

Junior League

The 2007/2008 season commenced in earnest on Sunday 16 November 2008 at the Filton WISE Academy with many junior players from last season looking forward to doing battle once again with their adversaries, along with a good number of new players taking part for their first time too, which always bodes well for the future. There were also three new clubs which were welcomed into the league (Saints, Thornbury and Civil Service Titans), and so a full compliment of twenty four teams were conveniently split into three divisions comprising eight teams in each for this season's Junior League matches. The only blemish on the day was that although we were reliably informed twice during the morning that we had the use of the hall until at least 12.30, we were then asked at 11.55 to vacate by mid-day! In the pandemonium which followed, there were a high number of matches that were unable to be completed, and one table suffered some unwarranted abuse. A small olive green jumper was also left behind in the rush, so if you think this may belong to you, or your name just happens to be Kermit, please come along and collect it at the next event.

Division One

With about half of last season's Division One players moving on, including the likes of last year's boy's champion **Michael Qian**, and **Jamie Hutchinson** who are now playing in Division One in the adult league, this has paved the way a new champion to be crowned, and at the end of the first round of matches, no less than six junior players are unbeaten.



However, **Jess Coggins** (Knowle & Brislington A) was the only one of those who did not even lose a single set, and therefore currently heads the individual averages, but there is a long way to go yet. Jess is shown above left just clipping the net again in her 14-12, 11-5 win over **Clare Sykes** (Saints), who herself has stepped up two divisions this season, but will surely improve her game even further this year as a consequence. The competitor who ended up playing the highest number of games in this division was **Ryan Jemmott** (Nailsea A). Ryan played his four individual matches, along with two doubles matches, and only one was completed in two sets. Having lost 15-13 in the third set to **Tim Webb** (Bridgwater B), Ryan then managed to just beat **Mike Elliott** (Nailsea B) in his next set 16-14 to record the highest scoring game in this division so far. In all, Ryan played 350 points – and that does not include his unfinished match against Knowle & Brislington A!

Division Two

Matt Gillard (Bridgwater C) ended last season with an impressive 72% individual average in Division Three, and now holds a 100% average in Division Two. He is joined, though, by the only other unbeaten player, **Phillip Thomas** (Civil Service Titans), who is playing in the Junior League for the very first time. When these two meet next time, it should certainly be one to watch. Fielded by **Callam Parkins** and **Warren Taylor**, Cleve & Claverham B head



the division by one point from Almonds A, who this season are represented by **James Ledger**, **Stuart Wood** and **Jacqueline Page** (*see left*), but Bridgwater C have only played two matches so far, and are the only unbeaten side. Knowle & Brislington D were the only side in all three divisions unable to field a team on the opening day, and will probably find themselves having to “double up” on some of their matches next time around.

Division Three

Sam Cross (Bridgwater D) is the sole junior player who has remained in this division from last season, and should do well in this year's averages. However, in his very first match of the day, he came up against newcomer **Tom Clarke** (Nailsea C), and succumbed 7-11, 6-11. Tom is one of only three players who ended the day on 100%, the others being **Tim Parker** (Nailsea C) and **Marcus Czemerys** (Knowle & Brislington E), with both of their teams jointly heading the division at the end of the day. Almonds B should also not be underestimated in third place, having just lost out 2-3 to Knowle & Brislington E, with four of their five matches being decided in the fifth set, and the remaining match being won 12-10 in the second set. However, it was another Almonds team player, **Matt Bromwich** (Almonds C), who has remarkably set the highest set score over all three divisions so far, in his match against club-mate **Shane Jenkins** (Almonds B), although the pressure seemed to have told on him, and he eventually lost 17-15, 3-11, 5-11.

Please note that the next round of matches takes place on **Sunday 14 December 2008**. However, on **Monday 29 December**, there will be the annual Christmas Tournament at the same venue, so don't forget to get your entries in via your coaches as soon as possible, or at the next round of Junior League matches. This is a free and fun event to all registered Junior League players, and everybody will find themselves playing plenty of matches on the day. Playing times will be announced shortly on the website.
