



# Week commencing 01 March 2010

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Over the weekend of Saturday 20th / Sunday 21st February four young Leamington League players, Matthew Outhwaite (Rugby), Jessie Kendrick-Hill (Rugby), Luke Spencer (Free Church) and Holly Thompson (Eathorpe) joined with Jack Styring (Birmingham) to represent Warwickshire in the highest level of their age group of the County championship, the Premier Cadet division. The daunting prospect of facing the three top English counties, Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex all boasting highly ranked players plus the top Welsh team, Glamorgan, was made even harder



Left to right: Matthew Outhwaite, Jack Styring, Luke Spencer, Jesse Kendrick-Hill, Holly Thompson

because the county were not able to field a number two girl meaning we would concede two games in every match played. For the first time, three counties would be relegated.

Saturday started well with victory against the weakest team, South Yorkshire but three expected defeats against title contenders Middlesex, Surrey and Sussex left the team in seventh place after the first day. Sunday started with the news that South Yorkshire had dropped out and their matches, including our win, were void. The team faced a do-or-die situation, they must beat Cheshire and Nottinghamshire conceding two games to both. Nothing less than a complete team performance with everyone playing their part was needed.

One by one our young players stepped up to the table knowing they must win, often against stronger opposition, and match after match they raised their game to edge home. First Cheshire and then Nottinghamshire were overcome and barring freak results the county had managed to survive. Every player had committed themselves both physically and emotionally. The final match against Glamorgan was played in a blur of total exhaustion.

The final table showing Warwickshire as fifth and still in the premier division is just a statistic. The quality and determination of their performance against all the odds will be long remembered with pride.

In Division 1 of the Leamington league, Rugby A grabbed a draw out of their match with St Georges B. Ian Randle and Matt Outhwaite both won two, with Jack Randle adding the fifth. Nobody could touch Mark Jackson, who won his three for Saints with a classy display. Mark was backed up by Damon Fenton who won one plus the doubles with Mark.

Saints B followed up with a 6-4 win over St Georges A, who were a player short on the evening. Mark Jackson and Matt Jordan both won one and the pair took the doubles. Mike Bishop Won his three for the As and Jason Adams a single.

St Georges B ended a busy period with a convincing 8-2 win over WCC Bats with poker-ace Tristan Gretton returning to make a hat-trick winning cameo. Mark Jackson added two plus the doubles with Tristan, and Damon Fenton blasted a typically flare-filled two. Both Bats points came from Simon Griew.

Colebridge Aces were 8-2 winners against a strong Whitnash side with Ian Ferguson continuing his recent good form to win his three. Sarra Wang won two, coming within a whisker of a hat-trick, and grabbed the doubles with Ian. Ed Lynn completed the scoring with a single. Jon Williams took one for Whitnash and Andy Lebutt another – both showing plenty of fight to come through in five sets.

**T**he shock result of the week surely took place in Division 2, as previously unbeaten leaders, St Georges D, tasted defeat! Enigmas were the side to claim that scalp and did so by a score of 7-3 thanks to excellent performances from Dong Wei, Malcolm Macfarlane and Steve Proctor who all won two. Pete Dasher took his three for Saints, but Dong and Steve capped a great night's work with a straight-sets doubles.

Saints were not relishing the prospect of another defeat and got back to winning ways with a narrow 6-4 win against Nomads A. Laurence Sweeney won three, Charlotte Spencer two and the junior pairing added the doubles. Ian Beasley won two for Nomads and Andy Davies and Dot Macfarlane one each.

Nomads turned in another good performance and beat Whitnash B 6-4. Tony Thomas won his three, Andy Davies two and the pair took the doubles as well. Paul Ryman won two for Whitnash, Dennis Woodhead and Greg Swan one each.

St Georges C are looking favourites to claim second place after a ruthless 10-0 demolition against WCC Crocs. Gary Edwards, Len Coonan and Jimmy Pittaway secured the points.

**T**wo man FISSC still managed a 7-3 win over Division 3 opponents St Georges F. Mark Kingham and Brian Marston won three each plus the doubles against the basement boys.

Free Church D won their derby match against Free Church C 7-3, with Luke Spencer taking a hat-trick that was backed up by two from Phil Blowey and one from Claire Cram. Cherry Matthews won two and John Taylor one, before Luke and Phil completed the night with the doubles for the Ds.

Nomads B kept the pressure on their title rivals with a 10-0 win over Rugby E thanks to Dick Smith, Dave Harding and Ian Stevens.