

Week Commencing 17th March 2003

Mark Woolerton has lifted the Mens Singles title for the third time in 4 years. At the Leamington Closed Championships held last Saturday Mark Woolerton (this season playing for Whitnash) climaxed the evening with a powerful display in the final which he took 8/11, 11/5, 11/7, 11/8 against Mark Jackson from County Council. Previously he had won in 2000 and 2001. Mark Woolerton's path to the trophy had started earlier in the evening in a semi-final against last year's champion Jon Williams (a Whitnash team-mate). That match had gone to the wire before Mark had edged past 9/11, 11/7, 11/7, 11/13, 11/8. Mark Jackson in the other semi-final had booked his first ever Mens Singles final by defeating the 2000 and 2001 runner-up Andy Cockerill from Wellesbourne 11/8, 13/11, 11/8.

Mark Woolerton also played against Jon Williams in the final for the Bombay Tandoori Grade 1 Singles - with a very similar result in that match. Mark took this success 11/7, 11/8, 7/11, 7/11, 11/9 to give him the double of the Grade 1 and the Mens Singles. This is a feat rarely achieved, with possibly the only other person to do it in the whole history of the league being Jas Singh from Phoenix in 1998.

The Wright Hassall Ladies Singles provided an exciting 5-setter for the penultimate match before newcomer to Leamington league this season Jane Dickens (Whitnash) overcame Liz Haynes 17/15, 2/11, 11/5, 7/11, 11/6. Liz is no stranger to finals night but has not been playing so much recently for Whitnash as she has been busy on maternity leave.

Jane Dickens and Liz Haynes paired up to contest the Ladies Doubles but were outpointed by sisters from St. Georges and Wellesbourne respectively Tracey Fletcher and Julie Richardson 12/14, 5/11, 11/6, 12/10, 11/8. Julie Richardson continued on a roll when she partnered her team-mate Andy Cockerill to take the Frangmere Properties Mixed Doubles 11/8, 7/11, 13/11, 9/11, 11/8 against Liz Haynes and Jon Williams.

Earl Sweeney (St. Georges) had been runner-up last year in the Veteran Singles. This time he went one better by successfully challenging his Saints team-mate Martyn Todd 11/8, 5/11, 11/9, 11/7. One of the few to retain his title Graham Hoskin from Colebridge repeated the 2002 final by again seeing off Brian Aston (St. Georges) this time 11/4, 3/11, 11/4, 11/4.

Stephanie Hawkins has always played second fiddle to same age group Kelly Sibley. This year with Kelly set for international senior duty, Kelly could only watch not play on finals night and so for once it was Stephanie who could take the limelight, moving up from runner-up in champion in 2 competitions. First Stephanie defeated fellow AP colleague Charlotte Freeman in the Under 15 Girls Singles 11/5, 11/7, 11/4. Then Stephanie defeated older sister Ros Freeman in the Junior Girls Singles 11/7, 11/5, 11/9.

However Edward Freeman took the Under 15 Boys Singles overcoming Daniel Rowan (Blessed George Napier) 11/6, 11/5, 11/4. Edward also won the Grade 4 Singles, his opponent here being Daniel's mother Janice Rowan. Edward won 11/5, 11/7, 11/7. Daniel Rowan was however successful in the Grade 3 by the narrowest of margins against Phoenix's Brett Medforth 9/11, 11/9, 11/6, 9/11, 13/11. Younger brother Michael Rowan took the Under 13 Boys Singles against Free Church's Luke Hobbins (who had been second in 2002) 14/12, 11/7, 9/11, 12/10.

The Grade 5 Singles saw Adam Cooper (Free Church) achieving a fine win over Derek Grover (St. Georges) 11/1, 11/3, 11/7.

Two lads had been very busy on Saturday already. They had been competing in the national finals of the English Schools Table Association team competition and their team from Blessed George Napier had become National Champions for the under 19 level. Played at Hinckley the quartet had beaten Calder Grange School, Liverpool 8-0, Bradford Grammar School 5-3 and then in the final Duston Grammar School, Northampton 6-2.

