**Table Tennis League Report**

**Courier 16th February**

**St Georges B continued their assault on the Division 1 title with a 9-1 win over County Council B. Laurence Sweeney and Ron Vose bagged maximums and Mark Jackson dropped just the one to Simon Griew, as well as pairing with Vose for the doubles. County Council B went on to draw at Whitnash A. Nilton Green won two for WCC, Griew one and Martin Hunter one with Green and Griew taking the doubles. The star of the match, however, was their opponent’s Mark Woolerton who won his three to add to two from Kevin Ariss. A 14-12 in the 5th doubles win for Alan Cotton and Gary Stewart against Paul Calloway and Mark Rose allowed Wellesbourne to steal the narrowest of victories over relegation rivals Phoenix. Cotton won two singles, as did John Price, and Stewart added one. In reply Taran Dhillon and Rose notched braces. The villagers still trail the Coventry side by three points. Another side threatened with relegation, St Georges A, had a welcome draw with Whitnash A. Damon Fenton’s brace included a 12-10 in the 5th win over Paul Riman. Matt Jordan also won two and Gary Jackson one. Ariss and Woolerton won two apiece and took the doubles 15-13 in the 5th. Free Church B lifted themselves to 7th with a draw at home to their 5th placed C team. Harry Purewal won twice and steered Jack Green, who won once, to the doubles. Charlotte Spencer chipped in with one. For C, Ricardo Bolanos and Dave Ramsey secured doubles and Nikit Sajiv a single.**

**The top two sides in Division 2 both won 8-2. Free Church D overcame Eathorpe A with a treble from James Robertson and braces from Livvy Fletcher and Tom Hunt. Hunt and Robertson ensured Church bagged their 13th doubles win from 13 matches. Eathorpe’s consolations were earned by Brian Hobill and Bernard Reman. Nomads Aces in second (level on points but having played a match more) inflicted similar damage on Nomads Enigmas. Simon Nolan and Paul Rowan picked up 7 of the points and Andy Davies weighed in with one. James Glazzard and Steve Proctor claimed Enigmas’ points.**

**The top team in Division 3 also won 8-2 with Snitterfield A accounting for Millennium B. Michael Credland swept to a triple, and Stuart Ayres and Tim Fell both won twice, Credland and Ayres pairing for the doubles. Lewis Cox scored two for the Banbury side. Free Church H earned a hard fought draw at Nomads Codgers with Josh Yarrow showing his potential with a hat-trick. Eduardo Bolanos posted two good wins with Richard Miles (2), Les Hoggins (1) and John Taylor (1) responding. Miles and Taylor won the doubles. Bottom side Warwick University A lost narrowly to the strong St Georges D side, 6-4 thanks mainly to an in form Arslan Awan who took a maximum. Michael Farmer supplied one with Richard Grover (2), Jerry Simmons (2) Andy Caine (1) and a Grover/Simmons doubles success keeping Georges in 3rd place. Rugby D won 8-2 at County Council D with Callum Ball winning his three and guiding Joe Mills to the doubles. Steven Ball and Stuart Mills each won twice. Steve Poole and Ian Stevens grabbed the Council points.**

**Free Church K’s whitewash of County Council E in Division 4 put them into second place. Nick Darwen, Eleanor Fletcher and Keith Knott showed no mercy. Free Church J sit 4th after defeating Eathorpe C 7-3. Mike Weaving was in top form and won three. Janice Rowan and Jill Weaving shared the other points. Luca Bloodworth won two for the villagers and took the doubles with James Stone.**

**It has taken three matches for Snitterfield B to concede a point in Division A but Fissc A were the first team to trouble them, despite losing 4-1. Michael Klein and Ron Shakesheff won the singles but Brian Marston and George Mudie used their guile to nab the doubles. Rugby F also won 4-1, against Ashorne A. Tie Chen won two and the doubles with daughter Angel who won a single but lost to the experienced Roger Pye.**

**Free Church N recorded their third win in a row in Division B edging Ashorne C 3-2. Dan Strand won twice and Phil Booth once, losing to Barry Bayliss who secured the doubles with Tony Philpott.**

**Eathorpe I whitewashed Free Church Q 5-0 in Division C with Jamaal Iqbal and Christian Roberts playing well, to win a nonetheless competitive encounter.**

**In Division D Free Church U travelled to Rugby G who were unbeaten in their Autumn promotion campaign and won 4-1. Jack Knowles excelled with two wins and the doubles with Daniel Stone, who won once. Josh Tyagi notched the consolation. County Council F went one better and took all 5 points against Eathorpe G through Steve Maggs and Jeremy Sampson.**

