



MK League: Clare wins in Style

Author: Julie Snowdon

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PREMIER

An emphatic 8-2 win for leaders Greenleys Kings over 3rd placed MK Spinners, who finished the match with one player, Alan Cherry. Alan secured Spinners' wins with team-mates Gary Jones and Neil Massa departing early. Soon to be dad (good luck there) Gary had more pressing needs and rushed through his sets before dashing off whilst Neil, after losing in 4 to Matt Haynes, conceded mid game to Gary Deakin and made his own early exit without playing his last set against Nick Howard. Marquee Summer signing Matt was back in the Kingsmen fold and took his standard maximum to extend his current run to 39. I can't see anyone beating him unless stablemates Monarchs make a few more star signings to extend their pool before the window closes.

Monarchs stay in 2nd place after demolishing my MK Topspin side 10-0 in a more orthodox encounter. Maximums for Martin Hall, Tomek Nowakowski and Dave Beddall. Zeros for Meryn Kelly, Russell Penn and me. Only the doubles went to a deciding game.

A fantastic straight games victory for MK Powers' Clare Styles against Mark Purcell doubled her win tally for the season in the match against MK Kingpins. Sarah Hudson beat Peter Bannister in the opening duel and teamed up with Clare to win a lively doubles, so a good night for the girls against a higher placed team despite the 3-7 scoreline. Dave Allison hit a maximum for Kingpins and Colin Munford appeared for Powers.

Dour defender Gerald Ridgway was too consistent for Ollie Horswell as MK Phoenix snatched a surprised point against Greenleys Warriors, who fielded an unchanged team after last week's 10-0 success. Maximums here for Tony Gorman and Ricky Taiwo. In Ricky's case it was a hard fought one, just the way he likes them though, as, after a tough 4-gamer with Gerald he was taken to 13-11 in the 5th by Mervyn Phillips. Terry Lau was the other Phoenix man.

Player of the week is Clare Styles.

DIVISION 1

SUPER SUE BASKING ON CLOUD NUMBER NINE

A 7-3 win this week for MK Pumas over promoted side Chackmore Hasbeens enabled the pace setters to extend their lead at the top by 2 points as the chasing pair behind them fought out a draw. Hasbeens' Bub Burman is really stepping up to the mark now as his true colours come shining through. The former MK Spinner, with bags of Premier experience behind him, beat Chris Belton and Julie Snowdon and paired up with Andy Whitehead to take the doubles. However, facing the resourceful Andy Smith in the final set of the evening was a step to far. Chris Whitehead was the remaining Hasbeen.

As alluded to previously, Greenleys Eagles featured in a hard fought draw with St. Christopher Van Hire in a match where Iain Lindsay lost for the first time this season after extending his unbeaten run to 20 following wins over Fabrice Spelta and Paul Haigh. His conquerer was Biao Wang, 11-9 in the 5th, who had lost earlier himself to the still unbeaten Joe Lindsay. Joe arrived at the match without a bat and had to reply on his dad's, so no wonder they lost the doubles between them, and for the second week running too. Dave Plumb remained winless for Eagles.

A Sue Lewis hat-trick ensured Newport Pagnell Vantage's first win of the season at Woburn Sands Data. She was ably backed with a brace from Tony Ardis and they combined forces to take the doubles set. James Molloy lost over 5 games to Super Sue, her best win ever, but won his other sets with Rob McPheat and Darren Ward chipping in with one each. A luckless Michael Howard played well without reward. Half the sets went the distance and Michael featured in two of them.

The Thursday night match at the OU saw Primes losing 7-3 to Greenleys Glory, who gave a debut to Div 3 man Tim Welch. Encouraged by narrowly losing 14-12 in the 5th to Charity Wong, Tim went out and beat Andy Tan in straight games, but finished on a losing note to Patrick Wong. Hat-tricks here for Glory boys Ian Brown and Danny Sedgwick. Terrific doubles win meantime for Andy & Patrick over Ian & Danny.

Player of the week is Sue Lewis.

