

Sport

SKITTLES

High scores delivered in well-fought encounter

REBELS and Brewers Arms both floored 450 in a high-scoring tie at Norton Sports Club in the Worcester and District League Division Two.

Rebels had legs of 90 and 100, while Brewers best efforts were legs of 95 and 96.

Top score for Rebels was D Morrison with 46, while R Stanley scored 53 for Brewers, currently the highest individual away score for the division.

Results:
Division One: Young Uns 430 (2) (G Hobbs 43 M Grainger 42), Playboys 447 (9) (Ph Wilding 46 N Newport 45 R Taylor, J Balance, P Smith 40), XS Pins 344 (0) (T Burford 36), Old Reynards 395 (11) (C Griffiths, G Drew 38), Scaplehorn 441 (11) (L Edwards 42 N Whittaker 41 I Simpson, P Wyatt 40), Barbourne BC 385 (0) (D Jeffrey 41), Saints 404 (9) (M Robbins 44), Budgies 401 (2) (D Jones 40), Warlords 364 (1) (G Rudge 36), Westsiders 399 (10) (L Thomas 44), Back Scuttlers 389 (9) (J Wright, C Low 39), Avengers 379 (2) (B Taylor 39).

Division Two: Hanley Sports 416 (10) (T Hudson 41 T Tudge 40), Redhill Dropouts 387 (1) (R Harrison 37), Misspins 436 (10) (A Phillips 48), Droitwich RBL 418 (1) (K Francis 44), Sary's Z 411 (10) (D Roberts 40), Poachers 392 (1) (M Amphlett 43), Rebels 450 (8) (D Morrison 46 D Robinson 45 B Clarke 44 R Crutchley 43), Brewers Arms 450 (5) (R Stanley 53 C Powell 42 A Wills 41), Arbos 426 (10) (A Jones 46 R Green 41), Newsmen 405 (1) (K Smith 41).

Division Three: Hallow 'A' 364 (1) (W Hodgetts 38), Tearaways 385 (10) (C Franklyn 40), Woodmen 372 (1) (S Taylor 38), Vikings 383 (10) (J Stock 41), Cradley Sports 418 (11) (C Hudspeth 45), Maple Syrup 372 (0) (B Walton, J Hunt 40), Fosters 361 (9) (B Newman 35), Outsiders 346 (2) (K Farmer 34), Heenans 'A' 380 (9) (A Morgan 37), Monarchs 366 (1) (L Genever 41).

TENNIS

Bromsgrove impressive

BROMSGROVE men's 'B' team took on David Lloyd Bromsgrove 'B' in a Worcestershire Winter League Division Three clash.

David Lloyd were keen to get revenge after their 'C' team lost to Bromsgrove 'C' last month, but things didn't go their way as Bromsgrove ran out 4-0 winners, without dropping a set.

Captain Steve Jones, playing with ever improving junior Ollie Stratford, beat Hampton and Dennison 6-3, 6-4 and also despatched Farmer and Steele 6-1, 7-5.

Bromsgrove's Ash Rutter and Matt Smith beat Hampton and Dennison 7-6, and 6-2 and there was a straightforward success against Farmer and Steele as they dropped only two games, winning comfortably 6-1, 6-1.

Hudson-Smith eyes indoor grand prix

ATHLETICS

MATTHEW Hudson-Smith was one of the breakthrough athletics stars of 2014 — and he insists 2015 is going to be even better.

Hudson-Smith, 20, powered England to gold in the 4x400m relay at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. He repeated the feat with Great Britain in Zurich's European Championships and added individual silver.

But home is where the heart is for the Wolverhampton-born athlete and the opportunity to compete in front of a home crowd in next Feb-

ruary's Sainsbury's Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham is a big incentive during long and cold winter training sessions.

"I used to watch the Sainsbury's Indoor Grand Prix when I was younger," said Hudson-Smith, who is studying PE and sports coaching science course at the University of Worcester.

"I think the whole indoor season is what got me involved in the sport.

"Watching it at an early age got me hooked and to have an opportunity to race there would be quite cool, especially in my home city.

"Just racing for family friends and people from Birmingham would be amazing opportunity.

