

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 02 October 2007

Derbyshire Men's Leagues - Round 2 - 27 September 2007

Please see tables on <http://www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk>

Division 1

Dragons recorded an important 5-0 win over The Manor, Ilkeston. The Manor had caused a major upset in the last match of the 06/07 season when they turned over Dragons 3-2, almost costing them the title. However, Greg Loach defeated a normally resilient Nick Hargreaves 3-0 and with dominant victories for Ryan Loska and Karl Murray, Dragons were then looking for maximum points. Joel Hinds (Eng No. 30) and Eddie Charlton duly obliged with wins over Adam Fuller and Jason Walsh respectively. Dragons now lead the table by 8 points over Brampton Manor.

Despite missing Paul Hargrave and Kevin White, Duffield scored all the points against a depleted Ashbourne side with all matches 3-0. At 1st string Jason Foster was too classy for Ashbourne's Mike Herridge and gives Duffield real strength in depth if they field a full strength side.

Hood Park also received maximum points in their match with Burton. John Freeman and Leon Armston ran out easy 3-0 winners, while Darren Lewis shared the first two games with Burton's No. 1 James Bowden, before asserting his class only conceding 2 more points. Hood's no. 3 James Hodson pulled off a notable 3-1 win over the talented Richard Davis, formerly Repton's No. 1.

Brampton Manor bagged a full 20 points, with a solid victory over early League leaders Lumb Farm. Brampton's No. 2 Phil Scully came from 2 games down against Tom Gregory to cap a good night's work for the Chesterfield club.

Division 3

Hood Park 3 and Queens Park 1 are in joint top spot of Division 3 and their clash later in the season will eagerly anticipated. Hood Park beat Burton 4 in a close 3-2 and were thankful to Jonathan Brooks' fine effort in coming back from 2-1 down to win the 4th 10-8 and then the 5th 9-7. Queens Park beat David Lloyd 4-1 but there were three matches that went to 5 games.

5th string Dave Yallop saved Duffield 3's blushes as Dragons 3 swept aside the top order, all 3-0. Draycott's Tony Rolley held off a late comeback from Rolls-Royce's Clive Lawrence-Forbes winning the 5th 9-6 to secure his team the bonus points.

Ladies League (Round 1)

Duffield and Ashbourne both recorded fine wins in the opening round of league matches. Duffield were comfortable winners against Rolls-Royce, although Tanya Charlton took Hilarie Warner to 5 games. Ashbourne were made to work a little harder by Bradley House's Julia Muzyka and Shiela Gilford pushing their opponents Edwina Edwards and Jane Mumby to 5 games. Burton began their campaign with a 4-1 victory over Trent Vale and with Sue Smith at 5th string could push Duffield and Ashbourne for the title.

Individual Activity

The popular Masters Series moved to Bury St Edmunds for the East of England Open where Derbyshire was well represented. Duffield duo Kevin White and Jason Foster, both looking for England Caps, were seeded 1 and 2 respectively in the O35 category. Both had byes in the first round and easy quarter-final matches. In the semi-finals White (pictured) took on English Open finalist and England regular Glen Ragou (Lancashire). At 5-5 in the first it looked like this was going to be a long night, but White was beginning to apply more pressure and Ragou error count mounted as he was run out of position. White wrapped up the opener 9-5 and the second went to White in a similar score line. White then showed good tournament play by quickly dispatching Ragou in the third.

Foster followed White on court against speed merchant Jamie Goodrich (Norfolk). On a racy, hot court Foster initially struggled to control the pace and went 0-1 down, before rallying to 1-1. Superb touch in the 3rd allowed Foster to ease away to 2-1, but the pace was high and Foster began to tire. Early in the 4th Foster seemed to be having trouble with an adductor muscle and decided to let the 4th slip by as a frantic Goodrich wound the pace up. Foster's tactics appeared to pay off as he calmly built up a 7-4 advantage in the 5th, but a crucial 'tin' on the backhand side gave a glimmer of hope to Goodrich. After a couple of fierce rallies Foster's movement became hampered by his injury and Goodrich took the game 9-7 and match. A little more fitness and Foster will surely secure an England place.



Kevin White

Dragons' Greg Loach got a better draw than in the English and British Opens and was at last able to show his pedigree in the O45s. 3rd seed Loach overcame a strong challenge from Mark Hurd (Dorest), but uncharacteristically squandered a match ball in the 3rd meaning he had to grind out a hard 4th game. Although it was always going to be a tough ask against former top 10 England player, Greg Pearman; not seeing off his earlier opponent quickly cost Loach dear as he went down 9-1, 9-3, 9-6.

Lumb Farm team mates Neil Nightingale and John Beastall have had contrasting starts to the season, with Nightingale reaching the semi-finals of the English and British Opens while Beastall has been recovering from a knee injury. Beastall won through his first round match, but was then up against No. 1 seed Howard Cherlin who proved too strong beating Beastall 3-0. However, it was good to see Beastall in action again and he showed encouraging levels of movement. Nightingale's likes to start at a fast pace and he quickly gained a 2-0 game advantage over Devon's Paul Smith. As the pace slowed, Smith gained the upper hand winning the 3rd 9-4 and just holding on to the 4th 9-7. The match was finely poised at 2-2, 6-6 and could have gone either way, but a late surge from Nightingale saw him home 9-6. Nightingale's quarter-final match took a similar pattern against O55 newcomer Paul Reader, but this time it was Reader who took the 5th, and he went on to take the title.

The Masters Series continues with the West of England Open at Swindon on 2-4th November. Full Master's coverage is on <http://www.englishsquashmasters.com/>

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