

Week Commencing 16th October 2006

A competitive match between Eathorpe E and Rugby E in Division A ended with Rugby E somewhat unfortunate to find themselves losing 4-1. Ryan Oldham and James Matharu won their singles; Grace Newman (who was unlucky to lose both her singles in five) partnered Alison Riley to pick up a more than deserved point. League President, John Earles, commendably continues to make every effort to visit every team in the League over the course of the season and this week oversaw a 4-1 victory for Free Church G against Eathorpe F. Keith Knott won his two, Adam Cooper one and the doubles together; Dave Hawker with a convincing single in reply. A good away win at tricky FISSC B for Free Church H, who were led by a Jake Harrison maximum. Mark Kingham and Tony Scott each pulled a game back, but Jake and Charlotte Spencer edged a five-set doubles to take the 3-2 win. A change in personnel for Church H, but an identical 3-2 winning score line against Eathorpe D. Phil Blowey came into the side and claimed one to add to another brace from Jake Harrison. Talented Alastair Nicholson pulled one back and partnered Sophie Niepceron for the doubles. The experience of Eathorpe D proved decisive against Free Church I. Alastair Nicholson took his two without dropping a set. Russell Spencer pulled one back for Church, the doubles went to 'Thorpe and Sophie Niepceron a single completing the 4-1 win. AP Sports B faced two St Georges sides in quick succession. They lost a close encounter against the D side 3-2, with Paul Nason immaculate and Loz Sweeney chipping in with the vital winning point. Tony Williams pulled back a single and Tony and Carol Meredith took the doubles. AP fared better against the E side. Tony and Carol again proved an effective doubles combination; Carol took one and Tony two. Saint's consolation came from former Ladies Singles Champion Tracey Fletcher.

Two matches in six-team Division B, which will be revamped after Christmas to give a better balance across the two-a-side league. Rugby F pipped Eathorpe G 3-2 – Jesse Kendrick Hill took an excellent two for Rugby. Richard Freeman replied with a single for 'Thorpe and the doubles with Mark Hancock, but Ryan Lines' single proved crucial for Eathorpe. A terrific two from Hannah Saville and the doubles with Elizabeth Hancock saw off LCP Packers 3-2. Nicky Barrett and Tom Mosely holding on to one each for LCP. Hannah and Nicky were involved in a marathon game, with three of the four sets going to deuces; Nicky then had the better of the deuces when recovering to beat Elizabeth 15/13 in the fourth set. A tight match finished with a five set doubles.

Division C's Eathorpe J pulled off a 5-0 victory against Rugby G – William Henry and Robert Young the conquerors. Free Church's N and O sides faced each other this week. Excellent wins for Lauren Delday and Lucy Marlow gave the O's their first two points, but Kyle Thompson hit back with a maximum. The decisive doubles and the 3-2 win went to the N girls. A contest between Free Church M, who will be looking to gain promotion and Eathorpe K, who are relatively new to the game ended with a predictable 5-0 win for Church. Dan Ward and Richard Pittway Jnr took singles and Phil Booth joined Richard for the doubles. A heavy defeat, but this Eathorpe side won't take too long to get to grips with Division C – Holly Savage again putting in a solid performance that showed flashes of the potential she has. Indeed, Eathorpe K proved as much in their very next match. Holly and Jack Parry both claimed wins against a more experienced Free Church O player and won the doubles to boot. James Payne's consistency helped him gain a maximum, but the 3-2 win for Eathorpe K was complete. Another Eathorpe win, once more by a 3-2 score-line, as they took on Rugby H. Sam Back won both his singles for Rugby, but one win a-piece from Pauline Parkes and John Gymer and the doubles was enough to take the spoils for Eathorpe I.

On to the three-a-side competition and Division 3. Big wins for FISSC A enabled them to pick up eighteen points out of a possible twenty. They beat WCC D 8-2; Gareth Conway won a hat-trick, which included a very good five-set win against Div 3 stalwart Tony Ford. Tony doesn't taste defeat often and showed exactly why as he bounced back to win his other two games for WCC. FISSC's

