

Week Commencing 15th May 2006

The Diamond Jubilee of the Leamington and District Table Tennis Association will be honoured this Friday with a Presentation Evening at the Warwick Arms Hotel in Warwick. During the presentation evening, trophies are awarded to the winners and runners up in all divisions (including the autumn divisions in the two aside) and of the Coronation Cup and Southwell Trophy. In addition perpetual trophies are presented for winners of the events at the Leamington Championships, which was held in March.

Eathorpe is the lucky club whose teams have taken both the Coronation Cup and the Southwell Trophy. In the final of the individually handicapped Coronation Cup, Eathorpe C beat Free Church E 5-0, with William Hancock and Sophie Niepceron taking two each and Hannah Saville one. Previously Eathorpe C swamped Free Church B 5-1 at the semi-final stage, Alastair Nicholson three and William Hancock two for Eathorpe, Tom Brocklehurst one for Church. Church E made the final with a 5-1 over Eathorpe I / J, Phil Blowey and Tom Hunt two each, Chris Blowey one for Church, Ryan Oldham one for Eathorpe. In the team handicapped two-aside Southwell Trophy, Eathorpe J, playing off scratch, beat Free Church L, who had only a +1 start en route to 61, 3-0. James Matharu took two for Eathorpe, Ryan Oldham one in a match whose handicapping favoured Eathorpe. In the semi-finals, Free Church L had seen off Church I 3-0 and Eathorpe J had beaten AP A 3-1, Ryan Oldham two, James Matharu one for Eathorpe, Andrew Meredith one for AP.

Trophies will also be awarded on Friday to the league player who has the highest percentage of wins in individual singles matches in each division. The Division 1 best player is Alan Hewitt with 95% (43 out of 45) whilst Ian Randle takes division 2 with 98% (60 out of 61) and Rob Bennett showed his worth in Division 3 at 98% (52 out of 53). For the Spring competitions in the 2-aside, Paul Nason takes Division A with 94% (17 out of 18), James Matharu takes Division B with 84% (16 out of 19); and Scott Delday Division C with an excellent 100% for 22 out of 22. In the autumn competition Steve Shaw took A with 100% (16 out of 16); Dave Hawker B at 85% (17 out of 20) and James Matharu division C with 95% (19 out of 20). James Matharu has the distinction of being the first player to win the averages in one division, be promoted to a higher division and then win the averages in that division all in the same season.

In the Midland League, Leamington Men have finished mid-table following their 5-5 draw away to Gloucester recently. In a close match where most games went to 5 sets, Pat McCabe won two, Mark Jackson and Phil Paine one each and the doubles. Previously they had lost 8-2 away to a strong Loughborough side, though Mark Jackson had held onto two to console Spa. Better against Leicester when Mark Jackson, Phil Paine and Earl Sweeney won 10-0.

The final match in Division 1 of the Veteran Midland league saw the Spa A team go sadly down 7-3 away to Birmingham, though the squad should finish mid-table. Pat McCabe held two and Pete Dunnnett one. Up till that last match they had been in third place after drawing 5-5 with Nuneaton and winning 7-3 away to Shrewsbury. Against Nuneaton, where three games finished late in the fifth, Pat McCabe and Mike Bishop took two each and Phil Paine one for Spa, though Adrian Pilgrim playing in his first vets match for Nuneaton took his three. In the Shrewsbury match, Pat McCabe and Phil Paine took singles and doubles.

For the Juniors in their small Midland League of just 4 teams, Leamington played Gloucester twice and beat them 7-3 at home and 8-2 away. Jack Randle and Chris Blowey took two each in both matches, Edward Freeman two in the home match and three in the away match and the boys also gained the doubles each time. The same squad plus Phil Blowey also met Oxford twice with mixed results, winning 6-4 at home and losing 6-4 away.