritchard and Matthew Outhwaite proved unbeatable on the night and Joe Stoica took two. Free Church's lone reply came from Phil Blowey. Rugby then beat Free Church D 7-3. Don and Matthew again supreme in singles, but this time lost out to Adam Cooper and Llyern Brocklehurst in the doubles. Adam and Llyern both picked up a single to complete Church's three points. Dave Cox's single completing Rugby's seven. The experience of Tony Ford and Doug Lowe tipped the scales for WCC D in a 7-3 victory over Eathorpe C. Both picked up hat-tricks for Council and dovetailed well to take the doubles. Michael Rossington, Charles Wragg and Paul Deavall (who edged a 19-17 deciding set along the way) all picked up singles. Eathorpe B had a good win against a strong WCC C side as Alastair Nicholson

bagged a great three from three. Alastair was partnered for the doubles by Allan Stockham who won three himself. Reg Warnes, Graham Roberts and Sue Clarke all took a point for County Council.

An entertaining match between two of Division A's younger sides included a marathon five-set game between Eathorpe E's James Matharu and Free Church H's Phil Blowey end 19-17 in favour of Phil. Phil won his other single, as did James. James and Ryan Oldham took the doubles for 'Thorpe and the youngest player on show, Holly Thompson took the crucial match-winning point for Church - 3-2 the end result. Free Church G just edged out their I side colleagues in a match that could so easily have gone the other way. Adam Cooper won his two for G, Estyn Williams one. In reply, Russell and Luke Spencer won a five-set doubles. Russell won one of his singles too and only just missed out on a maximum in another five-set game. If the I side could have stolen the win against the G's, there proved to be no such chance against AP Sports B. Tony Williams and Carol Meredith sprinted across the finish line without dropping a set in their 5-0 win. FISSC B nicked the win against Eathorpe D as they ran out 3-2 winners. Mark Kingham and Brian Marston won a game each and the doubles together for FISSC; Alastair Nicholson fought hard to take a maximum – both games going the distance. Rugby E took the spoils against LCP Dreamers in another 3-2 match. Marion Dixon starred for Rugby and took singles and doubles with Grace Newman. Simon Dainty and Simon Walmsley both registered a single in reply. Much tougher for Rugby against St Georges E though. Alison Riley claimed a point, but it proved to be nothing more than a consolation as St Georges duo Gary Edwards and Phillip Morby took two and one respectively and the doubles together.

Only one match to report on in Division B – Eathorpe G crushed LCP Packers by five points to nil. William Hancock and Richard Freeman relatively untroubled along the way.

A demolition job from Eathorpe I in Division C, but a very sporting match nonetheless. John Gymer and Pauline Parkes were too much for the younger players of Free Church L, although four deuce sets indicated the potential of the defeated side. Rugby G were another side who found life tough – their 5-0 defeat coming at the hands of Free Church M. Richard Pittaway Jnr and Dan Ward took singles and doubles for a comfortable win. LCP Groovers faced Free Church O and, despite a brave lone reply from Church's James Payne won the match comfortably. Dave Overton took both his games; Philippa Dalley one plus the doubles with Dave.

The first round of the Southwell Trophy was contested last week and the results were as follows: Eathorpe E beat Eathorpe G 3-0; Eathorpe A beat Eathorpe B 3-2 (although in the 2-a-side handicapped match, the B side were critically handicapped when reduced to only one player due to a sudden work crisis); AP Sports A beat Eathorpe D 3-1; Eathorpe J beat Eathorpe C 3-1; Eathorpe I beat Eathorpe K 3-0; Eathorpe H beat Eathorpe F 3-0; WCC D beat Free Church B 3-2.

Last weekend, Leamington's Cadet side made a good start in the first session of the Heart of England Cadet League, winning their three matches. The team (Phil Blowey, Ryan Oldham, Lawrence Sweeney and Alistair Nicholson) beat Birmingham 6-4, Kidderminster 7-3 and Sutton Coldfield 7-3. Alistair Nicholson is one of only two players in the league to have a 100% record.

Lillington Free Church are holding their second Graded Tournament of the season this weekend at Sydenham Sports Centre. Telephone entries are still being accepted. Please contact Hugh Matthews on 01926 314539 if you are interested.