

## Week Commencing 4th October 2004

The Leamington league season started last week with everything to play for. This year all the teams in all the five divisions will play each other only once in the run-up to Christmas when the Autumn competition will finish. This applies equally to the 3-aside divisions and to the 2-aside divisions. Promotion and relegation will take place early in the New Year and a new Spring competition will then be played starting in January 2005.

Wellesbourne start their season in Division 1 in excellent form with a 10-0 roll-over of newly promoted naval crew RNA A. Pete Dunnett, Gary Stewart and new to Leamington Sven Rudolph took the singles and Gary and Sven picked up the doubles. Almost a whitewash for Free Church A when they gained their first victory at 9-1 over Riverhouse A. Stuart Kurle returned after a few years lay-off from league play showing no loss of form to take his three, as did Gary Webb and Hugh Matthews held onto two. Gary and Stuart added the doubles. Simon Griew (another new name) kept one for Riverhouse. This first week of the season saw both Colebridge teams playing both St. Georges teams with both matches ending at 7-3. Colebridge A picked up a 7-3 over St. Georges B whilst St. Georges A cruised over Colebridge B 7-3, though each individual match was not won as easily as the scores suggest. For Colebridge A Barry Hunt took a treble and Graham Hoskin and John Chandler braces. Saints B's Ron Vose kept two and the doubles with Brian Aston. In the other match new face Ian Packford gained his first Spa treble, Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop braces for Saints A, whilst Neil Wheatley kept two singles and the doubles with Mike Rinnhofer for Colebridge B.

Closer matches start off Division 2 which both end at 6-4. First AP Sports A edge out Eathorpe A led by Andrew Meredith and Eddie Stafford with two each and the doubles and Edward Freeman adding the critical single. Matthew Cooper took his three in confident style for Eathorpe and Chris Atkins chipped in with one. Marconi's Dennis Mockford swept up his singles and the doubles with Steve Smith, who took two singles to give them the win. For opponents Free Church C Tom Brocklehurst kept hold of two, sister Lleryn one as did Chris Mulligan.

County Council C showed their greater experience by crushing new Division 3 team LCP Spartans 10-0. Reg Warnes, Pat Woolvin and Tony Ford took the singles for Council and Pat and Tony the doubles. LCP report that they enjoyed the match even so! RNA B, just relegated from Div 2, have showed their intentions by picking up an excellent first match score at 8-2 over AP Sports B. Steve Poole led the navy with a treble, crewmates Duncan Hall and Richard Miles braces and then Poole and Hall added the doubles. Stephanie Hawkins held onto two for AP. BGN B may have been one short but they still ended up with a win at 7-3 over Eathorpe B. Malcolm Macfarlane and Keith Woodcock took singles and doubles to give BGN B the 7 points whilst Eathorpe had to console themselves with the forfeited points.

Last season's winners in Division A of the 2-aside league have got off to a flying start. Steve Proctor and Steve Shaw took singles and doubles to their team Riverhouse Henley B a 5-0 result over St. George's E. LCP Dreamers, who were promoted after winning Division C in the spring, did nearly as well at 4-1. Simon Dainty and Nick Blackmore took their singles for Dreamers but could not hold onto the doubles, which the two Sophie's from Eathorpe D (Sophie Cooper and Sophie Niepceron) took in fine style. Experienced Eathorpe C however had the measure of LCP Packers, who also have been promoted from last time's Division C. Eric Smith took his two, Richard Freeman one and the doubles together in a steady performance to give Eathorpe the 4-1 success. Steve Deeley held onto one for the Packers' consolation point. In an all Free Church match the E side edged out the H's 3-2. Keith Knott and Estyn Williams took one single each and crucially the doubles together to give Church A the win, but neither could halt Chris Blowey for the H side.

In Division B league play newcomers St. Georges F gained an excellent first result with a 4-1 win over Free Church J. Karen Toozer took her two singles, Laurence Sweeney one and the doubles together. Philip Booth held onto one for Church at 8 in the fifth. Free Church I rolled over LCP Inkers 5-0. Ricky Fell and Tom Crellin picked up the singles for Church, whilst Philip Blowey joined Ricky Fell for the doubles. There were two Eathorpe derbies this week and both finished at 4-1. First Eathorpe G saw off Eathorpe H 4-1 led by Jack Henderson with both his singles and the doubles with Hannah Saville whilst William Henry chipped in with one single. Robert Young held one for the H's in a match where everyone was aged 11 or 12. Also the father / daughter pairing in Eathorpe E saw off father / son pairing in Eathorpe F 4-1. Dad Dave Hawker took his two singles and the doubles with daughter Katie who also picked up a single. For F's reply son Robert Fay was the one with more success, salvaging the one point in a tremendous 5-setter.

Warwickshire held their County Selection trials for Juniors and Cadets in September in Leamington Spa. Good performances were produced to help the county select teams for the County Championships. Many of the top players would also be selected to represent Warwickshire at the Regional Trials.

In the Cadet Boys the top four players on the day all finished strongly. Leader was Birmingham's Jack Williamson who only had one defeat all day when he lost to fourth placed Michael Rowan. Scott Tune, Jack Powell (both Birmingham) and Michael Rowan (Leamington) all won 5 out of 7 matches in the final group and had to be split on set differences. These four will be nominated for the Regional Trials.

Cadets Paul Leck and Allan Caffrey from Birmingham were not able to attend the cadet trials but did attend the Junior Boys trials the next day where they both did extremely well to finish first and sixth respectively. Paul Leck in particular showed his ability by winning all his matches to finish on top. Navinder Matharu and Tom Hearne from Birmingham and Coventry's Brett Medforth came second to fourth respectively and will join Paul Leck for the Junior Regional Trials.

Like many counties, Warwickshire have less girls than boys waiting in the wings. Three girls Nikki and Rachel Pilgrim from Nuneaton and Stephanie Hawkins from Leamington are already stalwarts from last season for county selection but were not able to make these trials. Top Girl Kelly Sibley is of course busy with England commitments so is not able to play at county level. Therefore all 4 girls who attended the trials will gain places to compete at the Regional trials. Leamington sisters Ros and Charlotte Freeman took the top two places, followed by Jessica Burbeck and Adele Fisher (both Nuneaton).

Final placings and all the results of the Warwickshire Trials can be found on the Tournaments page of the Leamington Website