**League Report**

**Courier, 9th February**

**In Division 1 Colebridge closed the gap on St Georges B with a 10-0 eclipse of Whitnash A. Ian Ferguson, Kate Hughes and Ben Willson could yet make life tricky for the leaders. Rugby A went 4th after edging struggling County Council A 6-4. Ryan Lines bagged a hat-trick, Sam Cafearo won two and the pair combined for the doubles. Clive Irwin was Council’s best with two and Chris Brewer and Pat McCabe added singles. When facing fellow strugglers St Georges A, Council were less successful, losing 7-3. Matthew Jordan was the Boys’ club hero with a maximum, Damon Fenton won two and Gary Jackson one with Fenton and Jordan taking the doubles. Brewer (2) and Chris Maiden (1) responded.**

**The two top sides have a big cushion over their promotion rivals in Division 2 but both suffered unexpected defeats in their latest matches. Nomads A were sunk 7-3 by Rugby B , Bradley Matthews(3), Ben Holvey (2) and Jack Evans (1) with Evans and Holvey winning the doubles 11-7 in the 5th. Paul Rowan (2) and Tony Thomas(1) prevented a bigger loss. Free Church D were edged 6-4 by Millennium A whose Jack Shardlow nailed an impressive treble. Christian Ward added two and Peter Harris one. Livvy Fletcher, James Robertson and Milan Sajiv each won singles and the Churchmen clinched the doubles 11-6 in the 5th.**

**St Georges D fell out of the Division 3 promotion picture, temporarily at least, after Millennium B defeated them 8-2. Cameron Aris (3), Lewis Cox (3) and Bob Clarke (2) amassing their points with Andy Caine the only single winner for the losers plus Tracey Fletcher and Richard Grover proving what a strong doubles pairing they are. Whitnash B have taken second place and accounted for Free Church I 9-1. Richard Smith and Greg Swan were unbeaten in singles and doubles and Dennis Woodhead’s only blemish was a loss to Ben Hall. This was backed up by a 7-3 win at Rugby D. Smith won three, Woodhead two and Swan one with Smith and Woodhead stealing the doubles in 5. Callum Ball (2) and Freddy Jones (1) were the home scorers. Flavels A in 5th mastered 4th placed Nomads C 6-4, Trevor Bradley winning three and Mick Bennett two, the pair teaming for a doubles success. Richard Miles (2) Kim Wong (1) and John Taylor (1) replied. Nomads C recovered to beat Warwick University A 8-2. Wong won his three and Miles had two successes, as did Taylor. Miles and Wong pocketed the doubles. Krzysztof Bolhuis and Michael Farmer supplied the Uni’s points. Millennium B followed up their win over Georges with an emphatic 9-1 win over Free Church G. Colin Astbury and Cox won seven of their points and Clarke fell only to Tom Fletcher.**

**Division 4 leaders, Free Church L, romped to an 8-2 win over Rugby E. Jerry Chung and Richard Pittaway won maximums and 13 year old Owain Jones won two. Ian Evans scored for Rugby and Grace Newman and Lesley Summers combined to win the doubles. County Council E also won 8-2 over Warwick University B. Jason Grey was a hat-trick star and William Hung and Carl Morgan added braces, Sam Patterson beating them both. Free Church K are still very much in the title race and pipped Eathorpe D 6-4, thanks in no small part to Keith Knott’s treble. Darren Laffey won twice and the pair were successful in the doubles. Michael Rossington won two for the villagers and Paul Deavall and Shaun Martin contributed singles. Eathorpe C crushed County Council F 10-0, Luca and Marcel Bloodworth and James Stone showing no mercy.**

**Ashorne B squeezed a win at FISSC A in Division A through Steve Kay (2) and Steve Handsley (1). George Mudie took the farmers’ single and steered Mark Kingham to the doubles. Snitterfield B had their second 5-0 win of the season, this time casting aside Ashorne A through Michael Klein and Ron Shakesheff.**

**In Division C Eathorpe H beat their I team 3-2 despite a double from Christian Roberts. Joshua Cope and James Rome won singles and the doubles to gain the win.**

**Rugby G defeated Eathorpe G 3-2 in Division D. Tyler Humphries was in top form to win two and Josh Tyagi weighed in with one. Paul Holtby took a single and teamed with John Gymer for the doubles.**

**County Championships**

**The Junior and Veteran events in the County championships were held in Warwick on Sunday after being snowed off in December. The Junior competitions were dominated by Lillington Free Church TTC and all players mentioned hereafter were from that club apart from the named exceptions.**

**The Junior Boys singles pitted Jack Green against Rugby’s Sam Cafearo in the semis, Green winning in straight games. With three initial groups affording three winners, Josh Yarrow had a walk-over to the final but had the coveted scalp of Ricardo Bolanos in his initial group. However, Green’s experience told in the Final and he won 7,10 and 11.**

**The Junior Girls competition was played in a round robin with Emily Beasley taking the title, Milly Green in second spot, Ciara Hancox in third and Katie Singleton 4th.**

**Ricardo Bolanos reached the semi-final of the Under 15 boys where he dispatched club-mate and rising star Joe Shrimpton in three. Josh Yarrow won the other semi, 3-1 against Colebridge’s Nathaniel Saunders with Bolanos going on to win a close Final 3-2.**