Division 2

Courtesy of Martin Johnson

There is just one more week to go until the first half of the League schedule completes, and the top team have opened up a seven point gap on the two main chasers, who are then a further six points clear of a closely packed mid-table, whilst positions at the foot of the table have closed up a bit, with just four points separating the bottom four teams.

Milton Keynes Hit 'n' Hope's run of wins extended to five in a row, and with second placed Classics losing, they are now seven points clear of the closest opposition. They also got the biggest win of the week, for the fourth time in five weeks, although only a 7-3, this week. A bigger win might have looked likely on paper, as they faced Mursley Hawks, who had two reserves playing up from Division 3, but they were given a tough fight in every set. Ivor Howard maintained his run of singles wins, including his first win over Martin Johnson (after a couple of close attempts, last season), to take his run up to fifteen in a row, whilst Paul Tompkins won two and Andy

Frearson won one, for Hit 'n' Hope. For Hawks, it was one win apiece for Martin, David Bartlett and Dan Walters. All ten sets saw the momentum swing from one side to the other, but Hit 'n' Hope came through in most of the close sets, yet despite the close fought play, only one set went to five, as Andy Frearson found his range with his big topspins, to come from two games down to David. At one stage, Hit 'n' Hope had moved to 7-1 up, but the two reserves, David & Dan, captured the last two sets of the night to limit the damage, with David edging past Paul and Dan doing similarly against Andy.

Milton Keynes Tornadoes moved up to equal second spot with their 6-4 win against Milton Keynes Cavaliers. A maximum here for Tanmay Tijare, to add to two wins for Nicholas Wong, and the pair teaming up to also take the doubles against Chris Paddon / Chris Welch, but no luck for Matthew Curley, although he was mighty close against Chris Welch, only losing out 11-9 in the decider. The other singles to go to Cavaliers, was a rare defeat for Nicholas at the hands of John Bradley – just his third loss of the season, although he remains joint top of the singles averages.

Milton Keynes Classics were surprisingly defeated 6-4 by bottom placed Milton Keynes Blades, who were indebted to reserve, Rupert Greyling, who won all his three singles. Brian Evans and Bill Tyler completed the Blades line-up, and they claimed one singles each, against Barbara Peters, plus the doubles against Nick Markham and Dylan Cox. Nick and Dylan picked up two wins each to make up Classics' four points on the night. The win for Blades pulls them to within two points of the teams ahead of them at the foot of the table, whilst Classics now share second spot with Tornadoes.

Woburn Sands Mosquitoes hosted Milton Keynes Shambles, and honours were shared in a 5-5 draw, in one of those matches where no-one managed to win all three singles. For Mosquitoes, both Glenn Barcham and Andy Jenkins grabbed two wins, with one for Paul Hamer, whilst for Shambles it was two wins each for Steve Jordan and Jim Robinson, plus the pair took a close doubles against Glenn / Andy, one of five sets to go the full distance. Andy also went to five in all three of his singles, just edging out Simon Green at 11-9, but losing out in similar fashion to Jim, whilst the other set to go to five games was the closest of the lot, as Steve just took it 14-12 against Paul. The draw leaves Mosquitoes in sixth place, but with a match in hand over the teams above them, whilst Shambles share eight place.

St. Christopher Spitfires featured in another match which contained five sets to go to a deciding leg, but they just held sway over Newport Pagnell Lagondas by a margin of 6-4, whilst again no-one was able to win all their singles on the night. Spitfires started strongly, and moved out to a 5-0 lead at the halfway point, but then had to wait until the last set of the night to finally clinch the win. There were two wins each for Spitfires, from the bats of Andy King and Graham Silversides, to add to one win for Jock Campbell, plus Andy / Graham winning the doubles against Chris Horn / Roy Read. Lagondas' four points came as a result of two wins for Chris, plus one each for Glen Davison and Roy. Spitfires might count themselves slightly unlucky not to have won bigger, given their start, but the Lagondas trio fought back well, from 5-0 to 5-4, including three consecutive close in the fifth wins, two at 12-10 in the decider, and the third at 11-8.

Players of the Week : Tanmay Tijare and Rupert Greyling.

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