victory was completed with braces from George Mudie and David Milton and a David/Gareth doubles. FISSC A then whitewashed Free Church F 10-0. The F side are gaining experience all the time and this is one that they will learn a lot from. John Hunt, George Mudie and Tony Scott provided the lesson. The D side got Free Church back to winning ways, as Lleryn Brocklehurst powered to a noteworthy treble against Eathorpe C. Ron Stanbridge and Adam Cooper supported with braces and Adam joined Lleryn to take the doubles. Two high class wins from Michael Rossington salvaged something for an Eathorpe side who, despite the heavy 8-2 defeat, showed no lack of effort and determination. Rugby C had a solid 7-3 win against Eathorpe B; Don Pritchard, Matthew Outhwaite and Tom Bradley all taking two and Matthew and Tom the doubles. Allan Stockham won his three for 'Thorpe in reply. Rugby's D side were involved in a slightly tighter match as they narrowly lost to Free Church E. Ben Meakin and Tristan Mobbs won two each for Rugby, as did Luke Hobbins and Tom Hunt for Church. Luke Hobbins and Chris Blowey claimed doubles for Church and Chris a vital single to complete the win.

An evenly contested Division 2 match between AP Sports A and Copsewood ended in stalemate. Sam Apostol took all her singles and the doubles with Terry Smith (who took a single) for AP. Gordon Tucker and Steve Smith both claimed two for Copsewood; Richard Jardim the crucial, match saving one. Rugby A were a player light, but still managed to win 7-3 against RNA B. Ian and Jack Randle winning hat-tricks and the doubles. Flavels B claimed the win against BGN B, with Trevor Bradley and Roger Potts both picking up two. They combined to win the doubles and John Earles' single took them over the winning line to six points. For BGN, Jonathan Wright and Steve Proctor both won braces. Free Church C had a good win over Whitnash. Cherry Matthews, Les Hoggins and Stuart Mills all won two for FC; Ken Southwell two, Ian Perry one and the doubles together for 'Nash.

WCC A had a big win in Division 1 last week, but improved on that with a destructive 10-0 performance against Colebridge B. Pat McCabe, Phil Paine and Clive Irwin dropped only four sets as they coasted to their win. Two sides who will be up with WCC at the end of the season are Flavels A and St Georges A – both picked up 7-3 wins this week. Flavels' Paul Savins continued his immaculate start to life in Leamington by claiming his hat-trick and remaining unbeaten thus far. Mark Jackson joined forces with Paul for the doubles and Pete Dasher and Damon Fenton picked up two and one respectively. Colebridge A's three came courtesy of a Nav Matharu brace and a Mike Rinthoffer single. St Georges A's 7-3 was at the expense of Wellesbourne. A brace from Michael Wilkins and the doubles from Gary Stewart and Pete Dunnett earned Wellesbourne their three. Ian Packford and Mike Bishop both picked up two for St Georges, but Earl Sweeney was the form player of the evening; his maximum ensuring another unbeaten start to the season for a top flight player. BGN A were led by Bob Harman's trio as they triumphed 6-4 at St Georges C. Barry Hook took two and the doubles with Bob. The Saints' points came thanks to Alf Chapman (2), Bert Banks (1) and Brian Aston (1).

A successful pilot competition took place over the weekend. The West Midlands Development Competition is designed to enable players who are just establishing themselves and players who haven't yet sampled competitive table tennis the chance to play under tournament conditions. The event attracted fifteen youngsters from the area and it was encouraging to see a number of people who are not (yet?) affiliated to any club also taking part. The tournament was run with two groups playing a round-robin to determine the rankings within each set. On the completion of the groups, the number one's played each other for positions one and two in the event, numbers two's for positions three and four and so on. The number one ranked player at the end of the day was Richard Pittaway Jnr, of Free Church and North Leamington School. Richard was undefeated over the whole day and proved that he has a good head on his shoulders to back up his ability when losing the first set of the final to previously unbeaten Luke Spencer (Free Church / Telford School) and turning it round with a good display of controlled attacking. Free Church players completed the top four places, with young Holly

Thompson (Kingsley School) beating Dan Ward (North Leam). Peter Moffatt (Rugby TTC/Lawerence Sheriff School) finished fifth and special mention must go to Nathan Seneviratne of Myton School who was the highest ranking player not affiliated to any club and who's sixth place saw him ranked above a couple of players who were.

Players will be split into either Intermediate or Novice Bands for their age group and awarded points based on where they have finished at the end of the day. These points will accumulate over the course of the year, earning the top players the chance to compete in the Regional Final of the competition at the end of June. The next event in the series will be held on November 25th at Lawerence Sheriff School, Rugby. Entry forms will be available from Malcolm Macfarlane and Don Pritchard and will be posted on the Leamington website at <http://leamingtontt.tripod.com>