

Week Commencing 3rd March 2003

The Leamington Closed Championships progressed according to seeding for both the Mens Singles and the Wright Hassall Ladies Singles when the main competitions were held last weekend at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington Spa. The Mens Singles has been played as far as the semi-final stage with the top 4 players poised to battle it out on finals night on Saturday 15th March at WCC staff club, Warwick. Top seeded Mark Woolerton (Whitnash) will play third seed and last year's champion Jon Williams (also Whitnash) whilst second seed Andy Cockerill (Wellesbourne) will face the other third seed Mark Jackson (County Council). In the quarter-finals, Mark Woolerton put out 2002 runner-up Martyn Todd (St. Georges) and Jon Williams saw off Clive Irwin (Wellesbourne). In the other half of the draw quarter-finals, Kevyn Ariss (Whitnash) fell to Andy Cockerill and Mick Alsopp (Nuneaton) to Mark Jackson. As expected Jane Dickens and Liz Haynes (both from Whitnash) have reached the final of the Wright Hassall Ladies Singles. This is Jane's first Leamington Closed final but Liz has featured on several occasions. Together they are contesting the final for the Ladies Doubles title against the St. Georges pairing of Tracey Fletcher and Julie Richardson. The Frangmere Properties Mixed Doubles has Liz Haynes partnering Jon Williams against Julie Richardson with Andy Cockerill. Tracey Fletcher and Earl Sweeney (St. Georges) fell at the semi-final stage. The Frangmere Mens Doubles was played through to the final by agreement with the players. Jon Williams and Earl Sweeney gained their first trophy by beating Clive Irwin with Trevor Bradley (Flavels) 11-7, 11-6, 8-11, 14-12. Earlier Simon Nolan and Sam Clarke (both Blessed George Napier) had been stopped in the semis by Irwin and Bradley whilst Andy Cockerill with Phil Paine (County Council) had only reached the same stage courtesy of Williams and Sweeney. This year there will be no repeated names on all the graded trophies and none of the current holders have reached the finals. For the Bombay Tandoori Grade 1 Singles Jon Williams will be opposing club-mate Mark Woolerton. Alan Jones (Phoenix) was halted in his semi-final against Jon Williams and Simon Nolan reached his semi-final against Mark Woolerton. Better for Simon Nolan in the Grade 2 singles where he knocked out lastly Blessed George Napier team-mate Paul Rowan to reach the final. Free Church's Tom Brocklehurst has reached his first singles final ever from the other half of the competition. Brett Medforth (Phoenix) was Tom's semi-final opponent. However Brett Medforth did reach a final - the Grade 3 singles after seeing off Matthew Cooper from Eathorpe. Daniel Rowan (Blessed George Napier) will be the other finalist as he defeated Edward Freeman (AP Sports) in their semi-final. Once again a player who did well in the higher grade reached the final of their lower grade entry. Edward Freeman made it to the Grade 4 Singles and will meet there Janice Rowan (Blessed George Napier). Richard Grover (St. Georges) and Chris Blowey (Free Church) were the respective losing semi-finalists. The Grade 5 Singles features Derek Grover (St. Georges) against Adam Cooper (Free Church). The Piccolino's Pizzeria Youth Singles has Simon Nolan playing against Terry Smith (AP Sports); Daniel Rowan was a losing semi-finalist. The Ford Motor Junior Boys Singles becomes a BGN play-off with Simon Nolan pitted against team-mate Sam Clarke. Matthew Cooper slipped up in the semis. Clarke and Nolan team up for the final of the Ford Motor Junior Doubles against Matthew Cooper and Edward Freeman. The Under 15 Boys Singles sees Edward Freeman matched against Daniel Rowan. In the Junior Girls Singles last year's runner-up Stephanie Hawkins will be against fellow AP Sports club-mate Ros Freeman. However Stephanie Hawkins will also play Charlotte Freeman (Ros's sister) in the Under 15 Girls Singles final. For the Under 13 Boys Singles Michael Rowan from Blessed George Napier will play against Free Church's Luke Hobbins. Luke was runner-up in 2002. Charlotte Freeman will retain her Under 13 Girls title as she was uncontested and Phil Blowey has improved his position in the Under 11 Singles from runner-up to champion for the same reason. By agreement between the players in the Handicap Singles the final was played and Paul Nicholls (+33) (Phoenix) routed Simon Nolan (+10) 61-49. In the Veteran Singles Earl Sweeney hopes to go one better than last times' second place when he meets Martyn Todd. Earl had eclipsed Clive Irwin with an extremely tight match 12/10, 11/7, 6/11, 8/11, 13/11 and Martyn had halted frequent winner Phil Paine. The Veteran Ladies will be awarded to Janice Rowan, injuries preventing a challenge to her. The Over 50s

Singles sees Graham Hoskin (Colebridge) hoping to retain his title in a repeat of last year's final against Brian Aston (St. Georges). The Parent / Child Doubles was a new event and was a tremendous success with children aged from 5 to 40+ and even a parent aged 78! Father and teenage son from Eathorpe Colin and Matthew Cooper rolled over adults Pete and Ian Rourke in one semi. Another reunited pair of adults Brian and Colin Aston were successful in their semi against father Paul and young son Michael Rowan.