

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 17 October 2007

## Derbyshire Men's Leagues - Round 3 - 11 October 2007

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

### Division 1

Dragons' march at the top of Division 1 could only be stopped by East Midlands Electricity as a power failure closed the club. The match will be rescheduled in the next few weeks.

Ashbourne had a tough time hosting The Manor, who romped to a 4-1 win in double quick time. James Archer saved all Ashbourne's blushes with a fine 3-0 win over Andy Roulson. The Manor's talented youngster John Underhill put Tom Machell to the sword with a 27-0 overall scoreline. The Manor's new recruit Nick Douglas was too strong for Ashbourne's skipper Mike Herridge in a 9-4, 9-5, 9-3 scoreline.

Hood Park are keeping up the pressure on the top of the table and recorded their second successive maximum points haul against Lumb Farm. Matt Whitehead fought hard to secure both Lumb Farm's points, but Derbyshire O35 No.4 Rich Woodrooffe's experience pulled him through to take a tight 3-2 win.

Brampton Manor also secured their second successive win against strugglers Duffield, although it went right to the wire in the 3<sup>rd</sup> string match between Will Watson and Duffield's Adam Armiger. Armiger, debuting in the 1<sup>st</sup> team, started well taking the 1<sup>st</sup> 9-1, but a little overconfidence meant too many mistakes and Watson hit back to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-3. Armiger recovered well and found a good length, pushing opponent to the back corners and forcing some errors, 9-2 to Armiger. Watson got his second wind and upped the pace in the fourth taking it 9-5 and pushed on to 7-2 in the fifth. However, Armiger kept fighting a reduced the deficit to 7-7 only for Watson to fire in a couple of winners taking the fifth 9-7 and the bonus points for Brampton. At 5<sup>th</sup> string another Duffield debutant Chris Burns was run to all corners by the tricky Ian Hilton. Jason Fearn overcame a third game blip against the promising Millie Tomlinson running out a 9-3, 9-2, 1-9, 9-4 winner. England No. 7 Laura Hill avenged last season's defeat by Charlie Wall with a commanding 3-0 win. Derbyshire Men's Captain Brendan Hickerman is always a tough customer on his home courts and Kevin White quickly found himself a game down. In the second, Hickerman fought back from 2-6 to 8-6 and looked to have won that, but a faint noise from the tin and an inquiry from White meant the rally was played again. White took full advantage of this sporting concession and pushed hard to take the game 10-8. White's tail was up and he was finding a superb length now, Hickerman failing to

score in the 3<sup>rd</sup> as the first two game began to take their toll; the 4<sup>th</sup> going White's way 9-3.

### **Division 3**

Queens Park 1 have broken clear of Hood Park 3 at the top of Division 3. Queens' beat Burton 4-1 scoring a handy 17 points, while Hood Park 3 eked out only 5 points against Rolls-Royce 1. Meanwhile Rolls-Royce have now put themselves in contention for the top spot with good wins from Vic Malysz and Fitz Haye both 3-0, while Kevin Britchford and Murray each won 3-1. Draycott also scored good points against Duffield 3 with 18 points to 3. Duffield's points coming from a determined 3-1 win for Phil Bond.

David Lloyd 1 maximised their efforts winning only 9 games between them, but crucially also the bonus points. Hannah Legg was too fit for Dragons 3's David Taylor at 5<sup>th</sup> string, running out 9-2 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and Matt Stone beat Paul Howell 3-0. It was down to the finest of margins between Lisa McKenna and Mike Lambert (Dragons 3). Lambert took the first two games almost untroubled, McKenna rallied to win the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-4. It was nip 'n' tuck in the 4<sup>th</sup> with both players gaining and losing an advantage; but McKenna was the first to a game ball only for Lambert to level at 8-8. However McKenna squeezed out the 4<sup>th</sup> 10-8 and then led the 5<sup>th</sup> early on, but Lambert's strength began to tell as both players tired. Lambert was first to match point 8-7, but McKenna wasn't finished and at first levelled the game at 8-8, then went to 9-8 only for Lambert to pull a point back to give him match point again. A brave rally ended with a tidy McKenna drop shot to give David Lloyd a chance at the bonus points and at 9-9 another tight rally was too much for Lambert.

### **Individual Activity**

Laura Hill travels to Madrid this weekend to compete for her first time in the Women's premier event, the World Open. Hill (WR 49) is seeded 16 in the qualifying draw and must win through two rounds to get through into the first round of the main draw. Hill's first round qualifying opponent is little known Anna-Carin Forstadius of Sweden and should prove to be a useful warm up. In the second round the competition hots up when she takes on the 7<sup>th</sup> seed Louise Crome of New Zealand. Hill has already beaten Crome in winning her inaugural WISPA tournament in Carcasonne last April. In that match, the semi-final, Hill stormed to a 2-0 lead only to be pegged back to 2-2. The 5<sup>th</sup> easily went Hill's way, but she must avoid the game becoming extended if she is to put up a good fight in the main draw.

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