

SUNDAY COMB**REAL ROOCHERS**

Beat Sporting Club Northampton 2-0

Team: Rich Hardwick, Matt Mills, Jeff Lake, Roy Long, Lee Escott, Tony Walker, Joe York, Pat Davies, John Souter, Andy Gee, Greg Wilson, Chris Abbott, Mark Ellis, Adam Crawte

Report: The Roochers continued their improvement with a comfortable 2-0 victory over fellow strugglers Sporting Club Northampton in front of a near capacity crowd at The Roocherdome. There were no stars in a well-disciplined display but the highlight, for some at least, was a sublime long range finish from ageing 'striker' Souter. His last goal having come in the famous Roocher season of 1945-46 when

football was football and bacon was tuppence a loaf. The second goal came from Abbott which was his first ever in competitive football. A decent game well refereed and a credit to all involved. Good luck to Steve Hollis for his imminent operation, sales of pork scratchings will tumble until you're back.

DOUBLE TOP

Lost 4-1 to Thorplands United A Team: Rob Burton, Myles Watts, Paul Hodgson, Alan Munns, Tomasz Karon, Dave Beezley, Dan Brown, Dominic Richardson, Phil Dadds, Elliot Bacchus
MOM: George Lah-Anyane
Report: A two-week rest did little to reverse Double Top's fortunes or their injury list, but once again the boys in blue battled for everything. Brave Dominic chased all

MatchReports

game (although he was not sure which ball to hit), Elliot put his calf injury to the back of his mind to snatch a goal to keep Top in the match (great ball, Tomasz) and George played a full 90 minutes, his first since Christmas, despite being only half-fit. Add to this a hobbling goalkeeper, and the recipe was another defeat as Top struggle to find that all important win. Congratulations to Paul Hodgson on passing his referee's exams, and for his Player of the Month award.

ROYALS

Lost 2-1 to Swan & Helmet
Scorers: Gunner

Team: T Ingate 8, G Whyte 8, J Tipler 8 G Fardin 8, G Watts 8, B Deane 8, D Attree 7, D Hills 8, Gunner 7, R Cowie 7, S Addo 8, C Cowie 7, A Williams 7
MOM: S Addo
Report: Royals bowed out of the cup in a hard fought physical battle. The pubmen sprang the off-side trap for a 30th-minute lead. Gunner hit back on the stroke of half-time with an opportunist strike. Both sides went for the winner with countless chances going begging. The loss of Deane through injury was crucial for Royals and Swan & Helmet took advantage. A disputed late penalty put them through but it was cruel for the Posties.

TOWN LEAGUE**ASHLEY ROVERS**

Lost 1-0 to TWVS
Team: Alex Baylor, Jason Church, Och Dulo, Paul Morris, Dan Finnis, Stuart Burnhope, Luke Dickens, Martin Hayward, Ryan Moule, Paul Clark, Simon Finnis, Adam Gristini, Roy Long
Report: Ashley were holding on for a share of the points until a defensive mistake gave TWS the game.

TP COMBINATION**WELDON UNITED**

Lost 5-1 to Harpole

Report: Harpole outplayed a Weldon team that was never at the races. Weldon's consolation goal came from David Harding in a 5-1 defeat.

WELDON UNITED RESERVES

Beat Bugbrooke St Michael's B 5-0
Report: Weldon started very poorly but came into the game when young Iain Blaikie fired them ahead. Then, following last week's great strike, Graeme Johnson volleyed superbly into the top corner. David Whitlam added one to equal Neil Johnson's eight 2005/6-season goals. It was 3-0 at half time. The second half started a bit better than the first when Paul 'Muzza' Murray slotted the ball into the bottom

corner from a good move. The second oldest player on the pitch, Paul Bradford, finished the game off as the team finally realised that they were playing against 10-men.

WELDON UNITED A

Beat Islip United 3-0
Report: This was a quality display by Weldon's third team against a side who sit second in the league. From the first whistle to the last, Weldon controlled everything. The first half goal from Sean Wright gave Weldon a well-deserved 1-0 lead into the break. Second half was much more of the same with a goal from Anthony Lamond who lobbed the keeper from 30-yards, an a third and final goal from Austin Milne.

With
**STEVE
WALSH**

Trampolining**Euro spot still on for improving Creedon**

DANNY CREEDON bounced back into contention for a European Championships place with a fifth place finish at last weekend's grade one event in Southend.

Creedon fought his way to up the order in the men's competition with three solid routines, and now faces a high pressure trial competition this weekend as a final hurdle to the Europeans in France.

