

Southport Table Tennis Notes

Doubles again played a big part in this week's results as in all the matches the teams that won both doubles also won the match and the teams that won one doubles each went on to have a drawn match. So come on everyone practice your doubles and turn those losses into draws and those draws into wins!

St Teresa's 'B' in the second division had a good result against the Formby TTC 'D' team. The St Teresa's team had found it a bit hard going in the first division last season and I think relished going back to the second to get their confidence back. Their confidence has certainly grown since their return as was shown in their 7:3 win against Formby TTC 'D'. Chris Foley and Ian Lunt had double wins in their singles for St Teresa's and Joe Mullin did the same for the Formby side. Ian Lunt had an excellent win over John Langton and Will Roberts almost had an equally good win against Chris Foley after going 2 nil up he eventually lost the last three to go out 8, 9, -6, -9, -7 but a really valiant effort against his left-handed opponent. A single set from Frank Proffitt and both doubles made up the seven.

Monica Coogan seems to be having a good season for Argyle 'B'. I reckon she is one of the most underrated players in the league and she would benefit from a spell in the first division. It's a pity that Argyle has only one team in the first especially with their youngsters starting to come through. Monica though is really steady, gets the ball back from all over the place (which is really frustrating!) and then comes in with the hit...and a really awkward one at that...a bit like her 'old fella' really. In the match against Southport 'B' she had two comfortable wins, both three games to nil, over Nigel Pilkington and Dave Davies and then E Berkmanis for the Southport team had two not so comfortable wins over Alister Taylor 8, -9, -14, 7, 4 and Mike McCormack -10, -9, 9, 7, 7. Monica then teamed up with Derek Mahen to clinch the rather close double match 10, 10, 8 which gave her the third win of the night and to deny Mr Berkmanis his third win. A draw would seem a fair result.

St. Teresa's 'C' fielded a family side against Southport 'A' this week with two father and sons making up the team of Mark and Gordon Wood, and Darren and Josh Taylor. The match ended in a draw with the Southport players winning a singles each and taking the first doubles with pairing Jim Irvine and Bill Bradley. On paper it looked a good match and three of the sets went all the way to the fifth game and it should be noted that the Southport team won all three (two of which were deuce). Having played against the Southport players for many years it doesn't surprise me one iota as they will all fight for each and every point and relish the close matches.

The last match result saw yet another Southport team in action against Formby TTC 'F'...not sure whether Southport are the only teams playing matches or it's just that they send their results in quickly to avoid fines. Southport 'D' had a very fruitful match at Formby High when they beat the centre's 'F' team 8:2. I was playing at the time but managed to catch glimpses of the match and it was an excellent example of what table tennis is all about. On the one side were the up and coming junior side and on the other the veterans. The veterans won this encounter though a particular mention must go to Robert Barker with a great win over Alan Nolan and Tom Miller with his win over Tom Banton. The match was played in a great spirit and I look forward to the return later in the season as the youngsters improve at such a rate that they will be looking to hand out a few shocks next time.

Anon Cup Results

Argyle 'C'	3	Argyle 'B'	7
Southport 'E'	0	Formby HT 'D'	10

Division 2

Argyle 'B'	5	Southport 'B'	5
Southport 'A'	5	St Teresa's 'C'	5
St Teresa's 'B'	7	Formby TTC 'D'	3

Division 3

Formby TTC 'F'	2	Southport 'D'	8
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Sylvia Graham
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