**Table Tennis by Chris Blake**

In the Sunderland & District table tennis league 3rd Division side Redby CA B have been crowned Champions after completing their league campaign with 3 straight wins against St John C (8 – 2), Lanchester CC (10 – 0) and 2nd placed St Gabriels C (6 – 4) in a hard fought but entertaining game.

Joe Muldowney, Howard Foster, Allan Girdwood have played excellently throughout the season with Ian Wilson chipping in with some good performances when he has been called upon – all players should be proud of their efforts.

St Gabriels C players – Syd Gooding, Graham Murden, Alan Ray and Ron Douglas - should also be proud of their performances this season - having led the league for long periods they were just overtaken at the final stages and this, in the main, was largely due to their match results against the newly crowned Champions which saw them narrowly lose 6 – 4 twice and drawing the other match 5 – 5.

The fight for 3rd spot couldn’t be any closer – following this week’s results St John B and West CA B are both on 49 points with only 1 match remaining. The 2 sides had mixed fortunes – the Saints had a maximum points 7 – 3 but extremely hard fought victory over Sacriston St Bedes C whilst West CA managed to pick up 1 point for their 6 – 4 defeat at the hands of 2nd placed St Gabriels.

St Johns B win over Sacriston B could not have been any closer – 7 sets were decided in either the 4th of 5th end with 4 of these matches finishing 11 – 9 or 11 – 8 – a great effort by both sets of players.

This was a real team effort from St John’s with Jacob Helm, Sean Gleghorn and Robert Renton each winning 2 sets each with Helm and Gleghorn combining to win the only doubles set to ensure a maximum win for their efforts.

However, Sacriston’s Ian McPherson was voted ‘man-of-the-match’ having worked tirelessly to win all of his singles sets which included 2 5th and deciding end 11 – 8 and 11 – 9 wins over Gleghorn and Helm respectively.

Sacriston’s remaining players Dan Hutchinson and Colin Pritchard both played excellently throughout and can count themselves extremely unlucky not to pick up a set on the night – particularly Pritchard’s 11 – 9 5th end defeat against Renton and Hutchinson defeat at the hands of Gleghorn by the same score.

The match between West CA B and St Gabriels C was close but quite remarkably only a small number of games were forced into 4th or 5th ends.

Syd Gooding played very well to remain unbeaten on the night winning his matches against Alan Whitwham, Tom Turner and Vic Austin. He was well supported by Graham Murden (2) – with Gooding and Douglass combining to win the doubles set to ensure a 6 – 4 victory.

West’s sets were won by Whitwham (2), Turner (1) and Austin (1).

In Division 2 Sacriston St Bedes B finished off the league campaign with a 6 – 4 win over Silksworth IM B. There were some good performances by both sets of players with Chris Grant and Dan Nicholson of Sacriston and Alan Bickle and Bob Sanderson of Silksworth all winning 2 sets each during the match.

With Sacriston’s Nigel Coe also picking up a set before combining with Grant to win the only doubles set they were assured of a 6 – 4 and can now look forward to a new season in the top flight.

West CA A finished off their league fixtures with a 7 – 3 win over Redby CA A and in doing so finished off an excellent season to finish in 3rd place just narrowly losing out on promotion.

**Durham CA B wrapped up their season with a 6 – 4 win over bottom placed St John A but were beaten 7 – 3 by 2nd off bottom St Gabriels B. 2 of these 3 sides can still be relegated with St John A most likely to go down whilst St Gabriels must win their last remaining match to stand any chance of remaining in Division 2.**

**Finally, there was only 1 match played in Division 1 between Champions Thompson Insurance A and 2nd bottom Sacriston St Bedes A.**

**Thompson’s won 7 – 3 with Marc Cotton and Darren McVitie both finishing the night unbeaten before Cotton teamed up with Layer / Manager Allan Thompson to win the doubles.**

Duncan Fraser, Jon Mawson and Ian McAllister all won a set a piece with the latter narrowly defeating Thompson’s Diane Cartmell 11 – 6 in the 5th.

The Final League Tables and match reports on the Team & Singles Handicap cup competitions will feature in next weeks columns.

**Division 1 Results:**

\*Thompson Ins. A7 vs. Sacriston St Bedes A 3

**Division 2 Results:**

\*Durham CA B 3 vs. St Gabriels B 7

\*Sacriston St Bedes B 6 vs. Silksworth IM B 4

\*St John A 4 vs. Durham CA B 6

\*West CA A 7 vs. Redby CA A 3

**Division 3 Results:**

\*Redby CA B 8 vs. St John C 2

\*Redby CA B 6 vs. St Gabriels C 4

**\***Lanchester CC 0 vs. Redby CA B 10

**\***St John B 7 vs. Sacriston St Bedes C 3

**\***West CA B 4 vs. St Gabriels C 6

**\*Results not yet reflected in the Websites league tables**

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