

Week Commencing 9th April 2007

At the top of the Division 3 table, things are looking very tight indeed. Free Church E are in pole position, having taken 145 points from 19 games; Eathorpe B lie second with 137 from 19; Rugby C are third on 133, but have only played 18 games and have both Eathorpe B and Free Church E left to play! Free Church E cemented their spot at the summit with a 10-0 win over Eathorpe C – Tom Hunt, Luke Hobbins and Chris Blowey looking nerveless as the winning line approaches. Eathorpe C also fell 10-0 to Rugby C – Dave Cox, Matthew Outhwaite and Don Pritchard keeping up the pressure. The same Rugby trio then beat Ashorne 10-0 too – which gave them a twenty point haul from their two matches. Eathorpe B couldn't quite match the scores of their title rivals, but they still managed to beat FISSC A 8-2, with threes plus the doubles from Phillip Hill and Allan Stockham and one from Alastair Nicholson. Gareth Conway and George Mudie both kept one for FISSC. A point better from 'Thorpe B against Free Church F – threes from Alastair Nicholson and Allan Stockham, plus one from Phillip Hill who took the doubles with Stockham, giving them the 9-1 win. Jake Harrison a fine consolation for Church. Another 9-1 completed Eathorpe B's three matches in close succession – WCC D going down this time, with only Doug Lowe managing to save some pride. WCC D faced two-man Rugby D and a single from Doug Lowe, plus the doubles with Pat Woolvin was enough to take a draw after the concessionary points had been added. Alex Phillips won three for Rugby; Ben Meakin two. County Council C snuck past FISSC A 6-4, as Reg Warnes and Graham Roberts won braces plus the doubles together. George Mudie, Gareth Conway and Tony Scott all won once for FISSC, but Sue Clarke took a crucial single to earn WCC the win. FISSC managed a 6-4 win for themselves, though, as they just got the better of Rugby D. George Mudie, Mark Kingham and Tony Scott all won twice, but none could stop Alex Phillips taking a hat-trick and the doubles with Jack Koumi. Rugby D also fell 4-6 to WCC C. Sue Clarke, Reg Warnes and Graham Roberts all won two, but again Alex Phillips was untouchable as he won three plus the doubles with Tristan Mobbs. Ian Rourke showed signs of rediscovering his form of old, as his exquisite mix of long range defence and aggressive backhand attack saw him claim his first league hat-trick of the season in Free Church D's 8-2 win over opponents Free Church F. Ian's form inspired his team mates, Llyern Brocklehurst and Adam Cooper, to win three and one respectively, plus the doubles together. Phil Blowey and Charlotte Spencer both played well to pick up a single in reply.

Division 2 is also going right down to the wire. Current leaders are Free Church B who have 129 points from 19 games. Rugby A are poised in second, with 122 from 17 and Rugby B only just behind them in third with 121 from 17 games. Rugby B have both Rugby A and Free Church B left to play in two matches which will decide which two teams get the coveted promotion to Division 1. Rugby B started their push well with an 8-2 win over RNA A. Pete Morris and Alaam Durrani won singles and doubles for Rugby, with Alan Chan contributing two to the cause. Andy Davies held a single for Navy, then combined with Kay Nason to take a five-set doubles. More of the same from Rugby B as they took out Whitnash 8-2 as well. Alan Chan was the hat-trick hero this time, while Pete and Alaam could only manage braces, although they did take the doubles in five sets. Paul Ryman continued his strong finish to the season with another two wins. Free Church B beat BGN B 6-4 in a match where three or four tight matches could have gone the other way and the result still have been as close. For Free Church, Mike Bridgman worked hard for his three, including a fifth set comeback from 6-10 down against Malc Macfarlane. Tom Brocklehurst added two, as did Dong Wei for BGN, including a fifth set comeback to beat Tom. Dong Wei and Steve Proctor took a fifth set doubles, making another comeback – this time from 5-1 down at the change, but Chris Mulligan's nerve held true as he recovered from two earlier losses to pick up the match winning single. That win for Free Church B was certainly needed, as previously they had faced Rugby A and, in another match that had a few close games, slipped to a 6-4 defeat.

Rugby's Ian Randle proved his class as he raised his game to keep his 100% record for the season intact. Len Coonan and Jack Randle both added a single and Jack joined Ian for a match-winning doubles. Mike Bridgman and Tom Brocklehurst both held two for Church in a result that gives Rugby A the edge in the race for first place. BGN B had another couple of matches to get through and managed a 10-0 win over two-man RNA C. Steve Proctor, John Ludford and Tom Hunt (a junior reserve who played exceptionally well in coming up from Division 3) all won two, plus the doubles. BGN drew with Whitnash thanks largely to a hat-trick from Dong Wei. Steve Proctor and Dave Smye both chipped in with a single to secure the draw. Ken Southwell and Ian Perry both collected two plus the doubles for Whitnash's points. Copsewood overcame Flavels B 6-4 as Steve Smith took three, Roy Joiner two and Gordon Tucker one. Trevor Bradley, Roger Potts and Mick Bennett all held one for Flavels, with the latter two also adding the doubles. Copsewood drew 5-5 with RNA B with two from Roy Joiner, one each from Steve Smith and Gordon Tucker and the doubles. Navy B's points were picked up by Ian Stevens, Dick Smith and Richard Miles, who won two, two and one respectively. AP Sports A were too strong for Free Church C who, despite singles from Stuart Mills and Les Hoggins, went down 8-2. Andrew Meredith returned from a lengthy spell out to take his three, plus the doubles with Terry Smith. Terry picked up a brace for himself, as did Samantha Meredith.

