**League Report**

**Courier, 26th January 2018**

**County Council B kept their place in the top half of Division 1 with a 7-3 win over St Georges A. Simon Griew led the way with a hat-trick and was ably supported by Nilton Green and Martin Hunter who claimed braces. Damon Fenton scored twice for Georges and pocketed the doubles with Matt Jordan. Free Church B and Whitnash A fought out a draw. Mark Woolerton was unbeaten in singles and the doubles with Kevin Ariss, who won once but Church reached stalemate with two wins from each of Jack Green and Harry Purewal and a single from skipper Jeff Harris. Free Church A kept hold of second place when casting aside the improving Phoenix 7-3. Sam Weaving and Sam Wiggins scored all their points with Paul Calloway, Taran Dhillon and Mark Rose all taking one in reply.**

**In Division 2 Free Church D maintained second place after re-playing their match against Eathorpe A which had been abandoned earlier in the season due to light failure. They collected all 10 points courtesy of Livvy Fletcher, Tom Hunt and James Robertson. 5th placed Free Church E held 3rd placed Rugby B to a draw. Phil Blowey won two for Church and the crucial doubles with Emily Beasley who had one win. Chris Blowey added the other point. Ben Holvey was Rugby’s mainstay with a treble and Jack Evans nabbed two. Free Church F also drew against Eathorpe A who are moving clear of relegation. Roald Myers starred for Church with a triple and the doubles with Lewis Singleton and Cherry Matthews chipped in with one. Chris Atkins (2), Bernard Reman (2) and Marius Morariu (1) completed the scoring. Church F went on to beat Rugby C 7-3, Matthews 2, Myers 2 and Anthony Smith 2 plus a Myers/Smith doubles success. Dan Burgess 2 and Peter Ratcliffe 1 responded for Rugby. Nomads Enigmas pipped Free Church E 6-4. James Glazzard and Bobby Lee both secured two victories and Steve Proctor provided a single as well as guiding Lee to the vital doubles, 11-8 in the 5th. Phil Blowey was unbeaten for Church and Chris Blowey added one.**

**St Georges D stepped up to second spot in Division 3 after beating Free Church G 9-1. Andy Caine and Richard Grover nailed hat-tricks and Jerry Simmons added two, Caine partnering Tracey Fletcher in the doubles win. Tracey’s son Tom replied for the opposition. Free Church H were also 9-1 victors over their I side. Eduardo Bolanos and Josh Yarrow were maximum men, Milly Green won two and paired with Yarrow for the doubles. Ben Hall notched the consolation. Snitterfield A lead the division by 24 points and defeated bottom side Warwick University A 8-2. Michael Credland won three and partnered Michael Klein to the doubles. Tim Fell and Dave Milton won twos, both losing to Arslan Awan. Millennium B also won 8-2 when visiting County Council D. Colin Astbury and Lewis Cox won 7 of their points with Bob Clarke adding one but losing to Doug Lowe and Steve Poole.**

**In Division 4 Free Church L have gone top in a tight promotion battle. They beat the previous leaders, Eathorpe B 7-3,thanks to Jerry Chung’s hat-trick, a double from Richard Pittaway and a single from young Owain Jones who also bagged the doubles with Chung. John Ablett won twice for the villagers and Jim Levack once. Fourth placed Eathorpe D are still very much in contention after beating Warwick University B 9-1. Sophie Cooper and Paul Deavall won all their singles and Shaun Martin won two as well as partnering Deavall in a winning doubles. Sam Patterson gained the consolation. Third placed Free Church J also still have promotion chances after defeating their M side 7-3. Mike Weaving won his three for J and paired with wife Jill, who won twice, to take the doubles. Catherine McAuley chipped in with one. Mark Singleton had two good wins for M and Jay Virdi won once. Free Church K have slipped to 5th but look a danger with matches in hand. Eathorpe C were sunk 7-3 with trebles from Keith Knott and Darren Laffey and a single from Nick Darwen. Luca Bloodworth and James Stone won singles and the doubles for Eathorpe.**

**Last week saw the first round of matches in the Spring 2-a-side League. In Division B Free Church O nailed their R team 3-2 despite two wins from Joe Shrimpton. Alex Costa and Tom Yarrow won singles and took the doubles. Free Church N defeated Eathorpe E 4-1. Phil Booth won his two and steered Daniel Strand, a single winner, to the doubles. Dave Hawker won Eathorpe’s point.**

**Eathorpe H beat Free Church Q 4-1 in Division C through James Rome (2) and Josh Cope (1) the pair taking the doubles. Sarah Costa scored for Q. Eathorpe F also won 4-1, against their I side. David Tait won twice and grabbed the doubles with Bryn Davies who won once. Christian Roberts won I’s point.**

