

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 11 December 2007

## Derbyshire Men's Leagues 1, 3 & 5 - Round 7 - 6 December 2007

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

### Division 1

The final round of Division 1 saw Dragons crush a youthful, but under-strength Duffield side missing all their stars except Kevin White. The new season looked promising for Duffield with Paul Hargrave, White, Jason Foster and Laura Hill, but with Foster and Hill working and Hargrave opting out of the fray, Duffield are only just holding themselves above the relegation zone. Meanwhile Dragons have built up a slender 5 point lead over Hood Park and a maximum 20 points against Duffield was needed to maintain that lead. Dragons' lead is mainly thanks to their No. 1 and Eng No. 30 Joel Hinds who has turned out and won every match. His opponent this time was White, who could only keep Hinds 'honest' losing 9-5 9-3 9-5.



Dragons' No. 1 and Eng No. 30 Joel Hinds

Lewis Walters would grace most other teams at No. 1 and was too quick and accurate for 15 year old Oliver Holland, despite a gutsy effort from the youngster. Ryan Loska took some time to warm up losing the 1<sup>st</sup> to Jack Blythe, but then won the next 27 points unanswered. Millie Tomlinson was always going to find Dragons' Greg Loach far too good and was relieved to pick up her first and only point early in the 1<sup>st</sup> game. Duffield's Chris Burn rallied well and held a game point in the 2<sup>nd</sup> against Neil Thorpe, but the Dragons' man showed his experience winning it 10-9 and going on to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-4.

Ashbourne are still locked to the bottom of the table, but put up a good fight at Burton. Neil Cuthbert had a notable win over Paul Herrod 3-1 and Mike Herridge was unlucky not to get more than one game off Phil Brailsford, losing the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-8 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-7 having led them both. Hood Park finished on a high note and really put Brampton Manor to the sword

in a very one sided 5-0 white-wash despite missing Darren Lewis at the top of the order. Surprisingly Brendan Hickerman didn't pick up enough points to make a whole game from Hood's stand-in No. 1 John Freeman.

### **Division 3**

Draycott end the first half of the season unbeaten and 20 points clear of Dragons 3, with Queens Park 1 a further 10 points behind. At the bottom of the table David Lloyd 1 look like they are easing away from 2<sup>nd</sup> from bottom Hood Park 3 and have a 13 point margin. Burton 4 are a further 14 points behind Hood Park 3.

Draycott's latest victims were Burton 4 and the top four strings all went Draycott's way 3-0. Bob Lathbury saved Burton's blushes with a typically determined 3-2 win over Ben Warren. Lathbury had led 2-0, but Warren won the 3<sup>rd</sup> as Lathbury took his foot off the gas. Lathbury seemed to get his concentration back in the 4<sup>th</sup>, but Warren kept in touch and got his first game point at 8-7, Lathbury levelled and held a match ball and then Warren regain the serve and took the game 10-9. An equally tough 5<sup>th</sup> ensued but this time it was Lathbury who succeeded 9-7.

Rolls-Royce 1 achieved a welcome win at home to David Lloyd 1 who were missing Lisa McKenna, Guy and Hannah Legg. Geoff hand and Jim Thompson got Lloyd's off to a great start with wins over Vic Malysz and Kevin Britchford, but RR's Fitz Haye and Jon Brown were way too strong for Matt Stone and Darren Crowshaw, each only conceding 2 points. Chris Murray sealed the win for RR beating Ben Arnold 3-0.

Duffield 3 moved well out of the danger zone with a useful 4-1 win over Hood Park 3. Duffield No. 5 Dave Yallop proved too accurate for Dave Clark in a one side encounter. Jon Brooks' brave fight back from 2-0 nearly came good, but he just missed out 9-6 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to John Wright. Pete Wood overcame the loss of the 3<sup>rd</sup> game to Phil Bond to record a 3-1 win over Phil Bond.

Dave Taylor proved to be Dragons 3's hero against Queens Park as he not only came from 2-0 down to John Pearson, but saved match points in the 4<sup>th</sup>, which he won 10-8, and the 5<sup>th</sup>, which was also setted and this time won 10-9. Wins from Steve Hossett and Garth Birtles, each 3-1 gave Dragons a 3-2 win, but amazingly Queens Park had won 10 games to Dragons 9.

### **Division 5**

Dragons 5 top the table by a healthy 19 points over Queens Park 2; their clash in late October being the difference between them and in which Dragons won 4-1. This away from home clash will be difficult for Queens Park to emulate when they travel to Dragons in February.

### Ladies League Round-Up

Burton 1 remain undefeated in the first half of the season and may look back on their 3-2 victory over 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Duffield away from home. Duffield have managed to narrow the gap to just 6 points and are the only real contenders to Burton. Ashbourne have done well to win 3 of their 5 matches losing only to the top two. Rolls-Royce prop the table up and have been involved in many close matches, but their efforts haven't translated into match wins and bonus points.

