**Leamington Finals Night**

**Saturday 23rd April 2016**

Kenilworth Wardens cricket club was the venue for the completion of the Leamington Closed Finals where a new Men’s champion was crowned. In the first Men’s semi-final St Georges’ Laurence Sweeney defeated Rugby’s Ryan Lines in 4. The second semi was another Rugby /St Georges clash but this time Rugby triumphed with Ryan Stockham getting the better of Mark Jackson, despite conceding the first game 10-12. In the Final, Sweeney, who recently returned to Leamington after being the town’s top junior a few years ago, took the crown with a 6 ,8,-8, 1 victory. It was Sweeney’s night. Still a youth, he won the Youths singles in straight games against Free Church junior Lee Dorning, teamed with his mentor Jackson to lift the Men’s doubles against Lines and Stockham and added the Grade 1 singles with victory over Jackson.

Kate Hughes of Colebridge, not for the first time, showed her dominance in the Women’s events. Already Ladies doubles champion the Colebridge player swept aside Olivia Fletcher, Free Church’s top junior, in straight games and paired with Stockham to claim the Mixed doubles over Rugby’s Milly Bradshaw and Lines.

Dorning tasted success with a very close win over his club-mate Timmy Cooper in the Junior Boys’ Final but Colebridge took the girls’ title in the shape of Lisa Rinnhofer who overcame Fletcher. The Cadet Girls’ title was an exciting, all Free Church affair. Emily Beasley looked to be home and dry after winning the first two games 6 and 4 but Milly Green bounced back with 12-10 and 11-9 wins. A storming start by Beasley in the 5th saw her take her first major title to 5.

The veteran’s singles seems to get stronger each year and, in an all St Georges encounter, Jackson beat team-mate Ron Vose in 4.

The Grade two Final was fought out between Church duo Jack Green and Tom Harris. Green won the first but had to claw his way back from 7-10 down to take the second on deuce. Harris promptly won the next two before Green came home in the fifth. The pair were on opposite ends of the table in the increasingly popular Parent/child doubles, dad Nilton (WCC) helping Jack to defeat Tom and his Dad Jeff (FC). The busy younger Harris then partnered Sam Weaving (also FC) in the Junior Boys’ doubles. They clinched the first game 17-15 but reigning champions Cooper and Dorning took the next three.

The Grade 3 singles showed off Leamington’s girl power with Rinnhofer nudging out Bradshaw after trailing 0-2. In the Grade 4 singles Free Church’s Ged Kuprys played Rugby youngster Daniel Burgess in a match full of long rallies with Kuprys winning in 5.

Ron Vose put aside veteran’s disappointment to win the over 50s singles against Colebridge’s Mike Rinnhofer and WCC’s Phil Paine just beat Phoenix’s Paul Calloway 12-10 in the 5th. in the over 60s singles.

The Finals were expertly umpired by Dot Macfarlane and Richard Grover.

**National Schools**

**Saturday 23rd April 2016**

Six local players competed at the National Schools on Saturday at the Aldersley Leisure village near Wolverhampton on Saturday. Nikit Sajiv of Sydenham school played in the under 11s and won all of his group matches defeating Scott Bramley of Gloucestershire (England 31), Sam Lowe of Yorkshire, James Bagnall of Shropshire, James Hamblett of Herts (England 18) and Bayly Wright of Essex. In the knock-out stages he beat Pranav Gudipati of Bucks 3-0 before losing to Joel Gibson in 5 in the quarter-finals.

Lee Dorning of Southam school contested the under 19 boys. In his group he beat Jack Jacomb of Durham, Kenneth Li of Worcestershire, Henry Simmons of Bedfordshire, all 3-0 and Rijul Roychoudhury of Middlesex 3-2, his only defeat another 5 setter against Billy Foster of Cleveland. These performances took him to the last 16 where he lost to James Smith of Kent, the England number 14.

Ricardo Bolanos of Kenilworth School also qualified for the knock-outs by finishing second in his under 13 group. Mayowa Agbolade (London East) and Ben Robinson (Worcestershire) were dispatched 3-0, James Goddard of Essex and Josh Kettle of Lincolnshire went in 4 and it took England number 6 David Gofton of Cleveland to beat him in 4. In the knock-outs Bolanos was just edged out by Thomas Rayner of Durham, England number 11, -11, 9, -9,-6.

Olivia Fletcher of Myton also played superbly to reach the knock-outs in the under 19 girls. Emily Brown, Cambridgeshire, Morgan Sykes, Staffs, and Amy Madison, Lancs, were beaten and Fletcher’s only defeat came at the hands of Grace Potter of Lincs who is ranked 20 places above the Leamington youngster at 37. However, the match went to 4. In the knock-outs Fletcher came up against England number 26 Amy Hutchings of Lancashire.

Livvy’s young and very inexperienced sister, Eleanor of Coten End school represented Warwickshire in the under 11s. Although she did not manage a win in her group, two opponents were taken to 4 and one to 5, boding well for the future.

Finally, Emily Beasley of Kenilworth had a good day in the Under 13 girls winning two against Chloe Pryke of Cambridgeshire and Ella Parmar-Saville of Leicestershire. After losing to Darcie Proud of Lincs, the England number 13, she just failed to secure a knock-out place by virtue of count-back when going down 9,-9,-6,5,-7 to Anaya Patel of Berkshire, the England number 13.

**Warwickshire Junior Team Championships**

**Sunday 24th April 2016**

The inaugural County Junior team championships attracted a disappointing entry of just three teams when it was staged at Colebridge on Sunday.

Colebridge faced Lillington Free Church B in the semi-final but could only muster one win when Worcester junior Hawley Ellicott got the better of Olivia Fletcher. Fletcher bounced back to defeat Lisa Rinnhofer and James Crawshaw, and, with Jack Green and James Robertson taking hat-tricks, earned the right to play Free Church A in the Final.

Matches between club-mates are often close and although A won 7-2, 5 encounters went to 5. Adam Cofler defeated both Fletcher and Green in 5, Kit Turner beat Robertson 12-10 in the 5th but suffered losses to Green in 5, and Fletcher and Sam Weaving was forced to a 5th set against Fletcher.