

# City mountain bike team target 2010 success

CITY mountain biking aces are looking to enhance their reputation as one of the best clubs in the country.

Plymouth-based Team Certini-McCaulay's are looking to build on their success of 2009 when they made a big impression on the national mountain bike scene.

The team, backed by the Certini Bicycle Company and McCaulay's Health Club, will be targeting the British Mountain Bike Series and the National Championships.

Top rider Maddie Horton will be entering her fourth year in the elite category and aims to finish the British Mountain Bike Series in a top three position, as well as claiming a podium place in the National Championships.

She also plans to defend the English Marathon title she won in 2009.



## CYCLING

Husband Jay is aiming to finish the British Mountain Bike Series in a top 10 position in the masters category and will also be targeting top 10 finishes in each of the endurance races held this year.

The Hortons are also organising a Summer Mountain Bike series in the South West.

There are four Sunday races on the agenda, as well as an evening series and all races are open to novice racers alongside more experienced riders.

Plymouth's Newnham Park will host round three, which will also double as part of the South West Championships.

For more information, visit [www.fully-sussed.co.uk](http://www.fully-sussed.co.uk)

Meanwhile, team member Gary Andrews aims to finish the season in a top 10 position nationally in the veterans' category, as well as taking the hotly-contested South West Vets' title.

Russell Turner moves up to the expert category and hopes to earn enough points to earn his elite licence for 2011.

Turner and Jay Horton will also be among the favourites to win the 2010 South West Senior Championship title.

The team's newest recruits, Simon Young and Will Jansen, will be concentrating their efforts on the local race scene, where they will race in the veterans and expert categories, respectively.

Team Certini-McCaulay's will also be defending their titles at the Twentyfour12 and Bristol Bike fest endurance events, where last year they won the team events.

# Smith stock rises after making England debut

CITY table tennis starlet Vicky Smith has broken into the England squad for the first time.

The 14-year-old, who has been on the verge of international honours for some time, appeared for her country in Italy.

She finished seventh after losing to the Italian number two and eventual winner early in the tournament, played near Venice.

Dad John, the driving force behind Woolwell Table Tennis Club, where Vicky also plays, said the tournament was a low-key event.

But he said Vicky's selection, coupled with her best-ever result at the National Junior Championships in Sheffield, 'augured well for the future'.

The teenager, who could figure in the London 2012 Olympics and who is on The Herald backed Making A Sporting Difference scheme, took the scalp of number four Melissa Wright from Yorkshire on her way to the semis, before going out to the eventual winner, Yolanda King from Sussex.

That came as a surprise for dad John, who thought his daughter, ranked 18 in the under-18s competition, had been eliminated by Wright.

He said: "I wasn't actually in Sheffield because we were following it via an internet link.

"When the results showed Vicky had been beaten by Melissa

by PHIL STONEHAM

Sports Writer

Wright, that didn't come as a complete surprise, because it was something that was expected to happen.

"When I found out she had actually beaten Wright, I didn't believe it at first, but I was delighted when I found out the internet scoreline was wrong.

"If she'd just got to the quarter-finals and gone out, that would have been a good result.

"But to get to the semi-finals was a really good performance and must rank as her best achievement to date."

Smith was equally delighted about his daughter's selection for England under-15s.

He said: "She's represented England Schools before, but this is the first time she's been selected for England properly.

"She's been on the verge of England honours for some time and although this was a relatively minor tournament, England won the team event.

"Vicky was a bit unlucky in that she played the Italian number two seed early in the competition.

"After losing to her, seventh was the best position she could achieve."

**HITTING OUT:** Table tennis prospect Vicky Smith



# Ivybridge mix and match in Beckly Cup win

IN THE annual Beckly Cup competition, Division Two side Tavistock played host to Ivybridge, who used a combination of Division One and Division Four players.

Tavistock put up a good fight but Ivybridge didn't really need their handicap (+90) to win the match by 121 aces.

Division Four team Torpoint entertained Division Two side Derriford and played above expectations, taking five ends from their more experienced visitors.

With their handicap (+180), Torpoint took the match by 105 aces.

In an all-Division Three tie, Mayflower Wednesday visited Builders but found they could not keep the home side to the expected 16 points per end as the home side (+90) came out winners by 71 aces.

Division One's Greenbank visited Division Three's Devonshire and found the home side (+144) playing above themselves to win by 22 aces.

The final all-Division One tie saw YMCA Kitto (+54) entertain last year's champions



## BADMINTON

University in an incredibly tight match that saw the visitors win by 13 aces.

In Division One of the Medley League, last year's champions University entertained last year's runners-up Greenbank in a tightly fought match.

The men's events went to the students while the stronger Greenbank ladies took their events to even the match going into the mixed events.

The first two mixed events were split leaving the decider to the last event of the evening.

Uni's Pete Gibbons and Bonny Mo defeated Chris Hunt and Kirsty Brewer 21-13, 15-21, 21-17 and took the match 5-4.

In the same division, Callington A played host to Liskeard A, who prevailed 6-3.

Division Two's BATS A played host to Greenbank B and found points hard to convert as the visitors took the match 8-1.

Abi Maunder and Frankie Morton saved the whitewash when they defeated Nancy O'Connor and Margaret Banyard 21-13, 27-25.

BATS A also travelled to YMCA Kitto B but could not prevent a 6-3 victory for the home side.

Callington B played host to in-form Derriford and, despite four events going to a third end, the visitors left with a 6-3 victory.

Derriford travelled to Greenbank B and were outclassed 9-0.

Greenbank B entertained Tavistock in another 9-0 victory.

In Division Four, Ivybridge entertained Torpoint B.

With three events forced to a third end, Torpoint made Ivybridge work hard for a 9-0 victory.