### Individual Performance

<http://www.squashsite.co.uk/montecarlo07.htm>

England No. 7 and World No. 46 Laura Hill has won through two rounds of the \$32,000 Monte Carlo Classic currently underway in the principality. Hill is seeded 3 in the qualifying rounds and took on former WR 21 Carla Khan (Pak) in her first match yesterday. Khan started the match at top speed and took the first 9-5, but Hill had worked Khan hard around the court with her good line and length. That length began to tell as Khan's intensity waned and Hill forced her opponent into the back corners. Khan started to go for risky winners and the pressure told as Hill ran out the 2<sup>nd</sup> game 9/6. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> games were a formality for the well conditioned Hill, both going her way 9/1.

Hill's second round match today was against a fast improving and promising French girl Camille Serme, fresh from her own maiden WISPA World Title in Santiago last month. Serme had a good win in her first round match and looked a real threat to Hill. However, Hill's hard training at the England Squash academy over the last few weeks really paid off as she overwhelmed Serme in convincing style 9-2 9-3 9-1. Hill is now through to the first round of the 16 main draw and has been unfortunate to be draw against

WR 3 Rachael Grinham from Australia.



Laura Hill

### Master's Squash

<http://www.englishsquashmasters.com>

The 4<sup>th</sup> Master's Series Tournament was held at Coventry & North Warwicks SC and saw a good turn out of Derbyshire players, all vying for England places. However, there was mixed success. In the O35 event Kevin White is seeded No. 1, while his Derbyshire County colleagues Jason Foster (Duffield) and Brendan Hickerman (Brampton Manor) were 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> seeds respectively. Hickerman faced a tough first round against Paul Thomas (Cheshire) who had just qualified for the O35. Hickerman looked set in early in the 1<sup>st</sup> game and held a game ball, but a crucial error gave Thomas the chance, which he duly took. Hickerman was hitting the top of the tin too often, which was his undoing late on in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the game slipped away 10-8. Thomas looked more confident and Hickerman's error count soared as the match petered out 3-0.

Jason Foster looked distinctly unfit in his opening match, but his quality controlled game saw him through to an important clash with England and Lancashire's Glen Ragou. At 3-3 in the 1<sup>st</sup> it looked like Ragou would walk away with it as Foster was struggling to move. Slowly, Foster began to move better after a few long rallies and soon he had a game ball which he duly put away. Ragou looked pretty relaxed thinking Foster wouldn't last the course. How wrong he was - Foster played some excellent squash keeping the ball tight and finding the nick regularly; 9-1 Foster. Ragou rallied taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-7, but again he relaxed and Foster was able to build up a good lead in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Ragou dug in, forced his way to 8-6 and looked to have Foster beat, but knowing a 5<sup>th</sup> would only go Ragou's way, Foster somehow found some reserve; first levelling at 8-8 and then taking the 4<sup>th</sup> 10-8 for an excellent win.

England Captain Kevin White was in ruthless form, first cutting up Leicester's Steve Ward 9-0, 9-3, 9-2 in the quarter finals, before proving too quick and mobile for a tired Jason Foster 3-0. White then met England team mate Jamie Goodrich in the final. Goodrich had played well in the semi-final beating Hickerman's conqueror Paul Thomas 3-0. In the final, Goodrich came flying out of the traps and led 7-3 before White had chance to find his impeccable line and length. White's court coverage improved as he dug out several of Goodrich's tight drops, and once on level points White closed the game out 9-7. The 3<sup>rd</sup> game was a replay of the 2<sup>nd</sup>, where White's positive play and some helpful errors

from Goodrich saw him take a 6-0 lead. In both game Goodrich looked like he might get back in scoring a brace of points, until White's patient play won out and took his 2<sup>nd</sup> Master Series title of the season.



Kevin White

In the O45s, Greg Loach was 3<sup>rd</sup> seed and scheduled to meet James Ockwell in the semi-final, but Chris Harland was given a late entry and slotted in next to Loach rather than as a 4<sup>th</sup> seed. So Loach was left with a seriously tough draw and a bout of sinusitis didn't help either. Loach took the 1<sup>st</sup> game 9-2, playing some impressively tight boasts and continued in same vein in the 2<sup>nd</sup> going 5-0. Harland is a gritty fighter and quick too and a few extended rallies in Harland's favour exposed Loach's weakened state. 9-5 to Harland to level at 1-1, then 9-4; Loach fought well in the 4<sup>th</sup> and served at 6-7, but a poor call disturbed Loach's comeback and Harland was through to meet James Ockwell. Ockwell looked undercooked and Harland breezed through that semi-final before hitting the brick wall that is the peerless Greg Pearman.

John Beastall's hopes of a top 4 place and automatic selection for England appear over as he lost out to Mick Broomall in a hard fought 3-0. Beastall will have to pull out all the stops in the remaining 2 Masters Series and have a good run in the National Championships in February to stand any chance of discretionary selection. Neil Nightingale had a disappointing tournament also. After beating Peter Smith 10-9 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, Nightingale came unstuck against Howard Cherlin 3-1, but he still leads the O55's points table.

Kevin White  
DSRA Chairman  
Kevin@derbyshiresquash.co.uk