

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 27 November 2007

## Derbyshire Men's Leagues 1, 3 & 5 - Round 6 - 22 November 2007

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

### Division 1

Brampton Manor's good run finally came to a halt as they hit Dragon's buffers in a 2-3 away loss. Brampton started well with Jason Fearn overcoming a game's deficit to beat Karl Murray; although Fearn was relieved to hang on to the 4<sup>th</sup> game 9-7. On the adjoining court wily Ian Hilton, always awkward to read, shared the first two games 10-8, 7-9 with Andy Clarke. Hilton's fitness and deception took its toll on Clarke as he ran out the last two games easily. Dragon's were 2-0 down and in danger of their first loss. Brampton's Charlie Wall then took an unexpected game off Greg Loach to get Dragon's nerves jingling, but Loach can always be relied on to make it especially tough for his opponent and sure enough the England O45 hopeful ran Wall down 3-1 in what proved to be the crucial tie. Ryan Loska and England No. 30 Joel Hinds were too good at the top of the order for Phil Scully and Brendan Hickerman respectively, both winning 3-0.

The Manor, Ilkeston, have just held on to 4<sup>th</sup> spot in Division 1 as Duffield picked up maximum points against Lumb Farm. The Manor were away at Burton and got off to a good start with Nigel Millington and Jon Underhill each winning 3-0, but the in-form Paul Herod beat Craig Walsh 3-0 for Burton's only victory. Jason Walsh just held off Carl Timms at 2<sup>nd</sup> string with a 10-9 result in fourth game tie-break. Nick Douglas was too good for Burton's Phil Brailsford, although Brailsford failed to convert a game ball in the third.

Duffield have still not put out their full team and looked like they might get sucked in to a relegation fight, but maximum points win over Lumb Farm has eased their worries. Millie Tomlinson got the ball rolling in a 3-1 win over the experienced John Beastall who was giving away around 40 years. Beastall looked in control as he won the 1<sup>st</sup> 9-4 and had several game balls at 8-6 in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but Tomlinson's tenacity kept her going as she won the tie break 10-8. Tomlinson's length improved and with some good boasts began to stretch Beastall out. Beastall's made plenty of uncharacteristic mistakes as Tomlinson won the last two 9-4, 9-2 for a well deserved win. Andy Storer was too accurate and took the ball too early for Neil Nightingale to get into the match and the same pattern was in evidence next door as Mitchell Cook similarly beat Marcus Thomas 3-0. England No. 7 Laura Hill seems to get the best out of Tom Gregory, who was on fire in the first two taking a 9-4, 9-7 lead. Hill wound up the pressure in the third and with some fine 'nicks' to emulate Gregory's earlier shot-making, took the game 9-3. Hill was now unstoppable as

she motored through the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> games 9-2, 9-0. Kevin White was far too quick for Matt Whitehead who had to wait until 0-6 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to get his only point.

Hood Park put Ashbourne to the sword in a one sided tie in which only James Archer score a team point in his 1-3 defeat by Paul Sumpter.

In the rearranged match between Dragons and Burton, Dragons at one stage were wishing the lights would go out again. Burton's Carl Timms beat Dave Taylor 3-0 and Lee Watson's good form continued as he beat Mark Pinkerton 3-0 to level the match. Rich Davis is slowly returning to some fitness after injury and showed some of his class in a five set match, taking the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-2 against Karl Murray to give Burton a 2-1 lead. With Joel Hinds at the top of the order for Dragons, the match was effectively balanced at 2-2. Hinds eventually beat Chris Truswell 3-0. So the decider was between Burton's Phil Brailsford and Ryan Loska and it was the Dragons' man who took first 10-8, only for Brailsford to hit back in the 2<sup>nd</sup> by the same score. The third also went to a tie break, with Brailsford having a game ball but he failed to convert it and then called 'set one' hoping for another quick game ball, but Loska proved too quick as he took the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-8 and the 4<sup>th</sup> 9-4. Dragons next play Duffield and will be looking finish off the first half of the season with a win to maintain their growing lead.

### Division 3

League leaders Draycott 1 scored an important 3-2 win over second placed Queens Park 1. T May probably couldn't believe he was 2-1 down with only 1 point separating the Queens Park man and opponent Dave Bott. However, May's persistence paid off as he ran through the last two games. Pete Slowakowski beat Dave Green 3-1 and Martin Rose beat J Pearson 3-0 for Draycott to lead the match 2-1. QP's Robert Essex coped with the pressure of two tie-break games before easing home in the 3<sup>rd</sup> against Martin Bostock and set up a match decider between Draycott's Tom Woolgar and Charles Noble. Noble took the first 9-7, raced through the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-2 and held a 'double' match ball in the third only for Woolgar to level at 8-8. Woolgar could sense the match was turning his way and pushed hard eventually taking the bruising game 10-8. Woolgar had done the hard work and took the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> games easily. This was a great match which could have gone either way.