St Georges A were held to a 5-5 draw by fellow Division 1 side Colebridge A in a splendid match, with many breathtaking shots. Edward Lynn and Navinder Matharu won twice each for 'Bridge and combined to take the doubles. For Saints, Ian Packford came from behind in two matches to claim a hat-trick and Mike Bishop and The Earl of Leamington won one each. Wellesbourne had an 8-2 win over BGN A to celebrate, with Pete Dunnnett winning a maximum that was added to by two each from Gary Stewart and Michael Wilkins plus a doubles win. Jason Adams won both of BGN's consolation points. BGN then drew against St Georges B – their five points being scored by Bob Harman and Jason Adams, both of whom took two, plus the doubles together. Ron Vose and Rob Warnes scored twice for Saints; Phillip Beesley, crucially, once. Wellesbourne's second match resulted in another 8-2 win, their opponents this time being Colebridge B. Pete Dunnnett won his three again, plus the doubles with Gary Stewart who won two, as did Michael Wilkins. John Taylor and John Chandler both notched for Colebridge. Bob Brown was Colebridge B's sole point-winner as they went down 9-1 to WCC B. Nilton Green and Simon Griew took singles and doubles, with Derek Harwood adding a brace. Another win for the left-handed trio of County Council B came at the expense of St Georges B. Nilton and Simon again took singles and doubles, with Derek collecting one on this occasion. Jimmy Pittaway and Jack Randle both picked up a single for Saints. A final WCC B match resulted in a 5-5 draw with Free Church A. Simon and Nilton continued their good doubles form and picked up two and one respectively in their singles. Hugh Matthews registered a maximum for Church and Gary Webb a brace, but Derek Harwood's vital single evened the score for County Council. Another predictable result for Eathorpe A, as they conceded all ten points to WCC A's Pat McCabe, Clive Irwin and Phil Paine. A maximum defeat once more, but a sterling effort from the villagers resulted in some excellent rallies as they went down fighting.

Rugby E had a convincing win over Eathorpe E in Division A, with Marion Dixon's brace, Grace Newman's single, plus the doubles outscoring Ryan James Oldham's lone reply. The Rugby ladies were not able to follow that up, but did well to limit table-topping AP Sports B to only a 3-2 win. Tony Williams and Carol Meredith won one each, plus the doubles for AP; Marion remained undefeated for Rugby. Another 3-2 win for AP came against Rugby F, with Carol and Tony again taking one each, plus the doubles. On this occasion, it was Jesse Kendrick-Hill who could not be stopped and gained Rugby's points. Another maximum for in-form Jesse, which was added to by a Ryan Lines singles, plus the doubles, resulted in a 4-1 over Free Church H, for whom Scott Delday consoled. St Georges D,

spearheaded as ever by the tempestuous Paul Nason, took out FISSC B 4-1. Paul's classy brace was complemented by Lawrence Sweeney's single, plus the doubles together. George Mudie saved one for FISSC. Against Eathorpe D, though, the Saint's slipped to a narrow 3-2 defeat. Paul took his two, but Alastair and Peter Nicholson took one each and the doubles together for the win. Free Church I just got the verdict over St Georges E, with Lleryn Brocklehurst's two, plus the doubles with Luke Spencer gave them the 3-2 result. Phillip Morby and Gary Edwards both won once for Saints.

A stern battle between two teams at the bottom end of Division B, Eathorpe H and J, ended with a 4-1 win for H. Hannah Saville took two, Elizabeth Hancock one and the doubles with Hannah. William Henry consoled for the J's. Eathorpe K beat LCP Packers 5-0. Allan Stockham, surprisingly appearing at this level, took a predictable and untested two; Holly Savage, playing with confidence, took her two and the doubles to complete the haul. Only 4-1 for Eathorpe K against LCP Dreamers though. Stockham again won his singles, plus the doubles with Holly, who on this occasion was prevented a maximum by LCP's Simon Dainty. Free Church M beat Free Church K 4-1; two from Richard Pittaway Jnr, one from Dan Ward and a Ward/Phil Booth doubles eclipsing an excellent single response from Jack Hobbins. Free Church K recovered well to edge out LCP Packers 3-2. Lindy Myers took two and Roald Myers one for Church; Doug Smith one for Packers, plus the doubles with Nicky Barrett.

Free Church Q had a 4-1 Division C win over LCP Groovers, as David and Niall Herbert took two and one respectively, plus the doubles. Dave Overton saved the whitewash for the Groovers. Free Church P registered a good 4-1 over Free Church N, with Anita Whitehouse in unbeatable form. Aidan Pestell joined her for the doubles and took a single for himself. Lucy Marlow was the N side's lone winner. Eathorpe L won 3-2 against Harbury Lane – Gary Osbourne taking both his singles and Josh Osbourne a crucial one. Sam Twigg got one back for Harbury, then joined Alex Twigg to take the doubles. Harbury Lane had a 3-2 match go in their favour as they beat Free Church L thanks to two from Sam Twigg and the doubles with dad Alex. Lewis Barge and Jakob Lane won once each in reply for Church. Eathorpe L were 5-0 winners over Free Church N – Gary and Josh Osbourne flying through. St Georges F beat Free Church P 4-1 thanks to two from Callum Martin, one from Billy Bain and the doubles together. Anita Whitehouse took the consolation point for Church.