**Leamington Closed Championships**

The Leamington League’s Closed championships were held at the weekend in St Nicholas Leisure Centre. With the organisers having little leeway on scheduling, the staging of the event during school holidays affected entry with the junior events being particularly hard hit and several competitions not being contested. However, those competitions that were staged produced worthy champions.

There was a healthy entry in the Men’s singles which saw 8 group winners progress to the knock-out stage, namely Lee Dorning, Harry Purewal, Sam Weaving, Jack Green and Ricardo Bolanos from Lillington Free Church, Mark Jackson of St Georges, County Council’s Simon Griew and Rugby’s Ryan Lines. In the semis Dorning faced Jackson whom he beat 3-0 and Griew faced Green, still a junior, coming through 3-1. Dorning went on to successfully defend his crown in a 5 set thriller.

The Ladies singles was played as a round robin and resulted in a first senior singles title for Church’s Livvy Fletcher who consigned club-mate Emily Beasley to runner-up spot.

The Men’s doubles was also to showcase new champions. In the semis Griew and Jackson beat Georges’ Damon Fenton and Lines 12-10 in the 5th and Ramsey and Weaving defeated reigning champions Timmy Cooper and Dorning 3-1. Griew and Jackson took the title in 4 games.

The Ladies doubles saw mum and daughter, St Georges’ stalwart Tracey Fletcher partnering Livvy to take the trophy against Church duo Emily Beasley and Milly Green.

The Mixed doubles got to the Final stage but time constraints meant it will be played in the next few days. Emily Beasley and Ricardo Bolanos will oppose Milly Green and Lee Dorning. Likewise the handicap singles has to be finished with Tom Hunt to play the winner of the semi-final between Bolanos and Purewal.

The under 11 boys singles did get lift-off and caused a surprise when Jun Chung defeated the favourite, Dan Stone in a thrilling 5 set final. Both boys play for Lillington Free Church.

The under 13 Boys were divided into two groups. Rugby’s Matt Burgess won his group and Chris Ho won the other from LFC club-mates George Barnes and Owain Jones on countback. Matt Burgess took the trophy in a 5 game final.

Two sets of brothers competed in the under 15 boys singles. Dan and Matt Burgess faced Nicholas and Chris Ho in a round robin competition of 4. Dan (Rugby) was the winner and Nicholas was runner-up.

There was another shock in the Under 15 Girls singles where Eleanor Fletcher defeated her Free Church colleague Milly Green.

Milly gained revenge in the Junior Girls singles, defeating Fletcher which was enough to secure her the runners-up position. Another Lillington girl, Emily Beasley, won all of her matches to become Junior Champion for the first time.

The Junior Boys singles round robin event went to Free Church’s Division 1 player Jack Green who defeated his club-mate Tom Fletcher in his most crucial game after the latter had enjoyed an excellent win over Dan Burgess to guarantee runners-up position.

In the Youths Final, Church’s Timmy Cooper, now a student at Cambridge University, collared Green 3-1 after both had come through their groups.

The Veterans singles was one of the most competitive events. Mark Jackson, Damon Fenton, Earl Sweeney, all of St Georges, and Mark Rose of Phoenix were the 4 group winners. Jackson beat Rose in one semi and Fenton clinched a final place at the expense of Sweeney. Jackson went on to win in 4.

One of the closest matches came in the Final of the over 50s singles where Paul Calloway of Phoenix took the trophy from the luckless Sweeney, 13-11 in the 5th. Calloway made it a double by clinching the Over 60s singles against County Council’s Chris Maiden.

One of the best supported events was the Parent/Child doubles. The 2 semi-finals saw 7 Lillington players involved and one Mum from St Georges. Ian and Emily Beasley overcame Tracey and Eleanor Fletcher and Michael and Chris Ho proved too strong for Chris and Owain Jones. The Beasleys snapped up the trophy in straight sets.

The Grade 1 event was split into 5 groups which were won by Jackson, Dorning, Ramsey, Weaving and Lines. In the semis Jackson defeated Ramsey whilst Lines overcame Dorning. Lines went on to take the trophy.

James Robertson (FC) faced Warwick University’s Arslan Awan in the grade 2 singles semi-final, emerging as victor. This set up a final with Ian Beasley, a group winner who had enjoyed a bye in the semis. Robertson triumphed 3-0.

Ian Beasley was also a group winner in the grade 3 competition, along with daughter Emily and Tom Fletcher. Emily beat Tom in the semi and then squeezed past her Dad 12-10 in the 5th to take the bigger trophy.

In the Grade 4 singles Milly Green beat Chris Jones (Free Church) 3-0 whilst Owain Jones (FC) took the Grade 5 event 3-1 against Church newcomer Jack Bradbury who played exceptionally well to win his competitive group.

**Chandlers tournament**

Grantham

Three youngsters from Lillington Free Church TTC have been selected to compete in the National Championships at the end of the month because of their high England rankings. Ricardo Bolanos and Nikit Sajiv are ranked number 20 and 30 respectively as England under 15 boys and Eduardo Bolanos is number 36 under 13 England boy.

This Saturday they competed in the Chandlers tournament in Grantham. Eduardo lost to England number 7 Todd Stanmore of Oxford in his under 13 group but a win over Sinav Ghanta of Staffs put him in the knock-out stages. In round one Eduard Lakatos of Hampshire was dispatched to set up a quarter-final clash with England number 2 Ben Piggott in which Bolanos competed well to take the Cleveland lad to 4.

Ricardo topped his under 15 group with wins over Ehsan Jawadi (Yorks), Mikaeel Toosy (Surrey) and James Harvey. Middlesex’s Barney Mindlin was beaten 3-0 in the knock-outs and in the quarter-final family revenge was exacted as Piggott (number 12 under 15) was conquered 3-1. This pitched Ricardo against Max Stevens of Notts (no.7) in the semi and Bolanos did well to claim a set before conceding.

Sajiv had also lost to Stevens in his cadet group but wins over James Ramsey of Norfolk and Luke Davies-Stokes of Suffolk qualified him for the knock-outs where he lost to Che Goulbourne of Yorkshire no 18.

Eduardo also entered the Cadets and, despite failing to progress from the group stages, enjoyed a good win over Jake Hewitt of Yorkshire.

In the Junior Banded 1 event, Ricardo was again a group winner. Wins over Davies-Stokes and Frazer Winfield of Lincs were followed by an outstanding success over Bertie Kelly of Somerset, the England number 13 Cadet. Andreas Dickman, who attends the renowned Grantham academy, was beaten in 5 despite the loss of the first two sets in the knock-outs. In the quarters Harry Stevens succumbed 3-0 but Louie Evans of Wales, number 26 in the Uk ratings, proved too strong.

Sajiv had beaten Evans in his group along with Jai Mistry-Moulton of Lincs. Rigby fell 3-1 in round one to put the Lillington boy in the quarter-finals where Hampshire’s Zachary Martillo beat him in 4.

Ricardo was not done and he also entered the main Junior event, again proving a capable group winner with wins over Rigby, Mindlin and Finley Dures. Ben Poulter of Hampshire was defeated in the first round but Goulbourne proved too strong in the quarters, Ricardo’s 17th match of the day.