

## **Week Commencing 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

.The Leamington and District Table Tennis Association Closed Championships will be held on Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd March at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington Spa starting at 8.45am. The finals will be staged at Warwickshire County Council Staff Club on Saturday 15th March starting at 2pm. Players and spectators are welcome on all 3 days. Players can enter events based on their age, (particularly useful for those who are young or not so young as the lowest age category is under 11 and the highest over 50), and on their ability. The graded events are particularly good value as you can enter two events (your grade and the grade above) for the price of one and play opponents of roughly your own standard. Most events take place with two competitions, one for Men and one for Ladies, apart from the graded events and there is however a mixed doubles as well. This year for the first time there is to be a parent / child doubles. Entrants can be any age provided one partner is the parent of the other.

Please also note that as a result of changes by the ITTF the ages of young players are now taken as the age on 1 January 2003. However the age for veterans is still based on their age as at 30 June 2002. Entry forms have been sent to team secretaries or can be downloaded from the internet and entries can be entered directly on the website. The closing date is Monday 17th February, though late entries and telephone entries will be accepted up to 6pm on Thursday 20th February on payment of a surcharge.

The rest of the results from the first round of the individually handicapped Coronation Cup have now been received and Free Church have picked up their fourth place in the quarter-finals when Free Church F defeated Marconi B 5-1. The Division A Church team were able to profit from generous handicaps for their trip to Coventry to play against third division Marconi B with father and son duo Peter and Jonathan Mason picking up two each for Church with comparative ease. Team-mate David Whittaker added one more single to give Church the success, whilst Bob Montgomery played well to hold onto one for the home team's sole reply.

The combined talents of division B's Free Church I / K, however were not able to pull the match off against the more experienced players from divisions 1 and 2 for AP Sports A / B. AP were able to take the match at the wire with the final score 5-4. Gerald Taylor and Eddy Stafford took two each for AP and Andrew Meredith the crucial single. Sam Smith mounted Church's challenge with an excellent treble with brother Tom adding one.

Marconi A appeared to give no quarter when they travelled to play third division County Council C in Warwick and ran out the victors 5-0, though with two matches won at 61/60 and 61/59 the match was not as one-sided as the score suggests. Roy Joiner and Barry Sheffield for the second division Marconi took two each and Dennis Mockford added the extra point.

So for the quarter-finals to be held in March Eathorpe C / D will play Free Church A; Free Church F will meet Free Church B; Eathorpe A will be matched against Free Church H / J and AP Sports A / B will face Marconi A.