

Week Commencing 1st October 2007

The Leamington and District Table Tennis season began last week and reigning Division A champions AP Sports A may find they have to work hard to retain their title if St Georges F's start is anything to go by. The Saints fielded a strong side with plenty of experience and ran out 4-1 winners. Andy Caine won his two for Saints, with Bert Banks adding one plus the doubles. Tony Williams saved the whitewash for AP. Eathorpe E played exceptionally well to overcome Free Church I by the same 4-1 margin, with Jack Parry winning twice, Holly Savage once and taking the doubles together. Richard Pittaway held on to one point for Church in an entertaining match. WCC E were another side who fielded considerable quality and experience and teams will surely have to play well against them to take away points. Unfortunately for Free Church H, they were not able to reach that standard as Reg Warnes and Derek Harwood coasted to a 5-0 win without the loss of a set.

Rugby G made a good start to their Division B campaign, beating Eathorpe H 5-0. In a match that was closer than the final score suggests, it was Peter Moffatt and Mark Wilson of Rugby who managed to hold their nerve when it mattered. Free Church K matched that 5-0 score line against their M side colleagues; Anita Whitehouse and Jack Hobbins taking singles and doubles. Two new pairings for Eathorpe F and G provided an entertaining derby match. The G side's new combination of Dave Hawker and Ryan Oldham proved to be the stronger as Dave's two, Ryan's one and the doubles eclipsed Richard Freeman's single for a 4-1 win. Free Church L just about managed to squeeze past Free Church J as a Sam Smith brace set them up for Tom Smith's vital single to take the match 3-2. Lindy Myers held one back in reply, plus the doubles with son Roald.

The only submitted match card from Division C saw the experience of Free Church P's James Payne prove decisive as he won his two and added the doubles with his dad, Brian, who also picked up a single on his league debut. Another debutant, Jessica Campion, played well to record her first league win, but it wasn't enough to prevent a 4-1 win for Free Church P over Free Church R.

Three tight matches opened the Division 1 season, with Wellesbourne taking their first win of the season at the expense of St Georges B. Pete Dunnnett won an excellent maximum for Wellesbourne and was well supported by Gary Stewart who won two. Ron Vose collected a brace for Saints and Rob Warnes and Philip Beesley one each. The decisive doubles was taken by Dunnnett and Stewart for 'Bourne's 6-4 victory. Rugby A, who won Division 2 last season, have been strengthened by the signing of Adrian Pilgrim and Adrian laid down an early marker by cruising to a straight-sets hat-trick against Free Church A, to which Mark Randle added two. Hugh Matthews won twice for Church; Gary Webb and Gary Deakin once each. Rugby's 6-4 victory was secured when Jack Randle partnered Adrian Pilgrim to take the doubles. Free Church B were the other side promoted from Division 2 and they started life in the top flight with a 5-5 draw at home to Colebridge B. Mike Bridgman won his three for Church, with Chris Mulligan and Tom Brocklehurst adding singles. John Taylor won twice for Colebridge, John Chandler and Pete Roddy once, with the former two combining to take the doubles.

In Division 2, two sides who were in different divisions last season faced each other. Eathorpe A had come down from Division 1, while Rugby C had won promotion from Division 3 with an impressive five 10-0 wins in a row. They just failed to make it six on the trot, dropping a point to plucky Alastair Nicholson in their 9-1 rout. Don Pritchard and Dave Cox won singles and doubles; Steven Maddison two. Rugby's B side started off the season with a very good 7-3 win against Whitnash B. Alaam Durrani took a hat-trick for Rugby, plus the doubles with Alan Chan, who won twice himself. Youngster Ryan

Lines picked up a single on his first attempt at this level. Paul Ryman won twice in reply for 'Nash, Dennis Woodhead once. Whitnash A beat two-man Flavels B 7-3. Dong Wei won twice for Whitnash, Steve Proctor and Malc Macfarlane once. Roger Potts picked up for Flavels, plus the doubles with Mick Bennett, but the forfeited points saw the match end in defeat. St Georges C wasted no time in showing the extra sharpness they gained in Division 1 last season as Brian Aston, Alf Chapman and Tracey Fletcher thumped Free Church C 10-0.

Division 3's FISSC A found opponents Rugby D a player short and despite seeing Steven Maddison and Tristan Mobbs both pick up braces, the conceded points saw FISSC escape with a 6-4 win. George Mudie and John Hunt won a single each and, crucially, the doubles to make sure they took the spoils. St Georges D overcame Rugby E thanks to Tony Bennett's maximum, which was added to by Rob and Luke Bennett who both won once. Ryan Lines and Joe Nistor won two each for Rugby, but Luke and Tony took the match-winning doubles.

Division 4's biggest opening-week winners were new side, Snitterfield A, who won 8-2 against Free Church G. Stuart Ayers was unbeaten in singles for Snitterfield and partnered Jitesh Nair for the doubles. Jitesh won two for himself, as did Vincent Ford. Church's points were both won by youngster, Luke Spencer. Free Church F had a tidy 7-3 win at Ashorne, led by Phil Blowey's maximum. Jake Harrison added two, plus the doubles with Phil, and Charlotte Spencer one. Roger Kelley won two for Ashorne; Steve Bolton one. WCC D also recorded a 7-3 win, as they beat Free Church E thanks to Tony Ford and Doug Lowe who were untouchable in both singles and doubles. Church's points came from Pete Rourke, Ian Rourke and Adam Cooper.

As they did last season, the West Midlands region are holding a number of Development Competitions. The first of these is due to be held at Rugby on Saturday 13 October and entries are now being accepted. The Development Competitions are designed for players of all ages who are just beginning the game, or returning to it after an absence. More details are available online at <http://www.rugbytabletennisclub.net> or <http://www.wtta.org.uk>

Results List: **Div1:** Free Church B 5-5 Colebridge B; Wellesbourne 6-4 St Georges B; Rugby A 6-4 Free Church A. **Div2:** Eathorpe A 1-9 Rugby C; Rugby B 7-3 Whitnash B; Whitnash A 7-3 Flavels B; St Georges C 10-0 Free Church C. **Div3:** FISSC A 6-4 Rugby D; Rugby E 4-6 St Georges D. **Div4:** Free Church G 2-8 Snitterfield A; Ashorne 3-7 Free Church F; Free Church E 3-7 WCC D. **DivA:** AP Sports B 1-4 St Georges F; Eathorpe E 4-1 Free Church I; WCC E 5-0 Free Church H. **DivB:** Free Church J 2-3 Free Church L; Eathorpe F 1-4 Eathorpe G; Eathorpe H 0-5 Rugby G; Free Church K 5-0 Free Church M. **DivC:** Free Church R 1-4 Free Church P.