**Table-tennis Report**

**Courier, 24th/5th March 2016**

**The 2-a-side League has almost reached its climax and the respective champions are clear cut in most divisions. Free Church L will top Division A by a land-slide and trounced Flavels A 5-0 with Robbie Fitchford and Dave Ramsey grabbing the points. Norton Lindsey A were confined to second place as FC L beat them twice on the same evening, the score being 4-1 on each occasion. Ramsey was unbeaten in each match with Fitchford and Jerry Simmons partnering him in a match apiece. Gareth Hepworth notched the consolations. Lindsey recovered to edge third placed Flavels B 3-2, Hepworth (2) and Ron Shakesheff (1). Mick Bennett posted a single win and paired with Dot Macfarlane for the doubles. Rugby F pushed Fissc A into the relegation picture, winning 3-2 as Callum Ball continued his fine season with a double. He also took the doubles with Archie West. Mark Jones and Brian Marston replied. Free Church M climbed 4 points clear of Fissc with a 5-0 win, Nikit Sajiv and Jay Virdi the men in form.**

**Free Church O have an unassailable lead in Division B. Two 5-0 wins against FC AA ( Keith Knott (2), Ged Kuprys (2) plus the doubles) and against Norton Lindsey B (Ashley Knott (2), Kuprys (2) and the Knotts taking the doubles) launching them to top spot. Eathorpe E are comfortably second and crushed Norton Lindsey B 4-1 with two wins from Norbu Sunang-Joret and one from Shaun Martin, the duo winning the doubles. John Walker bagged the consolation. However, Norton did defeat Rugby H 3-2, Walker unbeaten and Vince Ford contributing one, losing to Bradley Smith who also secured the doubles with Jack Davidson.**

**Free Church P lead Division C again by a commanding margin. Oscar Dalrymple (2) and Dan Strand (1) gave them a narrow win against Eathorpe G for whom Luca Bloodworth won a single and joined James Stone for the doubles. This was followed by a 4-1 success against Eathorpe F, Dalrymple winning his two and the doubles with Joss Farmer who won once. Richard Freeman avoided the whitewash. Eathorpe F found winning ways, however, when taking on Ashorne B, triumphing 3-2. Freeman took two and Dave Hawker one with Ashorne scoring through Steve Handsley who teamed with Jim Jack for the doubles. Likewise, Ashorne lifted themselves, to defeat FISSC B 3-2, Handsley two plus the doubles with Tony Philpott. Martin Hamer and Mandip Takhar responded.**

**Rugby I looked to have Division D sewn up as they eclipsed Free Church R, their nearest rivals 5-0 through Angel and William Chen. However, dropped points against Free Church Q for whom Ben Hall won two singles and Rugby G when Grace Newman beat Angel Chen and guided Lesley Summers to the doubles, opened up the title race. Free Church R took 4 points off Rugby G, Milly Green (2) and the doubles with Dominic Priest (1) who lost to Summers and whitewashed their Q side, Green and Priest in the driving seat. R need three points from their last match to edge Rugby I out.**

**Free Church U sit 3 points clear at the top of Division E with a match in hand. They took all 5 points against Eathorpe H through Eduardo Bolanos and Josh Yarrow and then faced nearest rivals FC S. Bolanos and Yarrow again turned out for U winning a single apiece as did opponents Nicholas Ho and Seb Priest but the doubles went U’s way with Bolanos’s back-hand dominating the contest. Eathorpe H defeated Norton Lindsey C 3-2 with two singles from Marcel Bloodworth and one from John Gymer. In reply, Andy Mountney took a singles and paired with Edward Rogers for the doubles. Alex Costa won his two for FC T when facing their S side but Dan Gunthorpe and Nicholas Ho wrapped up the other points.**

**Division F is the most fiercely contested with the top two teams already suffering two losses and still to play each other. FC W sit top but lost to FC Z 2-3. Jake Simmons and Dylan Speller won singles but none could master Ben Holding who won twice and steered Josh Reece to doubles success. FC V are second, defeating Eathorpe I 3-2 with two wins from Chris Hearn who took the doubles with David Knott. James Rome and Jude Schofield were the villagers’ points scorers. V then beat FC Y 3-2, Hearn and Knott taking a single apiece and the doubles with Thomas Yarrow nailing his singles for Y. FC X beat FC Z 5-0 with Alex O’Driscoll and Eleanor Fletcher in impressive form.**