**Mixed fortunes for Silksworth IM A**

**Table tennis notes by Chris Blake**

**Division 1**

There were mixed fortunes for **Division 1** leaders Silksworth IM A – having had a straight forward 10 – 0 victory over bottom placed Redby they dropped two valuable points against 4th placed West CA A.

With both teams only able to field 2 players only 5 sets could actually be played during the match - 4 singles and 1 doubles. The set between the two No. 3 players could not be played and was therefore classified as void.

West’s John Williamson had a 3 – 0 win over Silksworth’s Bernie Morris – first blood to West.

Silksworth’s Anthony Barella and Morris then narrowly beat West CA’s Williamson and Mark Shingler (12 – 10 in the 5th) in the doubles set.

Barella had a straight sets win over Shingler – advantage Silksworth – only for Shingler to storm back and level the match by beating Morris 11 – 9 in the 5th in an excellent display of attacking table tennis.

The final set played on the night saw a great attacking display from West’s Williamson and Silksworth’s Anthony Barella. Williamson lost the first end before storming back to take the 2nd and 3rd ends (11 – 9 and 11 – 9 respectively) – Barella won the 4th relatively easily to take the set into the 5th and deciding end. In the final end some great table tennis was played with both players looking to bring in their attacking flair and seek advantage in the match – Barella finally getting the upper hand to win the set 11 – 9.

With the remaining 4 singles being classified as walkovers these were shared 2 sets a piece – which meant that Silksworth had edged the match by 5 sets to 4. The points were therefore shared – 2 points to Silksworth (for scoring 5 sets) and 1 point to West CA (for scoring 4 sets).

The result is a huge blow for Silksworth’s title challenge - particularly when Silksworth have being playing so well this season.

Thompsons Insurance A took full advantage of Silksworth’s slip-up with an 8 – 2 victory over West CA A to move into 2nd place and close the gap to 3 points on the current leaders.

This was a great team effort from Thompson’s Darren McVitie, Chris Blake and manager Allan Thompson.

West’s 2 sets were picked up by John Williamson over Blake (11 – 9 in the 5th) – with Blake unable to stem the flow of Williamson’s attacking play – and Mark Shingler who had a fine victory over former teammate Allan Thompson in a very entertaining game.

**Weeks 12 & 13 results:**

Silksworth IM A 10 vs Redby CA A 0

West CA A 4 vs Silksworth IM A 5 **(Week 12)**

Thompson Ins. A 8 vs West CA A 2

**Division 2**

In **Division 2** second placed Mortimer CA were surprisingly beaten by mid-table Redby CA – man of the match was Redby’s Rob Kerr who had excellent wins over Mortimer’s Dave Cutler, Ian Moore and Matty Hampton and also combined with Dave Thomson to win the doubles set. Kishore Sridharan chipped in with 2 sets to help Redby secure their 6 – 4 win.

Wins by Cutler (2), Moore and Hampton helped ensure that Mortimer at least picked up a point for their efforts.

Silksworth IM B remain in the hunt for runners up spot with a great 7 – 3 win over lowly Redby CA B. George Carlyon, Alan Bickle, and Howard Brown winning 2 sets a piece – the latter 2 combining to win the only doubles set to secure maximum points for their win.

Joe Muldowney (Redby CA B) was voted man of the match having remained unbeaten throughout the game.

**Week 13 results:**

Redby CA 6 vs. Mortimer CA 4

Redby CA B 3 vs. Silksworth IM B 7

**Division 3**

The game of the week in **Division 3** saw the young St Johns C side of Jacob Helm, Sean Gleghorn and Jake Hannah pitched against the experienced Redby CA side fielding Hugh Bevan, Tom Turner and David Aldridge. Without doubt this is one of the closest and most entertaining matches played in Division 3 for many years.

The Saints won 8 – 2 but the final score does not accurately reflect how close the match actual was – with 8 of the 9 singles sets being decided in either the 4th (x 1) or 5th (x 7) end with all of these being won by the smallest of margins.

The experienced Tom Turner won the only singles set for Redby with a win over Jake Hannah and combined with teammate David Aldridge to edge the only doubles set of the match.

Hannah recovered well to win his remaining 2 matches – a fine 3 - 2 win over Redby’s number one player Hugh Bevan having initially been 2 - 0 down to edge the 5th (11 – 8). His win over Aldridge followed the same pattern, Hannah eventually overcoming Aldridge 11 – 3 in the 5th.

Saints number one player Jacob Helm was forced to dig deep to win his 3 singles sets and remain unbeaten. Sean Gleghorn chipped in with 3 excellent wins over Aldridge, Bevan and Turner - all of which were decided in the 5th end 11 – 7, 11 – 8 and 11 – 8, respectively.

St Johns manager Michael Wilson said ‘*The youngsters are gaining so much valuable league experience and are improving in every match they play. This match was a fantastic effort by everyone concerned and I couldn’t be more proud of the young players and also the Redby players who were very sporting throughout*’.

He continued ‘*The final match result was 8 – 2 in our favour but with so many sets being decided in the 5th and final end the outcome of the match could have easily been 8 – 2 to Redby!*’

In the remaining fixtures in Division 3 St Johns A had a 9 – 1 win over Sacriston St Bedes D to return back to top spot. Once again this was a very entertaining game with some excellent table tennis played throughout.

Debbie Irwin had a fine win over St Johns Craig Burton to register the only set won by Sacriston. The final score was very harsh on Sacriston who saw 6 of their 9 singles sets being decided in the 4th or 5th end - of which they were only managed to win 1.

Istvan Soos and Craig Hilton were unbeaten for St Johns A and whilst Sacriston’s Nikki Irwin and Terry Charlton failed to win a set between them they should be pleased with their overall performance on the night.

Fourth placed St Gabriels C had an excellent 6 – 4 win over 3rd placed Sacriston St Bedes C. Syd Gooding was man of the match for St Gabriels having remained unbeaten in his singles and combining with Ronnie Douglass to win the doubles set. Alan Ray chipped in with 2 sets with wins over Lee Maher and Pritchard respectively helping to seal a 6 – 4 win.

Wins by Grant (1), Pritchard (1) and Maher (2) ensured Sacriston picked up a point for their efforts.

**Week 13 results:**

Sacriston St Bedes C 4 vs. St Gabriels C 6

St Johns A 9 vs. Sacriston St Bedes D 1

St. John’s C 8 vs. Redby CA C 2