Then Simon Nolan and Sam Clarke returned to Warwick to pick up the Ford Motor Junior Doubles for BGN against Matthew Cooper (Eathorpe) and Edward Freeman (AP) 11/9, 11/2, 12/10. Simon Nolan also gained the Ford Motor Junior Singles playing against his team-mate Sam Clarke 11/3, 11/3, 11/4. Simon also gained the Grade 2 Singles 11/9, 11/3, 17/15 against Tom Brocklehurst (Free Church) who had achieved his first singles final. However Simon could not make it 4 out of 4 finals. He slipped to Terry Smith (AP) in a close encounter 11/8, 3/11, 11/9, 10/12, 11/8 for the Piccolino's Pizzeria Youth Singles.

In the inaugural Parent and Child Doubles it was the Aston's from St. Georges who gained the upper hand on the Cooper's from Eathorpe. Regular div 1 player Brian Aston encouraged his son Colin, who used to play, to join him in this fun event and the old skills returned to great effect for Colin to give the duo the title 11/8, 10/12, 11/7, 11/4 against the Colin and Matthew Cooper who currently play in div 2. Presentations were made for the afternoon events by John Ingram and Fiona Fairbairn from Wright Hassall presented the trophies for the evening session. Two County Umpires, Carol Meredith (AP) and Bob Montgomery (Marconi) kindly umpired throughout the finals.

League news Flavels have been catching up with their matches in Division 1 with 4 recent results now in but they had little luck in 3 of them, all against top teams. First they fell 7-3 to Wellesbourne despite one each from Len Coonan, Roger Potts and Mick Bennett. Wellesbourne's Andy Cockerill and Pete Dunnett took singles and doubles. Then they had the luck to meet fellow struggler at the base of the division County Council B and Flavels gained their third victory of the season by squashing them 8-2. Len Coonan took a hat-trick, Roger Potts and Mick Bennett braces and Coonan and Bennett also picked up the doubles. Council's Reg Warnes and junior reserve from Div 2 Eathorpe Matthew Cooper gained his first win in the premier flight.

Whitnash A with Mark Woolerton, Jon Williams and Kevin Ariss then rolled over Flavels 10-0. Flavels also lost their next match 10-0 which was not helped by being a player short. Earl Sweeney, Mike Bishop and Martin Todd were the trio on top from St. Georges A.

Nuneaton Bucks edged past Colebridge B 6-4 thanks to a treble from Matthew Hobday, a brace from Neil Matthams plus a crucial single by Sohail Caratella. Michael Rinnohofer, Neil Wheatley and Vikas Bakhshi all took one for 'Bridge B and Wheatley and Bakhshi the doubles.

County Council A just lead the division with 131 points from 17 matches, Whitnash A 128 from 16 and Colebridge A have 126 from 18.

In Division 2 Free Church C just crept in front of AP Sports B when the doubles gave them 6-4 victory. Chris Mulligan and Stuart Mills took two each and Pete Rourke one for Church whilst Eddie Stafford kept two for AP, Gerald Taylor and Tony Williams one each.

In Division 3 Marconi B move into the lead with a 9-1 over Myton A with Steve smith and Geoff Taylor picking up singles and doubles and Bob Montgomery a brace. Myton's Jim Quinn clung onto one. Myton A recovered to cruise over AP Sports C 8-2 with Jim Quinn in excellent form taking singles and the doubles with Jonny White who added a brace as did Paul Deavall. Richard Grover took two for AP's reply.

Free Church E played Free Church G twice in short succession in Division A but the result was the same 5-0. First Paul Nason and Keith Knott overran the G's and then Paul Nason and Estyn Williams did the same a few days later. Free Church G had better luck against Standard Photographic B when they won 4-1. Robin Hiron took his two for Church, Greville Owen one and the doubles between them. Paul Marsh held onto one for Photographic. Standard Photographic B also went down to St. Georges C 4-1 though it was Brendan Leahy who consoled. Richard Grover took his two for Saints, dad Derek one and the doubles together. St. Georges C also went in front of Free Church F 3-2 when the two Grovers won the doubles in the fifth. Richard Grover had already taken his two but David Whittaker and Peter Mason held one each for Church.

In Division B Free Church I eclipsed St. Georges D 4-1 led by Luke Hobbins in singles and doubles, his partner Joseph Cox adding a single. Philip Morby kept one for Saints. In a local derby between Free Church J and K the doubles and the match 3-2 went to the J pairing of Tom Crellin and Phil Blowey 11/6,11/6,6/11, 6/11, 12/10. Tom Crellin and Ricky Fell had already taken one each for the J's whilst Sam Smith had held his two for the K's.