

Bowls

Clubs to hold open sessions

THE outdoor bowls season is underway and two long established clubs in Chelmsford are eagerly seeking new members with people who have probably never tried the game.

The RHP club in St Fabians Way and the Princess Marie Louise Club in Bradford Street are both holding open sessions where they welcome people of all ages to go along and try.

The RHP club is holding its come and try day this Saturday from 10am until 2pm.

The current club members play in men's, women's and mixed leagues and enjoy a keen rivalry with local bowls clubs.

Their club coach and other experienced members will be on hand to give advice to potential bowlers. The only stipulation is that flat soled shoes must be worn on the green.

For further details call Alby Evans on 01245 443232, or Alan Brown on 01245 600535.

The Princess Louise Bowling Club, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, will have its come and try day on June 4 starting from 10am.

Give committee member Roger Ludlow a call on 01376 530768 for more information.

Darts & dominoes

North section no-show ruins singles comp

RIDLEY League fixtures secretary John Steele hit out in disgust this week after a no-show by North Section clubs turned another individual competition into near-farce.

Six weeks ago, only one pair from the Braintree/Dunmow area contested the men's event at Chelmsford City FC.

This time, Steele was furious as four women fought out the North Section singles qualifier at Dunmow's Fritch Snooker Club.

"It's a waste of my time and an insult to the other players," he said. "I've tried to spread these competitions around - but what's the point, when clubs don't support their own event? There wasn't even a Fritch player there."

CCFC's Rose Mallord saw off the challenge of Mel Parradine and Shirley Clark (Chequers) to earn a ticket to her second final, having already qualified in the mixed with Allan Sheldrake.

Absent

The absent New Barn apart, there was a better turn-out for the South qualifier at Mill Green Cricketers, where reigning champ Carol Hughes lost in her first match to the host club's Caroline Kochan.

Marion Wiley, the 2009 title-holder, who had serious trouble in beating Georgina Fitzwater (Lt Waltham SC) at the same stage, saw off team-mate Kochan to earn a semi-final against Hazel Rolfe, who survived an all-Bird in Hand match against Debbie Jackson.

Wiley won through without conceding a leg; but organiser Steele complimented the often-overlooked Bird team, pointing out: "Almost all of them turned up to support their girls. They could teach a few clubs a lesson."

The postponed April league meeting will be held at the New Barn next Monday (May 9).

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Morland shines in front of huge crowd

Two victories for Witham rider at Stebbing Scramble

Motocross

A HUGE crowd were entertained to some exciting and close finish racing at the annual Stebbing Scramble on Sunday with some spectacular action in the Sidecar Clubmans' event which drew 28 sidecars from all over the country.

Despite problems with the wind and dry ground organisers, Dunmow Motorcycle Club, held nine races with only one having to be stopped when a solo rider, Ed Delaney, riding in his home village, came to grief on landing after a jump on the church straight.

Grief

As the race had gone more than half the distance it was not rerun.

The open solo racing was dominated by Jason Morland of

Witham with two wins, and a second from Clint Wright, of Stebbing, who had one win and two seconds.

The NGR championship was dominated by Steve Bottoms from Ware who had two wins and a second, Jake Morphey from Yoxford picked up the other win and also had a second and a fourth to finish second overall.

The sidecar racing formed the second round of the British Clubmans' Championship, each of the three legs was won by Neil and Michael Franks from Lancing, closely followed by Brett Wilkinson (Portsmouth) and Ross Parmenter (Hatfield Peveral) in each race, third place was claimed by Dave Goddard and Scott Cooper from Woodley.

■ The next local event is grasstrack racing, hosted by the 500cc Sidecar Association, at Good Easter on May 15 at 1pm.



LEADING: Sidecar winners (No 198) Neil Franks and Michael Franks followed by David Keane and Lewis Luxford

Photos by Gareth Morgan



RACING AHEAD: (No 3) Witham's Jason Morland in the lead closely followed by (No 31) Clint Wright and (No 63) Matthew Skeet

Bailey's luck improves with a top four finish

Motorsport

THRUXTON race circuit saw a change of fortunes for young Maldon racing driver Brad Bailey when he competed in the Ginetta G40 Junior championship at the Hampshire track at the weekend.

Brad, 16, has suffered at the hands of other errant drivers in previous rounds but at last survived to finish at the sharp end of the grid.

Qualifying fifth, he finished his first race on Saturday in fourth place.

