



Week commencing 18 January 2010

Free Church A kicked off 2010 bidding to try and stop Colebridge A securing a third consecutive Division 1 title and started with a 7-3 win over club-mates, Free Church B. Ron Vose led his side with a maximum, to which Gary Webb and Matt Carter added braces. Deepak Chandrababu won twice for the B side and added the doubles with Tom Brocklehurst.

Wellesbourne also enjoyed a 7-3 win over Church B, with Pete Dunnett, Gary Stewart and Alan Cotton all winning two and Pete and Gary the doubles. Deepak won another two for Church and Luke Hobbins one.

Not so simple for 'Bourne against St Georges A as Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop powered to hat-tricks, which were added to by Acton Zhang's brace in an 8-2 win for the Saints. Mike Wilkins was 'Bourne's sole singles winner, with their other point coming from Pete and Gary in the doubles.

The division's bottom two sides both suffered maximum defeats. Rugby A condemned their B side to a 10-0 loss through Jack Randle, Matt Outhwaite and Adrian Pilgrim, while St Georges B whitewashed Colebridge B thanks to Mark Jackson, Matthew Jordan and a now re-focused, re-invigorated and highly dangerous Damon Fenton.

Division 2 leaders, St Georges D, were held to a draw by St Georges C. The night's top performer was Laurence Sweeney who looked assured on his way to a maximum for the Ds. Pete Dasher's brace completed the five points. For the Cs, Jimmy Pittaway won two plus the doubles with Rob Warnes. Rob grabbed a single, as did Len Coonan.

Whitnash B edged out Phoenix Okimo 6-4 thanks to a blistering hat-trick from Paul Ryman. Dennis Woodhead added a brace, then secured the win by taking the doubles with Paul. Richard Jardim won a tidy two for Okimo, with Gordon Tucker and Roy Joiner adding one each to complete the scoring.

Okimo made up for that loss by overwhelming WCC Crocs 10-0. Paul Calloway, Roy Joiner and Richard Jardim dealt out a severe lesson, with only Doug Lowe able to stretch an opponent.

The Crocs fared better against Rugby C, emerging with a creditable draw. Derek Harwood won two for the Crocs, James Owen and Tony Ford one each, with Derek and James adding the doubles. David Kao hit three for Rugby and Don Pritchard two.

Several close games in the Division 4 match between Eathorpe D and Rugby F, which Eathorpe won 9-1. The score-line was, perhaps, slightly flattering, but Eathorpe youngsters Holly and Simon Thompson deserve great credit for their

perseverance. Holly won three and Simon two, with Simon adding the doubles with hat-trick winning Allan Stockham to end the match.

Free Church F drew 5-5 with Snitterfield B in a tight match which either side could have won. Vince Ford and John Walker both won braces for Snitterfield, with Vince adding the doubles with Robin Eddie. Lleryn Brocklehurst notched a fine treble for Church, which was added to by singles from Pete Rourke and Adam Cooper.

Eathorpe H, containing players relegated from the division above at Christmas, made a good start to life in Division D. Jonathan Milton won his two, Richard Milton won one, and the pair won the doubles for a 4-1 win over Snitterfield D. Jason Grey consoled for Snitterfield.

Snitterfield had a 4-1 win of their own, beating Free Church R through Jason Grey's brace, Peter Vale-Humphrey's single and the doubles. An excellent five-set win from Free Church's Tom Sharpe saved the whitewash.

Division E gave four players their first taste of league table tennis when Free Church U played Free Church V. Theo Rutter won both his debut singles to lead the U side to a 3-2 win. Sam Wiggins collected a debut single to make sure of that win. Matthew Scott also won his first single, picking up one of the V points, then added the doubles with James Foster.

Matthew Scott was on the score-sheet again for Church V, notching a single against Eathorpe K. That was the end of the Free Church scoring though as Nathan Biddle won his two, Ben Henderson won one and the pair took the doubles for a 4-1 win.

Lillington Free Church are holding a Graded Tournament at Sydenham Sports Centre this Saturday, 23rd January. Entries are still being accepted by Hugh Matthews on 01926 314539, or you can enter online at <http://www.lillingtontt.co.uk>

It is with regret that the Competitions Secretary has had to make the decision to cancel the cup competitions for this season due to lack of support. The league committee have run cup competitions for many, many years but they have suffered from dwindling support in recent times. The committee is very keen to hear from those clubs and sides who chose not to enter as to what puts them off entering so that they can endeavour to run something which will appeal to as many sides as possible. Please send your feedback to the Competitions Secretary at richardjgrover@hotmail.com

Given that there will now be some vacant weeks in the calendar, the League Secretary would urge sides to make use of these weeks to get any unplayed matches from earlier in the season, or which were cancelled due to the bad weather at the start of the month,

out of the way in these weeks rather than trying to get through the backlog at the end of the season.