**Table-tennis League Report**

**Courier, 19th and 26th February 2016**

Runaway Division 1 leaders Rugby A were finally brought down to earth as they were held to a draw by second placed St Georges B, for whom Laurence Sweeney recorded an outstanding treble, including the first defeat of the season for Adrian Pilgrim. Mark Jackson weighed in with two and it was left to a brace from Pilgrim and singles from Ryan Lines and Matt Outhwaite plus a Pilgrim/Outhwaite doubles win to tie the match. Rugby had earlier whitewashed St Georges A , Ryan Stockham joining Lines and Outhwaite to complete the win. Free Church C did their chances of avoiding relegation the power of good with two recent wins. Firstly, bottom side Nomads A were edged 6-4 thanks to a Martyn Todd hat-trick and singles from Chris Blowey and Kit Turner, plus a Blowey/Todd doubles win. Nomads bounced back with Paul Rowan and Tony Thomas each bagging twos. FC C then embarrassed their B team, again winning 6-4. B’s Sam Weaving won his three and Jeff Harris added one but C took the spoils with doubles from Todd and Harry Purewal and a single from Adam Cofler. Purewal and Todd then clinched the doubles. St Georges B continued their fine run with a 10-0 eclipse of Wellesbourne, Jackson, Sweeney and Ron Vose the men responsible. Colebridge B will hope to pull clear of relegation after beating Nomads C 9-1. Vikas Bakshi and Anthony Ellis were unbeaten in singles and doubles and Farooq Kakar won two, losing to Paul Rowan.

Whitnash A sit poised in second place in Division 2 after defeating Millennium A 7-3. Kevin Arris and Paul Riman accounted for all of their points with Michael Harrison, Christian Ward and Rob Warnes all winning one. However, Whitnash could only draw with lowly Colebridge C for whom Neil Wheatley posted an eye-catching treble. Michael Credland supported with two wins with Whitnash responding through Riman (2) Arris (1) and Dennis Woodhead (1) plus the doubles. Millennium recovered to defeat Free Church E 7-3 with triples from Jack Garner and Ward and a single from Warnes. Phil Blowey and Livvy Fletcher won a singles apiece and took the doubles. However, Free Church D proved a different matter and edged them 6-4. Jack Green and Anthony Smith each had two wins and took the doubles and Cherry Matthews won once. Ward (2) Garner(1) and Warnes (1) scored for the Banbury side. Free Church D went on to defeat St Georges C 7-3. Mark Bolshaw’s hat-trick proved crucial and Green (2) and Smith (1) leant support, Bolshaw and Smith notching the doubles. Len Coonan (2) and Will Fletcher (1) posted Georges’ points. Rugby C eased relegation fears when beating another threatened side, Eathorpe A 8-2. Liz Adams and Ben Holvey took trebles and Hugh Crosfield won two, falling to Pete Titmas who also secured the doubles with Binh-Khoi Nguyen. Home advantage saw Rugby B defeat St Georges D 7-3 with Sam Cafearo and Danny Orr racking up the seven. Andy Caine, Tracey Fletcher and Richard Grover all won once for the visitors. Top team Nomads E squeezed past Free Church E 6-4. Steve Proctor was on top form, winning three and Malc Macfarlane and Charlie Somerton added singles. Phil Blowey and Tom Harris each won twice but fell to Proctor and Somerton in the vital doubles.

Free Church G are tying for top spot in Division 3. In a catch-up match they defeated Rugby D 9-1 (Ricardo Bolanos 3, Tom Fletcher 3 and Adam Pulman 2) with Harvey Fowler getting the consolation. They then entertained Rugby D in the return and beat them 8-2 (Bolanos 3, Pulman 3, Fletcher 1 plus the doubles) with father and son Steve and Harvey Fowler taking Rugby’s wins. Whitnash B enjoyed two 6-4 successes, first against County Council C when Greg Swan won three and Richard Smith two before pairing for the doubles. Doug Lowe (2) Derek Harwood (1) and Steve Poole (1) made it close. The second was against Millennium B Swan unbeaten once more, Smith taking two and Jayne Fitton recording the other point. Colin Astbury won two for the Banbury side and Bob Clarke one, the pair teaming up for the doubles. County Council D are the other team in pole position and they dispatched Millennium 7-3 (Mark Freeman 3, Tony Ford 2 Cliff Jackson 1 plus the doubles). Astbury 2 and Lewis Cox hit back. Eathorpe B are clawing their way up the division and had a welcome 6-4 win over Nomads C. Binh-Khoi Nguyen (3) and Marius Morariu (2) saw them over the line when winning the doubles. Dave Harding (2), Les Hoggins (1) and Richard Miles (1) kept things tight. Third placed Free Church F fell to Rugby E who beat them 6-4 thanks to a triple from Milly Bradshaw. Freddy Jones posted two wins and Dave Cox one, Church getting their points from Lewis Singleton (2) and James Robertson (1), the pair taking the doubles. Trevor Bradley was in imperious form for Flavels A winning three and the doubles with Roger Potts as they defeated high-flying Snitterfield A 6-4. Mick Bennett added two. Chris Hughes (2), Stuart Ayres (1) and Tim Fell (1) were the scorers for the villagers. Without Bradley, Flavels fell 2-8 to top side County Council D Bennett winning once and taking the second point with doubles specialist Potts. Council’s 8 were amassed by Freeman (3), Jackson (3) and Ford (2).