In men's Division A, Callington played host to University and were made to work hard in a closely fought 9-3 victory.

Men's Division C saw Devonshire entertain Torpoint and gain a 12-0 win.

# RACQUETS



## Round-up from the courts and tables



### BEACON ELECTRICAL PLYMOUTH & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE by David Williams

ICY roads meant in the first week of 2010 few league matches were played and only eight result cards have been received. No results have come in from outside the Plymouth urban area and only three venues – league HQ, Woodland Fort and the Railway Club at Pennycomequick – have seen any action. In Division One, Astor Hotel A won 9-1 at Railway Club A. After a clean sweep of the singles sets, Astor Hotel, from two games up, lost the doubles.

For Railway, Ian Roper and Mike Briggs recovered well to beat Liz May and Helen Lambert 9-11, 4-11, 11-9, 11-5, 11-9. Seven sets from Rory Harries and Mike Hugh gave B&S Group a comfortable 8-2 win at Railway Club C.

Woodland Fort B went 3-1 down to visitors Astor Hotel B in Division Two, but won five of the next six sets for a 6-4 victory. John Goodfield (2) won a vital set for Fort in defeating Denis Cajon 7-11, 8-11, 11-6, 12-10, 11-6.

Astor C made a better start to 2010 by beating Woodland Fort A 6-4. Astor had their strongest line-up but Fort were without Colin Poyntz.

Brian Luscombe (Fort) showed why he is the division's top player with a superb maximum including comprehensively beating Peter Kratochvila 11-2, 11-3, 11-0.

Astor A (Glyn Price 3) narrowly overcame their B team 6-4. Saltash found John Dodd of Molyneux Associates unbeatable with three and the doubles with Mike Gaylard and only won the Division Four match 6-4.

Division Five leaders Woodland Fort G looked like losing their unbeaten record when Naval Stores B led by 4-1.

At 5-3 down, Jim Perkins (Fort) beat Ted Morrish 6-11, 11-5, 3-11, 11-7, 12-10 for 5-4 and with Mike Perry outstanding in the doubles, Fort levelled winning the doubles 13-11 in the final game.

Stella Williams scored her customary three for Woolwell M in Division Six in a draw against Woolwell P, but at 5-4 up Williams and Jordan Bone lost 11-5, 11-8, 11-5 to Nathaniel Sleeman and Louis Whilehurst.

In the Division Five Cup, Astor F (Nick May 3) beat Woodland Fort H 8-2.

Veteran Keith Massey paired up with club-mate Bruce Damerell of Woodland Fort in the Handicap Club pairs.

Although Damerell won two sets, opponents Denis Cajon and Ali Ahmadi won 3-2. Also winning 3-2 were Steve Garlick and Les Cole against Geoff Boobier and Mike Trembeth. Boobier won both his singles but the deciding doubles went to Garlick and Cole, who conceded four points, 21-25, 25-14 (46-43).

Father and son Kevin and Ollie Buddell lost both the Senior Pairs and Handicap Pairs. Jan Walaskowski and Bryn Ford beat John Cobbedick and Rob Batten 3-0.

### MANNAMED WINTER TENNIS LEAGUE

MATCHES in the first week of the second half of the season were badly hit by the freezing conditions, with 16 scheduled fixtures postponed. Fortunately three matches were played before the snow came.

In Section B of the ladies' doubles, Jean Smith and Liz Gill consolidated second position with a straight sets win over Libby Allman and Linda Galpin 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

Ann Short and Liz Parks held off a second set recovery from Joan McGregor and Helen Foote to win two sets to one. Short and Parks won a close first set 6-3 but then failed to win a game in the second set.

McGregor and Foote did not build on their winning streak as Short and Parks found form again to take the final set 6-4 and the match 6-3, 0-6, 6-4.

Leaders Jenny Penny and Lindsey Fear had their toughest match to date in beating Sue Peers-Jones and Joy Pellow. In spite of numb fingers, Peers-Jones and Pellow got off to a cracking start winning the first set 6-1.

Penny and Fear then warmed up to win the second set 6-4 and were then generally on top in the final set winning it 6-2 for a 1-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory. This was the first time Penny and partners had dropped more than two points in a match.

Several matches were played before the Christmas break. In the men's Section A, leaders Neil Hunt and Mike Paskins held off Tony Maestri and Umberto Fontinari to win 6-2, 6-5, 6-5 with a service break in the second and third sets finally deciding the issue.

The top pair in Section C, Ron Cole and Rob Thomas, had to win a tight first set on a tie-break 6-5 (7-5) against Chris Shorter and sub Bill Pascoe, before their service power was the dominant feature in the next two sets.

Shorter and Pascoe took many games to deuce and deserved more than the miserly two games conceded by Cole and Thomas who won 6-5, 6-2, 6-0.

Jake Daykin and Dave Graham cleared two matches from their backlog and were rewarded with two successes.

A blustery wind in the match against Dudley Tolkien and Ashley Jarwood made for a scrappy affair with many errors before Daykin and Graham won 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

Daykin and Graham did just enough to come from a set down to defeat Shorter and Pascoe 3-6, 6-5, 6-4.

In the ladies' Section C, Lisa Clifton and sub Liz Ray did well to take a set from Jessica Randell and Debbie Carroll who won 6-2, 4-6, 6-5 (7-2).

There were plenty of good rallies, particularly in the first set, but Joan Williams and sub Marion Phillips were the stronger pair as the match progressed in a 6-3, 6-1, 6-2 win over Sarah Brett and Maggie Lintell.

■ IN SECTION B of the ladies' doubles, pair number four Viv Sargeant and Nancy O'Connor have withdrawn and points are adjusted.