**League Report (table-tennis)**

**Courier 22nd March**

**An exciting finish to decide the promotion places is shaping up in Division 2. The strong St Georges A squad have leapt to the top after two big wins. Struggling County Council C were swept aside 9-1 with Damon Fenton and Matt Jordan unbeaten in their singles. Earl Sweeney added two and partnered Jordan for the doubles point. Cliff Jackson won C’s single. Georges then pocketed all 10 points on their visit to Snitterfield, Barry Hook joining Fenton and Jordan for the whitewash. Millennium A sit second, 9 points adrift but with a match in hand. The Banbury side disposed of 4th placed Free Church E 9-1 with Anthony Gorman and Jack Shardlow winning trebles and the doubles. Peter Harris won two but lost to the rapidly improving junior, Josh Yarrow. County Council A are third, 5 points behind Millennium having played the same number of matches. They kept up the pressure with a 10-0 thrashing of their C team, Paul Calloway, Chris Maiden and Pat McCabe doing the damage. Bottom side St Georges C did their chances of survival a power of good when defeating fellow strugglers Nomads Enigmas 6-4. Colin Aston, Len Coonan and Gary Edwards all won twice. Steve Proctor bagged two for the wanderers. John Taylor took one and the doubles with Proctor.**

**Division 1 is far more predictable. Leaders Colebridge A have opened up a 16 point cushion after their visit to Phoenix. They returned from Coventry with 9 points, Paul Lenormand and Ben Willson posting hat-tricks and taking the doubles. Kate Hughes won twice, losing to Taran Dhillon. Second placed Free Church A also won 9-1 against Nomads A who now look relegation certainties. Jack Green and Dave Ramsey won their threes, Sam Weaving won twice, falling to Tony Thomas, but joining Ramsey for the doubles. Third placed St Georges A have matches in hand but fell further behind when dropping three points to County Council B. Mark Jackson was in top form to record three wins, as did Laurence Sweeney, and Ron Vose won once. Nilton Green and Simon Griew both secured a single and then claimed the doubles 11-9 in the 5th. Rugby A in 4th are also slipping out of contention. Ryan Lines and Adrian Pilgrim won 7 points for them at Wellesbourne but Alan Cotton, Gary Stewart and John Price all grabbed a win for the villagers.**

**There were mixed fortunes for Free Church H in Division 3. They lost 6-4 to their G team who are bottom. Tom Yarrow was in sparkling form for G to post a hat-trick and the doubles with Eleanor Fletcher, who won once. Reserve Sajiv Swamy, returning after a long absence, chipped in with one. H responded with two wins from Nicholas Ho and one apiece from Owain Jones and Richard Pittaway. However, FC H hauled themselves into 5th place after defeating County Council D 7-3. Ho and Jones won trebles and Pittaway secured one victory. Doug Lowe and Steve Poole both won a single and romped home in the doubles 3-1. Free Church J pipped Rugby C 6-4 despite a threesome from Martyn Lilley. Sarah James added one but Guru Chandrasekhar (2), Ben Hall (2) and Dan Shaw (1) plus a Hall/Shaw doubles win got Church home.**

**The major interest in Division 4 centres around the scrap for second place and with it promotion. Rugby F drew level on points with Nomads Dragons after beating Eathorpe C 8-2. Alex Bowe and Dan Farrow accounted for 7 of the points, grabbing the doubles 13-11 in the 5th, and Grace Newman held one. Sophie Cooper and Michael Rossington replied. Runaway leaders Warwick University A were at it again beating County Council F 9-1. Krzysztof Bolhuis and Calvin Becker won their singles and Adam Green won twice as well as helping Becker to the doubles. Simon Chalker got the consolation. Eathorpe D overcame Warwick University B 7-3. Keiran Braden-Brown notched a fine hat-trick and Thomas Backhouse and Jamaal Iqbal both won twice. Taran Birdee won two for the students and he guided Albert Wallace to a doubles win.**

**The Division A title is between two rampant sides. Leaders Eathorpe A demolished FISSC A 5-0 thanks to Alex Boyd and Pete Titmas and Free Church L, in second, emulated them with a hard earned 5-0 win over Snitterfield**  **B. Rugby H in third, have dropped out of contention but disposed of their G team 4-1. Daryl Burgess (2), Matt Burgess (1) and the doubles gave them victory with Tie Chen replying.**

