

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

Ian Packford earned a treble crown for a Leamington first last Saturday. The St. Georges player lifted both the Mens Singles and the Grade 1 Singles trophies at the Leamington Closed Finals night, a feat which has rarely been done. Uniquely however, he added these wins to his Warwickshire Mens Singles title which he took in January. We believe that no other Leamington player has achieved all three in the same season. Ian's path first was over Alan Hewitt (the 2004 winner who plays for Whitnash) in the semi-final of the Mens Singles. In a tense 5-setter, Ian came from 2-1 down to win, with a score of 11/6, 7/11, 4/11, 12/10, 11/8. His final opponent was Mark Jackson (County Council), who earlier saw off Mike Bishop (St. Georges) 11/5, 11/8, 11/3 in their semi-final. Mark was the defending champion, but could not halt on-form Ian, who won 6/11, 11/9, 11/9, 14/12. Also Ian took the Bombay Tandoori Grade 1 singles, with a 11/13, 11/1, 11/9, 13/11 match against Ian Randle (Rugby). The grade 1 differs from the mens singles by being an unseeded event which is open to both men and ladies, but based on their rankings. Another player at the top of condition was young Matthew Outhwaite, who picked up four wins for Rugby. In repeats of last year's finals, he successfully defended his Under 11 Singles title, beating Lawrence Sweeney (St. Georges) 11/5, 11/9, 14/12, and his Boys Under 13 Singles title, defeating Rugby club-mate Jack Randle in a fantastic, but long match, 11/8, 5/11, 8/11, 13/11, 11/8. He also took the Grade 4 singles, knocking out Keith Knott (Free Church) 11/6, 11/4, 11/6 and the Ford Motors Junior Doubles along side last year's winner Navinder Matharu (Colebridge) against Daniel Fellows (Rugby) and Jack Randle 11/6, 3/11, 11/7, 14/12. Jack Randle kept his Boys Under 15 Singles trophy with a reverse of the Under 13 match, by this time beating Matthew Outhwaite 11/9, 8/11, 11/6, 11/6. Jack also successfully partnered his father Ian to retain their Parent and Child Doubles championship. They ran past the very much more mature pairing of Reg and Rob Warnes (County Council / St. Georges) 7/11, 11/3, 12/10, 11/5. Edward Freeman (AP) took the Ford Motors Junior Boys Singles, but it was a five set struggle from two sets down against Daniel Fellows, 9/11, 10/12, 11/8, 11/7, 11/6. Sister Charlotte Freeman (AP), as expected, kept both her Under 15 Girls and Junior Girls titles against younger, less experienced contenders. In the Under 15, Charlotte beat Charlotte Spencer (Free Church) 11/7, 11/5, 15/13 and in the Juniors she beat Holly Thompson (also Free Church) 11/5, 11/8, 11/6. Charlotte Spencer gained her first finals night win with a 11/9, 11/7, 10/12, 11/6 over Holly Thompson for the Girls Under 13 Singles. These girls show promise for the future with their gutsy efforts. Lawrence Sweeney took the Grade 5 Singles overcoming another promising girl, Hannah Saville (Eathorpe) 11/9, 11/2, 11/9 and had the luck to repeat his success of last year with another victory in the Handicap singles. His low ranking gave him a +54 start over Alan Jones (Free Church), who started on scratch, and that was generous enough to give him an easy 61/44 win over Alan. The Grade 3 Singles was picked up by steady play from the experienced John Taylor from Free Church, with a 11/6, 11/7, 10/12, 11/5 score against club-mate teenager Luke Hobbins. Gary Jackson took the Grade 2 Singles for BGN with scores of 11/3, 11/6, 11/6. Andrew Meredith was his luckless opponent from AP, with three appearances at finals nights and no wins! Graham Hoskin gained the Veteran Over 60 Singles for Colebridge, with a 8/11, 11/3, 11/8, 11/8 result over Alf Chapman (St. Georges), Alf's second time at coming second in this event. Bob Harman in his first season in Leamington and playing for BGN, took not only the Veteran Over 50 Singles but also the Veteran Singles (ie over 40) as well and in each case his opponent was the defending champion. Bob saw off last year's winners Pete Dunnett (Wellesbourne) for the Over 50, 8/11, 12/10, 12/10, 11/2 and in a hard fought match Earl Sweeney (St. Georges) in the Veterans 11/5, 10/12, 11/9, 14/16, 11/7. The Wright Hassall Ladies Singles was picked up by last year's runner-up Samantha Apostol (AP), who took out Kay Nason (RNA) with a match score of 13/15, 11/6, 11/7, 11/7. Kay was consoled with the Loveitts Ladies Doubles victory with Jane Dickens from Whitnash. They defeated Samantha Apostol and Stephanie Hawkins (both AP) in an exciting match 6/11, 11/5, 8/11, 11/3, 11/7. Jane also partnered Jon Williams (also Whitnash) to success in the Frangmere Properties Mixed Doubles with a 15/13, 11/7, 11/9 straight sets win over Kay Nason and Earl Sweeney. The Frangmere Properties Mens Doubles were snapped up by

Gary Webb (Free Church) and Phil Paine (County Council) over Damon Fenton (Flavels) and Alan Hewitt (Whitnash) 11/3, 11/9, 13/11. As well the Piccolino's Pizzeria Youth Singles went to Junior county player Navinder Matharu, who took out Daniel Fellows 11/7, 11/2, 11/7.