Come Sunday's race he again took fifth spot on the grid and after the first lap had moved up to fourth.

He held off the challenges of Struan Moore for the majority of the race and at the chequered flag secured fourth place and now stands 10th overall in the championship.

Turning point

After the race Brad said: "I hope Thruxton is a turning point."

"After being punted off the track at both Brands Hatch and Donington, I at last had a two clean races which resulted in my best results so far in the Ginetta Juniors."

Tom Onslow-Cole showed his class by giving the Essex-based AmD Milltek team its best ever



HAPPY: Brad Bailey

sixth place in qualifying and finished race one in seventh.

A cracked exhaust manifold on the VW Golf sidelined him from race two and with the reverse grid system operating for race three he lined-up on row 10 and finished in tenth place at the flag.

George Murrells, from Danbury, kept up his steady form with fourth place in his first race in his Ginetta G55 and after the second race was restarted after a start line crash he again took fourth place in an incident-packed race.

Great Dunmow's Alex Lynn was on top form in the Formula Renault UK Championship and kept up his championship challenge with a superb win in Sunday's race and also set a new lap record at Thruxton.



CUP WINNERS: Chelmsford City Under-9s

Three and easy for Clarets

CHELMSFORD CLARETS U9 . . . 3
ONGAR JUNIORS B U9 0
(Chelmsford Youth League U9 Cup Final)

THE City boys looked very nervous at the start with Luke Stebbing and Max Norton Steele at the back seeing most of the ball in the City team.

After 10 mins City settled and started playing the Claret way. Harry Crocker and Max Bushell began to dominate the midfield and pushed the Ongar defence further back.

Youth football

A neat piece of footwork on the penalty box by Crocker provided a penalty for City but Jakey Morgan hit the crossbar with his spot kick.

The second half City was hungry and knew they had to seek the first goal early on in the second half and it came from a Morgan header.

Carter Rowe added a second for City before Harrison sealed victory with a late third goal.

Golf

Last green joy for duo

THE Forrester Park Golf Club's representatives in the Daily Mail Foursomes, Phil Prior and Colin Loveridge won their second round match against a low handicap pairing from Stock Brook Manor albeit only scraping home on the last green.

The club team in the Thornton Cup competition had a home draw against Ilford and at lunchtime, were trailing by two matches to three after the foursomes.

This deficit proved to be critical, as the afternoon singles were shared and Ilford won by one game.

Some of the vets played a stableford won by Tom Nugent with 40 points.

Bill Bartlett was second with 39 points, with Phil Prior and Peter Murrell on 38 points in third and fourth places.

The Easter mixed competition was played as an American greensomes and this was won convincingly by Bas and Zera Patel with 45 points.

Carol and Mike Manning were second with 40 points, beating Irene and Eric Hoffman on count back.

Charity cash raised

THE Channels Golf Club held the Terry Eaton Charity Day and raised £755.

This year the gentlemen from the Viagra Swindle plus those from the Loft Swindle and others played a stableford four better ball competition which was won by Phil Smith and Colin Mulinger with 50 points.

The Channels Ladies' bronze team travelled away to Belfairs in what was a good equal match with three wins and three losses leaving it all resting on Channels' Maxime Dowman to secure the one up win.

On Thursday the ladies played their Rover Cup and produced a winner in Jacky Cato who shot a gross 78 and off her seven handicap, a net 71.

Dowman came in second with a scoreline of 94-22-72 just pipping the lady captain, Caroline Fields, into third place on count back.

May started with Channels playing the first round of the Thornton Cup against Loughton. Channels did enjoy the home status and won.

Levermore first back

THE first Essex professional home in the Jamega Tour at the Vale of Glamorgan was Jason Levermore (Clacton) with a 147, one over par followed by Andy Shakespeare (Five Lakes) with a 149, three over par.

A total of 121 professionals teed up for this second round tournament won by Andrew Johnston with a total score of 144, two under par.

THE Easter Cup played at Regiment Way Golf Centre by both men and lady club members was won by Charlie Ross who scored 45 points playing off his handicap of 24.

Bob Kesav (17 handicap) was second with 43 points.

Putting the ladies in the frame Jacqui O'Connell was third with 42 points off her 25 handicap.

CHELMSFORD Golf Club played the fourth round of the Mail on Sunday competition on Saturday.

The competition consists of five singles under the captain Phil Hulse and the final score was Chelmsford 3-2 Stoke by Nayland.