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**Table tennis notes by Chris Blake**

St Chads are the new leaders of **Division 1** following their 10 – 0 victory over bottom placed Redby CA A. The Saints dropped only 4 games during the match – 2 of which were in a 3 – 2 win by Barry Cuthbertson over Redby’s Amanda Paxton.

This was a close encounter with some excellent counter hitting by both players. Paxton did well to take the set into the 5th and deciding end after winning the 4th 11 – 8. However, Cuthbertson rallied in the 5th to take the set 11 – 6.

Redby’s Frank Booth and Malcolm Deneven have vast experience between them and although they failed to register a set on the night they should draw some comfort for their spirit and endeavour which saw them lose by the smallest of margins – most notably Deneven’s loss to Cuthbertson 19 – 21, 8 – 11, 10 – 12 and Booth’s narrow defeat to Saints No. 1 player Keith Weatherby 9 – 11, 9 – 11, 9 – 11.

Weatherby, Jimmy Scope and Cuthbertson were all undefeated for the Saints.

Thompson Insurance A were back in action this week but were rocked by the late withdrawal of Dave Blackburne forcing them to play the match against their B team with only 2 men – Chris Blake and Marc Cotton (who was making his first appearance of the season).

Cotton played exceptionally well and was awarded man of the match having won all of his 3 sets and combining with teammate Blake (3) to win the only doubles set to ensure a 7 – 3 and maximum 4 points victory – a win which moves them into 2nd place 3 points behind St Chads with 3 matches in hand.

Lynn Herrington, Maurice Cheek and Eddie Coxon all played really well for the B team and can count themselves unlucky not to register a set on the night.

**Week 16 results:**

St Chads 10 vs. Redby CA A 0

Thompson Ins A 7 vs. Thompson Ins. B 3

In **Division 2** leaders Sacriston St Bedes A promotion hopes were seriously dented following the club derby match against their B side. Despite being a player short the B side shell-shocked their title-chasing A team consisting of Paul Dale, Kevin Smith and Jon Mawson.

Ian McAllister and Duncan Fraser were both unbeaten for the B side recording memorable hat-tricks before combining to win the only doubles set and win the match 7 – 3.

Mortimer CA moved within 3 points of leaders Sacriston A following their powerful 7 – 3 victory over promotion rivals Silksworth IM B.

Mortimer’s Dave Cutler was man of the match after winning his 3 sets and combining with Matty Hampton to win the doubles set. Ian Moore chipped in with 2 sets but narrowly lost out to Silksworth’s Alan Bickle 11 – 5 in the 4th. With Hampton picking up the final set Mortimer secured 4 points for their 7 – 3 win to keep their promotion hopes alive.

In the final league fixture Redby CA beat Redby CA B 7 – 3 despite fielding only 2 players. Rob Kerr and Dave Barber were both undefeated and combined to win the doubles.

The final score was a bit harsh on the B side consisting of Howard Forster, Alan Girdwood and Ian Wilson who saw 4 of the 7 sets played being decided in the 4th or 5th end - all of which went in favour of their opponents.

**Week 16 results:**

Redby CA B 3 vs. Redby CA 7

Sacriston St Bedes A 3 vs. Sacriston St Bedes B 7

Silksworth IM B 3 vs. Mortimer CA 7

It was an excellent week for St Johns table tennis club with the A, B and C sides all enjoying victories.

St Johns B remain top following their 10 – 0 win over Redby CA C. Dave Pringle, Michael Cameron and Tony Watson were all undefeated for the B side – 2 more wins out of the final 6 league fixtures should help guarantee promotion to Division 2.

St Johns A remain in 2nd place after a hard fought 7 – 3 victory over St Gabriels C. At the mid-way point St Gabriels led the match 3 – 2 only to see St Johns storm back to win the final 5 sets.

The key sets were the individual matches; 3 vs. 3, 2 vs. 2 and 1 vs. 1 all of which were decided by the narrowest of margins. First up 3 vs. 3 saw Eszter Soos (St Johns) beat Ron Douglass 12 – 10 in the 5th. St Johns Craig Burton then beat Alan Ray 11 – 5 in the 5th before No. 1 player Estvan Soos (St Johns) beat Syd Gooding 12 – 10, 13 – 11, 11 – 7.

The final score was a little harsh on St Gabriels whose performance deserved at least a point for their efforts.

St Johns C recorded only their 3rd victory of the season with a fine 9 – 1 win over rivals Lanchester CC.

John Cook recorded the only set for Lanchester with a fine win over Jacob Helm.

There were some very tight matches throughout the match – most notably the sets between Sean Gleghorn (St Johns) and John Cook and Jacob Helm (St Johns) and Robert Cook – which the Saints won in the 5th 11 – 7 and 11 – 8 respectively.

Gleghorn and Jake Hannah played really well for the Saints to finish the night undefeated and also combined to win the only doubles set – they were well supported by Helm who won 2 of his 3 sets. Lanchester’s Guthrie played well but was unfortunate not to pick up a set on the night.

**Week 16 results:**

Redby CA C 0 vs. St Johns B 10

St Gabriels C 10 vs. Redby CA C 0

St Johns A 7 vs. St Gabriels C 3

St. John’s C 9 vs. Lanchester CC 1