**Warwickshire County Closed Championships**

**The County’s Closed championships were held at St Nicholas Leisure Centre on Saturday and Sunday with the Colebridge club mirroringing the strength they have shown in the Leamington League by securing many of the top titles.**

**There were 11 groups in the Men’s singles with Ricardo Bolanos, Dave Ramsey, Sam Weaving and Sam Wiggins claiming 4 pole positions for Lillington Free Church, Anthony Ellis, Paul Lenormand and Ben Willson nailing three for Colebridge, and Steve Bertie of Continental Stars, Michael Browne of Smithswood, Simon Griew of County Council and Mark Jackson of St Georges taking the other 4 spots in the knock-outs. In the quarter-finals, Lenormand knocked out Weaving, Griew beat Wiggins in 5, Jackson defeated Ellis and Willson overcame Ramsey in 4. Lenormand beat Griew in one semi with his club-mate Willson seeing off Jackson in the other, both matches finishing 3-0. In the Final, Lenormand took the trophy 6,7 and 8**

**The Ladies Singles attracted 5 entries who played on a round robin basis. Again Colebridge proved top with Kate Hughes winning all 4 of her matches. Livvy Fletcher of Free Church was her nearest rival and notched the runners-up spot.**

**The Men’s doubles saw 4 clubs represented at the semi-final stage. Colebridge’s Lenormand and Willson defeated the strong County Council duo of Nilton Green and Simon Griew in an impressive straight sets win whilst the St Georges pairing of Mark Jackson and Earl Sweeney held off the challenge of Free Church’s Harry Purewal and Ramsey 11-9 in the 5th. Jackson and Sweeney went on to secure the title 3-1.**

**There were only three pairings in the Ladies doubles and it was no surprise to see the top two ladies win the event with ease. Hughes and Fletcher defeated the runners-up, Juliet Bertie of Continental Stars and Doreen Tierney of Smithswood 4,4 and 6.**

**In the mixed doubles Tierney and Sweeney swept to the semi-final but were cast aside by Hughes and Lenormand whilst Fletcher and Wiggins accounted for their Free Church club-mates Emily Beasley and Ricardo Bolanos. The Colebridge stablemates eclipsed their Final opponents 9,3 and 7 to send yet another senior trophy in the direction of Birmingham.**

**The Men’s restricted Final, which ruled out the top players, resulted in County Junior Jack Green of Free Church defeating Sweeney 3-1 after losing the first.**

**In the Ladies Restricted event Tierney thwarted another County Junior in Beasley when landing the trophy 11-7 in the 5th.**

**The Veterans events were arguably better supported than the Junior events. All age categories were mixed gender and 26 players contested the over 40s. The semi-finals saw Willson beat Stephen Robinson of Hamstead 11-5 in the 5th whilst Jackson overcame Rajinder Singh also of Hamstead 3-1. Jackson went on to take the title in straight games.**

**In the over 50s singles Steve Bertie won his semi-final against Owen Malcolm of Hamstead and Robinson triumphed against Tony Deren of Whitnash , both matches being won 3-0. Robinson won the Final 8,5 and 5.**

**Diane St Ledger of Smithswood, a former County singles champion, turned back the clock to power to the semi-final of the over 60s and showed too much guile for Bounville’s Robin Watts whom she beat 3-1. Terry Cooper of Streetley pipped Rob Whitaker of Stockingford in the other semi 11-9 in the 5th but he could not stop the run of St Ledger who landed the title 6,7 and 6.**

**The final veterans singles event was the over 70s where Cooper had the consolation of taking the trophy after beating Stephen Foster of JLM Academy 8,11 and 8.**

**None of the 5 strong County Junior team entered the junior events which gave several players the chance to showcase their considerable talents. There were 3 groups in the Junior Boys Singles with the winners going through to the semis. Free Church’s Josh Yarrow, who had beaten the number one seed Nathaniel Saunders in straight games in his group, received a bye whilst Henry Belcher of Colebridge just squeezed past Rugby’s Alex Bowe 11-7 in the 5th. The Final proved an even closer contest with Belcher winning 14-12 in the 5th.**

