



Week commencing 29 March 2010

It was a great night for Deepak Chandrababu, representing Free Church B in Division 1, as he produced a career first in their 6-4 win over St Georges B. Deepak won the first leg against Mark Jackson 12-10 and dropped the second 11-13, in a match that ebbed and flowed. The third leg was no different with Deepak nicking it 13-11 this time. The fourth leg saw Deepak play with more aggression and Mark, couldn't quite stay in contention as Deepak moved clear to



Deepak Chandrababu

take the leg 11-7 and with it a first ever win over the league-number-five. Deepak completed a good night's work with another two wins for his hat-trick and grabbed a match-winning doubles with Chris Mulligan. Chris added a single, as did Hugh Matthews. For Saints, Mark refused to buckle under pressure, and although at times looked to be struggling to contain the attacking flare of his opponents, gave a demonstration of why he is regarded as one of the league's top players, coming through to grab a brace. Laurence Sweeney added a single and Damon Fenton launched a relentless torrent of backhands to notch one too.

The title winning trio from the previous two seasons were reunited once again as Sasha Grokhotov made his first appearance of the season for Colebridge Aces against WCC Antelopes, alongside Eddie Lynn and Ian Ferguson. Whilst it wasn't quite a fairytale comeback, Colebridge still proved their strength in depth with a convincing 9-1 win. Ferguson racked up another hat-trick in his bid to become the individual averages winner for the third successive year, but was taken the distance by an in form Phil Paine who led 2-1 before Fergie powered through the last two legs. Lynn took a treble without dropping a set and looks to be coming into some ominous form as the Leamington Closed approaches. Grokhotov had dispatched Chris van Namen and then faced Clive Irwin. Irwin went 2-1 up and held match point in the fourth game at 10-9, but Grokhotov showed why he was such a crucial part of the team for the last two years, holding his nerve to win the fourth 12-10 and then the fifth 11-8. At 9-0 up, the whitewash looked on the cards, but a wily display from Paine gave the Antelopes a consolation point as he beat Grokhotov in four legs.

In Division A, the match between Rugby H and Whitnash C produced three fantastic five-leg matches, all of which were just won by Rugby. That extra nerve under pressure resulted in a 4-1 win for Rugby courtesy of Martyn and Paul Lilley who won two and one respectively, plus the doubles. Paul Riman consoled for Whitnash.

Martyn bagged another brace for Rugby H and the doubles once again as they beat Free Church J 3-2. Niall Herbert and Roald Myers both picked up one for Church.

Rugby J overwhelmed Church J 4-1 with two from Don Pritchard, one from Baga Singh and the doubles. Roald Myers grabbed the consolation point.

Eathorpe E produced a well earned 5-0 win over Free Church K in Division B, with Ryan Oldham and George McGowan forming an increasingly effective partnership.

Church K also fell to Rugby I, but made a better first of it with David Marguerie grabbing a single plus the doubles with Chris Beckett. Peter Kent won two and Grace Newman one to secure the 3-2 win for Rugby.

Free Church H and N faced off twice in quick succession with very different results. First, the N side won 4-1 with Solomon Hayes and Timmy Cooper winning two and one plus the doubles and Tony Williams responding for H. In the return, Free Church H turned on the style and Estyn Williams and Keith Knott dominated to win 5-0.

A 4-1 win for Potters Green B was richly deserved over Free Church L in Division C. Although Ben Haigh did well to register a point for Church, Harry Ellis win his two for Potters, Aaron Riley one, and the pair grabbed the doubles.

An outstanding display of footwork and hitting by Lauren Delday saw her leave Free Church M's encounter with Eathorpe G unbeaten. Partner, Theo Rutter, added a single despite playing up as a reserve, and the young duo added the doubles for a 4-1 win. Graham Rose took the Eathorpe point.

Richard and Jonathan Milton were a class apart as Eathorpe H obliterated Snitterfield D 5-0 in Division D. Jason Grey extended Richard to five sets, but after that the 5-0 results rarely looked in doubt.

Jason fared better when Snitterfield played Free Church O and won his two, plus the doubles with Elizabeth Corkhill, who added a single. Simon Cooper produced a good display to grab a point for Church to leave the match score at 4-1.

Two young sides, Eathorpe I and Free Church P, had a close encounter, with the doubles settling the match in the last game of the night in favour of Eathorpe. Will Bourner and Sam Rose both added singles to take the win, though neither could stop an inspirational Charlie Snelson from grabbing a brace.

Free Church S may have won through 5-0 against Eathorpe J in Division E, but Eathorpe's young ladies, Millie Bradshaw and Annie McGowan should count themselves unfortunate not to have emerged with anything as they both went the distance in one of their matches. However, Free Church S are currently topping the table having tasted defeat only once and winning all their other games 5-0, so it is testament to their mental strength and no fluke that Luke Watkins and Harry Keen were able to come through the deciding legs.

Brother and Sister, Tom and Olivia Fletcher, grabbed a single apiece for Free Church T against Free Church V. Matthew Scott hit back for the Vs with a brace, but the T side took the match 3-2 when Tom was joined by Andrew McIlvaney for the doubles.