

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 13 November 2007

Derbyshire Men's Leagues 1, 3 & 5 - Round 5 - 8 November 2007

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

Division 1

Hood Park scored an important 4-1 win over The Manor to keep on top of Division 1, however, second placed Dragons still have a game in hand. Darren Lewis, John Freeman and Leon Armston all recorded 3-0 scorelines for Hood Park and with Mick Worth beating Nigel Millington 3-1 Hood Park were looking for maximum points. The Manor's Jonathon Underhill had other ideas as he beat Derbyshire O35 Richard Woodrooffe 9-0 10-9 9-0.

Brampton Manor continued in their winning ways and took full points in a one-sided 5-0 encounter with Ashbourne. Despite being under strength, Dragons kept their 100% record defeating Lumb Farm 5-0.

Burton 1 narrowly edged out Duffield 3-2 thanks to a nerveless Paul Herrod who saved four match points coming back from 8-4 down and finally edging out Kyle McBride 10-8 in the 5th game. Duffield no 2 Laura Hill was 2-0 before hitting her lengths and a few nicks to wear down Mark Pinkerton and level the match 1-1. However, Mitch Cook and Andy Storer both lost tie-break games and then struggled for fitness losing 3-0 and 3-1 to Carl Timms and Adrian Murphy respectively. With the match out of reach for Duffield it was left to Kevin White to score a few valuable team points with a straight set win over Phil Brailsford.

Division 3

Draycott have begun to stretch their lead at the top of Division 3, however, second placed Queens Park 1 have the chance to close the gap when they meet next week, home advantage going to Draycott. In the last round of matches, Draycott beat David Lloyd 4-1 with Hannah Rees storming back from 2-0 down against Steve Reeves to record Lloyd's only win. Queens Park romped to a 5-0 win over Hood Park. Duffield were relieved to have Lesley Sturgess back from injury, who obliged with an important win to help Duffield overcome Burton 4 3-2. Dragons 3 also scored a 3-2 over Rolls-Royce 1. Royce's Fitz Hays almost squandered a 2-0 lead as Dragon's Steve Hossent squared their match at 2-2 and then held a match point at 9-9 only for Hays to squeeze through 10-9.

Division 5

Dragons 5 lead the table by 2 points over Queens Park 2 and still have a game in hand. Repton 3 moved off the bottom of the table with a 3-2 win against Belper. George Whitehurst and Graham Swanson both had excellent wins.

Derbyshire Ladies League - Round 4 - 5 November 2007

Duffield failed to make safe their position at the top of the Division as they crashed to a 3-2 loss to Burton. Jayne Lathbury and Desley Smith each won 3-0 for Burton, while Pauline Belech recovered from losing the second game to Donna Jackson to take a vital 3-1 win and the bonus points. It was left to Leo and Ricki Shepherd to score some important points for Duffield, but the Burton team can overtake Duffield if they beat bottom side Rolls-Royce in their game-in-hand.

Ashbourne remain a threat at the top thanks to some fine battling performances from Jayne Murphy and Hilary Herridge. Herridge recovered from losing the 1st 10-9 to win the next three 9-6, 9-7, 10-8, but it could have gone either way. Edwina Edwards was just pipped by Rolls-Royce's only winner Janice Smith. Smith, in very determined mood, found herself 2-0 down, but dug deep to edge the 3rd 9-7. After taking the 4th 9-5, the 5th was again a real nail-biter eventually going to Smith 9-7. It was little consolation to Edwards that she won 2 more points than her opponent, but a valuable 2 team points.

Trent Vale scored a good 4-1 victory over Bradley House to move into a comfortable position in the table. Lynn Morris and Louise O'Reilly got Trent off to a great start with 3-2 wins, O'Reilly coming from 2-0 down before dominating the last three games. Pat Chetwyn was Bradley's only winner beating Karen Laughton 3-1, the last game going the distance 10-9.

