

County Championship Division 1A - Saturday/Sunday
12/13 December 2009
Day 1

Played for the first time for many years in Northumberland the 8 teams gathered at The Sporting Club of Cramlington (home to Cramlington Table Tennis Club) to play the full fixture list over 1 weekend.

Round 1 saw wins for Lincolnshire, Leicestershire 1, Yorkhire 1 and Lancashire. South Yorkshire were handicapped by having no women players (due to a fixture clash with veterans and junior events), and Lincolnshire could only field 1 woman.

In the 2nd round Northumberland overcame neighbours Durham despite Durham No 1 David Meads despatching both Andrew Wilkinson and Eddie Smith. Lancashire continued their winning ways against Cambridgeshire 1, Yorkshire 1 beat Leicestershire 1 6-4 while South Yorkshire and Lincolnshire drew 4-4 with 2 void rubbers.

Yorkshire continued their 100% success with a 7-3 win over Lancashire in round 3. Durham picked up their first points against the depleted South Yorkshire, Leicestershire beat Lincolnshire 7-3 and Northumberland won 9-1 against Cambridgeshire 1.

Round 4 witnessed an even more impressive showing from Yorkshire with a 10-0 win against Cambridgeshire. Northumberland (with some vocal and partisan local support) won 6-4 against South Yorkshire, Lancashire beat Lincolnshire 8-2 and Leicestershire emerged 7-3 victors over Durham for whom David Meads maintained his impressive 100% record.

And so to Day 2.....

In the first round of matches (Round 5 in the division) Yorkshire outplayed Northumberland to record an 8-2 win, while Lancashire enjoyed a similar margin over Durham. Lincolnshire won 7-3 against Cambridgeshire, and Leicestershire beat South Yorkshire 6-4.

David Meads was still unbeaten, as were both Leicester's Karen Smith and Lingyu Yung of Lancashire. The women were due to meet in the last round of matches. Round 6 saw Yorkshire held 5-5 by Lincolnshire while

Leicestershire closed the gap at the top of the division by defeating Northumberland 7-3. South Yorkshire registered their first win, beating Lancashire 6-4 and Durham won 6-4 against Cambridgeshire. The 3 players with 100% records maintained their success rate.

Karen Smith came out of top in her match with Lingyu Yung taking the best of 5 sets to help Leicestershire to a 6-4 victory over Lancashire. Lincolnshire beat Northumberland 6-4. Yorkshire's 8-2 victory over Durham combined with South Yorkshire's 6-4 win over Cambridgeshire meant that Durham slipped into the 2nd relegation spot. Also relegated are Cambridgeshire while Yorkshire are Division 1A Champions by 1 point from Leicestershire.

Players of the weekend were David Meads (Durham), and Karen Smith (Leics) both unbeatable over the 2 days.

Nigel Coe
County Secretary (Northumberland)