



Week commencing 14th December 2009

At the Warwickshire Closed Championships, held on Sunday 6th December, Leamington League players put up a great showing, filling half of the fifty-six finalist places available! With seven of the finals being all-Leamington players, the total number of winners' trophies going to players from the league was an impressive fourteen.

Arguably the best performance of the competition came from Matthew Outhwaite who, not yet out of the cadets, punched above his weight to reach the Mens Singles final. Matthew did not have an easy route to the final though and his scalps en route included the number two seed, Ed Lynn, in the quarter-final which he won in five sets. Not content with that, Matthew proceeded to then knock out the third-equal seed, Steve Bertie in four nail-biting semi final sets. In the top half of the draw, number one seed, Mark Jackson struggled through his group, then looked to have recovered, before tasting defeat to Birmingham's Alan Caffery in the quarter-final. Alan faced Radek Mlynarczyk in the semi final, who had beaten Earl Sweeney in his quarter. The semi-final could not have been closer, with Radek finally edging it 12-10 in the deciding set.

The final was another five-setter. Radek took a tight first set 11-9, then followed up with a slightly more comfortable 11-7. All credit to Matthew, though, who regrouped and hit back with two highly impressive legs which he won 11-4 and 11-6 to take the final the distance. It proved to be Radek who was able to hold nerve in the end and his ability to produce some big shots under pressure secured him the title 11-7 in the fifth.

There were no shocks in the first round of the Ladies Singles, as the four seeds all made it through to the semi-finals. Top seed, Helen Turner, had the chance to take revenge on Charlotte Spencer who had beaten her a couple of weeks earlier at the County weekend and an assured performance took her in to a 2-0 lead. Charlotte did well to fight back and grab the third leg at deuce, but Helen was not to suffer a second defeat and wrapped up the fourth set with ease.

The bottom semi-final pitted second seed, Dawn Sagoo, against Samantha Meredith. The legs were all close, but Sam showed good determination to take them all and advance to the final 9,9,10. In the final, Sam continued where she had left off in the semi and was unstoppable in the first leg, taking in 11-4. Helen didn't fare much better in the second, losing it to 6, but upped her game in the third leg. Unfortunately for Helen, it was too little too late as Sam claimed a vocal third leg 12-10 and with it the Ladies Singles trophy.

The Mens Doubles was won by Radek Mlynarczyk and Jarenda Patel, who beat former champions Andy Lebutt and Dave Grundy in five sets. The Ladies Doubles gave Helen Turner the chance to grab a title and she duly took it with partner Holly Thompson. Helen and Holly made light work of Sam Meredith and Sanika Karandikar,

beating them in three comfortable sets. The Mixed Doubles went to the number two seeds, Mark Jackson and Charlotte Spencer. They had a straight sets win over number one seeds Mike Bowne and Dawn Sagoo.

The Junior Boys competition went to seeding, seeing Jack Williamson come through the top half of the draw, beating Amann Ubhi in his semi final, and Matthew Outhwaite progressing through the bottom half at the expense of Laurence Sweeney in his semi. Jack lost the first leg in the final and replied with two rapid fire ones before Matthew levelled. The deciding set was more akin to legs one and four, with Jack finally winning through 11-9.

In a round robin group for the Junior Girls singles, Charlotte Spencer took two wins from two to finish top and get her hands on the trophy. Sanika Karandikar beat Holly Thompson to secure the runner-up spot.

Matthew Outhwaite was at it again in the Cadet Boys singles, cruising through to the final with little trouble. In it, he faced Laurence Sweeney, who had put out Jesse Kendrick-Hill in the semi. Despite losing the first leg, Laurence dominated proceedings and picked up the winner's trophy -9, 3, 4, 7.

The Cadet Girls was another round-robin affair. Holly Thompson cruised to success against her less experienced opponents, with an accomplished error-free performance. Olivia Fletcher finished second, having gotten the better of Milly Bradshaw.

Niall Herbert won a closely fought Under 13 Boys final against Simon Thompson. Simon had topped his group to reach the final, while Niall defeated Timmy Cooper at the semi-final stage. Simon got off to a great start, winning the first leg, but ultimately lost in five sets as Niall won -5, 3, 5, -9, 4.

Jessica Champion was the Under 13 Girls champion, topping the group of three from Milly Bradshaw and Olivia Fletcher. In the Under 11 Girls, it was a straight contest between Milly and Olivia, which Milly won in three straight sets. The Under 11 Boys was yet another round-robin and Timmy Cooper overcame his club-mates Andres McIlvaney and Tom Sharpe to win the title, with Andrew finishing as runner-up.

The Junior Doubles was a contest between two Birmingham pairings; one from Colebridge and one from Kingshurst. Young Jack Styring, partnering the talented Jack Williamson more than played his part as the pair won the title -4, 11, 10, 8 at the expense of the Colebridge pairing of Lee Holtham and Amann Ubhi.

Simon Griew landed a first county title in Warwickshire by holding aloft the Veterans Mens Single trophy. Simon beat Steve Bertie in the semi final, before taking Mike Browne out in the final, who had beaten Steve Robinson in his semi. Dawn Sagoo won the Ladies Veterans in a round-robin which saw Ann Lloyd finish as runner-up ahead of Joanna Outhwaite.

Mike Bishop faced a battling John Taylor in his Over 50s semi final, but came through in four sets. In the other half of the draw, Graham Hosking had a semi-final win over Phil Paine, but was no match for Mike who won the final three straight. Malc Macfarlane was

an unstoppable force in the Over 60s, beating Roger Ellington in a comfortable final. Brothers Steve and Lester Bertie won the Veterans Doubles by beating Andy Lebutt and Dave Grundy 4, 8, -4, 6.

In the Restricted Singles events, Jack Williamson beat Simon Griew in the Mens and Samantha Meredith beat Charlotte Spencer deuce in the fifth in the Ladies. The Restricted Boys title went to Amann Ubhi, who beat Luke Spencer, with the Restricted Girls going to Sanika Karandikar who beat Holly Thompson.