A surprised Creedon said afterwards: "I was pleased. It was good to prove I can go out there and do it."

"I wasn't really thinking about the trials or getting any points, I just wanted to concentrate on doing 10 moves."

The 18-year-old finished just 0.3 in front of sixth position at the competition on the south east coast, easily bettering his 11th place finish from two weeks ago.

Creedon says that he isn't expecting to make the European team though, and will use this weekend as valuable experience for future events.

"It would be nice but I'm just looking to use it as experience to be honest," said the Northants Academy ace.

"I know I'm not up there with the best yet, so I'll take what I can from this weekend and look to the future."

Creedon finished ahead of club-mate James Higgins, who had to settle for ninth spot after an error in his set routine.

Penny Mitchell achieved a personal best finish in the under-17



■ **MIXED WEEKEND** – Jaime Moore (above) had to settle for eighth place in last weekend's European trial, but there was better news for Danny Creedon (right) who came fifth

girls, winning by the tightest of margins.

Mitchell led the field by just 0.2 marks, and picked up a gold medal for the first time at the top level.

Victoria Payne just missed out on a top 10 finish in the same category, ending up in 11th, with Hannah Moriarty finishing behind in 16th.

Katie Mitchell equalled her third place finish at the last grade one event with a bronze medal finish this time out.

Mitchell was just 0.3 off

a silver medal position.

Yazmin Gumbs continued her strong form with a third place in the European youth trial.

Gumbs followed up her first place in Hull two weeks ago with bronze this time out, and now looks certain to make the European youth team.

Team-mate Amanda Harris made a late dash for a Great Britain call-up with fifth place in the same event.

An error in her final routine forced Jaime

Moore to settle for eighth place in the ladies.

Moore had been in second place going into the final.

William Howell returned from injury with an 11th place finish in the under-17 boys, while Helen Kirby ended in 12th in the over-19 girls.

The team of Katie McKenzie (17th), Sophie Gardner (22nd) and Erin Basford (29th) took gold in the under-15 girls, beating rivals City of Salford by a massive 14.5 marks.

**Rushden hit top with one game to go****COUNTY LEAGUE**

THERE are new leaders at the top of the Abington Glass Northants League.

Rushden Con Club lead Burton Latimer Con club by one point going into the last match of the season.

Burton, who had enjoyed a three-point cushion, crashed at home to second division Crown & Anchor Cobblers 3-2, while Rushden saw off lowly Frog and Fiddler 5-0 to go top.

Burton's game started okay with Ian Coleman winning the first leg, but the Cobblers hit back with Chris Russell and Steve Foster. Burton's Steve Oram (7550) levelled matters, but it was all in vain as Cobblers' rising star Ben Foster (5000) made sure.

Rushden met little resistance against the Frog, with Andy Chambers (5660) and Damian Coates (6290) top scoring for the Cons.

All eyes will now be on the final matches next Monday when Rushden travel to the Cobblers and Burton go to the Pink Ladies.

Only one away leg point splits the two teams, and should they end level at the end of the night there will be a count up on scores throughout the season. It's that close!

Bar Billiards**C&E CUP**

CHRIS LAWMAN moved into the semis of the Chron individual competition with a comfortable win against Jim Thomson, winning both legs 12860-2140.

Lawman is looking for his first singles title, but he'll have some stiff opposition because the other three semi-finalists are all previous winners of the competition.

Two-time winners Jason Neal and Simon Coleman are two of them.

Neal saw off Mick Loake 10650-3550 and Coleman had to battle it out with Dave Sadler before overcoming the Victoria Inn man 6850-5280.

The fourth player is the 1989 winner Steve Oram. Oram also had to tough it out against Jon Coe before finally getting through 9350-8020.

The draw for the semi finals will take place at the April committee meeting.

The semis and all other finals will take place on the weekend of the April 29 and 30 at Burton Latimer Country Club.

Day two is the prestigious Jim Wilson trophy, and all captains should now be receiving entry forms for this competition.

New clubhouse

STONY STRATFORD Tennis Club are celebrating the opening of their new £200,000 clubhouse.

And you can go along to see the new building as well as what the club is all about when an open day is staged on Sunday, April 9 at 2pm.

All are welcome to the open day at the club, which is situated at the junction of Ostlers Lane and Vicarage Road Stony Stratford (within

Tennis

the Ancel Trust Recreation Ground Complex).

The official opening of the new clubhouse will take place on Sunday, June 4, and the honours will be done by Dawn Newbery.

A former junior member of the club, Dawn is a national coach and team manager to the GB Wheelchair tennis team.