**Wilkinson sends out a warning….**

**Table tennis round-up by Chris Blake**



Thompson Insurance ‘A’ played their first match of the season against their ‘B’ side and immediately showed why they are strong contenders for this years’ Division One title.

The reigning champions powered to a 10 sets to nil victory. Andrew Wilkinson (who also plays in the 1st Division of the Belgium league) sailed through his sets with an awesome attacking display on both the forehand and particularly his backhand wing to ensure he started the season with a bang.

Andrew was closely supported by his team mates Chris Blake and Dave Blackburn to ensure the champions gained maximum points for their first win of the season. With Darren McVitie and Captain Allan Thompson to call upon Thompson Insurance ‘A’ have strength in depth – a potential deciding factor in the title race.

Thompson Insurance ‘B’ despite their loss played very well with good displays from Maurice Cheek, Eddie Coxon and David Winterbottom.

Potential challengers’ for the Division 1 title Silksworth I.M. ‘A’ could only field 2 players for their match against Durham CA. The final result was a 5 – 5 draw but this could easily have been an 8 – 2 defeat had Silksworth failed to win any of the 3 rubbers (sets) that went into the final and deciding end. The closest of which saw Bernie Morris come back from two games down against Gavin Besford to win the remaining 3 games 11 – 8, 11 – 4 and 11 – 9 to secure the draw and ensure the match points were shared.

St. Chads remain unbeaten in the league with 3 straight wins 7 – 3, 9 – 1 and 9 – 1. The Saints have been given a timely boost as they can once again draw upon the services of their number 1 player Keith Weatherby - who has been injured for 2 months with tennis elbow. Keith was unbeaten against Redby CA ‘A’ but was pushed all the way in a long match against Frank Booth - just emerging victorious against 11 – 9, 20 – 18 and 12 – 10.

Booth did however gain an excellent 13 – 11, 9 – 11, 5 – 11, 11 – 9, 11 – 8 win over the reliable Dave Bissett which prevented a 10 sets to nil whitewash.

Redby’s remaining players Amanda Paxton and Malcolm Deneven performed extremely well against a strong team and should be happy with their contribution despite failing to register a win on the day.

St Gabriels ‘A’ have had a mixed start to the season with 2 wins and 1 defeat in the opening 3 matches.

**Weeks 2 & 3 results:**

Durham CA **5** vs. Silksworth I.M. ‘A’ **5**

Redby CA ‘A’ **5** vs. West CA ‘A’ **5**

St. Chads **9** vs. Redby CA ‘A’ **1**

St. Gabriels ‘A’ **4** vs. West CA ‘A’ **6**

St. Gabriels ‘A’ **10** vs. Durham CA **0**

Thompson Ins ‘A’ **10** vs. Thompson Ins ‘B **0**

Thompson Ins ‘B **1** vs. St. Chads **9**

**Division 2**

Redby CA are the current leaders of the 2nd Division after winning the opening fixtures of the season 9 – 1, 8 – 2 and 6 – 4. Redby can call on experienced players Dave Thompson, Dave Barber and Linda Spensley – who has played for many years at county level.

Sacriston St. Bedes ‘A’ followed up their opening fixture win over Mortimer CA with a 7 – 3 win over their ‘B’ team but were narrowly defeated by current leaders Redby CA 4 – 6. Three sets went to the deciding end and ultimately decided the outcome of the match result – Redby winning all 3 sets 11 – 6, 13 – 11 and 11 – 8 respectively.

Man of the match was Dave Thomson who won all of 3 sets by playing in his usual consistent style. Kevin Smith (St. Bedes) – despite playing well - could count himself unlucky by losing his sets by the smallest of margins.

**Weeks 2 & 3 results:**

Redby CA **6** vs. Sacriston St. Bedes ‘A’ **4**

Redby CA ‘B’ **2** vs. Redby CA **8**

Sacriston St. Bedes ‘A’ **7** vs. Sacriston St. Bedes ‘B’ **3**

Sacriston St. Bedes ‘B’ **6** vs. Silksworth I.M. ‘B’ **4**

Silksworth I.M. ‘B’ **6** vs. Mortimer CA **4**

West CA ‘B’ **3** vs. St. Gabriels ‘B’ **7**

West CA ‘B’ **8** vs. Redby CA ‘B’ **2**

**Division 3**

St. John ‘A’ currently lead the division having recorded victories in their opening 3 matches. St. John have strength in depth in the form of Istvan Soos, Craig Burton and Craig Hilton.

Sacriston St Bedes ‘D’ are lying in 2nd place after their 9 – 1 win over St John ‘C’ in their opening fixture of the season followed by a narrow 4 – 6 defeat by their ‘C’ and then a 10 – 0 victory over Redby CA ‘C’.

This league is the most open of the 3 leagues and as the season progresses the lead is expected to change depending on the fixtures of any one week. With teams playing each other 3 times over the season it will be interesting to see which teams are victorious in the key matches and therefore place themselves in a strong position to the eventual winners of the league.

**Week 2 results**

Lanchester CC **3** vs. Sacriston St. Bedes ‘C’ **7**

Redby CA ‘C’ **0** vs. St. John’s ‘B’ **10**

Sacriston St. Bedes ‘C’ **6** vs. Sacriston St. Bedes ‘D’ **4**

Sacriston St. Bedes ‘D’ **10** vs. Redby CA ‘C’ **0**

St. John’s ‘A’ **8** vs. St. Gabriel’s ‘C’ **2**

St. John’s ‘A’ **10** vs. St. John’s ‘C’ **0**

St. John’s ‘B’ **8** vs. St. Gabriel’s ‘C’ **2**

St. John’s ‘C’ **6** vs. Lanchester CC **4**