

Week Commencing 19th March 2007

Rugby A's recent catching up run of postponed games came to an end this week against Whitnash and a 7-3 win against them sees them take over top spot in Division 2. With 109 points from 15 games, they now head long-time leaders Free Church B by a single point! Against Whitnash, Rugby's Ian Randle won his usual three, Len Coonan a brace, Jack Randle one and the doubles with Ian. Ian Perry collected two points for 'Nash and Paul Ryman one. Down at the other end of the table, eleventh placed RNA B failed to take their chance to close the gap on tenth placed Free Church C as they slipped to a 7-3 defeat which will increase their relegation worries whilst easing Church C's. Stuart Mills was in fine form for Church, winning all three, with John Taylor adding two, Les Hoggins one and the doubles together. Richard Smith saved two for Navy; Steve Poole one. Free Church C didn't fare as well against Flavels B, though. Mick Bennett and Roger Potts collected singles and doubles, with Church's three coming courtesy of forfeited points as Flavels were only able to field two players. BGN B overcame Copsewood 7-3 thanks to maximums from Malc Macfarlane and Andrew Davies, to which Steve Proctor added a single. Gordon Tucker and Roy Joiner won one a piece, plus the doubles in response. AP completed an 8-2 win over RNA A with Samantha Apostol and Edward Freeman both picking up hat-tricks and Terry Smith a brace. Tony Thomas saved a single, then added the doubles with Dot Macfarlane.

Rugby C closed in on second place in Division 3 with an 8-2 win over WCC D, but remain third behind Eathorpe B with a game in hand. European import, Mihai Duhovnicu sailed to a maximum plus the doubles with Don Pritchard. Don won two for himself and Dave Cox the same to complete the eight. Doug Lowe held County Council's two. Eathorpe B maintained an eight point gap over Rugby by thumping Free Church D 9-1. Alastair Nicholson and A Sstockham won singles and doubles, Phillip Hill a brace. Lleryn Brocklehurst consoled for Church. Rugby D and Free Church F battled out a 5-5 draw – Alex Phillips starring for Rugby with a straight sets hat-trick, to which Steven Maddison and Jesse Kendrick-Hill added one each. Jake Harrison and Phillip Blowey won two each, plus the doubles for Church F's five. Ashorne eased Eathorpe C aside by six points to four, thanks to braces from Steve Bolton and Roger Kelley, plus a Chris Bowles single and the doubles with Roger. Ron Coats won twice for Eathorpe, Paul Deavall and Michael Rossington once each. WCC D earned bragging rights over stable-mates WCC C as they beat them 6-4. Doug Lowe won three for D, Tony Ford two and the doubles together. Reg Warnes won two for the C's, Susan Clarke and James Owen one each.

Division 1 side, Colebridge A, had a relatively untroubled evening against second from bottom St Georges C. Navinder Matharu and Graham Hoskins won their three, Mike Rinnhofer a brace plus the doubles with Navinder. Alf Chapman consoled with a five-set victory for Saints in their 9-1 defeat. Pat McCabe was in determined mood as he won a hat-trick for WCC A that included two games that went the distance. Clive Irwin added two and Phil Paine a vital single to complete County Council's 6-4 win over opponents Free Church A, for whom Xiaoyang Ma won twice, Alan Jones once and Xiaoyang and Gary Webb the doubles. Flavels A faced two man Colebridge B and picked up all ten points, with braces from Mark Jackson, Paul Savins and Pete Dasher and a Jackson/Savins doubles to add to the three conceded points. Colebridge B fielded a full side against St Georges B and left with a 5-5 draw. John Chandler and John Taylor both won twice for 'Bridge, Bob Brown once. For Saints, Ron Vose collected his three, plus the doubles with Rob Warnes, who also contributed a single. Saints then had a tough fixture against Wellesbourne – Jimmy Pittaway did well to win two, but a Pete Dunnett maximum, braces from Gary Stewart and Michael Wilkins and a Dunnett/Stewart doubles gave Wellesbourne an 8-2 win.

Peter Nicholson's strength proved to be crucial in the Division A derby clash between Eathorpe D and E. William Hancock played well for Eathorpe E with a single and won a tight doubles with James Matharu, but Peter's brace, plus a single from Sophie Niepceron saw the D side home for the 3-2 win. The D side then slipped to a 3-2 defeat at the hands of Rugby F, for whom Jesse Kendrick-Hill won two and Richard Frost one. Peter Nicholson held one for 'Thorpe, plus the doubles with Sophie Niepceron. Free Church G's experience was enough to give them the 3-2 edge over Free Church I. Keith Knott and Estyn Williams won two and one respectively for the I's; Russell Spencer picked up one plus the doubles with Luke Spencer. Free Church G weren't strong enough, though, to see off AP Sports, who beat them 4-1 thanks to two from Tony Williams, one from Carol Meredith and the doubles. Estyn Williams collected the single point for Church G. St Georges D saw off Free Church H thanks to a maximum from born again star Paul Nason, a single from Lawrence Sweeney and the doubles from Lawrence and Karen Toozer. Church's consolation in the 4-1 defeat came from Charlotte Spencer. St Georges E fielded a side of immense strength as they beat FISSC 5-0. Gary Edwards and Jimmy Pittaway coasted through the night without the loss of a set.

In Division B, Eathorpe I beat Eathorpe J by four points to one. Pauline Parkes and John Gymer were untouchable in their singles, but dropped the doubles after a sterling effort from Robert Young and William Henry. Free Church M just got the better of Eathorpe K in a close and exciting 3-2 match. Phil Booth won his two for Church, Daniel Ward. Jack Parry took one for Eathorpe, plus the doubles with Holly Savage.

Rugby H slipped past St Georges F with a narrow 3-2 Division C victory thanks to two from Peter Moffatt and one from Simon Pook. Callum Martin held a single, plus the doubles with Jamie Compton for the Saints. Rugby H followed up with another 3-2 win, this time against Harbury Lane. Again, Peter too two and Smon a single. Sam Twigg kept a single for Harbury, then joined Leo Twigg to take the doubles. Harbury Lane then got on the right side of the 3-2 as they pipped Free Church Q. Sam and Leo Twigg won once each for Harbury, but neither could beat Church's David Herbert. The deciding doubles went to Sam and Alex Twigg.

Leamington's annual Finals Night, where players who reached the final of their event in the Leamington Closed Championships a fortnight ago, is to be held this Saturday, 24th March, at Warwickshire County Council Staff Club, Northgate, Warwick. Play will commence at 15:00 with the younger age group events and will finish at approximately 23:00 after the completion of the Mens Singles final. The event is open to spectators and is free of charge. The League would hope to see as many of its players, their families and friends there as possible to help create an atmosphere to inspire the finalists. A free light buffet will be provided and there will be a bar available. A full list of the schedule for the finals can be found online at <http://leamingtont.tripod.com>