**League Report**

**Courier 7th December**

**The top match in Division 1 was that between second placed Free Church A and Rugby A in 4th spot. Both teams included seasonal debutants and it was Church’s newcomer Sammy Kaye, an emergency signing to replace an injured player, who made the difference in a 6-4 win as he romped to a singles maximum and the doubles with Dave Ramsey. Sam Weaving added two beating Ryan Lines 11-9 in the 5th but losing by the same score to Rugby’s new player, George Hazell. Hazell bagged two, Sam Cafearo and Lines, one apiece. Rugby had earlier beaten Wellesbourne 7-3 with Cafearo and Lines getting hat-tricks and combining for an 11-8 in the 5th doubles win. Alan Cotton, Dave Harvey and Gary Stewart all took singles in reply. Free Church C sit just above the relegation zone but by a margin of 8 points after drawing with Whitnash A. No Church player could better Mark Woolerton who also pocketed the doubles with Kevin Arris, who won once, but Jeff Harris (2), Harry Purewal (2) and Charlotte Spencer (1) grabbed valuable points. Third placed St Georges B are 10 points adrift of FC A with a match in hand after accounting for relegation threatened Nomads A 9-1. Mark Jackson and Andy Woodcock won threes and reserve Damon Fenton scored twice, losing to Simon Nolan. Jackson and Woodcock took the doubles. Leaders Colebridge A dropped just two points to Wellesbourne whose Dave Harvey beat Kate Hughes 15-13 in the 5th and Paul Lenormand 11-8 in the 5th. Ben Willson’s three and the doubles with Lenormand allied to braces from Hughes and Lenormand.**

**Division 2 leaders County Council A dropped just the one point in two matches, crushing County Council C 10-0, through Paul Calloway, Clive Irwin and Pat McCabe and then pasting 5th placed Rugby B 9-1. McCabe (3) was joined by Martyn Todd (3) and Chris Maiden (2) with Maiden and McCabe taking the doubles and emphasising the strength of their squad. Second placed St Georges A coasted to a 9-1 win over Snitterfield A, Damon Fenton (3), Earl Sweeney (3) and Pete Hartles (2) winning the singles and Fenton and Sweeney earning a doubles point. Gareth Hepworth beat Hartles 11-8 in the 5th for the consolation. Millennium A are comfortably in third but face a Herculean task to close the gap. Nonetheless a whitewash of Free Church F did them no harm, Jack Garner, Pete Harris and Jack Shardlow in unforgiving mood. Rugby B also beat Free Church F but the score at 6-4 was closer. Callum Ball won his three, Dan Burgess added two and the pair edged the doubles and the match 11-9 in the 5th. Roald Myers (2), Cherry Matthews (1) and Anthony Smith (1) almost forced the draw. Snitterfield A also won 6-4, against County Council C. Stuart Ayres was man of the match with three, Tim Fell recorded two, losing to Mark Freeman in 5, and Nigel Payne won once. Freeman (2) and Cliff Jackson (1) claimed the doubles.**

**The big shock in Division 3 came at League headquarters when 4th placed Flavels A entertained leaders Colebridge B and enjoyed an 8-2 victory. Trevor Bradley and Shivam Kapur were responsible for 7 of the points with Mick Bennett chipping in with one but losing to Mike Evetts and Mahroof Hussain. With matches in hand Flavels pose a real threat. Second placed St Georges D nailed a 7-3 win against Free Church J but were surprised by Gurudhutt Chandrasekhar who collected three excellent wins. Andy Caine, Tracey Fletcher and Jerry Simmons each won two with Fletcher and Simmons claiming the doubles. Rugby C are third and just managed to squeeze past Free Church H 6-4. Martyn Lilley won his three for the victors and Sarah James two, the crucial game being her 13-11 in the 5th win over Jerry Chung. She also collected the doubles with Jo Outhwaite. Nicholas Ho (2), Chung (1) and Owain Jones (1) responded. Rugby C also beat Free Church J by the same score. Lilley again won his three with James and Outhwaite winning singles. Lilley and James took the doubles 11-8 in the 5th. Chandrasekhar (2), Ben Hall (1) and Ian Rourke (1) replied.**

**Warwick University A have opened up a seemingly unassailable lead in Division 4, their latest victims being County Council F who were sunk 10-0. Calvin Becker, Krysztof Bolhuis and Aaron Yan were rarely troubled.Third placed Nomads Dragons had to settle for a draw against mid-table Eathorpe B in a match where no player notched a maximum. Janice Rowan and Mike Weaving both bagged braces for Dragons and then teamed to win the doubles. John Ablett and Jim Levack also won twice for the villagers with Roger Palmer adding one. Eathorpe D defeated Warwick University B 7-3 despite a hat-trick from Sam Pattison. Thomas Backhouse , Keiran Braden-Brown and Jamaal Iqbal all won twice and the two latter won the doubles. The University teams then clashed with the A side triumphing 9-1, Becker (3), Michael Farmer (3)Adam Green (2) and the doubles from Bolhuis and Farmer. Taran Birdee grabbed the consolation.**

**There were three pen-holders on display when Division A ‘s top side, Free Church L, entertained Rugby G. Brothers Chris and Nicholas Ho proved too strong and won all 5 points. However, Rugby G had a better night against Ashorne A winning 4-1. Tie Chen won two and the doubles with daughter Angel who won once. Steve Kay avoided the whitewash. Second placed Eathorpe E edged past Snitterfield B 3-2. Chris Atkins and Luca Bloodworth won singles and combined to win the doubles in 5. However, both found Michael Klein too strong. Third placed Rugby H look a better bet for honours having matches in hand. Their latest outing resulted in a 5-0 win over FISSC A, father and son Daryl and Matthew Burgess accounting for the points.**

**Ashorne B head Division B and comfortably swept aside their C team 5-0, Steve Bolton and Mark Bridgeman collecting the points. They also disposed of FISSC B 5-0 with the same pair in action. Free Church B are 7 points adrift in runners-up spot. They beat Ashorne C 4-1 with Alex Costa and Nick Darwen taking the singles but losing the doubles to Anthony Austin and Jim Jack. Free Church N lifted themselves clear of the bottom when overcoming Rugby J 5-0. Nathan Jackson and Harvey Wilson were both in form.**

**Two sides tie for top spot in Division C . Free Church P defeated their O team 4-1. Jun Chung won his two and partnered Dan Stone, who won once, to the doubles. Jack Knowles beat Stone for the consolation. Rugby J share the lead and just got home 3-2 against Eathorpe G. Tyler Humphries won his two for the town team and Kuba Kucharczyk won one. Joshua Jay won one for the villagers and steered identical twin Declan to the doubles. Rugby then trounced County Council F 5-0 as Humphries and Kucharczyk again featured. County Council F recovered to beat Eathorpe G 3-2. Dave Hawker and Paul Holtby both won one for the Eathorpe side and Bernard Hardingham and Steve Maggs emulated them for Council before sealing the doubles.**

**In Division D Eathorpe I and Eathorpe J share the lead but both have fallen foul of Free Church Q. The Church side squashed I 4-1 with Sarah Costa winning twice and steering Morgan Page, who won once, to the doubles. Chris Long hit back. Q then pasted the J side by the same score. Costa retained her 100% average and David Wedgbury won once as well as pairing with Costa for the doubles. Ben Alderton won the consolation. The Eathorpe sides are too far ahead to be caught however and J cemented their position at the top by crushing Free Church R 5-0, Anderton and newcomer Jacob Belcher taking the points. Eathorpe I matched them by beating Free Church S 5-0 with John Gymer and Chris Long keeping a full house.**