David Lloyd 1 moved nicely away from the relegation zone with a fine 4-1 win over Burton 4 gaining a 19-7 points advantage. Hanna Legg was the only victim of Burton, Rob Bell coming back from 2-0 down, holding off Legg's close challenge in the 4<sup>th</sup> 9-7, before winning the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-5. Darren Croshaw held his nerve to win a crucial 4<sup>th</sup> game 10-9 against Gary Holmes to win 3-1 and Matt Stone beat Dave Elliot 3-2 to help Lloyds to 2-1. Guy Legg and Lisa McKenna topped off a good night with 3-1 and 3-0 wins over Clive Watson and Andy Wilson respectively.

Duffield 3 also had a good win against Rolls-Royce 1, who are still immediate table them in Division 3. Duffield skipper John Wright was outmanoeuvred by Clive Lawrence-Forbes, while RR's Vic Malysz was out-of-sorts against Chris Alcock, each match 3-0. Chris Murray made the first two games look easy, but Lesley Sturgess was left rueing her chances to extend the match losing the 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-9. Duffield's Neil Mitra had a notable 3-1 win over Fitz Haye and Phil Bond sealed the victory for Duffield beating Cliff Ransom 3-0.

Dragons 3 look unstoppable in Division 3 and powered to another 5-0 win over Hood Park 3. Despite the scoreline HP3 put up a good fight with Carl Spencer taking a 2-0 advantage against Dave Taylor, who levelled to 2-2, before the final game was decided in Taylor's favour 10-9. John Brooks also took his opponent to 5, recovering from 2-0 down, but couldn't quite keep his momentum going in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### Inter-Counties Championship

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

#### **O55 Men**

Derbyshire were hosts at the weekend for the 1<sup>st</sup> stage of the Men's Inter-County O55 Championships; Duffield SC being the home venue. Derbyshire O55s are in Division 1 and were battling visiting teams from Cheshire, Yorkshire and Merseyside.

The Saturday morning match against Yorkshire got off to a great start with wins from Neil Nightingale and Tony Robinson. Unfortunately a narrow defeat for Adrian Shepherd in a tense five setter and an injury retirement from Alan Hagger left the match finely balanced at two all. John Beastall won the final match to secure victory and valuable points were on the board. Cheshire beat Merseyside 3-2 in another very close encounter.

In the afternoon Stuart Maclean joined the team but ran into a strong Merseyside player, as was the case with Adrian Shepherd both losing their matches. Nightingale and Beastall won their matches, which left Tony Robinson with the dubious honour of winning the match and probably promotion. Robinson powered ahead to 2-0 and began the third in buoyant mood, but his opponent wouldn't go down and slowly chipped away at Robinson's lead. However, Robinson managed to force his way to two match balls, but he couldn't hold on and the Merseysider scraped the 3<sup>rd</sup>. With some deft touches going just out of reach of Robinson it was the Merseyside man who clinched the win and the bonus points for his team. Yorkshire beat Cheshire which left all four counties having won and lost one match each and with 4 points separating the four teams there was everything to play for in the final matches on Sunday.

Unfortunately, Neil Nightingale had family commitments and was excused from duty so Ray Patrick joined the team with other players moving up the order. Cheshire put out their strongest team against Derbyshire and won the match 5-0, reversing the good fortunes of Saturday. Yorkshire played well against Merseyside and secured a good win leaving them in 2<sup>nd</sup> position for the weekend and sharing the victors spoils with Cheshire who were outright winners.

### **National Squash Club Championship**

#### **Hood Park v University of Birmingham**

Hood Park, representing Derbyshire for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running, lost convincingly to a youthful Birmingham University side in the first round of the National Squash Club Championship 5-0. The games were closer than the score suggests but B'ham always had the edge on fitness. HP's Mick Worth lost 3-0 to Ian Chappell after sustaining a calf injury when leading the 1<sup>st</sup> game 6-0. Leon Armston lost 1-3 to Nick Hornby, but did well to wrestle a game from the Yorkshire man. James Hodson lost 1-3 to Simon Culver, but the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 games could have gone either way although the University player looked to have the edge on fitness. John Freeman had a ding-dong battle with Steve London and was 2-1 up before the London exerted his authority to win the last two games comfortably. The 1st string pitched Darren Lewis and Joel Hinds together in yet another tie and as usual these two put on a spectacular display of incredible shots, amazingly long rallies and unbelievable retrieving before Hinds ran out a worthy 3-1 winner. The third game was a match in itself with both players not prepared to give an inch in this crucial game. At 3 all a dubious decision seemed to affect Joel and Darren was able to capitalise and move to an 8-3 lead. Hinds dug in and pulled back to 8 all and set 2. Opportunities came and went at 9-9 before Lewis took the game. Hinds swiftly took the ascendancy in the fourth to take a 6 - 0 lead before powering on to take the game 9 - 0 and the match. Hood Park lost a high quality match 5-0 which belies their overall performances. They now move into the Plate competition which they won in 2005.

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