

Week Commencing 12th February 2007

Eathorpe B got the better of WCC C in an epic Division 3 match which lasted until 11p.m. Graham Roberts picked up two for County Council, Reg Warnes a single. Although both severely tested Allan Stockham, that was all County Council could manage and Eathorpe emerged as the 7-3 victors, thanks to Allan's three, two from Alastair Nicholson and one from Phillip Hill (who took the doubles with Stockham). A display of exquisite defensive wizardry from Ian Rourke was pleasing on the eye, but, despite three close games, was only enough to pick up a solitary point for Free Church D. Their opponents, Church E, completed a 9-1 win with three plus the doubles from Tom Hunt and Chris Blowey and two from Luke Hobbins. Free Church E also battled out a 5-5 draw with Rugby D. Luke Hobbins took a hat-trick this time, plus the doubles with Chris Blowey, who picked up the crucial fifth point. Rugby's Steven Maddison and Alex Phillips both won two, Ben Meakin one. Rugby D then slipped to a 6-4 defeat at the hands of Ashorne, with Tristan Mobbs winning two, Ben Meakin one and the doubles together. Roger Kelley steered Ashorne to the win with a hat-trick and was supported by two from Steve Bolton and one from Chris Bowles. WCC D were a player short against FISSC A. Doug Lowe won his three for Council, Tony Ford two, but Gareth Conway collected a single and the doubles with John Hunt to add to the three forfeited points and salvage a 5-5 draw.

St Georges B collected maximum Division 1 points against Eathorpe A – Jimmy Pittaway, Phillip Beasley and Rob Warnes making no mistakes. Flavels A were also 10-0 winners when Paul Savins, Pete Dasher and Mark Jackson took on WCC B. Colebridge A were involved in a closer match, beating Wellesbourne 7-3. Navinder Matharu won an excellent hat-trick for Colebridge, with Michael Rinnhofer and Edward Lynn adding braces. Wellesbourne picked up their points thanks to two from Michael Wilkins and the doubles from Pete Dunnett and Gary Stewart. Free Church A beat Colebridge's B side 7-3 with three from skipper Hugh Matthews, two from Gary Webb and one from Tom Brocklehurst. Hugh and Gary also combined to take the doubles. Pete Roddy won two for Colebridge B, Bob Brown one. BGN B hammered RNA B in Division 2. Dong Wei, Andrew Davies and Steve Proctor proving far too strong for their opposition. Whitnash edged out AP Sports A for a 6-4 win, with two each from Paul Ryman and Ian Perry and one from Dennis Woodhead, who took the doubles with Perry. Terry Smith picked up two for AP, Andrew Meredith and Samantha Apostol one each.

St Georges E found a determined young Jesse Kendrick Hill unstoppable as he picked up two very good singles wins. However, Gary Edwards and Phillip Morby both won one, plus the doubles together to win their Division A match 3-2. Two singles from Peter Nicholson and one from Sophie Niepceron, plus a keenly contested doubles gave Eathorpe D a 4-1 win over Free Church I, whose consolation was scored by Luke Spencer – very young, but a rare talent. Free Church I also lost to FISSC B – Mark Kingham and Brian Marston too hot to handle in their 5-0 win.

Three tight singles, which were all won by Division B's Free Church M tipped the scales in their favour against Eathorpe I. Dan Ward picked up two, Phillip Booth one plus the doubles with Richard Pittaway Jnr for their 4-1 win. Eathorpe's Pauline Parkes saved a single, but it was youth which ultimately conquered maturity on this occasion. LCP Packers showed great determination in their game against Eathorpe F, which started when they battled through the snow to get their! They continued their efforts throughout the match, but couldn't make a dent as Dave and Katie Hawker emerged with a 5-0 win. A better result for LCP Dreamers though – Simon Dainty and Simon Walmesley had a comfortable 5-0 win over Free Church K.

