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**Table tennis notes by Chris Blake**

In Division 1 of the Sunderland & District league Thompson Insurance A guaranteed a least the runners up position following their 9 – 1 victory over West CA A.

Chris Blake and Marc Cotton were both undefeated for Thompson’s and were closely supported by Dave Blackburne who picked up 2 sets and combined with teammate Blake to edge the doubles set 11 – 8 in the 5th and deciding end over John Williamson and Mark Shingler.

Williamson played well throughout and had a great 3 – 0 win over Blackburne but narrowly lost out to Blake 12 – 10 (in the 5th) in a very close match which saw both players playing excellent attacking table tennis.

In the only other 1st division match St Chads had a comfortable 9 – 1 victory over Durham CA. The defeat edges Durham closer to relegation – with only 3 games remaining they lie 2 points behind Thompson Insurance B who have 2 matches in hand.

**Results:**

St Chads 9 vs. Durham CA 1

West CA A 1 vs. Thompson Insurance A 9

Mortimer CA moved into 2nd place and a step closer to promotion to the top division following 2 wins over St Gabriels B (7 – 3) and Redby CA B (9 – 1). Mortimer require 2 more wins from their remaining 4 matches to guarantee a move up to division 1.

Redby’s defeat condemns confirmed their relegation to division 3.

Current leaders Sacriston St Bedes A now require just one more win to achieve promotion to division 1 following their excellent 10 – 0 over early season pace setters St Gabriels B. Sacriston were just too strong for the Saints – Paul Dale, Darren Young and Kevin Smith were all defeated for Sacriston with Dale and Young combining to win an epic doubles match over Geoff and Steve Young 12 – 10 in the 5th.

Sacriston St Bedes B had a good 7 – 3 win over West CA B to keep their hopes of a 3rd place finish very much alive. In a very entertaining match 8 out of the 10 sets were decided in the 4th of 5th end.

Duncan Fraser (Sacriston) was deemed to be man-of-the-match after winning his 3 sets and combining with Nigel Coe (2) to edge an excellent doubles game 11 – 9 in the 5th over Alan Whitwham and Michael Redfearn. Dan Nicholson (Sacriston) played really well throughout and can count himself unlucky to pick up just one set on the night – narrowly losing out in the 5th to Whitwham (9 – 11) and Michael Redfearn (7 – 11) respectively.

Whitwham played excellently throughout picking up 2 sets on the night and just narrowly losing out the doubles.

Silksworth IM B had a comfortable 8 – 2 win over Redby CA B which confirms Redby’s relegation to Division 3 – Howard Forster and Ian Wilson picked up the only wins for Redby.

**Results:**

Sacriston St Bedes B 7 vs. West CA B 3

Silksworth IM B 8 vs. Redby CA B 2

St Gabriels B 0 vs. Sacriston St Bedes A 10

Match of the week in Division 3 saw newly promoted St Johns A held to a 5 – 5 draw against Sacriston St Bedes D. This was an excellent match with the scores ebbing and flowing throughout.

With the match score standing at 3 – 3 it promised to be an exciting finish to the match – and the players didn’t disappoint with the remaining 4 sets being decided in the 5th and final end. Craig Burton drew first blood with a narrow 11 – 9 win over Nikki Irwin only to Terry Charlton pull one back with a fine 11 – 5 win over Richie Patterson. Nikki Irwin then had an excellent 11 – 6 win over Eszter Soos to put Sacriston into a 5 – 4 lead but Burton ensured a draw for the Saints with a hard fought win over Debbie Irwin 11 – 9, 10 – 12, 7 – 11, 11 – 7 and 11 – 5 to earn his team a share of the points.

The remaining 3 matches went to form – Lanchester losing out to 9 – 1 St Gabriels C. St Johns C were defeated 10 – 0 by Sacriston St Bedes C but recovered well to achieve a fine 7 – 3 over Redby CA C.

**Results:**

Lanchester CC 1 vs. St Gabriels 9

Redby CA C 3 vs. St Johns C 7

Sacriston St Bedes C 10 vs. St Johns C 0

Sacriston St Bedes D 5 vs. St Johns A 5

**Team Handicap Cup Semi-final draw:**

St John B vs. Sacriston St Bedes C (played 02.04.12)

Mortimer CA vs. Silksworth IM B (played 03.04.12)

***\*Correction\* Semi-finals taking place on Mon 2nd and Tues 3rd April and will be held at Silksworth IM Church Hall commencing at 7.00pm***