"The highlight for me this season was the gold and silver in Zurich. I didn't think I'd get selected and it was my first ever individual championship and I came away with two medals. It was amazing and I couldn't believe it.

"My coach has had a plan

for me since I was 14 and now the plan has come to fruition. I don't think I'll have as big a leap as dropping four seconds again but there will definitely be a lot quicker times in there.

"It's good to have a good indoor season because it will prepare you for the outdoor season and show you where you are."

Hudson-Smith's productive season has not gone unrecognised, with British Athletics rewarding the 20-year-old with top-tier lottery funding. As he embarks on a degree

at the University of Worcester, Hudson-Smith admits the injection of funds is much needed in a hectic season.

"Now that I've gone to uni I think it would be very hard without funding. I hope to use that funding wisely so that I can improve."

• Sainsbury's Indoor Grand Prix takes place in Birmingham on Saturday, February 21. Sainsbury's partnership with athletics reflects its wider commitment to inspiring healthy lifestyles for all, and complements its grassroots campaigns.

FOOTBALL

Cobras shine in Junior League

WORCESTER'S Nunnery Wood Cobras Under Eights (pictured left) play in the Mercian Fortis Junior Football League after a successful first season at under-seven level in the Stourport and District Youth League.

They are building well on the success of their first season with some fine results boosted by kit sponsorship from Chadwick Forrester Building Services Ltd.

The Cobras were formed at the beginning of 2014 by players and parents attending Woody's Development Centre, which is an integral part of the Nunnery Wood Colts set-up.

Woody's is for boys and girls under seven with an interest in football. It runs from 9am every Saturday morning at Blessed Edward Oldcorn Catholic College.

Nunnery Wood Colts FC is a Football Association "Charter Standard" status club which signifies the club is correctly administered and operated in accordance with the exacting standards of the Football Association.

It currently runs 21 football teams each weekend across all ages from under eights.



Success as Worcester win through to the final

THE Worcester club continued its excellent 2014 by securing a place in the West Midlands final of the National League.

This is the most prestigious club competition of the year and competing in the Premier Division, the standard of swimming is exceptionally high.

The successful Worcester team now look forward to a final at which they will compete against the best of the best including for City of Derby with double Commonwealth and European 100m breaststroke champion Adam Peaty.

SWIMMING

Round two saw Worcester renew its rivalry with Bicester plus 2013 league champions, Boldmere, who proved worthy runaway winners on the night.

With a place in the final for the top two teams only, it was always going to require a special effort and the Worcester swimmers duly obliged, stepping up on an excellent round one performance.

In the end, it came down to the narrowest of margins with Worcester pipping Bicester by just one point for that invaluable second place.

The final points were Boldmere 248, Worcester 178, Bicester 177, Stourbridge 152, Chase 148, Long Eaton 142.

Worcester victories were hard to come by with just five, all in the under 13 age group.

Olivia Fletcher continued her rich run of form with a remarkable one minute 2.91 seconds to win the 100m freestyle, while Sophie Davis produced a stunning personal best of 1.22.52 to win the 100m breaststroke.

Unsurprisingly, the girls were unstoppable in the relays, taking both the medley and freestyle. Jenny Geary,

Amy Owens, Charlotte Hall and Ellie McGinnes combining successfully with Fletcher and Davis to dominate.

The only other Worcester win came in the boys under 13 100m freestyle where Kai Gooden-Morris led all the way to record a personal best and earn his team six vital points.

There were many other fine Worcester performances too, highlighted by George Glover (2nd u11 50m breaststroke), Lucy Clayton (2nd u15 100m breaststroke), Megan Willetts (2nd open 200m individual medley and 100m backstroke) and Robin

Williams (2nd open 100m butterfly).

There was also the excellent u11 boys squad of Daniel Day, Tom Cox, Max Rice, Sam Hartley and Isaac Shepherd who finished second in both the freestyle and medley relays.

Overall, Worcester finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd in exactly half of the 50 events, but based on top three places alone, the team would have finished well behind Bicester.

It was strength in depth that saw Worcester eventually squeeze home narrowly ahead of the talented Bicester squad.