**Division B has now split into two sections. In the A half St Georges A got off to the perfect start with a 5-0 drubbing of Free Church N thanks to the Coonan brothers, Andy and Len. In the B half, Free Church P walloped Radford 5-0 through Jack Bradbury and Daniel Stone.**

**Second played third in Division C with FISSC A cementing their superiority with a 5-0 win over Rugby I. Martin Hamer and Mandip Takhar coasted to victory. Bottom side Eathorpe I leap-frogged County Council F after winning their clash 4-1. Ben Anderton won twice and partnered Adam Colbridge, who won once, to the doubles. Neil Davis scored for Council.**

**Free Church Q moved to the top of Division D after beating their T side 4-1. David Wedgbury won his two and the doubles with Sarah Costa who won once but suffered her first defeat since April 2018 at the hands of Joe Cole. Free Church O sit second and beat 4th placed Free Church S 4-1. Alex O’Driscoll won his two and Jack Knowles one, the pair taking the doubles. Arnav Mulay had an excellent win for S. Eathorpe H are very much in contention in third and amassed all 5 points against Free Church R through Josh Atkins and Josh Jay.**

**Carter Cup**

**Ricardo Bolanos and Jack Green represented Leamington in the qualifying round of the National Junior Boys Cup, the Carter Cup, in Corby on Sunday. Their opponents were Cambridge whose number one, Daniel Hearne-Potton, is ranked 41 in England but the Spa duo played some exceptional table-tennis to go through to the next stage. Josh Curry was swept aside in straight games by both the local stars and they capped this by each attaining 3-1 victories over Hearne-Potton. An 11-7 in the 5th doubles win was the icing on the cake. The Final group matches are being played in Wellingborough on 9th June.**

**National Cadet League**

**Day 4 March 2019**

**Day 4 of the National Cadet League was staged in Wellingborough on Sunday. Lillington Free Church sent 4 teams with the results of Day 3 being added to the points gleaned on the day. Church’s B side had played above expectations on Day 3 to sit third in Division 1 and they built on this platform to unexpectedly land the runners-up medals. They recorded three victories, 6-0 against their C team, 5-1 over WDHA of Wellingborough and 4-2 against Knighton Park of Leicester. It is always hard to face club-mates and their clash with their A side ended in a 3-3 stalemate. Finally, they lost 1-5 to champions Corby Smash A, Chris Ho beating Edward Brown and falling 11-9 in the 5th to England number 65 cadet Joe Cox , under 13 Ho’s only defeat in the 10 matches he played. Number 1 Nicholas Ho returned a 45% average and number 2 Joe Shrimpton a highly commendable 50%. The A team were unlucky to finish 4th on games countback after gaining the same number of points as third placed Knighton. As well as the draw against Church B, they accounted for their C team and WDHA 6-0, drew with Knighton and lost to Corby 0-6. Number one Eduardo Bolanos recorded an impressive 65%, number 2 Tom Yarrow 60% and Eleanor Fletcher, the only girl in the top flight, an eye-catching 45%. The C side, who had exceeded expectations in earning a Division 1 place, were without their number 1 but still managed to avoid the wooden spoon. They suffered three whitewashes to their A, B and the Corby sides but took a point off Knighton thanks to George Barnes’ excellent win over Oliver Wynne. They then lost narrowly to WDHA 4-2. Barnes ended the competition with a creditable 25% and Daniel Stone and reserve Harvey Wilson both recorded wins which augurs well for the future.**

**The D team held a 2 point advantage over Rugby A in Division 3 after Day 3 but lost one of their squad to the C side whilst Rugby fielded a stronger trio. They started with an 8-1 win over Westfield of Wellingborough, followed this up with a 7-2 victory over Westfield which included a great win for Nathan Jackson against Ben Aldridge, ranked 75 under 13 in England, but then fell 5-4 to Rugby. Their rivals had defeated Corby 9-0 and matched their win against Westfield so the one point victory drew the teams level on points. Again a Church side missed out on games countback with the title going Rugby’s way. For Church Jackson posted a 76% average, 11 year old Jun Chung, who played exceptionally on the day, a very impressive 66% and Erin Darwen, the only girl in the Division, an excellent 58%. For Rugby, number 1 Matthew Burgess was unbeaten on both days, Tyler Humphries achieved a 66% average and Oliver Ferguson 58%.**