**The Under 15 Girls singles was also a round robin. Milly Green finished in pole position from Erin Darwen ( second) and Eleanor Fletcher (third).**

**The Under 13 Boys singles was the only title to elude the Free Church club, Nathaniel Saunders of Colebridge taking the title in straight games against Chris Ho.**

**The Under 13 Girls singles attracted just two entrants, Eleanor Fletcher beating Erin Darwen 4,8,-6,-9,7. There were no under 11 girl entries!**

**The under 11 Boys title was lifted by Daniel Stone who overcame Wajid Wafiq of the Crown club in Birmingham 11-8 in the 5th after being 0-2 down in games.**

**The Junior Boys Restricted Singles was a triumph for Josh Yarrow who beat Rugby’s Dan Burgess in the Final. In the Junior Girls Restricted Final Emily Beasley defeated Milly Green.**

**The Veterans events combined men and women. Rajinder Singh of Smithswood overcame St Georges’ Mark Jackson in a semi-final and faced club-mate Michael Browne who had defeated Stephen Robinson of Bourneville in his semi. Browne took the title 8,-10,2,6.**

**The over 40 doubles brought local success as County Council’s strong pairing of Nilton Green and Simon Griew dispatched Mark Jackson and Phoenix’s Ryan Stockham 11-7 in the 5th in the semi and then went on to beat Anthony Ellis and Ben Willson of Colebridge, who had conquered Michael Browne and Stephen Robinson in their semi, in the final by the same margin.**

**In the over 50s the semis were between Michael Browne of Smithswood and Griew, and Stephen Robinson of Bournville and Diane St Ledger, of Smithswood. Griew and Robinson tasted victory and Griew took his second title after accounting for Robinson 3-1.**

**The over 60s was another opportunity for St Ledger to gain a semi-final berth but she could not get the better of Phoenix’s Paul Calloway. In the other semi Stephen Taylor of Streetly triumphed against Michael Credland of Colebridge but eventually ceded the title to Calloway.**

**The over 70s event was a round robin. Robert Watts of Barnt Green became champion after winning all four matches but the next three players all won two. David Smye of Massey-Ferguson claimed second on countback, Roger Ellerington of Smithswood finished third and Victor Cracroft of Colebridge ended up in 4th.**

**Lillington Free Church Graded Tournament**

**Lillington Free Church table-tennis club’s third tournament of the season attracted players from as far afield as King’s Lynn and Corby when it was held in St Nicholas Leisure Centre in Warwick on Saturday.**

**In the morning events, the strong contingent of players from Warwick University was typified by Eddie Lyons who powered his way to the Senior Final, accounting for Jack Green a top Free Church junior, in the semi-final. His opponent was another player from the host club, Sam Wiggins, who had overcome club-mate Sam Weaving in his semi. A thrilling final ensued with Lyons getting the verdict 12-10 in the 5th.**

**The Junior and Cadets event was combined. Three Lillington players contested the semis, Emily Beasley beating Ben Hall and Josh Yarrow going down to Bodicote’s Toby Dow who went on to defeat Beasley in the Final.**

**There was just one girl in the under 13 singles, Church’s Eleanor Fletcher, but this did not prevent her getting to the semi where she gained an impressive win over Colebridge’s Thomas Martin. Matthew Burgess of Rugby won the other semi against Lillington newcomer Charlie Hines. Another thrilling final followed with Fletcher taking the plaudits.**

**In the afternoon, Hawley Ellicott of Colebridge won his Grade A semi-final against George Pickering of Warwick Uni and faced Sam Weaving who had beaten Lillington cadet Ricardo Bolanos in his semi, Bolanos earlier having knocked out Lyons. Ellicott took the final 3-1.**

**In Grade B Connor Perkins of Warwick Uni beat Free Church’s cadet Milly Green in the semi to face another Lillington girl, Emily Beasley who had beaten club-mate Josh Yarrow in her semi. Perkins emerged as a 3-1 victor in a close final.**

**Toby Dow secured his second title of the day in Grade C. After beating Eleanor Fletcher in his semi he faced Warwick Uni’s Anisha Rasan who had accounted for Church’s Richard Pittaway in the other semi. Dow closed out the final 3-2.**

**There was an all Free Church semi-final in the Improvers with George Barnes getting the better of Chris Ho. Church’s Jack Knowles had a fine win over Thomas Martin of Colebridge to give the host club two finalists. In another final of a high standard, Barnes claimed victory.**

**Four Free Church newcomers dominated the Beginners singles. Nathan Jackson pipped Jack Bradbury in one semi whilst Alfie Ransom overcame Josh Hines in the other. Jackson and Ransom had met twice before in the day and the score was one match each. This time Jackson gained the glory.**

**Consolation Finals**

**Senior**

**James Robertson (Free Church) beat Livvy Fletcher (Free Church)**

**Junior/Cadet**

**Tom Fletcher (Free Church) beat Tom Yarrow (Free Church)**

**Under 13**

**Nathan Jackson (Free Church) beat Owain Jones (Free Church)**

**Grade A**

**Harry Purewal (Free Church) beat Nilton Green (County Council)**

**Grade B**

**Ben Hall (Free Church) beat Henry Belcher (Colebridge)**

**Grade C**

**Nicholas Ho (Free Church) beat Joe Shrimpton (Free Church)**

**Improvers**

**Bernard Hardingham (County Council) beat Damien Chapier ( Birmingham)**