



MK League: Russell Ends Win Drought

Author: Julie Snowdon

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PREMIER DIVISION

An early return to the fixture list of a fortnight ago saw the same teams winning as before and, despite changes of personnel, an identical score-line in half the matches.

Leaders Greenleys Kings again beat promoted MK Powers 8-2 with star man Matt Haynes conceding only 42 points over his 9 games, a record unlikely to be broken this season and an easy number to remember for any Douglas Adams fans out there as it is, they will know, the answer to life, the universe and everything. Guy Sparrow joined him on a maximum but Jordan Moss faltered to both Jiten Pitamber and Sarah Hudson. Clare Styles was the other Powers player.

MK Spinners cut the gap to 2 points with a 9-1 win over clubmates Topspin. Russell Penn showed a welcome return to form for Topspin after a run of 13 Premier defeats by beating Neil Massa over 5 games (after going 2 down) and then narrowly losing to Gary Jones in another set that went the distance. Alan Cherry joined Gary on a maximum. Mervyn Kelly and myself, playing our 50th League match together, made up the numbers.

A fortnight ago it was Alan Bolding who earned MK Phoenix a hard won point against MK Kingpins, but this time round he lost 3-straight on each visit to the table and it was left to Ioan Constantin to topple Mark Purcell in the final set to replicate the result from last time they met. Hat-tricks for Dave Allison and Craig Brown. Gerald Ridgway was the other Phoenix player.

The Greenleys derby between Monarchs and Warriors went to 3rd placed Monarchs who, after strolling to a 4-0 lead, made hard work of the rest of the evening before clinging on to a 6-4 win. Colin Huang started what would have been a remarkably comeback for Warriors with an 11-9 in the 5th win over Tomak Nowakowski as his team dominated the second half. Skipper Ian Johnston bagged a decent brace for Monarchs and was close to a hat-

trick, only going down in the final set to Ricky Taiwo by 11-8 in the 5th. Good support though from Tomak, also with a brace and a share of the doubles with Ian, plus Martin Hall with a single. A blank here for Warriors' Vlad Varnica.

Player of the week is Ian Johnston.

DIVISION 1

LINDSAY TAMES PUMAS

Greenleys Eagles put a spanner in the MK Pumas works by toppling the favourites in another match of two halves. The Eagles raced to a 5-0 lead with 4 of the sets going to a decider, but then had to rely on Iain Lindsay to apply the coup de grace for their sole win in the second half which cemented a stunning hat-trick for the top 8 champion. A win a-piece for Geoff Callaway and Dave Plumb plus the doubles was sufficient to allow stable-mates Glory to replace Pumas in 2nd spot in the table. Julie Snowdon scores a brace for Pumas with Andy Smith and Chris Belton one each.

Leaders St. Christopher Van Hire did not have things all their own way either on their visit to the Open University on Thursday, having to hold on to a draw by winning the last 3 sets from 2-5 down. Patrick Wong was in prime form for the OU with wins over Biao Wang and Fabrice Spelta before he fell at the last hurdle to David Broome, David's only win on the night. Back up for Patrick came with singles wins from James Zeng and Andy Tan plus the doubles with Andy. Van Hire's remaining wins were from Biao (2) and Fabrice.

Greenleys Glory beat Newport Pagnell Vantage 7-3. Hat-tricks here from Ian Brown and Jacob Midson, who also combined together for the doubles. A blank for Dan Englander. Vantage gave an outing to former Premier player (now div 2) Simon Read in support to regulars Mike Howard and Sue Lewis.

The result of the Woburn Sands Data / Chackmore Hasbeens clash rested on the outcome of the final set as the two unbeaten players on the night went head to head. James Molloy won the day for Data with a comfortable win over Bub Burman, who had earlier dispatched Darren Ward and, playing up from div 2, Glenn Barcham. Glen had a major part to play in the Data 6-4 victory though, with a 4-game win over Chris Whitehead in a match where half the sets went the distance. Andy Whitehead was the other Hasbeens man.

Player of the week is Iain Lindsay.

DIVISION 2

(courtesy of Martin Johnson)

The third week of Division 2 fixtures has once again seen some closely fought matches, with one draw, two 6-4 scores, and two 7-3 scores.

At the top, it's "as you were", as the top two, Milton Keynes Classics and Woburn Sands Mosquitoes, maintained their 100% winning record, whilst Newport Pagnell Lagondas remain unbeaten in third, whilst there is now no team that have not at least drawn a match.

Milton Keynes Classics held on to top spot, and extended their lead by a point, by defeating Milton Keynes Cavaliers 7-3, although they had to do so from 2-3 down at the halfway stage of the match. Chris Paddon picked up wins against both Nick Markham and Dylan Cox, plus combined with Chris Welch to win the doubles in a tight five game from two games down, versus Dylan and Masoud Nassor, to counter Dylan beating John Bradley and Masoud beating Chris Welch. Set six even saw Chris Welch go 2-1 up versus Nick, but Nick came back to win through in five games, and Classics then rolled through the final four sets without losing any further

games, to claim their third win. Masoud maintained his individual 100% record in singles, but thus far, Classics have surprisingly failed to record a doubles win.

Woburn Sands Mosquitoes also collected a third win from three, with a 6-4 victory against Mursley Hawks, to keep them in second spot. Paul Hamer took the individual honours, with three singles wins, including coming back from two games down to Martin Johnson in the opening set, and although Peter Sear won twice for Hawks against Andy Jenkins and Glenn Barcham, plus Mursley's pairing of Martin and Andy Palmer were comfortable winners in the doubles, Mosquitoes kept their noses in front to do just enough to secure the win, in a long evening of close sets, with two wins for Andy Jenkins and one for Glenn. Including their run of wins from Division 3, last season, that makes 17 match wins in a row for Mosquitoes.

Newport Pagnell Lagondas remain on the heels of the leaders, in third spot, although they were held to a 5-5 draw by Milton Keynes Hit 'n' Hope. Glen Davison and Chris Horn each won twice, both losing out to Paul Tompkins, although it took deuce in the fifth for Paul to edge out Chris, whilst Roy Read picked up one win, against Andy Frearson, to complete their side of the score sheet. For Hit 'n' Hope, Paul won all his sets, including the doubles with Ivor Howard, who also picked up one win, and losing out in five in his other two, whilst Andy took all three opponents to four games, but came away empty handed.

St. Christophers Spitfires took on the youngsters of Milton Keynes Tornadoes, but just fell short, as they lost out 6-4, a result which moves Tornadoes up to fourth position, and leaves Spitfires equal fifth with Mursley Hawks. There was a maximum here for Nicolas Wong, although he was pushed to five games by Jock Campbell, plus the doubles with Tanmay Tijare featured four close games against Jock and Graham Silversides. Tanmay picked up Tornadoes' other two points, but lost out to Andy King, who won twice, including against Tornadoes' third player, Matthew Curley, who also lost to both Graham and Jock.

The final result saw Milton Keynes Blades collect their first win of the season, 7-3, and so leap frog above Milton Keynes Shambles, who were a player short on the night. Despite only having the two players, Shambles took the opening two sets, plus the doubles, with Simon Green beating Tony Coomber, then Jim Robinson defeating Brian Evans, plus Simon & Jim winning the doubles versus Tony & Brian. However, Blades picked up all the remaining games, despite Simon pushing Brian to five legs, with Bill Tyler winning both of his possible singles on the night.

Players of the week: Paul Tompkins and Nicolas Wong.

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