



Week commencing 28th December 2009

With the end of the year upon us, so comes the end of the Autumn competition in the 2-a-side divisions. In the top flight, although there are still a few unplayed matches, the results will not affect the title or relegation from Division A.

The title had always looked likely to be between the two Nomads sides, D and E, and though Rugby H tried to join the party they ultimately fell short and the final few matches would decide which of the Nomads side would lift the trophy.

Nomads E enjoyed two close wins against Rugby H and Free Church H, taking both 3-2. Roger Palmer and Dot Macfarlane won one each, plus the doubles against Rugby, for whom Martyn Lilley remained unbeaten. Dot won her two against Church H and Roger a vital single, whilst Tony Williams took a single in reply, plus the doubles with Estyn Williams. Dot and Roger followed up these two wins with a very handy 5-0 demolition of Rugby I.

Meanwhile, Nomads D were racking up the wins too. Richard Miles and Andy Davies battled hard against Free Church G, both winning a single, plus the doubles to take the match 3-2. Neither could get the better of Luke Spencer who won his two. It was easier for them against Church H, winning the match 4-1. Keith Knott and Tony Williams won the doubles for Free Church, but braces from Dick Smith and Steve Poole secured the win. The same Nomads pair then trounced Rugby I 5-0.

These run of results left an interesting league table, with Nomads D one point ahead of Nomads E, both having one match remaining...against each other! What could have proved to be a tense, nail biting affair ended up quite the opposite. Andy Davies and Dick Smith for the Ds cruised past the Es 5-0, with the only real challenge coming from Dot Macfarlane who extended Dick to five sets. Those five points secured the title for Nomads D by six clear points, with Nomads E taking second a further eight points clear of their nearest rivals, Rugby H.

Rugby I finished bottom and will be relegated, along with Free Church H who couldn't quite overhaul their G side.

Whitnash C made a late charge in Division B, winning four out of their last five matches. They lost 3-2 to Rugby J thanks to Hiten Shah's brace and Baga Singh's single. Mark Bradley won one plus the double with Jayne Fitton in response. `Nash showed their strength in depth over the last four matches, with Paul Ryman, Dennis Woodhead, Mark and Jayne all contributing to wins over Free Church J (3-2), Free Church I (4-1), Eathorpe E (5-0) and a revenge-gaining match against Rugby J (4-1).

That run was enough to lift them to 32 points, but not enough to climb above Free Church J, who finished on 37 points and sealed promotion to Division A along with their

title. Church J had looked in a commanding position for much of the season, but three defeats in their last four matches suggested they were in danger of running out of steam. As well as the loss to Whitnash, they fell 4-1 against their I side, for whom Stuart Dalrymple made an outstanding debut, winning both his singles and the doubles with Jack Hobbins, who also won one. Niall Herbert took the consolation for J. Rugby J beat Free Church J 3-2 through Billy Kyle's brace and a crucial one from Hiten Shah. Roald Myers fought hard for his single and added the doubles with David Herbert. However, Roald and Niall had not put themselves in a position to win the league without showing a will to win and proved themselves worthy winners of the division with a resounding 5-0 win against Eathorpe F. In determined mood, the Free Church youngsters wrapped things up without the loss of a single set!

Eathorpe F found the going tough in Division B and finished at the foot of the table, some distance back from Eathorpe E and Free Church I who finished level on 24 points each.

Division C was won convincingly by Free Church K, who topped the table with 34 points, from Free Church N in second on 29. Chris Beckett, David Marguerie and Jack Leggatt completed their campaign with 5-0 wins over Free Church M and Eathorpe G and a 4-1 win over Free Church L.

They were, though, extended by Church N, and in a match where all but one game went to five sets, K emerged 3-2 winners. Solomon Hayes took a point for K by beating Jack Leggatt, who notched one for N by beating Timmy Cooper. Timmy won a single for himself by beating Chris Beckett and Chris, not to be outdone, made sure all players involved came away with a win by beating Solomon in five. The doubles would decide the match and in another five set epic, Chris and Jack came through to take the match.

Eathorpe G may have finished adrift at the bottom, but can take heart from an excellent finish, beating third placed Free Church L 3-2. Jonathan and Richard Milton won a single each and capped things off by winning the doubles. Paul Watkins won his two for Church.

Potters Green B and Free Church Q battled it out for the Division D honours, with Free Church Q having some ground to make up. Whilst they beat Free Church O 4-1 and Free Church S 5-0, their chances of finishing top were undone by defeats at the hands of Eathorpe H and a surprising 3-2 reverse against Church S who they had previously demolished!

Potters, meanwhile, picked up a 4-1 win over Free Church O and a 3-2 win over Church S. Against the O side, Aaron Riley and Harry Ellis were unstoppable in singles, both winning two. Church O's only respite came in the doubles when Jacob Clarke and Ben Simpson combined to devastating effect, winning the consolation 3-0. Aaron Riley won his two against Church S, with Paul and Luke Watkins hitting back with one each. This time Potters succeeded in the doubles and Aaron and Ashley Riley won a five setter to take victory.

Although Church Q did beat Potters B 3-2 through Kris Reiman and Matthew Flood, who won one each plus the doubles, Potters finished top on 29 points, with Church Q trailing in second on 23 points. Free Church O finished a point above bottom side Free Church S.

Just four points separated the top four sides in Division E, in what proved to be a competitive competition. Free Church P topped the pile with 30 points, from Church R (28), Snitterfield D (27) and Eathorpe I (26).

Church P completed their season with wins over Church T and Snitterfield D. Charlie Snelson won two against Church T, Ben King one, with Charlie and Callum Guest adding the doubles for a 4-1 win. Andrew McIlvaney grabbed an excellent consolation. Charlie Snelson was in unbeatable form again, taking his two against Snitterfield. Ben King again added one. Jason Grey picked up one for Snitterfield, plus the doubles with Peter Vale-Humphries.

Free Church R beat Eathorpe J 3-2 with one each plus the doubles from Marco Xavier and Jeremy Knott. Neither could touch Will Bourner though, who was impressive on his way to a maximum which meant he ended his season unbeaten in singles!

For those who might be struggling to rediscover their form after the Christmas turkey, consider taking the opportunity to shed those last few festive pounds by entering the next Graded Tournament being run by Lillington Free Church. The tournament is being held on Saturday 23rd January 2010 at Sydenham Sports Centre.

Entries are being accepted by Hugh Matthews on 01926 314539, or you can enter online at <http://www.lillingtontt.co.uk>