



Week commencing 6th April 2009

At 11pm, as the table was taken down, there were new names on the trophies for the Mens and Ladies Singles Champions of the Leamington and District Table Tennis Association, two players having qualified a fortnight earlier putting in strong performances at Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club.

In the Mens final, Tristan Gretton, having ousted Simon Grew in the first semi final, faced Jon Hall who had beaten local favourite, Earl Sweeney. In a tight opening game, it was Gretton who combined some subtle touches with explosive winners to take an early lead, but from that point Hall's powerful game reaped dividends as he carved his name on the trophy at his first attempt, winning -9, 4, 8, 5.



John Hall (Free Church)



Charlotte Spencer
(St Georges)

The Ladies final was a tighter affair. In a game of youth versus experience, junior Charlotte Spencer got off to a lightning start with some strong top-spinning seeing her open up a 2-0 lead in next to no time. However, her opponent, former champion, Tracey Fletcher, was never likely to go down without a fight and pulled things around with some controlled play and devastating winners which took the final to a decider. It was nip and tuck all the way, but it was Charlotte who kept her nerve to take her first Ladies Singles title, winning 3, 4, -9, -6, 11.

The singles winners were also present in the doubles finals. Jon Hall partnered team-mate Ron Vose against Earl Sweeney and Mike Bishop. Hall and Vose won a reasonably comfortable first and followed it up by taking a tighter second and third set for the title. In the Ladies doubles, Charlotte Spencer was joined by Lleryn Brocklehurst and the duo faced off against Tracey Fletcher and Claire Cram. Charlotte and Lleryn won the first quickly, then lost the second with equal speed. A tense third set was taken at deuce by Charlotte and Lleryn, who completed victory 11-7 in the fourth.

Deepak Chandrababu led the way in the Mixed Doubles final, as he and partner Holly Thompson beat Mike Bishop and Charlotte Spencer in four sets. Deepak was solid at the table and excellent when defending off it, while Holly produced some excellent controlled blocking and positive service returns when facing Mike.



Holly Thompson (Eathorpe)
&
Deepak Chandrababu
(Enigmas)

The Junior Doubles was won in three straight sets by Lawrence Sweeney and Charlotte Spencer who were too strong for their plucky opponents Roald Myers and Niall Herbert. The Parent/Child Doubles was another straight-sets affair as Earl and Lawrence Sweeney breezed past Andrew and Tristan Gretton 5, 11, 4.

In the Veteran Ladies Singles, Marion Dixon got off to a flying start against Grace Newman, stayed solid in the second set and turned on the style in the third to complete a 3-0 win 5, 6, 3. The Veteran Mens singles saw Ron Vose open up a 2-0 lead over Mike Bishop, before Mike clawed his way back to 2-2. The deciding set went to the wire, with Ron finally getting over the line 11-9.



Ron Vose (Free Church)

Earlier in the evening, Ron and Mike had met in the Veteran Over 50 Singles. This match, too, was a five setter and once more the fifth was close. It was Ron who ended up walking off with both trophies, taking the Over 50s -8, 9, 7, -8, 8. Graham Hoskin was a comfortable winner of the Veteran Over 60 Singles, beating Malcolm Macfarlane 3-0.

The event had been started way back at 2pm with the Under 13 Girls Singles. This was contested by Jessica Champion and Imogen Evans, with Jessica running out a 3-0 winner. The Under 13 Boys title went to Luke Spencer in a four set win over Niall Herbert. The youngest players on show were the Under 11s. In the Boys event, Timmy Cooper's attacking game helped him to victory against Peter Armstrong, while in the Girls it was the extra consistency of Billie-Jay Jenkins which gave her a four-set victory over Olivia Fletcher.



Jessica Champion (Free Church)

Lawrence Sweeney was a 3-0 winner over Luke Spencer in the Under 15 Boys Singles, despatching some trade-mark hits from both wings along the way. Holly Thompson proved too strong for Jessica Champion in the Under 15 Girls as she completed a 3-0 win. Holly got off to a good start in the Junior Girls final, taking the first set 11-9. The loss of that set seemed to shake Charlotte Spencer into life and she then took the title by winning the following three.



Lawrence Sweeney
(St Georges)

The Junior Boys was taken in four close sets by Lawrence Sweeney at the expense of Phil Blowey. Phil mixed his game up well, but Lawrence's ability to pick off the loose shots was decisive. The Youth Singles saw Lawrence step on to the table again. He gave a good account of himself against Mens finalist, Tristan Gretton, and took him the distance, but it was Tristan who emerged victorious in the fifth.

The Handicap Singles saw two club-mates facing each other, with David Marguerie starting the race to 61 points with a 41-2 lead over Luke Spencer. The match went almost as close as it could have been, with David playing some exceptional backhands as the match neared its conclusion. The early flurry of points at the start of the match from Luke proved themselves to be crucial and with both players in the 50s, Luke hauled himself level and got over the line 61-59.

The Grade 1 Singles was won by Tristan Gretton. He was pushed to a 16-14 first leg win by Deepak Chandrababu, but found a little bit extra in the next two legs to pick up the trophy 14, 5, 6. Steve Proctor won the first set against Lawrence Sweeney in the Grade 2 final 11-9. He was then unlucky not to move into a 2-0 lead, missing out 14-16 in the second leg. Taking that tight leg gave Lawrence an injection of confidence and he duly completed his four set win -9, 14, 7, 7.



Tristan Gretton
(St Georges)

Phil Blowey beat his team-mate, Claire Cram, in the final of the Grade 3 Singles. He moved into a 2-0 lead before Claire found her range and took a comfortable third. Phil got back on track with some intelligent serving and took the fourth leg to win the title. Holly Thompson faced her club-mate, Graham Rose, in the Grade 4 final and smashed her way right through him 2, 4, 4. Sam Poland picked up a trophy in his debut season, winning the Grade 5 Singles 3-1 against fellow new-comer, Troy Pierce. Both players look to have a bright future.

The night was dominated by St Georges and Free Church, the two clubs having a winning hand in twelve and ten of the trophies respectively and also being the losing finalists in nine and ten of the events they did not win.

The League would like to thank all those spectators who turned out to lend their support and Kenilworth Wardens Cricket Club for hosting the event. A special thanks is reserved for the three umpires, Inky Moss, Geoff Taylor and Eric Teale, who gave their entire day to ensure that the games ran through smoothly.

The perpetual trophies will be presented to the winners at Presentation Evening, which is to be held on Friday 8th May 2009 at 7.30pm at St Patricks Irish Club in Leamington. The evening will consist of a quiz, with some excellent prizes on offer thanks to the donations from local businesses, and a carvery buffet. Tickets for the evening are priced at £14 for seniors and £12 for juniors and are available from Sue Turkmen. Further details are available on the web at <http://www.ldtta.co.uk>