**Table-tennis**

**Courier, 10th October, 2014**

Local players excelled at the weekend’s National qualifiers held at Wood Green School near Walsall. In the Junior Boys, Timmy Cooper (Free Church) beat George Carroll, Jack Wood and Tom Hinks 3-0 as he won his initial group. He was emulated by club mate Lee Dorning who also won his first group with victories over Ashley Offley, Luke Gittins, Edward Wootton and Dominic Weston. Sam Weaving seized second position behind number one seed Jonny Higgins with wins over Archie Taylor, Jamie Chen, Alex Meredith and James Robertson (FC). Robertson’s win over Meredith gave him 4th position in his group. Lewis Singleton finished 3rd in his group. He took a game off the top player, Joey Chan and beat club-mate Tom Fletcher and Patrick McMahon.

In the Final group Dorning lost to the overall winner Higgins and Colebridge’s Sam Henderson but beat Cooper and Joey Chan. Henderson, Dorning and Cooper finished 2nd, 3rd and 4th and will now contest the National Championships in Preston during November. Weaving finished a creditable 9th. Singleton, Robertson and Fletcher were 15th, 16th and 17th respectively.

In The Junior Girls, another Free Church youngster stepped up to the mark by winning her first group. Despite losing to Gemma McKay, she eclipsed sisters Alice and Joanne Antoskiewicz and club-mate Katie Singleton who grabbed an eye-catching second spot.

Eve Briscoe beat the top seed in her group, Morgan Sykes, but suffered very close reversals against Rugby’s Milly Bradshaw and Colebridge’s Lisa Rinnhofer as well as club mate Jenny Singleton.

IIlness prevented Katie Singleton from further progress but Fletcher’s victories over Lucie Hancock, Bradshaw and Rinnhofer gave her second spot overall, her only loss being to number 1 Philippa Luxton. Fletcher 2nd and Bradshaw 3rd will all go to Preston.

 Jenny Singleton finished 10th and Briscoe secured 13th position overall.

In the Under 15 Boys Adam Cofler topped his first group comfortably and went on to join his Free Church colleagues at Preston after clinching 4th position. Rugby’s Sam Cafearo was 2nd.

In the under 15 girls after a slow start, Jenny Singleton had fine wins over Bethany Wootton and Joanna Antoskiewicz to finish 6th in an event won by Lisa Rinnhofer.

Tom Fletcher also enjoyed a good day finishing 3rd in his group but then beating Lewis Singleton and Jamie Chen to clinch a very good 7th position with Singleton 8th.

In the opening week of the League, champions Rugby A got off to a solid start with an 8-2 success over St Georges A, for whom Mark Jackson took both points. Matt Outhwaite’s treble with support from Ryan Lines and Danny Orr secured the win. County Council A also posted an 8-2 win over Colebridge B. Phil Paine was the hat-trick hero with Clive Irwin and Pat McCabe chipping in with doubles. Farooq Kakar nabbed the visitors’ points. Free Church A beat Wellesbourne 7-3 with Chris Mulligan, in sparkling form, winning 3. Timmy Cooper 2 and Tom Brocklehurst 1 added wins with Alan Cotton proving the villagers’ top performer with 2. Rugby B and St Georges B drew. Adrian Pilgrim won his 3 and the doubles and Niall Herbert enjoyed a top flight victory. Damon Fenton and Earl Sweeney notched braces and Matt Jordan contributed a single.

 In the second division, Nomads A romped to a 9-1 win over Eathorpe A, who took the doubles as their consolation. Ian Beasley, Andy Davies and Paul Rowan won all of the singles. Ben Holvey’s treble couldn’t prevent Rugby C losing 3-7 to Whitnash A for whom Kevin Ariss, Paul Riman and Dennis Woodhead took doubles. Free Church C inflicted an identical scoreline on Millennium. Chris Blowey, Harry Purewal and Kit Turner all posted two wins and the doubles (Blowey/Turner) but all lost to a different player in Pete Harris, Christian Ward and Rob Warnes. Phoenix’s doubles win saw them edge Snitterfield A 6-4 as Paul Calloway (2), Gordon Tucker (2) and Roy Joiner (1) got them home. Dave Milton (2) did best for the opposition.

 Division 3 saw St Georges D defeat Free Church G 6-4 thanks to an Andy Caine full house. Richard Grover (2) and Tracey Fletcher (1) helped out with youngsters Jack Green, Lewis Singleton and James Robertson all taking their first wins and Green and Robertson the doubles. Flavels A trounced Free Church F 8-2 through Mick Bennett’s hat-trick, and doubles from Steve Lyons and Roger Potts. Adam Pulman had two outstanding wins in reply.

Free Church H had the best Division 4 win as Eve Briscoe, Jenny Singleton and Katie Singleton stole all 10 points from new team WCC F. WCC E were also walloped, 2-8 by Eathorpe C for whom Paul Deavall and Shaun Martin took threesomes. Rugby E had an exciting win over Whitnash B, 6-4, with young Sam Cafearo showing his class to take all of his singles and the doubles. Freddy Jones and Bradley Matthews added singles with Wilf Chan and Greg Swan taking two apiece in response. Eathorpe D nudged Ashorne A out 6-4 with James Keay taking an impressive treble. Will Apted (2) and Callum Pickering (1) helped out with Steve Bolton (2) the main foil. There were lots of 3-a-side debutants in the match between Free Church J and I and the match ended all square. Dan Shaw skippered his I team to good effect winning 3, and 11 year old Ricardo Bolanos added two. Mike Weaving was best for the home team with wife Jill and Catherine McAuley posting singles. The Weavings clinched the vital doubles.

In Division A Flavels B (Mick Bennett and Steve Lyons) beat FC L 5-0 and Norton Lindsay A (Vince Ford and Gareth Hepworth) emulated them against FISCC.

Eathorpe E scraped home 3-2 in Division B against Free Church O despite a double from Joss Farmer. Jamie Sayer and Norbu Sunang-Joret took a single each and the doubles. Similarly, Free Church N crept home 3-2 when facing Eathorpe F with Church’s Oscar Dalrymple and Charlie Snelson and Eathorpe’s Cory Hancock and Max Turvey all winning once, the vital doubles going to Church.

Norton Lindsey B visited Eathorpe G and emerged 3-2 winners in the C division, Andy Mountney taking all 3 points with Ben Barker and debutant James Stone replying. Ashorne B’s Steve Handsley also figured in all 3 winning games against FC Q for whom Emily Beasley and Ciara Hancox took their first wins at this level. Free Church R pipped FC P 3-2 with Sophie Bethell and Carolyn Dorning taking a singles each and the doubles. Newcomer Dominic Priest captured P’s points.

In Division D Free Church V squeezed a 3-2 win out of Eathorpe H with Findlay Douglas winning two and Brody Speller one. Luca Bloodworth had a fine win and took the doubles with Free Church T (Chris Jones 2, Nicholas Ho 1 +D) beat FC U (Fran Singleton) 4-1