

Week Commencing 29th October 2007

The weekend of 20th and 21st October saw Leamington host Division C of the Senior County Championships at Sydenham Sports Centre. Warwickshire had two sides competing in the division and a number of Leamington players made up those sides. It was a very good weekend indeed for Warwickshire A and, in particular, Leamington's Mark Jackson who spearheaded their charge to take the title and gain promotion. In a weekend where all seven teams played each other, Mark emerged with only two defeats to finish second in the individual averages. In what was always likely to be a tight contest for the title, it was Warwickshire A's ability to grind out 6-4 wins against their three closest opponents that proved crucial, meaning they ended the weekend with an impressive six wins from six. Ian Ferguson, finishing only marginally behind Jackson to take fifth place in the individual averages, Mick Browne, Rachel Pilgrim and Helen Turner all contributed to the cause and all picked up vital points over the weekend to cap a fine performance from the team. Warwickshire B found the going slightly tougher than their A side colleagues, but still managed to take fifth place in the table. Leamington players Paul Savins, Samantha Apostol, Tracey Fletcher and Dot Macfarlane all picked up good wins. Special mention should go to Dot who stepped in as a last minute reserve on the Saturday when Tracey had to pull out due to illness. Not only did Dot take an unexpected place in the side at short notice, she raised her game and emerged with an excellent four wins from a possible eight.

Last weekend saw more players from Leamington in action on the national stage as the Lillington squad of Pat McCabe, Ron Vose, Phil Paine, Michael Wilkins and Earl Sweeney competed in the Veterans British League. They found the competition in Division 2B tough and a series of narrow losses in some tight individual games meant that they were only able to accumulate three draws from their first five matches, losing the remaining two closely by four games to two. As it stands, the side will need to rediscover their form in the second round of matches to avoid losing their British League place. Back to the Leamington League, where a free week has allowed a few postponed matches to be rearranged. Dot Macfarlane continued an impressive run of form, which started with the County Championships and ended with a four-from-six performance in the Veterans British League – the best average in her team. Sandwiched in-between these appearances was a brace-winning outing against Division 2 side St Georges C. Tony Thomas and Darrell Burgess also added braces to give Nomads A the 6-4 win. Alf Chapman replied for Saints with two, plus the doubles with Andy Caine, who also picked up one. Flavels B punished a weakened Eathorpe A side 10-0, with barely a set dropped by Mick Bennett, Simon Geddes, Roger Potts and John Earles.

In Division 3, Warwickshire County Council C were too strong for Eathorpe B and Reg Warnes, Sue Clarke and Graham Roberts all picked up two, to add to a Warnes/Clarke doubles and took the match 7-3. Fresh from their county success, Warwickshire A team-mates Ian Ferguson and Rachel Pilgrim went from county allies to Division 1 enemies as Colebridge A faced Rugby A. Ferguson and Sasha Grokhotov powered their way to maximums and the doubles, with the fleet-footed Edward Lynn contributing two. Rugby's lone point in their 9-1 defeat was taken in a five set battle by Ian Randle.

A strong performance in Division B gave Harbury Lane A a 4-1 win over Free Church J. Edward Curphey won his two, Alex Twigg one and the pair took the doubles. Scott Delday replied for Church. Free Church K fared better in their match against Eathorpe I, with Anita Whitehouse and Jack Hobbins both winning twice. A plucky display by Elizabeth Hancock and Gary Osbourne in the doubles limited the score-line to 4-1. Eathorpe F beat LCP Packers 4-1 thanks to two from Richard Freeman, one from Mark Hancock and the doubles from the pair. Douglas Smith was LCP's single winning player.

Division C side, Snitterfield B, dealt out a 5-0 hammering to Eathorpe L – Thelma Stroud and Kevin Bennett proving too strong for the young lads. More of the same for the L side as they also fell 5-0 to Rugby H. Brothers Anuj and Anshul Satsangi the victors. Another 5-0 match completed the matches in the division and it was Harbury Lane B's Jacob Burton and Leo Twigg who emerged unscathed from their match against Free Church S.

Results List - Div1: Colebridge A 9-1 Rugby A. **Div2:** Nomads A 6-4 St Georges C; Flavels B 10-0 Eathorpe A. **Div3:** WCC C 7-3 Eathorpe B. **DivB:** Free Church K 4-1 Eathorpe I; LCP Packers 1-4 Eathorpe F; Harbury Lane A 4-1 Free Church J. **DivC:** Snitterfield B 5-0 Eathorpe L; Free Church S 0-5 Harbury Lane B; Eathorpe L 0-5 Rugby H.