

TABLE TENNIS

Title race is all Rovers as Knowle clinch glory

KNOWLE ROVERS clinched the Portsmouth League division two crown with a 9-1 triumph over **Cowplain Blue**.

Hat-tricks by Graham Taylor and Trevor Farrow and an Alan Baldwin double sealed the win.

Keith Ginn played a blinder to notch a treble for **Avenue Dodos** and lift them off the bottom with a draw against **Cowplain Alexandra**.

Avenue Puffins stayed on course for runners-up medals with a 7-3 win over **Phoenix Satellites** thanks to doubles by Mike James, Brian Greenwood and Ricky Hensman.

In division one, Dave Morgan won his first rubber of the season but could not stop **Sporting St Clares** losing 8-2 to **Portsmouth Black**.

Black then beat **Generation Kings** 9-1 margin as James Mason and Adam Fuzes hit consecutive hat-tricks.

Portsmouth Purple beat **Soberton A** 8-2 to stay top.

Martin Matuzevicius and Jimmy Yeung hit trebles but there was a huge shock as Wojciech Placek lost to Robin Plunkett in five sets having beaten Dave Woodacre 11-9 in the fifth.

Cowplain Cocktails beat **Knowle Tenacity** 7-3 with maximums from Billy Edwards and Roger Winkworth.

Generation Kings beat club-mates **Generation Jacks** 6-4 with three wins by Danny Lucking.

Division three leaders **Portsmouth Red** have dropped just one point and this week thumped **St Clares Swifts** 9-1 with trebles by Damien Allen and Thomas Poynter.

Portsmouth Crimson leapfrogged **Knowle Valiant** with a resounding 9-1 victory.

Eric Linsell and son Dylan were unbeaten, along with Mike Lee.

PW Red beat whipping boys **Lovedean** 7-3, **St Clares Swifts** defeated **Nuffield** 6-4 despite a Lyn Candlish hat-trick.

Swimming

Swimmers gearing up to win county crowns

Youngsters to swim in heats and then finals in a new format of the Hampshire competition

by SHAKILA BARABHUIYA

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THE BEST swimmers from across the county will be battling it out in the second round of the Hampshire County Championships this weekend.

Age group swimmers from nine through to 14 will go up against each other for coveted county honours at Waterloo Leisure Centre.

Portsmouth Northsea, Fareham Nomads, Havant & Waterlooville and Locks Heath will all be represented at the annual event.

The action begins at 9.30am today and 9am on Sunday – with two sessions each day.

This year, there will be a new format to the competition, where youngsters will swim in heats and then medals will be decided strictly on the placings in the final.

Previously, the top three positions were decided according to the British Age Group Categories (BAGCAT) and an accumulation of results across different disciplines.

That is all set to change and Havant & Waterlooville head coach Graham Pople is all in favour of it.

He said: 'It used to be like that when I started coaching 25 years ago.'

'I think it's a good idea. They want children to be able to perform on the spot at a younger age with a relative amount of pressure.'

Speaking about his club's prospects, Pople said: 'I'm looking to make as many finals as possible.'

'I would like to be represented in all of them.'

Havant have 28 swimmers across the age groups with Matthew Pullen,



TOP PROSPECT Havant swimmer Lucy Peers is expected to be among the medals at the county championships

11 and his older brother Luke, 13, expected to win medals.

Elena Ward, 13, and Lucy Peers, 12, are also expected to finish in the podium places in their respective categories.

Locks Heath will have 11 swimmers competing in 44 events and for six of them it will be their first county championships.

Josh Beaudro, 11, qualified for the event on the last possible day and will be joined by fellow debutants James Hall, Amelia Ayling, May Fletcher, Shannon Lamb and Lucy Newton.

Head coach Lynda Reid said: 'For some of them, like Josh Beaudro, it's

a major thing just to make the county championships and they will be going there for the experience.'

Kyle Kirkland and Evelyn Hall will be ones to look out for this weekend.

Hall, 12, defends her 50m and 200m backstroke titles, while Kirkland is a strong contender in the backstroke and breaststroke events.

Thomas Larby, Arabella Suttie and Jessica Larby will also be in action.

Fareham Nomads have a dozen representatives at the championships – an increase on last year.

Ellen Jewell, who has just turned 10, will be in the mix in the freestyle and backstroke 50m, 100m and 200m, as

well as the 50m butterfly and the 200m individual medley.

Head coach Stewart Crowe said: 'Daisy Ireland was at the county championships last year and swam in the B team relay but this year she's qualified for 12 events.'

'She's made a lot of progress.'

'Jo Davis, who competed last weekend in the 400m and 1,500m relays, has started off well so I expect more from him.'

Davis is returning for a second year alongside Maddy Thompson, 12, and Oliver Burton, 14.

The championships continue next weekend at the Mountbatten Centre.

Ladies' championship race hots up... JEM Hamble reign in second tier



CHAMPIONS JEM Hamble's men's division two winners Zander Woodford-Smith, Andy Long, Mark Turl and Wasif Cheema

THE TITLE race is hotting up in Portsmouth & District League ladies' division one as contenders Avenue, Ryde Lawn and Ventnor all recorded victories.

The right to represent the competition in the Solent Cup will go right to the wire with Avenue facing home and away clashes with Ryde Lawn in their last two matches.

Warsash II remained in the driving seat in the second tier after a 3-1 win over Lee II.

They need just one point from their final match to clinch the title but opponents Avenue have a chance to snatch promotion with a win.

TENNIS

by ALAN BEST

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Portsmouth Tennis Academy (PTA) and Seacourt II are certain to finish first and second in division three.

PTA sit in top spot after a 4-0 win over Rowlands Castle.

But Seacourt still have to face strugglers Avenue III twice and can seal the title with two wins.

Sarisbury Green beat Southsea II in division four but could not beat the drop.

Meanwhile, Lee III won 3-1 at Ryde Lawn III to grab second spot.

In the fifth tier, the all-conquering JEM Hamble beat Avenue IV 3-1.

Alverstoke II edged a close match with Lee IV by just a single set to claim promotion.

In men's division two, JEM Hamble secured the title with a 4-0 win over relegated Southsea II.

Priory II also went down after conceding victory to runners-up Avenue.

Lee II beat Ryde Lawn II 4-0 but the win was not plain sailing as all four rubbers

went to champions' tie breaks and the game score was 40-39.

Mixed division two title hopefuls Ryde Mead stumbled to a 3-1 defeat to Alverstoke.

Angela Meech and Jason Booker were the hosts' stars, winning both their rubbers, including the decisive one against previously unbeaten pairing, Keith Willis and Millie Coombes.

The result means JEM Hamble are certain to be champions after a 3-1 win over Rowlands Castle.

Unbeaten Ryde Lawn III inflicted a first defeat on Avenue II in division three with a 3-1 success.