

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 6 November 2007

Derbyshire Men's Leagues 2 & 4 - Round 4 - 1 November 2007

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

Division 2

Dragons 2 showed why they are on top of Division 2 by beating Burton 3 3-2 and crucially getting an 18-9 point advantage. 4th and 5th strings Craig Simpson and Dave Hossent were too strong for Burton as Dragons went 2-0 up. Burton then hit back when Simon Barnett recovered from 2-1 down to Derbyshire O45 Champion Mike Lambert, but it was a close run 5th that saw Barnett squeeze through 9-7. Burton levelled the match through Matthew MacLauchlan's fine 3-2 win over Andy Clarke, and again the Burton player was 2-1 down before Clarke ran out of gas. In the decider at 1st string tough Welshman Greg Watkins took on Dragons favourite Lee Watson. The first two games went to Watkins 9-7, but Watson had worked him hard round the court with accurate lengths. Watson dug deep as Watkins closed within two points of victory, but Watson's nagging length meant at least a 4th game. The pattern of the next two games was the same, a tough opening few points before Watson began to assert his authority and control the rallies; Watson seeing out both games 9-5. A great turn around by the Dragon's man.

Duffield 2 maintained some pressure on Dragons 2 with a similar 3-2 win over Hood Park 2, however, it was in the lower order that the match was decided. Eng U17 No. 2 Millie Tomlinson put up a good fight to take Hood's Mick Burton to 5 games, but just fell short as Burton claimed the 5th 9-6. The match was effectively won for Duffield at no. 4 by Adam Armiger as he beat Nigel Storer also 9-6 in the last game. This was a good effort as Armiger had seen his 2-0 lead levelled to 2-2, with the 4th comprehensively won by Storer 9-0. Jack Blythe and Kyle McBride saw Duffield home, before Leon Armston proved too mobile for Mitch Cook.

Burton 2 were more than happy to beat The Manor 2 ensuring they kept ahead of their 3rd team. Evergreen Nigel Baker lost the 1st game to Paul Hodgkinson before collecting the next three games in convincing style to get Burton 2 off to a good start. Vince Dolman slithered through 9-7 in 5th and Paul Herrod also left it to the 5th game to wrap up the team win. Captain Tom Comb was far too strong for The Manor's James Healey. Steve Smith secured some useful points for The Manor with a 3-1 win over Adrian Murphy.

Repton 1 took a big step out of the relegation zone with an impressive 20-2 win over Lumb Farm 2 away from home.

Division 4

Dragons lead yet another Division, this time the 4th, but only by 1 point over Repton 2, and kept their top position with a convincing 20-1 victory over mid-table Brampton 2. Repton 2 lost a little ground with a 16-6 points win over Rolls-Royce 2. Ewen Tanner and Hashard Mistry scored all RR's only points. Duffield 4 just kept in touch with the leaders with a 17-5 points win over Hood Park 4 and Sandiacre 1 bolstered their push for promotion with a 20-3 victory over Burton 5.

Individual Activity

Masters (see <http://www.englandsquashmasters.com/>)

The Masters Series relocation to Swindon was good for Dragon's Greg Loach as he exploited a more favourable draw in the O45s. Although still unseeded Loach was at least in the opposite half to the imperious no. 1 seed Greg Pearman. Loach eased through his first round, before taking on third seed Paul Smith (. With an eye on an evening match against the 2nd seed, Loach looked to start this one well and finish quickly and that he did with a solid display winning 9-4, 9-6, 9-2. Loach dominated the 'T', allowing his opponent little time on the ball.

Last season's highest points scorer James Ockwell was Loach's target and this match would be a good indicator whether Loach could make the England grade. Ockwell is fit and strong and Loach looked to keep him out of the first two games, which he did taking them 9-6, 9-3. Ockwell then got into his stride to edge out Loach 9-7, but the gritty Dragon's man held his game together to win the 4th 9-5. Loach now faced the ominous task of Greg Pearman, a former England top 10 player, who has lost none of his immaculate shots. In the final Loach made little impact going down 9-2, 9-0, 9-3, but was well satisfied with a significant points haul.

Greg Loach (L) receiving a black box for O45 runner-up from Host Paul Cripps



Lumb Farm's duo of O55s Neil Nightingale and John Beastall couldn't have started this season off any differently. Nightingale was a finalist in the English Open and then romped to a semi-final spot on the British Open, meanwhile Beastall missed these two events with a knee injury. However, Beastall has begun to get some fitness back with a good 5-set victory over Leon Kirton before falling to 2nd seed Ian Holmes. Nightingale also won through his 1st round before coming unstuck by John Duckworth 3-0. Nightingale mustn't rely on his early season form to guarantee an England place and will need to keep fighting all season long.

World

In WISPA's 1st November ranking Laura Hill has moved to World No. 46. Ranking points are accumulated in a the rolling 12 month period and Hill had dropped good points from a number of events last year, but has gained more points this October in the more prestigious tournaments in New York and the World Open in Madrid.

For more info see <http://www.wispa.net/>

Inter-Counties Championship

See <http://www.englandsquash.com/competitions/evitem.cfm?ID=6355>

Derbyshire O35s travel to Durham for the first leg of the Inter-Counties Championships this weekend where along with the hosts meet Leinster and Leicestershire. Derbyshire are headed by England Captain Kevin White, but are without his England and Duffield team mate Jason Foster. Brampton's Brendan Hickerman is at No.2 with Hood Park's Richard Woodroffe at 3. Derbyshire stalwart Murray Scott and Brampton's Charlie Wall make up the rest of the team.

Kevin White
DSRA Chairman
Kevin@derbyshiresquash.co.uk