

## Week Commencing 24<sup>th</sup> January 2005

### **Birmingham Table Tennis**

**By Bob Brown**

Mike Browne, the current Birmingham Closed champion, needed to win his three singles to enable Kingshurst 'A' gain a 5-5 draw against their 'B' side, in the Premier Division of the Birmingham League. Paul Taylor and Scott Prime won two each for the 'B' side, both beating county junior No 1 Paul Leck. Tile Cross 'A' gained a crucial 7-3 victory over Sutton 'B', with the reliable Harry Sideras winning his three in comfort. Andy Evans was unbeaten for West Mids Phones at Sutton 'B', but two each from Clive Stretton and Andy Choi enabled Sutton to clinch a 5-5 draw, with Stretton's 14-12 in the fifth win over Tim Freeman the highlight. Phones were then hammered 8-2 by Kingshurst 'C', for whom Jason Essex showed why he is enjoying such success in the British League, with a devastating unbeaten display. James Rudge, with three singles victories, led Streetly 'A' to a 7-3 success over Smithereens in Division One. Land Rover 'A' gained a 6-4 win over Bournville 'A' at their new venue, but Bhavesh Amlani won three for the visitors which included a crushing 11-6, 11-4, 11-3 victory over the highly rated Dean Opbroek. Amlani was again in superb form against Kingshurst 'D' in a 7-3 triumph. Kingshurst 'D' roared back to form against Land Rover 'A' winning 7-3, Roger Ellerington involved in triple success, although Rover's Dave Ameghino had a crucial 11-7 in the fifth win over Karl Manning in the race for the individual title. Milner Harris and Bob Allcock were unbeaten for Land Rover 'B' against their 'C' team in a 9-1 win, Harris coming back from 10-2 down in the fifth to win 14-12 against Chris Allan. Dan Ranford gained a maximum as Quinborne 'A' beat Sutton 'D' 6-4 in Division Two, while Colebridge Giants improved their promotion hopes in Division Three after a 7-3 win at Land Rover 'D'. Farhan Petkar beat Roger Whiting 11-9 in the fifth to gain a 5-5 draw for Sutton 'H' against Walmley 'C' in Division Four. Whiting gained a maximum in Walmley's 6-4 success over Baverstock 'A', beating both Jim Ferguson and junior star Tom Hearne in the final set, with Bob Mason also chipping in with a pulsating 12-10 in the fifth win over Hearne. Hearne returned to form against Land Rover 'E' with a maximum in a 5-5 scoreline. Rover hammered title contenders Kingshurst 8-2, as Colin Would gained a maximum for the home side. Ray Cobley was the man in form for Tile Cross 'C' in a 6-4 victory over Hockley Heath 'C' in Division Five, with Hockley also going down 8-2 to Quinborne 'B', for whom David Ranford and Warren Stanyer won three each. Sutton 'T' crushed Tile Cross 'D' 10-0, as Ron O'Malley, Belle Halliwell and Janet Matthews ran riot in a Division Six encounter. Streetly 'D' just gained the upper hand over the youngsters of Kinghurst in Division Six in a 6-4 success, with Stuart Oakes and Steven Cain each winning two singles.

Birmingham crashed out of the Carter Cup, the national competition for junior boys, losing at the quarter-final round robin stage to Chesterfield and Darlington. Navinder Matharu (Colebridge) and the Kingshurst duo of Paul Leck and Alan Caffery were outclassed, with Caffery gaining a solitary success. Newly promoted Birmingham A beat Rugeley 9-1 in their opening match in Division Two of the Midland Veterans League, with Ray Dixon and Neil Wheatley both unbeaten. Colebridge won the Midland Division of the National Junior League, fielding Navinder Matharu, Tom Hearne and Scott Danter. Matharu was the individual winner with 16 wins in 18 games, Hearne had a 14/18 average and Danter 12/18.