



County Trials

11th September 2008

The weekend of 6th/7th September was a busy one for Warwickshire's young table tennis community, as the County Trials were held at Sydenham Sports Centre, Leamington. A number of Leamington players were involved, as well as players from outside the town who compete in the Leamington league.

Saturday saw the Talent Identification part of the weekend take place for the Under 11, Under 13 and Under 15 age groups, where the emphasis is not only on the end results, but also on how they play and how they conduct themselves on the table. In the girls category, all three age groups were mixed together to give the young ladies as many games as possible. From the round robin, it was Holly Thompson (U15, Eathorpe) who topped the table with a comfortable four wins from four, with Jessica Champion (U13, Free Church) finishing in second with three wins from four. Rugby's Louise Speake (U11) was involved in a tight battle for fourth place but succumbed in three close sets.



Holly Thompson
(U15 Girls)

The Under 11 and Under 13 Boys were also played together, with the top two in each of three groups going forward to contest places 1-6, the second two places 7-12, with the remainder playing for 13-15. In Group 1, Luke Spencer (Free Church) and Steven Ayers (Eathorpe) took first and second respectively, with Solomon Hayes and Charlie Snelson (both Free Church) finishing fourth and fifth. Group 2 saw Rugby player Liam Victorious progress in second place, while Niall Herbert (Free Church) finished third, David Marguerie (Free Church) fifth and Tom Claxton (Rugby) sixth. Group 3 was won by Jesse Kendrick-Hill (Rugby), as Simon Thompson (Eathorpe) finished third and Harry Holloway (Rugby) fourth.

In the positions 1-6 group, Jesse Kendrick-Hill finished in first place by winning all five of his matches, although he was pushed all the way in a couple of five-setters by second placed Luke Spencer and third placed Jack Styring (Birmingham). Jesse's cool head under pressure saw him through both times. Liam Victorious came in fourth, while Steven Ayres played well throughout the day to finish in a creditable sixth place overall. It was Niall Herbert who got the better of his opponents to clinch seventh place, with Simon Thompson coming in just behind him in eighth, Solomon Hayes tenth and Harry Holloway eleventh. Both David Marguerie and Charlie Snelson lost out in five sets to the same opponent and as a result finished fourteenth and fifteenth respectively.

Matthew Outhwaite (Rugby) coasted through his Under 15 group in first place to go forward and contest the 1-6 playoffs. Nick O'Connor (Rugby) finished third in Group 2, Ryan Lines (Rugby) finished second in Group 3, Laurence Sweeney (St Georges) topped Group 4 and Scott Delday (Free Church) finished third in Group 4.

Matthew Outhwaite duly finished in first place, Laurence Sweeney ended the day in third, Ryan Lines came in eighth, Scott Delday tenth and Nick O'Connor twelfth.

With the talent identification finished, proceeding moved on to Sunday and the trials for the Junior (U18) age groups, with players trying to finish as high as possible to earn the chance of selection in the Warwickshire representative matches for the coming season. Leamington players made up three of the four Junior Girls present, but none could stop Jessica Burbeck (Nuneaton) from taking first place without defeat. Charlotte Spencer (St Georges) finished second behind Jessica, Holly Savage (Eathorpe) finished third and Holly Thompson (Eathorpe) fourth.

Unfortunately for Leamington, there were no local Junior Boys competing in the trials and it was instead left for the Leamington league players of Rugby to try and excel. U15 winner, Matthew Outhwaite, topped Group 1, with Ryan Lines coming in fourth. Jack Randle won Group 2, Jesse Kendrick-Hill came third in Group 3 and Robin Eddie sixth in Group 4. In the playoff for positions 1-4, Matthew Outhwaite was involved in two five-setters, including a deuce-in-the-fifth against Jack Randle.



Jack Randle (U18 Boys)

Matthew's hard-work and determination saw him through both and propelled him to the top of the table with an unbeaten record. The remaining positions were not so clear cut, as all other players in the group had won once. Positions 2-4 were decided on count-back, with Jack Randle just taking second place ahead of Birmingham duo Shane Gales and Ian Anson. Jesse Kendrick-Hill managed to finish in overall twelfth place, Ryan Lines fifteenth, Cameron Eddie twentieth and Robin Eddie twenty-second.

At the end of the County Trials weekend, the top four players from each of the U11, U13 and U15 categories automatically qualify for the Regional Trials later in the season where they can try to progress forward to the National Trials. The qualifiers from the County Trials were as follows:

Girls U11

- Grace Taylor (Nuneaton)
- Louise Speake (Rugby)

- Jesse Kendrick-Hill (Rugby)
- Luke Spencer (Leamington)
- Jack Styrling (Birmingham)

Boys U11

- Harry Holloway (Rugby)
- Tom Claxton (Rugby)

- Liam Victorious (Rugby)

Girls U15

- Holly Thompson (Leamington)
- Sanika Karandikar (Birmingham)
- Jessica Burbeck (Nuneaton)

Girls U13

- Jessica Champion (Leamington)
- Abigail Whitelegg (Nuneaton)

Boys U15

- Matthew Outhwaite (Rugby)
- Mitchell Nash (Birmingham)
- Laurence Sweeney (Leamington)
- Ian Anson (Birmingham)

Boys U13

