

ROSE BOWL

The Leicester League was represented by Karen Smith and Jessica Birbeck in the qualifying rounds of the Rose Bowl held at Draycott Table Tennis Club. They were drawn in a group of 3 with Nottingham and Loughborough with the top two going through to the finals.

First up was Loughborough who were represented by Millie Noble and Millie Ufton. Karen played Millie N and won 3 -1 and then Jess lost 3 -1 to Mille N. This was followed by an easy 3 straight win in the doubles for the Leicester team. Then followed the match of the day between Jess and Millie N. Jess won the first two games with some strong hitting on both wings. Millie fought back in the third game to reach deuce but Jess had some match points before eventually losing this game 16 -14. The fourth and fifth games were also close games with Millie winning them both 11 -9. With the match score being at 2 -2 Karen then beat Mille U 3 -0 to secure a victory for Leicester.

Next up was Nottingham who were represented by Jane Vickers and Cathy Cody. Jess lost to Cathy and Karen then beat Jane. The doubles was a close affair with Nottingham winning the first two games 11 -8 and 12 -10 and then leading in the third game. Leicester turned it around and took the third 11 -9 and the fourth 11 -9 but just lost out 11-8 in the fifth. Karen then beat Cathy 3 -0 before Jess lost in 4 close games to Jane. The final match score was therefore 3 -2 to Nottingham.

In the final match Nottingham beat Loughborough to finish top of the group and Leicester came second so securing their place in the finals to be held at Draycott Table Tennis Club on 1 June.