

Week Commencing 27th September 2005

The Warwickshire Junior and Cadet Trials for 2005/6 were held recently at Sydenham Sports Centre in Leamington Spa with talented youngsters from around the county matched against each other. This was for two purposes. Firstly to help spotlight the best players in the county to represent Warwickshire in the County Championships where teams play at both Cadet and Junior levels, with cadets being players under 15 years of age on 1 January 2006 and Juniors being under 18 on the same date. As well, the trials is to select those who will represent the county at the Regional Trials to be held at Wood Green High School, Wednesbury on 3/4 December. For the first time the Regional Trials have been split into four age groups, with Under 11 and Under 13 competitions being held as well as the normal Under 15 and Under 18 events. Warwickshire are entitled to put in up to five boys and five girl for each age group. The top players at the Regionals will be asked to attend the National Finals in March 2006.

Coventry provided the biggest surprise this year with their 11 year old newcomer, Xiao Yang Ma, winning both the Junior and the Cadet competitions in the trials at Leamington. He will be a welcome addition to strengthen either the Cadet or the Junior teams for the County Championships. Unfortunately he will not be able to pit his abilities on the national stage as he has only recently come to England and so is not yet eligible. However Under 18 nominations were picked up by Birmingham's Navinder Matharu (2nd), Tom Hearne (4th) and Chris Burgess (6th), along with two from Coventry, Jonathan Pilgrim and Alistair Tallis, who were 7th and 8th in the Juniors. Third placed Jack Williamson (Birmingham) picks up an Under 13 nomination, and fifth placed Alan Caffery (also from Birmingham) takes an Under 15 place.

In the Cadet competition held the previous day, Xiao Yang Ma was first and Jack Williamson second. Rugby players took third and fourth places with Jack Randle gaining an Under 13 nomination and Matthew Outhwaite an Under 11. Faisal Iqbal (Birmingham), Joel Goddard (Nuneaton), Jason Firth (Nuneaton) and Steven Maddison (Rugby) all won Under 15 places. Rugby's Ben Meakin finished 8th for his Under 13 nomination. As well, Aqib Hussain (Birmingham) and Alistair Nicholson (Leamington) picked up Under 13 spots and Loz Sweeney (Leamington) and Jesse Kendrick Hill (Rugby) Under 11 places.

The Girls trials was won by Charlotte Caffery from Birmingham who is an Under 15. Three Under 13's took the next three spots Sanika Karandikar (Coleshill), Jessica Birbeck (Nuneaton) and Abbie Evans (Coleshill). Katie Hawker was fifth for an Under 15 place whilst next was two Under 11's Holly Thompson and Liz Hancock, all three from Leamington. Hannah Chetwynd (Nuneaton) gains an Under 13 place.