

## Week Commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

Nomads C won 7-3 against St Georges D, as Robin Fox-Strangways' maximum led them down the path to victory. Robin took the doubles with Christian McMurrin, who won twice, with Steve Kurle completing the scoring with a single. Martin Bennett kept two for Saints; Rob Bennett one. Nomads B were held to a 5-5 draw by Rugby D in Division 3 this week. Steve Poole won two for Nomads, with Dave Harding and Ian Stevens both adding one, before taking the doubles together. Rugby hit back through Alex Armitage, who won his three, and Tristan Mobbs who won two. James Owen and Reg Warnes were in scintillating form, both winning hat-tricks on the way to a 9-1 demolition of FISSC A. Graham Roberts added two, plus the doubles with James while Gareth Conway salvaged some pride for FISSC.

In Division 2, Copsewood hammered Free Church C 8-2 thanks to three from Gordon Tucker, two from each of Roy Joiner and Steve Smith and a Gordon/Roy doubles. Free Church's one shining light over the evening was Cherry Matthews who went to five in all three of her games, winning two of them to ensure Church C left with some points. Tristan Gretton took a hat-trick against AP Sports A, but that was all Free Church D could manage as two from each of Edward Freeman, Terry Smith and Samantha Meredith, plus a Terry/Samantha doubles gave AP a 7-3 win.

Snitterfield B made easy meat of their inexperienced Division B opponents, Eathorpe K. Kevin and Richard Bennett took singles and doubles for a 5-0 win.

**Results – Div2:** AP Sports A 7-3 Free Church D; Copsewood 8-2 Free Church C. **Div3:** Nomads C 7-3 St Georges D; WCC C 9-1 FISSC A; Nomads B 5-5 Rugby D. **DivB:** Snitterfield B 5-0 Eathorpe K.

The Leamington Closed Championships are being held this coming weekend, 8th/9th March, at Sydenham Sports Centre, with the finals being played on 15th March at Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club. The seeding for the Championships has been completed, with the draw due to take place shortly. Details of the draw will be mailed to competitors and is available on the web at <http://leamingtont.tripod.com>. Players are advised to arrive in good time for their first matches as there are many events to get through and the organisers have a tight schedule.

The Men's Singles has attracted thirty-five entries this year, with currently undefeated Division 1 averages leader, Ian Ferguson (Colebridge), taking the top seed position. Matt Squires (St Georges) is seeded two, with local players Mark Jackson (Flavels) and Ron Vose (St Georges) taking the third-equal positions. The seeding is completed by Earl Sweeney (St Georges), Ian Randle (Rugby), Gary Webb (Free Church) and Sasha Grokhotov (Colebridge) who take the fifth-equal positions. In a low entry for the Ladies Singles, Samantha Meredith (AP Sports) is seeded one, with defending champion Tracey Fletcher (St Georges) at two. It is hoped that some of our other ladies, be they young or slightly older, may watch this event and be inspired to enter next year! Top billing in the Men's Doubles goes to the Leamington duo Earl Sweeney (St Georges) and Mark Jackson, with Ian Ferguson and Sasha Grokhotov (yet to lose a doubles match in the League) at two and Matt Squires/Mike Bishop (St Georges) and Phil Paine (WCC)/Ron Vose at third equal. Navinder Matharu (Colebridge) and Samantha Meredith are seeded one in the Mixed Doubles, with second seeds Tracey Fletcher and Earl Sweeney likely to face them in the final if all goes to plan. In the veteran events, Ron Vose is seeded at number one for the Veteran Men's Singles, Ian Randle is second, with Gary Webb and Earl Sweeney third-equal. Ron Vose also takes top billing in the Veterans Over 50s Singles, with peoples champion, Phil Paine, at number

two. The Veterans Over 60s event sees Derek Harwood (WCC) seeded one, with Brian Aston (St Georges) number two.

In the younger events of the Championships, Sasha Grokhotov is seeded one in the Youth Singles and Tristan Gretton two. Tristan is seeded one and will be expected to meet Jack Randle (Rugby) in the final of the Junior Boys Singles, while Jack gets promoted to number one seed in the Under 15 Boys Singles and will be expected to face club-mate Matthew Outhwaite in the final. Matthew takes top spot in the Under 13 Boys event, with Jesse Kendrick-Hill (Rugby) seeded second. In the Under 11 Boys, Free Church duo David Marguerie and Niall Herbert are seeded one and two respectively. In the Under 11 Girls event, Jessica Campion and Olivia Fletcher (both Free Church) are the top two seeds. The seeded event are completed with the Junior Doubles, in which Luke Hobbins/Tristan Gretton (both Free Church) are seeded one, with Ben Meakin/Jack Randle (both Rugby) seeded two.

Finally, the Leamington League would like to congratulate association member Kelly Sibley on what has been a tremendous week from both a personal and team perspective. England's number one lady has been in Guangzhou, China competing in the World Team Championships and has led England's three person Women's team to the Division 2 title and promotion to the top flight. The team remained unbeaten throughout the tournament against higher ranked sides and Kelly only tasted individual defeat once in a week that included wins over higher ranked players – most notably against the world number thirty-nine, a player ranked nearly two-hundred places higher.