Table-tennis Report

Courier, 21st February, 2014

Two local girls picked up runners-up trophies in the Burton-Uxbridge 1-star tournament held on Sunday. Lillington Free Church’s Olivia Fletcher won her initial group in the Under 15 Girls, posting a win over the seeded Lucie Hancock, ranked 46 in England. Fletcher then met Rugby’s Milly Bradshaw, who had finished second in her group, in the semi-final. Bradshaw triumphed and went on to meet England number 15 Jasmine Chan in the Final, Chan winning 3-0.

Fletcher then lifted her game in the Junior Girls, again beating Hancock before meeting Chan in the Semi-Final. Fletcher was in breathtaking form and trounced her highly rated opponent in straight games before losing to Colebridge’s Lisa Rinnhofer in the Final.

Church’s Emily Beasley, in only her second tournament, won 2 out of 5 in her under 13 group including an eye-catching win over England number 48 Eve Whittaker.

 The second instalment of the Warwickshire Schools’ Championships took place in Rugby last week. Organisers were delighted that 9 entered the Girls under 11 event with Milly Green (Priorsfield, Kenilworth), Pragyaa Kijaykumar (Pearl Hyde, Coventry), Sophie Rinnhofer (Clifton Crescent, Solihull) and Emily Beasley (Burton Green) reaching the semis. Two very competitive matches then ensued with Green defeating Kijaykumar and Rinnhofer pipping Beasley. In the Final Green got home 3-1 after conceding the first. The Under 11 Boys had 7 entries and Vipul Jose and Krish Agarwal (both Pearl Hyde), Ricardo Bolanos( St Augustine’s, Kenilworth) and Alex Bowe (Abbots Farm, Rugby) contested the semi-finals. Jose beat Bolanos 11-8 in the 5th after trailing 0-2 and Bowe beat Agarwal 3-1 before taking the Final in straight games. The Under 13 boys featured two very experienced Leamington League players in Jack Green (Bablake, Coventry) and Sam Cafearo ( Ashlawn,Rugby) and they duly reached the Final without conceding an end. In a match full of pulsating rallies, Cafearo took the first 11-9, but then saw Green win 8,8,10 to lift the title and emulate his sister as County Champion. Six girls entered the Under 16 Girls, each playing 5 matches. Lisa Rinnhofer (Tudor Grange, Solihull) and Olivia Fletcher (Myton) both won 4 with Rinnhofer declared the winner by virtue of having beaten Fletcher. Milly Bradshaw (Bilton, Rugby) was 3rd and Katie Singleton (North Leamington) 4th.

Ciara Hancox (Princethorpe) and Holly Thompson (Stratford Grammar) were unchallenged as U13 and U19 Girls’ Champions respectively and will join the other title holders in Doncaster in April for the National Schools’ Championships.

In the Coventry Closed Championships three Leamington players distinguished themselves. Free Church’s Cherry Matthews reached the Final of the Ladies Singles, falling to Helen Turner who is better known in Birmingham circles. Matthews then partnered Linda Clempson to retain her Ladies Doubles title and paired with Ryan Stockham to take the Mixed Doubles. To crown her day, Matthews battled to the Final of the Handicap Singles, losing to Andy Woodcock.

Nomads’ Andy Davies was also a Finalist in the Grade A singles, just losing to John Ludford.

Church’s Harry Purewal went one better taking the Grade B singles when defeating Hayden Gruber in the Final.

In Division 2 Enigmas continued their excellent form, taking 8 points from Whitnash A. Gary Jackson and Dong Wei boasted triples and paired for doubles’ success and Steve Proctor won once. Two more trebles from Richard Jardim and Callum Martin helped Phoenix O to an 8-2 victory over Flavels A and Rugby C crushed Flavels 10-0, with reserve Jo Outhwaite’s hat-trick particularly eye-catching allied to maximums from Niall Herbert and Danny Orr.

Young Adam Cofler’s hat-trick could not prevent Free Church H going down 4-6 to their F side. Pete Rourke added the 4th point but F stormed back with Josh Wyatt-Smith and Kim Wong notching doubles, Sarah Barkowski recording a single, Barkowski/ Wong taking the crucial doubles. Rugby D dropped just one point against 2-man Nomads C , Dave Cox and James Robertson winning both of their 2 singles.

In Division 4 Eathorpe B were held to a draw by Ashorne A for whom Steve Bolton and Chris Bowles took braces and Roger Kelley a single. Michael Rossington was Eathorpe’s best with a double.