**Warwickshire County Table-tennis Championships**

**Courier 9th January**

Laurence Sweeney of St Georges led the local charge in the County championships held at St Nicholas Leisure Centre in Warwick on Sunday. He faced club-mate Mark Jackson in the semi-final of the Men’s event, triumphing in 4. Birmingham Smithfield’s Michael Browne contested the other semi against 15 year old Timmy Cooper of Free Church who excelled to reach this stage but Browne’s experience got him home 11-7 in the 5th. Sweeney then showed his class to take the Men’s crown 6,10 and 10. Kate Hughes of Colebridge took the Women’s crown in 3 with her young club-mate Lisa Rinnhofer the runner-up.

Hughes went on to claim another two senior crowns combining with Rugby’s Jo Outhwaite to take the Women’s doubles after a thrilling 5 setter against Rinnhofer and Free Church’s Livvy Fletcher. She then partnered Phoenix’s Ryan Stockham to account for Cooper and Fletcher in straight games.

Colebridge junior Sam Henderson took the Men’s Doubles title with club-mate Ed Lynn defeating the Smithfield duo of Browne and Pat Glynn in 4 close games. They were presented with a new trophy donated in memory of a former County Champion, Mark Read, who was tragically killed 10 years’ ago.

Simon Griew of WCC won the Men’s Restricted competition in 5 against Ron Vose of St Georges and Rugby youngster Milly Bradshaw played brilliantly to win the Women’s equivalent from Nicola Francis of Banbury.

The Junior boys competition saw three Free Church players in the semis. Lee Dorning took on Henderson, losing in 4 and Sam Weaving upset the odds to beat Cooper 3 straight. Henderson took the crown in straight games.

Livvy Fletcher found herself two down to Lisa Rinnhofer in the Junior Girls Final but clawed her way back to claim victory in 5 in a thrilling encounter. The Boys doubles went to Cooper and Dorning three straight, against Henderson and Weaving and the Girls doubles saw Bradshaw and Fletcher edge out Church’s Eve Briscoe and Jenny Singleton in 4.

Lewis Singleton of Free Church sprung something of a surprise in the Under 15 boys playing scintillating table-tennis to beat club-mates Jack Green in the semi and number one seed Adam Cofler 7 in the 5th in the Final. Lewis’s twin Jenny staged a valiant attempt to make it a family double but went down to Lisa Rinnhofer in the Under 15 Girls Final.

It was an all Free Church affair in the Final of the under 13 Boys with Robbie Fitchford winning in 4 against Ricardo Bolanos in a match that promises much for the County’s future, especially as semi-finalist Brandon Patterson of Phoenix also impressed. Sophie Rinnhofer, Colebridge, won the Under 13 Girls from Church’s Milly Green, having earlier taken the under 11 title from Church’s Erin Darwen. The Under 11 Boys crown went Free Church’s way, Nicholas Ho defeating runner-up William Chen of Rugby in 4 in the Final.

The Junior Boys restricted Final went to 5 as Jack Green just nailed club-mate James Robertson.

More local success came in the Veterans event where Mark Jackson overcame Hamstead ‘s (Birmingham) Stephen Robinson. Jackson also took the Veterans’ Doubles with fellow St Georgian Earl Sweeney defeating Smithfield’s Andrew Frain and Rajinder Singh. Frain just lost out in the Final of the over 50s, losing to Michael Browne, Pat Glynn shaded the over 60s Final against WCC’s Phil Paine and Terry Cooper of Streetly won the over 70s against St Georges’ Will Fletcher.