The young ladies of Free Church N put in an excellent display to dispatch the young gentlemen of Free Church R 5-0. Lauren Delday and Lucy Marlow both proved they are finding their feet after a tough first half of the season. Eathorpe L are a relatively new side, but are handling things well. This week they saw off fellow new-comers Free Church P 4-1 thanks to two from Gary Osborne, one from son Josh and the doubles together. Church's consolation was won by Anita Whitehouse. Eathorpe L improved on their score line by beating Free Church R 5-0 – Josh and Gary Osborne unbeatable this time. Church P fell 5-0 to their L side, as Lewis Barge and Callum Jeromson took command. Free Church L also beat Rugby H 4-1, Lewis picking up one plus the doubles with Jakob Lane, who won both his singles. Simon Pook saved for Rugby. Another 4-1 for Church L, as Lewis and Callum won two and one respectively, plus the doubles against Free Church Q, for whom David Herbert consoled. Church Q then had a 4-1 win of their own as David won two, son Niall one, plus the doubles against Free Church O. Kyle Thompson took a well earned fifth set win for the O's point. Sam and Leo Twigg took singles and doubles to steer Harbury Lane to a 5-0 win over LCP Groovers.

The Leamington Closed Championship are due to be held at Sydenham Sports Centre on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th March. Entry forms have been sent out to all team secretaries and are also available on the website at <http://leamingtontt.tripod.com>. The League would like to see as many people supporting the competition as possible and is especially keen to see their Junior members entering as many events as they can – the higher age groups as well as their own. The finals for each event will be played two weeks later on Saturday 24th March at Warwickshire County Council Staff Club.

There have been a number of representative matches played so far this season and Leamington have fared well:

Mens – Midland League

Leamington are in pole position, having won all five of their matches so far this season.

Spa opened with a 6-4 victory at Stafford, with Phil Paine and Pat McCabe both winning twice and Ian Packford adding a single and combining with Paine to clinch a crucial five set doubles win. Packford was back to his best in the next match, which saw Leamington squeeze home 6-4 at Oxford thanks to an excellent treble from the two time Warwickshire champion. Mark Jackson and Phil Paine supported well, winning twice and once respectively.

Leamington then played their first home match of the season, defeating Nuneaton 7-3, with Mark Jackson scoring a fine maximum and Phil Paine and Earl Sweeney each winning twice.

In the next match, away at Birmingham, Jackson steered Leamington to an excellent 7-3 victory with a classy treble which included a gritty four set win over current Warwickshire champion, Scott Prime. Ian Packford also played a key role, winning two singles and combining with Earl Sweeney to force a deciding set doubles verdict against Prime and Navinder Matharu. Sweeney also contributed a useful single.

Leamington's most recent victory came at home against RAF, with Ian Packford, Mark Jackson and Phil Paine galloping to a crushing 10-0 success in a surprisingly one sided match.

Spa still have three tough matches to come against Gloucester, Loughborough and Leicester, but are in a strong position in their bid to win the title for the second time in four years.

Juniors – Midland League

It's three wins out of three so far for Leamington Juniors, who have scorched to 9-1 victories against Rugby and Oxford and an 8-2 success over Nuneaton. Edward Freeman and Jack Randle have remained unbeaten throughout for Spa, whilst Tom Hunt and Luke Hobbins have also contributed strong performances.

Veterans A – Midland League, Division 1

Leamington's campaign began with a tough away trip to take on the previous champions and last years runners-up Nottingham A, who proved too strong on the day and ran out 8-2 winners. The only positive for Leamington was an excellent performance from Earl Sweeney who scored his first ever wins over Trevor Kerry (currently ranked amongst the Top 20 Over 40's in England) and Alan Philpott. Spa bounced back in their next match at home to Northampton with a narrow 6-4 victory in what was a really tightly fought contest. Pat McCabe proved the match winner for Leamington with a terrific singles maximum and also combined with Phil Paine for a vital doubles win, whilst Paine and Earl Sweeney each contributed an important singles win to complete the tally. Northampton included Free Church's Gary Webb in their ranks and he proved the main threat for the visitors with two singles successes.