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

In the Sunderland & District TT league Division 1 St Chads continued their excellent start to the season with 2 comfortable wins over Mortimer CA (9 – 1) and Sacriston St Bedes (10 – 0) dropping only one set in the process – a fine victory by Mortimer’s Dave Bannon over Barry Cuthbertson. St Chad’s Keith Weatherby (see photo) played excellently throughout these matches winning all of his 6 sets and combining with Cuthbertson to take both double’s matches.

That means the Saints have won 6 matches out of 6 including an excellent win over last season’s runners-up Silksworth IM A. These wins means that they remain top of the league going into their next match against reigning champions Thompson’s Insurance A who are lying second. This promises to be a very close encounter with both teams capable of achieving a result.

Thompson Insurance A kept up the heat with a 7 – 3 victory over Mortimer CA. Thompson’s Andy Wilkinson and Chris Blake were undefeated and combined to win the doubles. Diane Cartmell, who was making her 1st Division debut for Thompson’s, was unlucky not to pick up a set having given a good account of herself. Mortimer’s Dave Cutler played well throughout and was joined by Ray Purves and Ian Moore all of which picked up a set apiece.

3rd placed Silksworth IM A had a fine 7 – 3 win over Durham CA. Durham played a strong side consisting of John Williamson, Christian Neumann and Gavin Bestford – Colin Hunt remains unavailable for selection following a recent knee operation.

This was a really close encounter with only 3 of the 10 sets being decided in straight sets and even then some of these games went to deuce.

Silksworth’s Anthony Barella was pick of the bunch winning all of his sets and combing with Bernie Morris to claim the only doubles set. But he was made to fight all the way with tight matches against Neumann (11 – 5 in the 5th) and Williamson (15 – 13 in the 3rd).

Morris picked up 2 sets for Silksworth losing only to Neumann (who was deemed to be Man of the Match following his excellent display) in a pulsating match eventually being edged out 11 – 5 in the 5th.

In Division 2 Sacriston St Bedes B had a fine 7 – 3 win over St Gabriels B to remain favourites for promotion to the top flight. Sacriston’s Chris Grant was undefeated all night winning his 3 sets and combined with Dan Nicholson to win the doubles. Grant was closely supported by teammates Nicholson (2) and Nigel Coe (1) to ensure Sacriston gained maximum points for their victory.

Coe was unlucky to win only one of his 3 sets – losing out to Dave Revell (10 – 12 in the 4th) and Geoff Young (9 – 11 in the 4th).

Revell was pick of the bunch for St Gabriels winning 2 of his 3 sets.

North East Bed Centre continued their good start to the season with a fine 7 – 3 win over Redby CA A. Dave Pringle and Alex Smith won 3 set’s each and were well supported by Gary Anderson who had a fine win over experienced Malcolm Deneven.

Redby’s sets were picked up by Frank Tweedy (1), Frank Booth (1) and Booth and Deneven in a very close doubles match over Pringle and Smith - 11 – 7 in the 5th.

In Division 3 Redby CA B continued their excellent start to the season with another victory this time a fine 10 – 0 win over St Johns C.

West CA B remain in the hunt for promotion back into division 2 with a 6 – 4 win over St Johns B. Alan Whitwham was Man of the Match having won all of his 3 sets but he was closely supported by Tommy Turner (2) and Vic Austin (1).

Jacob Helm played very well for the Saints winning 2 of his 3 sets and combining with Robert Renton to claim an excellent win in the doubles over Whitwham and Austin. With Sean Gleghorn also picking up a set the Saints were awarded a point for their 4 – 6 defeat.

In the only other 2 matches played in Division 3 Sacriston St Bedes D had mixed fortunes with a 6 – 4 win over rivals Lanchester CC and a 4 – 6 defeat to St Johns C.

Lanchester’s Callan McCabe was voted Man of the Match having won all of his 3 singles.