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

**1st Division** newcomers Sacriston St Bedes A and Mortimer CA finally have points on board after securing their first victories of the season.



Sacriston in particular have had a baptism of fire so far having played last season’s top 3 in their first 3 matches of the season and their nearest rivals Thompson Insurance ‘B’ who they narrowly lost out to 6 – 4 in a very close encounter. They had earlier led 3 – 1 and drawing 4 – 4 going into the final 2 sets of the match.

However, they finally achieved their first victory of the season with a fine 7 – 3 win over fellow newcomers Mortimer. Duncan Fraser was ‘man of the match’ having finished unbeaten but was well supported by Ian McAllister and Jon Mawson who picked up 2 sets a piece. Purvis and Cutler both won 1 set for Mortimer before combining to win the only doubles set with an excellent win over Fraser and McAllister.

Mortimer, who have so far given an excellent account of themselves, picked up their first points of the season with a good 6 – 4 win over Thompson Insurance B who unfortunately were only able to play the match with 2 players through the late withdrawal of Eddie Coxon. Cutler and Hampton won 1 set each and combined to win the doubles – these sets, combined with the 3 sets conceded by Coxon, ensured a their 6 – 4 win. Lynne Herrington was in great form for Thompson’s finishing unbeaten in the match and with David Winterbottom beating Ian Moore Thompson’s at least managed to pick up a point for their defeat.

Thompson Insurance A continued their good start to the season with an excellent 9 – 1 win over last season’s runners-up Silksworth IM A. Thompson’s chose to rest Chris Blake and bring in experienced Northumberland County player Marc Cotton. Cotton played very well winning 2 of his 3 sets losing only to Anthony Barella. Barella registered the only win for Silksworth having previously narrowly losing out to Thompson’s Andrew Wilkinson and Darren McVitie. The defeat is a huge blow to Silksworth’s title challenge who have already dropped points to fellow rivals St Chads.

In the only match in **Division 2** West CA A had an excellent 7 – 3 win over St Gabriels B. Rob Kerr was in excellent form for West winning all of his sets, he was well supported by Dave Thomson and Dave Barber who picked up 2 sets a piece.

The match result was effectively decided in the 3rd and 4th sets of the night which were both decided in the 5th end – West edging both sets 11 – 9 and 15 – 13 respectively. The result was tough luck on St Gabriels who fought valiantly and maybe a 5 – 5 draw was a fairer reflection of the match.

In **Division 3** league leaders Redby CA B tasted defeat for the first time this season having being surprisingly defeated 6 – 4 by Lanchester CC.

This was a real team effort by Lanchester, McCabe and Brewis winning 2 of their 3 sets, John Cook picking up a set and combining with McCabe to narrowly win the doubles set 11 – 7 in the 5th. This was a very entertaining match with 6 of the 10 sets played being decided in the 4th or 5th end.

In the only other match played in division 3 Sacriston St Bedes C had a comfortable 9 – 1 win over St Johns C – David Aldridge picking up the only set for the saints with a good win over Dan Hutchinson 11 – 5 in the 5th.