



Week commencing 5th January 2009

A late flurry of matches during December saw the autumn competition of the 2-a-side divisions come to an end, with matches not played by Dec 31 scored as 0-0. In Division A, St Georges F capped their comfortable autumn with two wins. Richard Grover and Len Coonan were 5-0 winners over Free Church G, and Len and Gary Edwards only marginally less comfortable 4-1 winners over WCC Falcons. Against the Falcons it was the dynamic defensive duo of Derek Harwood and Reg Warnes who prevented the whitewash with a five-set doubles win. The two resounding wins for Saints left them as champions of Division A by a massive twelve point margin, having only dropped three points in their nine games.

With first place out of reach, it was the battle for second place which was harder fought. Nomads D and WCC Falcons were the two sides battling it out and neither seemed like they wanted to claim that runners-up spot, both losing matches. WCC Falcons were rolled over 4-1 by AP, who were making a late rally to avoid demotion. Although Reg Warnes scored for the Falcons, two from Guy Ferguson, one from Tony Williams and the doubles gave AP the win. Meanwhile, Nomads D couldn't capitalise on the slip up as they went down 3-2 to Rugby H. Don Pritchard won a good brace for Rugby, then took the doubles with Jack Koumi. Dick Smith and Steve Poole took one each for Nomads.

This left the Falcons and Nomads with one match to play and that match was against each other! The Falcons had it all to do and despite winning 3-2, they needed all five points to take second spot by a single point. Derek Harwood and Sue Turkmen took one each plus the doubles for the win, but Andy Davies' double secured the points Nomads needed to finish second by two points. Mention must also be made of an excellent late effort by Eathorpe D who, with two 4-1 victories dragged themselves up to 28 points, which placed them fourth, but level on points with the Falcons. Holly Thompson and Alan Stockham grabbed the eight points in those last two matches.

At the foot of the table, Rugby J were condemned to bottom spot and relegation by FISSC B. Brian Marston and Aravindh Narayanan won 5-0, which also pulled them out of the relegation zone. AP needed four points against Rugby I to avoid the drop, but a Tony Williams single was all they could muster as Peter Moffatt and Mark Wilson won 4-1.

At the end of the autumn competition, the champions of Division A were St Georges F (42 points) and the runners-up Nomads D (30). Rugby J and AP were relegated.

Division B was fiercely competitive and with a few matches remaining, three sides all had their eyes on the title and promotion. Eathorpe G had the most work to do, but put themselves right in the frame with a 5-0 win over Eathorpe H thanks to Jordan Cullaine-Liburd and Simon Thompson. However, in a hard fought contest, they slipped away as they lost 3-2 to Eathorpe E. Simon won a single and Jordan joined him for the doubles, but two from Dave Hawker and a crucial one from Ryan Oldham sealed

the win for E. The Es followed this up with another 3-2 win, this time Ryan winning two and Dave one against Eathorpe F. Richard Freeman won a single for F, plus the doubles with Mark Hancock.

Free Church J continued their excellent unbeaten record with a 5-0 win over LCP Packers. Roald Myers and Niall Herbert secured promotion with that victory and sat at the top of the tree. They then needed club-mates Church H to beat Eathorpe E for the Ks to take the title. It wasn't to be though, as Ryan Oldham and Dave Hawker performed under pressure to win 4-1 and take the Division B title by a single point.

Division B champions were Eathorpe E (36), followed by Free Church J (35) – both of whom are promoted to Division A from January. Free Church K and LCP Packers occupied the bottom two places and will be relegated to Division C.

Another highly competitive season in Division C had seen three sides looking to fight out the top two places. Snitterfield C competed well, but even with a 3-2 win over Free Church O to complete their programme, they just slipped away in the closing stages. Paula Clayton and Neil McDonald took one each plus the doubles to beat Church O, for whom Jacob Clarke continued his improvement with a tidy two.

Free Church M were 4-1 winners over Church P through James Payne and Andy Kendall who won two and one respectively, plus the doubles. Matthew Flood consoled for the Ps. Those four points drew them level with Eathorpe I and meant that whoever avoided defeat in the match between them would take the title. It was Free Church M who prevailed – James Payne winning another maximum and Andy Kendall winning one, plus the doubles with Nathan Seneviratne. Eathorpe I's consolation was won by Jonathan Milton.

Free Church N ensured their club-mates Church Q would finish bottom of the table as Ben Haigh and Timmy Cooper won 5-0. Church P finished their season with a 4-1 win over Eathorpe J. Matthew Flood won two, Ellis Harrison one for Church, plus the doubles. Keith Jenkins scored for 'Thorpe.

Free Church M (33) finished as Division C champions, with Eathorpe I (30) on second. Both sides will be promoted to Division B for the second half of the season.