**National Schools Table-tennis championships**

**Courier 1st May 2015**

**Ten local youngsters went to the National Schools’ Championships at Tipton Sports Academy on Saturday and gave extremely good accounts of themselves. All players competing were County champions and were placed in initial groups of 5 with first and second going on to the last 16 .Ricardo Bolanos of School came second in his initial U11 Boys group defeating Lewis Rees of Norfolk, Kyle Ghanie of Northants and Luke Davis-Stokes, of Suffolk, his only loss being to Dylan Tynan of Cornwall. This took him to the knock-outs where he lost a very close match in 5 to Tom Rayner.**

**Nikit Sajiv also played in the U 11 Boys. Representing Surrey but now a pupil at Sydenham School, the 10 year old played exceptionally well to beat Joshua Webb the Black Country Champion , Matthew Wentworth of Lancashire and Alexander Robinson of North Yorkshire. Sajiv lost -6,-12 -11 to England number 31 Louis Price of Avon but qualified for the Finals where he lost in the first round to Naphong Boonyprapa of Notts. Sajiv will still be in this age group next year.**

**Robbie Fitchford of Warwick School narrowly missed out on Finals’ qualification in the U13 Boys finishing third. He lost -5,-11,-8 to England number one Ethan Walsh of Hertfordshire and in 4 to Devon’s Ben Edmunds but had eye-catching wins over Thomas Poynter of Hampshire, Kyle Day of Hereford and Worcestershire’s Alistair Witheford.**

**Sophie Rinnhofer of school made the last 16 in the Under 11 Girls. She beat Genevieve Holchaks of Lancashire, Laura Wharton of Leicestershire and Isabel McGerty of Suffolk, losing in 4 to Jasmine Williams of Herefordshire to take second spot. She then had a titanic battle with England number 36 Alana Mansfield from Essex, losing in 5.**

**Ciara Hancox of Princethorpe School played some exceptional table-tennis in the U 13 Girls. After losing to Devon’s Emily Haskell she defeated Chloe Pryke of Cambridgeshire, Loren Hutton of Cumbria and Vicky Hudson of North Yorkshire before playing England number 1 Charlotte Bardsley of Staffs. Hancox fell 4-11 in the first, was level for a long way in the second before falling to 7 and then took Bardsley to deuce in a game that she could easily have won. However, third spot was a very creditable return.**

**The afternoon events were marred by the organisers falling well behind the clock which affected the performance of many players. Myton’s Timmy Cooper just failed to qualify for the final stages in the U16 Boys but enjoyed good wins over Robert Reaton of Tyne and Wear and Naphat Boonyaprapa of Notts.**

**Fourteen year old Milan Sajiv the Surrey Champion but now also a Myton pupil played in the U 16 Boys as well. Despite failing to qualify for the later stages he demonstrated that with another two years in this age group he has lots of potential.**

**Sixteen year old Lee Dorning of Southam School played in the U19 boys and posted two excellent wins over Pruthui Padhiar of the Black Country and Jordan McGarry of Cheshire, just losing out on qualification.**

**Fifteen year old Lisa Rinnhofer of school had some close tussles in the U16 girls including a 5 set loss to Megan Dillon of Lancashire but will be eligible for this age group again next season.**

**Likewise fifteen year old Katie Singleton of North Leamington School gave away lots of years in the U19 girls but performed very well.**

**Lillington Free Church’s club president, England Ladies Champion Kelly Sibley was in attendance all day and gave lots of support and encouragement to the 8 players from her club.**