**West Midland Regionals**

**Table-tennis, 17th April**

**Several Warwickshire youngsters competed in the West Midlands Regional tournament on Saturday at Wood Green school in Wednesbury. A top three finish would guarantee qualification for the National Tournament in Sheffield in June with 4 qualifiers in some events.**

**Rugby’s Sam Cafearo took top spot in the Under 14 Boys winning all of his matches including a fine victory over Staffordshire’s Luke Gittins who was second and a 9,11,-8,19 win over Jack Green of Lillington Free Church. Green also qualified for the Nationals after clinching 3rd spot with wins over Harvey Elliot and Hawley Ellicott of Staffs, Kyle Day and Jake Price of Herfordshire and Ben Wilson of Staffs.**

**The Under 14 Girls Singles saw Free Church’s Emily Beasley excel to grab second spot and a National place. Beasley lost in 5 to the winner, Staffs Aimee Evans but defeated Molly Hancock (England number 16 cadet) and Joanna Antoskewcz , both of Staffs, and club-mate Ciara Hancox, who also took the scalp of Hancock but fell to 5th on countback after a 3-way tie.**

**Church’s Ricardo Bolanos captured top spot in the Under 13 Boys with excellent wins over Hereford’s Kyle Day, Shropshire’s Jamie Chen, club-mate Robbie Fitchford and Warwickshire’s Aaryan Deshparde. Fitchford finished 4th to gain qualification in June.**

**Ciara Hancox finished 3rd in the Under 13 girls with excellent wins over Ellie Blurton, the eventual winner, club-mates Emily Beasley and Milly Green and Beth Wooton and Alice Antoskewcz (England 37) of Staffs. A defeat to Hancock cost her as all top three girls suffered one defeat but qualification was assured. Beasley finished 4th with wins over Antoskewcz, Wooton and Green to clinch qualification and Green ended up in 6th spot after overcoming Wooton.**

**The under 12 Boys event was won by 11 year old Nikit Sajiv, formerly of Surrey but presently residing in Stratford and about to re-locate to Warwick Gates. Sajiv was an impressive winner remaining undefeated. Bolanos was 3rd, losing to Sajiv and Nathan Birch of Staffs but defeating Aaryan Deshpande of Warwickshire and Harry Fletcher and Angus Rogers, both Staffs.**

**The combined under 11/12 Girls event was won by Colebridge’s Sophie Rinnhofer (England 49 U13) who won all of her games including fine wins over runner-up Ellie Blurton (53) and 3rd Placed Amillia Baker (64). However, the surprise package was unranked 11 year old Sarah Costa of Free Church who troubled all of her opponents in her first tournament. She beat Beth Wooton (88) and club-mate Milly Green (76) and lost 9-11 in the 5th to Staffs Kirsty Maull (79). Costa, at 4, will be first reserve for the Nationals but as 3rd highest under 11 will take her place in Sheffield. Green finished 5th beating Maull and Wooton.**

**Sixteen year old Timmy Cooper of Free Church entered the Blackpool Senior Grand Prix on Saturday and came away with some impressive scalps. Playing in Band 4 he qualified from his group, defeating number 1 seed and eventual runner-up James Garrod. He also beat Sean Drewry but lost 1-3 to Peter Wilkinson to finish second but then lost in the first knock-out round 2-3 to William Hornsey.**

**In Band 3 Timmy beat number two seed Sam Hitchen but finished 3rd on countback in a 3 way tie, thereby just failing to make the knock-outs.**

**Club-mate Sam Wiggins competed in Band 6 qualifying from his group before losing to Josh Walshe. Wiggins followed this up by qualifying from Band 5 before losing in the knock-outs to Cade Short.**