**The pair were also able to enter the restricted Junior Boys singles but on this occasion Belcher had an easier victory over Yarrow in the Final.**

**The Junior Girls singles had just three entrants. Colebridge’s Sophie Rinnhofer won her two singles to become Junior Champion whilst still a cadet with Free Church’s Eleanor Fletcher.**

**There were just three partnerships in the Junior Boys doubles. Belcher and Saunders, also of Colebridge took the trophies with Free Church’s Chris and Nicholas Ho finishing as runners-up, though it was the Yarrow brothers, Josh and Tom, who gave the winners their biggest scare going down in 5.**

**Four group winners contested the semi-finals of the under 15 singles. Number one seed Saunders ended Nicholas Ho’s charge 3-1 and Eduardo Bolanos of Free Church beat club-mate Nathan Jackson in the other semi. It proved to be a close Final with Saunders emerging as the winner after the match went to 5.**

**The under 15 Girls singles was a repeat of the Junior singles with Rinnhofer, Fletcher and Darwen finishing in the same order.**

**Two group winners went through to the Final of the under 13 Boys Singles where Saunders beat Chris Ho 4,8 and 11.**

**There were 3 entrants in the under 13 girls singles. Anya Sompura of Phoenix clinched the title with an 11-9 victory over Daya Chima ,another Phoenix member.**

**The under 11 Boys event did slightly better attracting 4 entrants. Wajid Wafiq of Smithswood won all 3 of his matches to become champion with Free Church’s Jun Chung emerging with two wins to finish as runner-up.**

**There was only one entrant in the under 11 girls singles so 10 year old Mia Chan from Free Church played in the under 13 event instead. Let’s hope she has some rivals next year!**

**County Cadets Day 3**

**Four teams from Lillington Free Church table-tennis club travelled to Wellingborough on Sunday to compete on Day 3 of the National Cadet League. The club had had the distinction of getting three sides into Division 1 after Day 2 but on Day 3 that distinction probably cost them higher League positions as the teams took points off one another.
The A team of Eduardo Bolanos, Tom Yarrow and Eleanor Fletcher were beaten 6-0 by leaders Corby Smash A (on 27 points). Knighton Park of Leicester, who ended the day in second (19 Points), were held to a draw with all the Lillington players returning one win. Lillington C and WDHA, Wellingborough, were dispatched 6-0 but their undoing came at the hands of their B club-mates who inflicted a 4-2 defeat on them. This puts them in 4th position on 16 points with Day 4’s scores to be added in March.**

**The B side exceeded expectations. They took a point off Corby with number 3 Chris Ho beating Edward Brown, lost 4-2 to Knighton with Chris Ho claiming both wins, hammered WDHA 6-0 and beat their C team 5-1. However, their main moment of glory came in the 4-2 win over A when Chris Ho won his two, Nicholas Ho won once and Joe Shrimpton also won once. This puts B in third place on 18 points.**

**The C team of Owain Jones, George Barnes and Daniel Stone lost 6-0 to Corby but the result nonetheless included a tremendous effort from Jones who lost narrowly in 5 to Alex Cochrane. C also went down 6-0 to their A team but took a point off B through a Jones victory and an impressive two points off Knighton with Barnes and Jones winning matches. They inflicted a crushing 6-0 win over WDHA to end the day in 5th with 7 points.**

**Chris Ho enjoys a 90% average, Bolanos and Yarrow have 60% Yarrow and Shrimpton returned 50%.**

**The D team played in Division 3 and enjoyed 3 wins out of 3. First up were Corby C who were beaten 8-1, Nathan Jackson and Harvey Wilson winning all their matches and Erin Darwen a twosome. Westfield of Wellingborough were next and were swept aside 6-3. Westfield’s number 1, Ben Aldridge, who was unbeaten on the day, won his three but Jackson was unlucky to lose to him 9-11 in the 5th and Chung also took him to 5. The crunch match came last when Church faced Rugby who included two players well known in the Leamington League. Matthew Burgess from Rugby won his three and Oliver Ferguson notched one but Jackson two, Erin Darwen two and Chung one saw their side home. FC D lead with 19 points to Rugby’s 17.**