

## **Birmingham Closed Report**

**By Bob Brown**

Mike Browne is the new Birmingham champion, following a magnificent final against Kingshurst Bribar teammate Scott Prime, which went the distance, at the North Solihull Sports Centre. The powerful attacking right hander was two games to one down and suffered a muscle spasm in his right leg during the early stages of the fourth game, but he recovered to win a plethora of points with a barrage of top spin drives. No 1 seed Ian Ferguson retired from the singles competition after still suffering the effects of influenza. "I practice with Scott all the time and it is at least a month since I beat him," insisted Browne "His turn will come, he is the pick of the young players coming through in the city at the moment." Helen Turner (Sutton) gained revenge for her defeat by Sarah Riach (Kingshurst) in the recent Warwickshire Closed, by gaining a comfortable victory in the womens' singles. Jason Essex paired up with Browne to take the men's doubles against clubmates Karl Manning and Alan Caffrey, while the men's singles champion also took the veteran singles. Browne had rushed back to Birmingham after playing for Warwickshire in the County Championship in Milton Keynes the previous day. Navinder Matharu (Colebridge) beat Jack Williamson (Kingshurst) in the junior boys singles final, with Williamson - described by Kingshurst supreme Simon Upson as the most gifted youngster he has ever coached - taking the cadet singles.

**OTHER RESULTS:** Womens' Doubles: Riach/Turner, Mixed Doubles: Riach/Stephen Smith, O50: Neil Wheatley, Junior Boys Doubles: Williamson/Jamie Morgan. Restricted A: Matharu, Restricted B: Martin Round (Sutton), Restricted C: Nabil Khalfey (Sutton), Team Event: Kingshurst.