With a game in hand Eathorpe D sit handily in third in Division 4 and defeated 4th placed Eathorpe C 7-3. John Ablett, Jon Ablett and Charlie Wragg all won two with Jon and Wragg nailing the doubles. Will Apted took two for C and was aided by Paul Deavall who won once. Free Church K are joint top and also had a derby against their J team, winning 9-1 (Stuart Mills 3, Dan Shaw 3, Joe Mills 2 plus the doubles) Janice Rowan averted the whitewash. They then showed no mercy to County Council E with Nick Darwen, Joe Mills and Shaw taking all 10 points. Free Church H share the lead with K and they also won 10-0 against Ashorne A. Sam Bradley, Ciara Hancox and Emma Kilpatrick were in no mood to concede.

In Division A Free Church L extended their lead at the top to 25 points when taking all 5 points on their visit to Fissc. Robbie Fitchford and Dave Ramsey were unstoppable. Second placed Snitterfield B fell surprisingly to bottom side Free Church N who recorded their first win in 14 matches. Emily Beasley and Eve Briscoe were in top form as they both won singles, took Kim Wong to 5 and secured the crucial doubles.

Free Church O maintained their maximum points haul in Division B with another 5-0 win, this time Norton Lindsey B the victims of Ashley and Keith Knott. Runners-up Eathorpe E also acquired all 5 points against Rugby H with Jamie Sayer and Norbu Sunang-Joret intent on a full house.

In Division C Eathorpe F defeated Fissc B 5-0 through Richard Freeman and Dave Hawker and lie equal second. Ashorne B share the place with them after a 3-2 success against Eathorpe G. Steve Handsley won twice and took the doubles with Tony Philpott but Luca Bloodworth and James Stone each tasted victory once in reply Free Church P are three points clear at the top and claimed all 5 points when facing Fissc B. Oscar Dalrymple and Joss Farmer were the victorious duo.

Free Church R opened up a 5 point gap at the top of Division D after trouncing their Q team 5-0, Milly Green and Dominic Priest putting aside club favours. They followed this with another whitewash against County Council F, the same duo taking the points. FC Q bounced back to defeat Rugby G 3-2. Ben Hall won twice and partnered Richard Hancox to the doubles. Grace Newman and Lesley Summers responded with singles. Rugby G also lost narrowly in their derby with their I side. Newman and Karen Buckby both won a single as did Angel and William Chen for I but the brother and sister combination dominated the doubles.

Free Church S top Division E, their latest win a 4-1 result over Norton Lindsey C. Dan Gunthorpe led the way with two wins and a share of the doubles with Nicholas Ho, who won once. Guy Harrison notched the consolation. Free Church U lie second, a point behind but with a game in hand, their latest win being 4-1 over Free Church T, for whom Ellie Goldsmith bagged a consolation. Josh Yarrow won his two for U, Eduardo Bolanos won once and the pair took the doubles. FC T recovered to squeeze past Eathorpe H 3-2. Alex Costa and Ellie Goldsmith each won a singles and the doubles but could not master Marcel Bloodworth. Meanwhile FC U had another 4-1 success over Norton Lindsey, Yarrow again winning twice, Bolanos once and recording a doubles win. Andy Mountney was Norton’s scorer.

It is no surprise to see a Free Church side at the summit of Division F as 5 of the 6 sides are from that club but it does mean Free Church presently top all 6 2-a-side divisions. FC W have the distinction of pole position. They accounted for FC Z 3-2 with Jake Simmons and Dylan Speller winning a singles each and the doubles. Ben Holding maintained his unbeaten record for Z. W then went on to defeat previous table-toppers FC V 4-1 with Brody Speller winning two and sharing the doubles with twin Dylan who won once. Chris Hearn was the consolation winner. They also beat FC X 3-2, Simmons (1) , Brody Speller (1) and the doubles. Emma Pulman was X’s star with two wins. FC Z suffered another loss to FC Y who won 4-1. Tom Yarrow and Erin Darwen won all the singles but lost the doubles to Jack Knowles and Josh Reece. Z then recoded their first win against Eathorpe I, 3-2, Holding teaming with Knowles to win the doubles as well as his two singles. James Rome and Jude Schofield scored for the villagers. FC V collared FC Y 3-2 despite two singles wins from Thomas Yarrow. Chris Hearn and David Knott managed V’s 3 points.