

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 15 January 2008

## Derbyshire Men's Leagues 2<sup>nd</sup> Half

<http://www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk>

### Division 1

The eagerly anticipated top of the table clash proved very decisive for LA Fitness as they crushed home side Hood Park 5-0. LA Fitness sported their strongest team of the season led by Joel Hinds (Eng No. 30), Lewis Walters and Eddie Charlton. Ryan Loska and Greg Loach being very able support lower down the order and indeed beat Leon Armston and Mick Worth 3-0 and 3-1 respectively. Lewis Walters recently won his first PSA Challenger Series title beating team mate Eddie Charlton and has risen to 185 in the World Ranking, while Charlton is 208. John Freeman acquitted himself well but was unrewarded against Walters going down 9-5 9-7 9-6. Charlton cruised to a 9-3 9-1 9-0 victory against James Hodson. So it was left to the no.1s Joel Hinds and Darren Lewis (WR 139) to entertain the crowds and once again they didn't disappoint. Hinds won their trade mark setted first game 10-9 and followed up with the second 9-4, before Lewis hit back to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-7. Hinds is susceptible to a lull in concentration and Lewis took advantage forging ahead in the 4<sup>th</sup> and reaching game point, but Hinds was determined not to let this tie go to a 5<sup>th</sup> and clawed his way to 8-8; Lewis setted 'one' giving Hinds a match ball, but Lewis had plans and played a divine forehand crosscourt winner and delicate drop to take the game 9-8. Hinds was fuming and built a good lead, Lewis clung on, but could never quite get on equal terms as Hinds toughed it

out for a 9-6 win. LA Fitness have now eased into a 20 point lead over Hood Park who should remember to keep the pressure as LA Fitness are susceptible to losses when their main three are on tournament duty.

Duffield needed a miracle to avoid a second loss to The Manor, and it almost happened. First on court was Millie Tomlinson (Eng U17 No. 2) who used her impressive retrieval skills and tight length shots to wear down The Manor's Steve Smith 9-5 2-9 9-3 9-6. Duffield's Felix Frixou managed to eek a game out of Craig Walsh on his come back from a long injury lay-off. Kyle McBride had earlier in the evening played in Duffield 2<sup>nd</sup> team's cup tie against Hood Park 2, but did not test Jason Walsh in a one sided 9-0 9-3 9-5 win for the Manor. Kevin White proved too persistent for Nick Douglas winning 3-1, to set up a deciding match between Laura Hill (Eng no. 7) and Jon Underhill. Underhill blasted his way to a 2-0 lead, Hill unable to impose herself on the match. However, some tight rallying by Hill forced some errors from Underhill and the Duffield girl was in the match taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-6. Underhill looked tired and Hill's unrelenting game never gave him the chance as the match was levelled at 2-2. Hill reached 5-3 and looked set for victory, but some desperate wafts of Underhill's racket and some fortuitous 'nicks' turned the tide and gave Underhill a match point,

which was duly converted thanks to an incredibly poor "no let" call from the marker, who had had enough for one night and retreated to the bar. Sadly, the players and packed gallery were denied a grandstand finish.

Brampton reversed their early season loss to Burton with a 3-2 home win. Steve Barker scored Brampton's first win against Doug Witfield 9-4 5-9 9-5 9-2, but Burton's Adrian Murphy did well to beat Ian Hilton 3-1. Jason Fearn demolished Paul Herrod 9-2 9-2 9-0 and again Burton hit back with Mark Pinkerton overcoming Charlie Wall despite losing the opening two games for one point. It was left to Brendan Hickerman to secure the win for Brampton beating Carl Timms 9-5 9-2 9-1.

With Lumb Farm collecting 20 points from Ashbourne they have closed the gap to Burton to just 9 points. Duffield will also be looking over their shoulder and will need to target matches against Lumb Farm and Burton to avoid the drop.

### **Division 3**

Draycott beat LA Fitness 3 3-2 to all but book a promotion slot and lead by 27 points. Dave Taylor got LA Fitness off to a good start in the closest of encounters with Steve Reeves. Reeves took the first 9-3, Taylor the next two and held a match ball in the 3<sup>rd</sup> only for Reeves to take that game 10-8 and then both players held several match balls in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Taylor eventually winning it 10-9. Dave Bott put Draycott on level terms winning the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-5 after just missing out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> games each 9-7. Steve Hossent was too strong for

Draycott's skipper Martin Bostock, but again Draycott levelled through Pete Slowakowski's 3-0 win over Craig Simpson. Martin Rose won a crucial 2<sup>nd</sup> game to thwart Mike Lambert and went on to win the next two to take the match for Draycott 5-9 10-9 9-6 9-0.

Queens Park kept up pressure on LA Fitness beating Duffield 3 in a tight contest. Martin Slack beat John Wright 3-2 coming back from 2-0 down. Tony Robinson beat Richard Grindrod 3-1 for Queens to go 2-0 up. Adrian Watts hit back for Duffield winning the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-7. With Charles Noble forced to retire leading Chris Alcock 1-0, it was left to John Pearson to take the prize for Queens beating Chris Burn 9-6 8-10 5-9 10-8 9-5.

Rolls-Royce were too strong for Burton 4 who could only muster three games between them. RR have now moved into a three way tie for the second promotion spot with LA Fitness and Queens.

### **Division 5**

Burton 6 made some ground up on Queens Park 2 when they took 19 points from bottom side Belper. Steve Quigley recovered well after losing the opening two games 9-1 9-3 to John Cunningham, but the Burton man dug deep to take the next three 9-4 9-7 9-6. Robert Cope was the only winner for Belper beating Ben Wilson 7-9 9-1 10-8 4-9 4-9. LA Fitness were please to come away from Repton with 19 points to maintain their 100% record. Tim Stretton denied them maximum points beating Nigel Grice 9-3 6-9 5-9 9-7 9-2.

## Tables

Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>Dragons (LA Fitness) 1</u>	8	8	0	0	147	33	147
<u>Hood Park 1</u>	8	6	2	0	125	51	125
<u>The Manor 1</u>	8	6	2	0	107	71	107
<u>Brampton Manor 1</u>	8	4	4	0	94	88	94
<u>Duffield 1</u>	8	2	6	0	80	101	80
<u>Burton 1</u>	8	3	5	0	78	110	78
<u>Lumb Farm 1</u>	8	3	5	0	69	115	69
<u>Ashbourne</u>	8	0	8	0	19	150	19

Division 3	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>Draycott</u>	8	8	0	0	140	43	140
<u>Dragons (LA Fitness) 3</u>	8	5	3	0	113	77	113
<u>Queens Park 1</u>	8	5	3	0	111	86	111
<u>Rolls-Royce 1</u>	8	5	3	0	109	72	109
<u>Duffield 3</u>	8	4	4	0	95	91	95
<u>David Lloyd</u>	7	2	5	0	67	106	67
<u>Hood Park 3</u>	7	2	5	0	54	114	54
<u>Burton 4</u>	8	0	8	0	43	143	43

Division 5	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>Dragons (LA Fitness) 5</u>	6	6	0	0	114	17	114
<u>Queens Park 2</u>	5	4	1	0	76	38	76
<u>Burton 6</u>	5	3	2	0	61	60	61
<u>Kimberley Manor</u>	5	2	3	0	56	61	56
<u>Repton 3</u>	6	1	5	0	33	102	33
<u>Belper</u>	5	0	5	0	27	89	27

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