

## **Week Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> January 2003**

At the Warwickshire Closed Table Tennis Championships held last Sunday at St. Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick there were new names on the trophies for both the Ladies and the Girls competitions.

Firstly the Ladies Singles was won by Leamington's Jane Dickens who beat Ann Lloyd -10, 6, -8, 6, 6. Jane Dickens has been playing for Whitnash this season. Jane partnered Stephanie Hawkins (Leamington) to second place in the Ladies Doubles, losing in the final to the Birmingham duo of Helen Turner and Ann Lloyd 4, 7, -6, -10, 8.

The Junior Girls Singles was won convincingly by last year's runner-up Nikki Pilgrim from Coventry, who defeated her sister Rachel Pilgrim 5, 8, 3. The same two also met for the final of the Cadet Girls Singles which again saw last year's second placed Nikki Pilgrim again defeating her sister Rachel Pilgrim, this time the score was -11, 9, 7, 8. Nikki Pilgrim joined up with Nuneaton's Kelly-Jane Walden to take the Junior Girls Doubles title, overcoming Rachel Pilgrim and Stephanie Hawkins in the title match 7, 8, -7, 6.

Leamington took the Junior Boys Singles title for the first time for some years, with Simon Nolan from new League team Blessed George Napier in Spa's Division 1 overcoming Birmingham's Leigh Bradford 1,9,11. Leigh is out of luck at the Warwickshire Closed - this was the third time he had come runner-up!

The Cadet Boys Singles was an all Birmingham affair with Samreet Sandhu in a tight final conquering Paul Leek -9, -10, 5, 7, 9. The Junior Boys Doubles was won by the Coventry pair (who play for Phoenix in the Leamington league) of Brett Medforth and Paul Nicholls against the BGN Spa duo of Simon Nolan and Sam Clarke 10, 9, -4, 3.

A new feature this year was the restricted events for players not at the top of their respective ETTA national ranking lists. In the Boys Restricted Singles there was an all Birmingham final with David Bissell holding off the challenge from Navinder Matharu 10, 8, -6, -13, 5.

The Girls Restricted Singles finished with an all-Leamington final with Rosalind Freeman (AP) holding on against a determined effort from Eathorpe's Sophie Cooper 6, -9, -6, 8, 7.

The Mens Singles was as often, the province of the talents of Birmingham. Mark Read, a former finalist, saw off Mike Browne 7, -6, 9, 9. Mark Read then combined with Ian Ferguson (three times mens singles champion 2000-2002) to take the Mens Doubles against Leamington's Andy Cockerill and Phil Paine 3, 8, 9. Mark Read then picked up yet another trophy for the Mixed Doubles where he partnered Helen Turner for Birmingham to 8,11,8 success against Julie Richardson and Andy Cockerill for Leamington.

The Mens Restricted Singles proved at the end to be a Nuneaton affair with both players in the final from there. Alan Hewitt defeated team-mate David Grundy 3,- 8, 3, -12, 9.

The Ladies Restricted Singles interestingly enough saw the new Ladies singles champion Jane Dickens falling to Helen Turner 5, 7, -9, -7, 7.

The Veteran Singles was this year won by Mike Browne from Birmingham, who triumphed over Leamington's Earl Sweeney 9, 4, 8. Earl Sweeney, however, was not deterred and partnered Phil Paine to a Spa Veteran Doubles victory for the second year in succession -9, -5, 8, 9 ,11 against Ray Dixon

and John Taylor (Birmingham). Ray Dixon picked up the Over 50 Singles against fellow Birmingham player John Chandler 10, 8, 9.