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**Table tennis notes by Chris Blake**

With the top three teams in Division One out of action there is no change at the top of the league – St Chads remain top, Silksworth IM A in second place 1 point ahead of Thompson Insurance A who have a match in hand (maximum 4 points up for grabs).

The 3 teams still have to play each other before the end of the season so there may be some twists and turns to come. On paper Thompsons and Silksworth IM A have the most realistic chance of being crowned champions but with St Chads in excellent form they will certainly have a say in who wins the title.

In the only division 1 match West CA had a comfortable 10 – 0 win over lowly Redby CA A to help cement their 4th place league position – Ainsley, Williamson and Shingler were all undefeated for West.

**Week 17 results:**

Redby CA A 0 vs. West CA 10

In division 2 in-form team moved into 3rd place with a powerful win over rivals Silksworth IM B who were forced to play with 2 players due to the late withdrawal of their No. 2 player Howard Brown.

Alan Bickle recorded the only win for Silksworth with a fine victory over saints Nigel Coe – who recovered well to win his remaining 2 sets. Ian McAllister and Duncan Fraser were both undefeated and combined to win the doubles set.

At the bottom end of the table West CA B entertained Redby CA B with the match ending a 5 – 5 draw. Joe Muldowney remained undefeated winning all of his sets against Alan Whitwham, Michael Redfearn and Vic Austin respectively. Howard Forster picked up a set and combined with Ian Wilson to win the only doubles set 9 – 11, 10 – 12, 10 – 12 which effectively helped to secure a hard earned draw and share of the points.

Whitwham and Redfearn picked up 2 sets for West with Austin picking up one. Girdwood played very well throughout the night and was unlucky to pick up a set for his efforts – with all his matches being decided in either the 4th or 5th and deciding end.

**Week 17 results:**

Sacriston St Bedes B 9 vs. Silksworth IM B 1

West CA B 5 vs. Redby CA B 5

Leaders St Johns B and 2nd placed St Johns A both had comfortable 9 – 1 wins over St Gabriels C and St Johns C to move a step closer to promotion to league division 2.

Sacriston St Bedes C had a fine 7 – 3 win over the fast improving Lanchester CC side to strengthen their 3rd place position.

Ian McPherson and Chris Grant were both undefeated for the saints and also combined to win the only doubles set. Lanchester’s Jack Brewis, Callan McCabe and John Cook all won a set a piece which helped to make for a very entertaining game. Barry Dingwell played well for the saints and was unfortunate not to pick up a set on the night.

**Week 17 results:**

Lanchester CC 3 vs. Sacriston St Bedes C 7

St John A 9 vs. St Johns C 1

St Johns B 9 vs. St Gabriels C 1

The Singles Handicap Cup has reached the Quarter Final stage of the competition and as always the draw has unveiled some very interesting ties.

**Quarter Final Draw:**

Graham Merden **(+ 6)** vs. Syd Gooding

Paul Dale **(+ 8)** vs. Jimmy Scope

Jake Hannah **(+ 12)** vs. Ian McAllister

Sean Gleghorn **(+ 14)** vs. Adam Curran

**(Matches to be played by 24th March 2012)**

In the first tie 3rd Division St Gabriels C teammates Graham Merden and Syd Gooding were drawn against each other with Merden being awarded a 6 point start. Syd Gooding has an excellent record in the competition and is more than capable of clawing back the lead awarded to his opponent.

The second tie sees 2nd division player Paul Dale (Sacriston St Bedes A) pitched against Jimmy Scope - one of two players represented by current Division 1 leaders St Chads. Both players have a wealth of league experience but with Scope having to give away an 8 point lead this should help to create a very close and tense match. Dale will look to dominate his opponent bringing into play his attacking at every opportunity whilst Scope will be looking to defend before bringing in his own backhand and forehand attack.

3rd Division player Jake Hannah of St Johns C has been drawn against in-form Ian McAllister of Sacriston St Bedes B currently in 3rd place in division 2. Fast improving Hannah has been awarded a 12 point start which may be a bridge too far for McAllister to overcome. However, serves are extremely important in the singles handicap competition (5 serves each) which may help to claw back the lead to make for a very interesting tie.

The final quarter final tie sees 3rd division debutant Sean Gleghorn (St Johns C) drawn against Adam Curran of 1st division’s leaders St Chads. Curran has played exceptionally well in his first full season in the top division but may find the going tough having to award his fast improving opponent a 14 point start up to 21. Once again, serves and steady, controlled play may help Curran draw back some of the lead but with Gleghorn having nothing to lose he could through caution to the wind and go for his shots and make for a very interesting cup tie.