

## **Week Commencing 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002**

The new table tennis season has started - at least for the Junior members from Leamington League who faced the important Warwickshire trials which were held at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington Spa at the beginning of the month.

Good performances were needed in this to show the county selectors of the standard available of players for the County teams to be picked to play in the County Championships. In addition many of the top players would also be selected to represent Warwickshire at the Regional Trials to be held during the autumn.

In this Leamington, as so often in previous years, did not let the side down. Matthew Cooper from Eathorpe had an excellent day and won all but one of his matches to finish as the top Junior Boy. One of Matthew's closest matches was against Paul Nicholls from Coventry, when Matthew came from 2-1 down to take the next 2 sets to win 3-2. Paul Nicholls finished second overall and he and Matthew are both likely therefore to be selected to play for Warwickshire.

Brett Medforth from Coventry ended the day in 9th place, just ahead of Spa's Richard Grover who came 10th. Edward Freeman, Leamington, who at 12 must have been the youngest there, came 18th.

Daniel and Michael Rowan will be newcomers to the Leamington League this season when matches get underway later this month but these two brothers have already shown their ability by finishing 5th and 6th respectively in the Cadet Boys trials. Other Spa and Coventry lads were unfortunately unable to make the date.

The change in date by 6 months for eligibility meant that our top Warwickshire girls all gained an extra year as Cadets and thus the same three girls took the top three places in the Cadet and Junior trials. Leamington's Stephanie Hawkins was thus third Junior and third Cadet, with sisters Nikki and Rachel Pilgrim from Nuneaton just edging in front each time. With the top Leamington player Kelly Sibley unlikely to be available for county play as she has national duties, it is extremely likely that Stephanie will be picked to play for the County second team. Sophie Cooper from Eathorpe picked up 4th place in the Cadets, and 6th in the Juniors with AP's Ros Freeman one place ahead at 5th in the Juniors.

### **League starts**

The Leamington League season will start on Monday 23rd September. It is expected that there will be three divisions of 12 in the 3-aside League and 2 divisions of 8 in the 2-aside league. Therefore the 3-aside teams will play each other twice over the season and the 2-aside three times with both leagues only having promotion and relegation at the end of the season next April.