

## Week Commencing 20<sup>th</sup> February 2006

The Leamington Closed Championships are being held on Saturday and Sunday this weekend (25th / 26th February) at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington Spa, with the finals night itself on Saturday 18th March. The top seeds for the Mens Singles are Alan Hewitt (2004 winner) and Mark Jackson (defending 2005 champion), followed by Ian Packford and Gary Webb. Earl Sweeney and Jon Williams are defending their Mens Doubles title and are seeded first, with Ian Packford and Mark Jackson the second seed. The top two seeds for the Mixed Doubles are Jon Williams with Jane Dickens and Earl Sweeney partnering Kay Nason. The Youth Singles has Navinder Matharu as top seed, Edward Freeman next. For possibly the first time following a large entry, the Under 11 Singles is seeded, Matthew Outhwaite at one, Lawrence Sweeney two, which could lead to a repeat of last year's final where Matthew beat Lawrence. Similarly Matthew is also second seed in the Under 13 Boys (which he won last time) with last year's runner-up Jack Randle first seed. For the Veteran Men, Gary Webb and Michael Wilkins are seeded one and two, then Earl Sweeney (2005 winner) and Phil Paine. In the Veteran Over 50, Michael Wilkins and Phil Paine are the top contenders and Graham Hoskin and Alf Chapman are similarly placed in the Veteran Over 60. The Graded events are not seeded and are being held on Saturday along with the Junior events. The Mens, Ladies and Veteran events are held on the Sunday. Spectators welcome and refreshments available. Play starts at 10am on both days.

One of the semi-finals for the team-handicapped Southwell Cup, which is played in five games each up to 61 points, will give a Free Church team a path to the final, with Free Church I to play from scratch against Free Church L off +15. In the other semi due to be played next month, Eathorpe J will start from +51 against second division AP A who will start on scratch. The quarter-finals had seen Free Church I (+37) take the doubles and the match at 3-2 over their club colleagues Church F (+0). Philip Booth two and the doubles with Anthony Reeve for I, Estyn Williams and Jake Harrison one each for F. Church L's path was over Church B 3-2, with Scott Delday and Jack Hobbins adding the doubles to their one single each, Tom Brocklehurst keeping two for the B's. In the other half of the draw, Eathorpe J had taken out Free Church H 3-0 and AP A (+0) beat Free Church E 3-0 (+19), Andrew Meredith two, Edward Freeman one.

Title contenders County Council A were rocked by a strong challenge in Division 1 of the League from visitors Wellesbourne and needed to win the last game of the match to salvage a 5-5 draw. Council had won 8-2 at Wellesbourne earlier in the season but a splendid hat trick from Michael Wilkins for the villagers ensured that Council had plenty of problems this time. Wilkins also partnered Gary Stewart to a successful doubles, whilst Stewart enjoyed a fine singles win. Phil Paine and Clive Irwin both won twice for Council whilst Pat McCabe added a single. A Colebridge local derby led to the B side edging out the A team 6-4, with Michael Rinnhofer and Navinder Matharu giving the B's braces, Neil Wheatley one and critically the doubles with Rinnhofer. For the A's, Graham Hoskin two, John Chandler and Bob Brown one each. Free Church A against BGN played to 4-3 but with BGN one short the result finished at 7-3. Gary Webb took two for Church, Hugh Matthews one and the doubles together; Gary Jackson two, Malcolm Macfarlane one for BGN. A close encounter for Whitnash A against Flavels ended at 6-4 to Whitnash thanks to Alan Hewitt's treble, Jon Williams' brace and the doubles together. For Flavels, Damon Fenton two, Roger Potts and Mick Bennett one each. St. Georges A (Ian Packford, Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop) rolled over RNA C 10-0.

St. Georges C cruised over Copsewood (Coventry) 7-3 in Division 2, three, two, one respectively by Alf Chapman, Brian Aston and Bert Banks plus the doubles from Aston and Banks. Steve Smith held onto two for Copsewood, Gordon Tucker one. AP A squeezed 6-4 in front of Free Church C when

Andrew Meredith and Edward Freeman took the last game, the doubles, to add to their braces and a single from Stephanie Hawkins. For Church, Stuart Mills and Les Hoggins both kept two. Rugby Town saw off Free Church B 7-3 with three, two, one from Ian Randle, Daniel Fellowes and Jack Randle followed by the doubles to Ian and Jack. Tom Brocklehurst held two, Emma Churchley one for Church.

In Division 3, AP B took the doubles (Tony Williams and Charlotte Freeman) for the match at 6-4 over County Council D, adding to Tony's brace, Charlotte's single plus two from Carol Meredith. For Council, Howard Rodgers three and Tony Ford one. Free Church D saw off Ashorne 7-3, with two each from Lleryn Brocklehurst, Pete Rourke and Ron Stanbridge plus the doubles from Lleryn and Pete. For Ashorne, Chris Bowles two, Roger Kelley one. Ashorne improved against AP B picking up a 5-5 draw with Steve Bolton and Roger Kelley taking two each and Chris Bowles one. Stephanie Hawkins kept her three for AP, Charlotte Freeman one and the doubles together. Eathorpe C's young ones are still finding the going hard, and went down 9-1 to RNA D, though Alistair Nicholson took a good 5th set win from RNA. Naval ascendancy went to Robin Fox Strangways and Steve Kurlle with trebles and the doubles and a brace to Pam Beedham Standard Photographic picked up a rare win at 7-3 over County Council D, led by Brendan Leahy with a treble, Chris Fincham one and the doubles with Brendan and Geoff Taylor two. Council's Pat Woolvin kept one, Howard Rodgers two. FISSC A had a tight 5-5 match against Rugby Lawford with David Milton and John Hunt two each and Tony Scott one for the Farmers; Don Pritchard three, Joe Stoica one and the doubles together for Lawford