**Eathorpe J beat Free Church V 4-1 in Division E. Keiran Braden-Brown won his two and partnered Joshua Atkins to the doubles. Atkins won one but fell to Arnav Mulay. Eathorpe L overcame their K team 4-1. Declan Jay won two, brother Joshua added one and the twins teamed for the doubles. Aaron Heel prevented the whitewash. Free Church T beat Free Church W 3-2. Jack Bradbury won two and claimed the doubles with Anna Gorvett. Jun Chung and Morgan Page had their first League wins for W.**

**Junior British League Table Tennis 2017/18, Weekend 2, 10/11 February 2018**

**Lillington Free Church’s Junior Boys were in action at the Derby Arena, competing in the second and final weekend of the Junior British League for 2017/18 and the triumvirate of Ricardo Bolanos, Jack Green and Nikit Sajiv can be immensely proud of their efforts after hauling back a first weekend deficit to end up Champions of Division 3B.**

**The Lillington side, who have been sponsored for the event by local IT solutions provider, NS Optimum, began the weekend in second place, two points adrift of leaders, Formby, and three ahead of third placed Ormesby. Lillington would face both on day two of the weekend but would first need to overcome the other three sides to give themselves a chance of taking honours.**

**First opponents, Pompey, were only able to field two players so immediately conceded two points, leaving Bolanos, Green and Sajiv needing to pick up a further two. Bolanos and Green secured the result with wins against Thomas Poynter and Yaj Vashee respectively, but the team were unable to extend the winning margin and the match finished 4-2.**

**With the potential for things to be very tight at the top of the table, Lillington went into the match against bottom side, Plymouth, determined to do what they could to improve their games ratio. Sajiv took his first wins of the weekend, beating Jarvis Lee and Oliver Cornish in confident style. Bolanos also beat Cornish, as well as Ben Edmunds, with Green beating both Edmunds and Lee in straight games to complete a 6-0 win for the loss of only three games.**

**The last match on Saturday was against Wood Green and Green found himself in all sorts of trouble in the opener as he went 2-0 down against Ben McDonald registering just three points in those two games. Green, though, remained calm and adjusted his tactics to complete an excellent comeback and win 3-2. McDonald registered a point for Wood Green with a straight games win over Bolanos but that was all Wood Green could muster. Bolanos beat Luke Gittins 3-0, Sajiv oozed class as he blew away Alex Lee and Gittins, and Green completed a 5-1 win with a comeback win over Lee.**

**It was mission accomplished on Saturday, with Lillington taking six points from a possible six. Table-topping Formby had dropped a point the previous day when they drew with Ormesby which meant that two wins on Sunday would see Lillington crowned champions.**

**Green endured a tough start against Ormesby, losing to their number one player, Luke Robinson 3-1. Bolanos then took to the table against Ben Savage who, with Kevin De Bruyne-like accuracy on his blocks, extended the lead with a 3-1 win. Sajiv continued his excellent form by rushing to a 2-0 lead against Chris Edwards before being pegged back to a decider. The youngest member of the Lillington team belied his years, though, holding out under extreme pressure to pull a point back for his team. When Bolanos was unable to make a dent in Robinson, the win was no longer possible and attention turned to avoiding defeat. Sajiv returned to the table and saw off Savage 3-1 before Green showed outstanding composure to beat Edwards 3-2 and salvage a draw for Lillington. The significance of the draw was that, as well as keeping them within touching distance of first, it meant Ormesby could not catch them so second place and promotion was guaranteed.**

**The final match of the weekend and, indeed, the JBL season, was set up nicely. Formby were two points clear and win for Lillington would see them level on points and having to rely on countback. Lillington number one, Bolanos, had been suffering with illness over the weekend but dug deep when his team needed him the most to first beat Yameen Al-Dahari 3-2 and then the number six ranked cadet in the country, Rhys Davies 3-1. Davies had beaten Green 3-1 and Sajiv had blitzed Joshua Parker to put Lillington 3-1 ahead. Sajiv, though couldn’t quite get over the line against Al-Dahari, losing the deciding game. It was down to Green to make sure of the win and then see what transpired on countback. Knowing that each game for and against mattered, Green secured a 4-2 win for his side with a 3-0 demolition of Parker which left the two teams tied at the top of the table, equal on points. When the results were entered and the final calculations completed, Lillington’s superior record of games won to games lost over the two weekends saw them lift the trophy.**

**The trio have secured the Division 3B title, promotion to Division 2 for the 2018/19 season and served to enhance the reputation of their club with an excellent display of teamwork, focus and attitude over the two weekends. They will no doubt hope for similar success next year.**

***Pictured: The Lillington Junior Boys Junior British League team receiving the Division 3B Winners trophy from the Chair of Table Tennis England, Sandra Deaton. (L-R) Nikit Sajiv, Jack Green, Ricardo*** *Bolanos.*