**A new look Free Church S edged County Council F 3-2 in Division D. Alfie Ransom won his singles impressively in straight games and supported Alex O’Driscoll in their doubles win. Eric Barthorpe and Neil Davis kept the encounter close.**

**Eathorpe L defeated Free Church W 4-1 in Division E. Declan Jay won two and Josh Jay one, the twins combining for the doubles. Debutant Josh Hines took the consolation. Eathorpe J beat their K team 4-1 through Louis Harvey (2) and Josh Atkins (1). They also won the doubles. Aaron Heel replied. Free Church V edged their T team 3-2. Debutant Ben Brady claimed T’s points but Michael Khovanov and Arnav Mulay bagged a single apiece and the doubles.**

**Cliffedale Chandlers 2-star**

**Ricardo and Eduardo Bolanos of Lillington Free Church table-tennis club competed in the Cliffedale Chandlers 2-star tournament on Saturday in Grantham and put in some pleasing performances.**

**Ricardo, who is ranked at 32 as an England cadet (U15), won his Cadet group defeating Zach Foston of Yorkshire, Emanuel Nalepa of Lincolnshire and Joseph Hunter of Middlesex. In the last 16 he beat Georgios Gerakios of Notts 3-1 before falling to England number 4 Louis Price of Avon, losing 0-3 but taking his opponent to deuce in two of the sets.**

**Younger brother Eduardo did well to win two of his group matches against Luke Lowther of Yorkshire and Jai Mistry-Moulton of Lincs but went out in the knock-outs to Adam Szabo of South Yorkshire.**

**In the banded Junior Event, a competition for juniors with 900 ranking points or less, Ricardo (ranked Junior 74) beat Gregory Fray and Daniel Broner of Herts and then faced Jie Fu Tham, the England number 49. In a tense match Bolanos triumphed 14-12 in the 5th. In the last 16 Todd Stanmore of Oxford was cast aside and in the quarter-final Louis Roper-Gibbs of Cambridgeshire was dispatched 3-2. This set up a semi-final meeting with Jack Rogers of Leicestershire, the England number 50. A great performance ensued in which Bolanos arguably held a winning lead, only to fall 2-3.**

**In the main Junior competition Ricardo finished runner-up in his group and faced Lee Clark of Middlesex in the last 16. In the quarters he again faced Rogers but this time exacted revenge winning 3-2. Another familiar face met him in the semi in the guise of Fu Tham but this time Bolanos lost in straight sets.**

**Eduardo, ranked 33 as an under 13, beat Joseph Marlor of Lincolnshire 3-0 and Luke Mitchell of Durham 3-1 in his group. In the last 16 he accounted for Eduard Lakatos of Hants 3-2 before going out 1-3 in the quarters to Joseph Hunter of Middlesex, ranked 29.**

**Cippenham 2-Star Tournament**

**Anthony Ellis of Colebridge and Dave Ramsey of Lillington Free Church paired up for a team event in Cippenham at the weekend and put in some great performances. In their initial group they accounted for Charlie Joyce and Jason Papierz of Somerset before sweeping aside Eddie Haines and Matt Smith of Berkshire. In their next round they lost to Fabien Mauroy (Middlesex) and Joshua Nashed of Kent but bounced back to defeat Steve Buck (Middlesex) and Steve Smith (Wales). In the Final group, there were two defeats but a win over Jacob and Joseph Goss of Norfolk ensured a very satisfying 4th place finish out of 24 entrants.**

**British Senior League**

**Two sides from Lillington Free Church TTC played in the Senior British League on Sunday.**

**The first team were in Bromley and got off to a good start in Division C2 when overcoming Sycamore (Nottingham) 3rd team. Their 6-3 victory came via Lee Dorning (2), Chris Mulligan, Sam Weaving and Sam Wiggins who all won once and was rounded off by a Dorning/Wiggins doubles win. However, they then suffered a narrow 4-5 loss to North Ayrshire which could jeopardise their promotion chances. Wiggins won two in this match with Mulligan and Weaving adding singles. Lillington are currently 3rd of 8.**

**In Wellingborough Lillington’s second team played in Division C1. They began with a 3-6 loss to Cliffedale Chandlers of Grantham, James Robertson winning both his singles and Dave Ramsey contributing the other. However, they bounced back to crush Blitz of Gainsborough 8-1, Tom Hunt (2), Harry Purewal (2), Ramsey (2) and Robertson (1) with the doubles also going their way. They now sit third in the division out of 8 teams. The last round of matches will be played in April.**