Individual Activity

Derbyshire Men's No. 1 Joel Hinds had a good run to the semi-finals of the British Squash Professional Association's Lee-on-Solent open this weekend. 5/8 seed Hinds made short work of his first round opponent Richard Birks, before being tested by Clive Ewins in the next round later that day; Hinds progressing 3-1. The no. 2 seed Scott Handley had pulled out in his first round match, which opened up the bottom half of the draw. Hinds' next opponent Jethro Binns had capitalised on Handley's withdrawal to reach the quarters. Hinds started poorly losing the first 11-9, but gained the second 11-6. Despite Binns' drawn-out 3-2 win earlier in the second day, the third game went his way in by an extended 15-13 score-line. However, Binns' big effort in the third began to tell as Hinds'

stepped up the pressure to take the last two games 11-5, 11-7. England's No. 30 Hinds produced a great performance to push Sussex' England No. 15 all the way. Hinds stormed through the first game 11-4, but was then pegged back 11-9. Another surge from Hinds meant he led 2-1, but then Vail cut his mistakes out and turned the tables taking the fourth 11-3. The fifth was a close affair with each player trading points, but it was Vail's greater experience that saw him through 11-8. It was a great effort from Joel Hinds and should give him more confidence. In the top half of the draw Duffield PSL team mates Andy Whipp (Eng 16) and Alex Stait (Eng17) clashed, with Stait winning through 3-0. Stait went on to beat World No. 20 Alex Gough 3-2, before taking the title with a straight sets win over Tim Vail.

Inter-Counties Championship

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

Derbyshire O35s enjoyed a successful trip to Durham qualifying, for their first time, for the Inter-Counties Finals. The first match against Suffolk proved to be crucial and there were plenty of jitters as Suffolk went 2-0 up. Debutant Marcus Thomas (Lumb Farm) put up a good fight against the World's best O50 Peter Alexander, but went down 3-0. Richard Woodroffe fell to Stuart Parke 3-0, but had he taken the tie-break in the second game things might have been different. Murray Scott's hard hitting caused his opponents trouble all weekend, and after taking the first game 9-1 he was always on top of Marvin Rost for a straightforward 3-0 win. Derbyshire No. 1 Kevin White meanwhile was finding things much tougher against Mark Baggot. White quickly reached game ball in the first, but then Baggot began to control the 'T' and clawed back a few points before White went 1-0 up. Baggot began the second as he ended the first and White struggled to match Baggot as he squared the match 1-1. The two were locked in a ferocious battle to gain control of the third and at 3-3 it looked like it could go either way, but it was White's speed and fitness that saw him break clear and power through the third and fourth games. With the match finely poised at 2-2, Brendan Hickerman took on ex-Derbyshire player Martin Levens. On paper this should have been a close one, but Hickerman was in rare form and blew Levens away 9-0, 9-1, 9-2.

Durham & Cleveland had softened-up Derbyshire's next opponents Cambridge with a 4-1 victory. However, Cambridge went 1-0 up as Charlie Wall failed to capitalise on a 2-1 advantage against John Hawkins, playing his second five-set match of the day. Richard Woodroffe looked in danger at 1-0 and 7-4 down, but tightened his short game just in time to win the second 9-7. Woodroffe had done the hard work and the next two games went his way 9-1, 9-0. Murray Scott was again in top form easing to a 3-0 win and putting Derbyshire 2-1 up. White made short work of his opponent to secure the win for

Derbyshire before Hickerman added the icing and enough points to ensure Derbyshire were in the February's Finals weekend. Durham beat Suffolk 5-0.



L to R Richard Woodroofe, Kevin White, Murray Scott, Brendan Hickerman, Charlie Wall

Derbyshire fell to Durham 3-2 with excellent wins for Murray Scott and Brendan Hickerman. However, Derbyshire will be greatly strengthened in the finals by Jason Foster at 3rd string and Greg Loach as reserve.

Derbyshire Senior Men travel to Nottingham Squash Club for the first leg of their Inter-Counties Championships this weekend where along with the hosts Nottingham they meet Leinster and Leicestershire. Derbyshire are headed by Joel Hinds, England O35s Kevin White and Jason Foster. Captain Brendan Hickerman is at No.3 with Hood Park's Richard Woodroofe at 5. Back-up is given by Derbyshire stalwart Murray Scott and Greg Loach.

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