

Inter-County Championship Stage 1, Boys Under 17, The Manor Club, Ilkeston, 24th October 2010

The Derbyshire Boys Under 17s are safely through to stage 2 of the inter-county championship despite being without their no. 2, Russell Clark, due to injury.

The team, consisting of Ashley Davies at no. 1, followed by Adam Turner, James Blythe, Alex Wilson and Craig Osborne at no. 5, were up against Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire in Stage 1 of the event hosted by Derbyshire at The Manor Club, Ilkeston on Sunday.

In the first tie, Derbyshire faced Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire ran out comfortable winners dropping only 5 games in the 4-1 victory. Leicestershire were expected to provide some sterner opposition after they brushed Nottinghamshire aside with an even more emphatic 5-0 win, dropping only 1 game on the way.

It was therefore down to the last tie against Leicestershire. First up was Craig Osborne who was unfortunate to come up against a very strong no. 5 from Leicestershire and, despite some determined play, he fell to a 0-3 defeat. James Blythe then levelled things up when he eased to a comfortable 3-0 win over their no. 3 player. Alex Wilson, at 4, then came on and, despite going down 12-14 in the first, produced some good squash to take the match 3-2 giving the hosts a 2-1 lead. Next was Ashley Davies at no. 1 against a strong Leicestershire counterpart who pushed Ashley hard in every game but in the end, Ashley's superior quality told and he took the match 3-0 (11-9, 11-8, 15-12). This gave the Derbyshire lads an unassailable 3-1 lead, so taking the pressure off Adam Turner at no. 2 who went on to win his match 3-1 giving Derbyshire a 4-1 victory and first place on the day.

So its congratulations to the lads as they now look forward to Stage 2 of the event which is due to take place in January next year.