

Week Commencing 16th January 2006

The Warwickshire Closed Championships were held last Sunday at St. Nicholas Park, Warwick and saw last year's winner Ian Packford from St. Georges repeating his success in an all Spa Mens Singles final between him and Mark Jackson from County Council. Prior to this Ian saw off Andy Lebutt in one semi-final and Mark's semi opponent had been Ian Ferguson. Ian Ferguson paired up with Andrew Hare to win the Mens Doubles, Scott Prime and Chris Leach the losing finalists. Sarah Riach (Birmingham) overcame last year's Ladies Singles winner Rachel Pilgrim from Nuneaton to lift the trophy in the fifth set from 2 sets down. Sarah partnered Helen Turner, also from Birmingham, to win the Ladies Doubles. Rachel Pilgrim with young Sanika Karandikar (Birmingham) were the runners-up. However Rachel was able to gain the Mixed Doubles with her partner, Ian Packford, while the losing opponents were Samantha Apostol (Leamington) and Ian Ferguson. Rachel also retained her Junior Girls Singles title, her opposition in the final this year was Sanika Karandikar. One twelve year old boy from Coventry, Xioayang Ma, new this season to the Warwickshire scene, wiped the board clean in the age groups, winning the Junior Boys Singles, Cadet Boys Singles and Under 13 Boys Singles. Xioayang beat last year's winner Navinder Matharu (Colebridge) in the juniors, and Jack Williamson (Birmingham) in both the cadets and the under 13's. The Junior Boys Doubles was won by Alan Caffrey and Jack Williamson over Tom Hearne with Navinder Matharu. Two 12 year old girls shared the honours for the cadets and Under 13 singles. Jessica Birbeck from Nuneaton won the Cadet Girls singles, Sanika Karandikar the runner-up but in the Under 13 final Sanika came out on top of Jessica. Leamington's Earl Sweeney won the Veteran Singles and the Veteran Doubles with Phil Paine, also from Leamington. Earl overcame Leamington players, Alan Jones in the singles, and Alan Jones with Mike Bishop in the doubles. Alan Jones kept up the pressure and so won the Veteran Over 50 Singles against Graham Hoskin from Colebridge. In consistent form, Graham Hoskin was able to pick up the Veteran Over 60s Singles title, in a well contested competition, Colin Cleverley the losing player in the final. In the Restricted Singles events, Jason Essex overcame John Chandler in the Mens final, Sarah Riach over Samantha Apostol in the Ladies Restricted final and Alan Caffrey overcame Jack Williamson in the fifth set of the Boys Restricted final.

The second round of the cup competitions took place over the Christmas break. In the 2-aside team handicapped Southwell trophy Free Church E edged past Free Church J 3-2. The E duo of Chris Blowey and Tom Hunt from Division 3, overcame their scratch handicap to win one each and the doubles. Church J from Division C, started on + 46, but only Russell Spencer was able to win his two for their reply. AP A playing from scratch saw off Eathorpe E, who were on +32, 3-1. Edward Freeman won his two for AP, Andrew Meredith one for the win, whilst Charles Wragg kept one for Eathorpe. The Coronation Cup is a three aside competition, with each player individually handicapped. Free Church E beat AP A 5-1, Phil Blowey picking up a treble, Tom Hunt a brace for Church, Edward Freeman keeping one for AP's reply. Free Church B had a closer fight over Eathorpe F / G, before winning 5-4, though with 4 games finishing at 61/60 or 61/59 the match could have gone either way. Ian Rourke and Tom Brocklehurst won two each and Chris Mulligan one for Church, Chris Long three and Katie Hawker one for 'Thorpe. Free Church A were hit with injuries so had to give a walkover to Free Church F / G. Eathorpe I / J beat Free Church J / K 5-1, James Matharu giving Eathorpe his three, Ryan Oldham two. Lewis Barge consoled Church with one. Eathorpe B fought all the way to 4-4 against Free Church D before Paul Deavall got his second for the match at 5-4 for Eathorpe, to add to Ron Coates' two and Michael Rossington one. Church's Lleryn Brocklehurst and Pete Rourke held onto two each.

In some Christmas time matches in Division 1, Colebridge A beat two man St. Georges B 7-3. John Chandler, Graham Hoskin and John Taylor won one single each and Hoskin and Chandler the doubles

to give Colebridge the win with the extra points. For Saints, Jimmy Pittaway took one, Ron Vose two. The Colebridge local derby saw the A team draw 5-5 against the B's. For the A team, Graham Hoskin and Peter Roddy took two each and John Chandler one. Neil Wheatley gave the B side two and the doubles with Michael Rinnhofer, who added one single as did Navinder Matharu. In Division 2 a 5-5 draw between Free Church B and Eathorpe A. Chris Mulligan led Church with his three and the doubles with Tom Brocklehurst who chipped in with a single. Allan Stockham and Matthew Cooper kept two each for Eathorpe, Chris Atkins one. Division 3 saw Free Church E edge in front of County Council D 6-4 when Chris Blowey and Tom Hunt added the doubles to their braces and Philip Blowey's critical single. Tony Ford was unstoppable for Council and Howard Rodgers added one. Rugby Lawford saw off FISSC A 8-2 with singles and doubles from Alum Durrani and Matthew Outhwaite plus one from Jack Koumi. George Mudie and John Hunt kept one each for the Farmers.