

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 5 February 2008

For more details about Squash in Derbyshire see: <http://www.derbyshiresquash.co.uk>

If you would like to see Squash in the 2012 Olympics please sign up to this UK Government Petition: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/2012squash/>

Derbyshire Men's Leagues 2nd Half Rnd 9

Division 2

Duffield 2 maintain their lead at the top of the table (see below) although Dragons 2 cut the gap to 6 points. Duffield did well to secure 19 points against Repton, with Jack Blythe recovering from 2-0 to Simon Evans to hold a match ball, but Evans' experience showed taking the match in a very late 10-9 win in the 5th for Repton's only success.

Simon Price initially gave James Barry some problems, but Barry's athleticism enabled him to win the 4th game 9-0. Mitchell Cook, Kyle McBride and Adam Armingier all secured 3-0 wins.

The Manor 2 fought hard against Dragons 2, but could only collect 4 games as four of the matches went Dragon's way 3-1. Craig Simpson was too strong for Paul Hodgkinson in the only 3-0 tie.

Home team Burton 2 started well against Hood Park 2 as Dave O'Hara beat Ray Patrick 3-0 and Paul Baker beat Mick Burton in a close 9-6 9-7 5-9 9-6. Hood Park hit back with wins from Nigel Storer over Vince Dolman 3-1 and Paul Sumpter over Jason Harper 3-0. So it was left to the no.1s to settle the match, and it looked promising for Burton as Adrian Murphy took the 1st

game 9-8 after bravely setting 'sudden death' to 9. Ian Duffy immediately hit back in the second 9-4 and took an early lead in the 3rd, but Murphy's delicate touch saw him reach game ball. Duffy could sense this was a vital few minutes and rallied well to move Murphy out of position. Duffy won the 3rd 10-8 and a straightforward 4th earned Hood Park the bonus points.

Burton 3 were unlucky to lose their match with Lumb Farm 2 as they won 12 games to their opponents 10. Doug Whitfield overcame the loss of the 1st game to Aide Elks to put Burton 3 on the board and this Simon Barnett put them 2-0 beating Steve Grainger 3-0. Sid College turned the tide for Lumb Farm beating Colin Morris 6-9 10-8 1-9 9-0 9-6 and Sam Brown showed good improvement and fitness as he beat Matthew Maclachlan 1-9 7-9 9-2 9-2 9-0 to level the match. Barry Marshall found himself 2-1 down to the fighting qualities of Greg Watkins, but it was Marshall's resolve that won him the 4th game by a whisker and the 5th almost as close - 9-5 5-9 6-9 9-8 9-7. Watkins was left rueing his 4th game match ball.

Lumb Farm will need to beat Burton 2 to avoid the drop and trail the 3rd from bottom team by 16 points.

Division 4

Hood Park 4 are trying valiantly to haul themselves off the bottom of the league and did themselves a huge favour as they beat Burton 5 3-2. It was a timely first win of the season for Paul Bullen who put a long season of defeats behind him as he beat Rich Davis in an exceptionally close 3-1 10-8 9-8 8-9 9-7. Elliot Ward and Carl Spencer both comfortably won 3-0 to give Hood Park the win and much needed bonus points. Brampton Manor 2's top order minimised damage as they went down to v Rolls-Royce 2. Andy Rockley, Steve Howard and Phil Robinson all won 3-0, but Ashley Davies and Nick Melton then hit back with 3-0 wins of their own for Brampton.

Duffield 4 earned maximum points from their tie with Repton 2. Keith Elson put in a captain's display as he beat Will Hibbert 9-7 9-10 3-9 9-6 9-4 in just over an hours tough squash.

Dragons 4 seriously dented Sandiacre's title prospects in a one sided 5-0 and crucially 20-0 points thrashing. Sandiacre will have to target a big points difference when they play Duffield 4 if they are to stand any chance of promotion.

Inter-County Matches

O35s

Men's O35 Inter County Finals 2007/8 - 23/24 February at Duffield SC. Semi-final 11:00 Saturday & Finals 11:00 Sunday onwards. All spectators welcome - come and support your County Team!

O45s

Derbyshire O45s were in action over the weekend with County matches at Burton SC against hosts Staffordshire, Merseyside and Cumbria. The squad was at full strength headed by Dragon's trio Greg Loach, Lee Watson, Mike Lambert and ably supported by Brampton Manor's Ian Hilton, Dave Yallop from Duffield, Simon Barnett of Burton SC and another Dragons man Doug Whitfield.

Derbyshire started poorly with a close 3-2 loss to Merseyside and with 3-0 wins from Loach and Watson together with a few games from the lower order weren't too far behind on points.

The Derbyshire players gathered themselves in the evening with a 4-1 win over Cumbria. Other results meant that a win over Staffs on the Sunday was the only result enabling promotion. This was achieved with an excellent team effort with a 4-1 win and putting Derbys top of the table with Staffs Second.

National Championships 10-17 February
<http://www.nationalsquashchamps.co.uk/>

Ladies

Laura Hill (Eng No.8) has been given a tough draw and plays defending champion Jenny Duncalf (Eng No.3 WR9) in the opening round. Hill last played Duncalf in the quarter finals of the 2006 event, losing a close 3-1 and had briefly led 7-6 in the 4th.

Millie Tomlinson (Eng U17 No.2) is looking for some experience in the top flight and her tournament starts in the qualifying rounds against Durham's Katie Burgin, but will then have her work cut out to progress as she meets Vicki Hynes, seeded 4th in the qualifiers.

Men

Joel Hinds has been seeded No. 1 in the qualifying draw, but will be tested by the fast improving Eng U19 No.2 Joe Lee from Surrey. As a qualifier Hinds will be randomly selected in one of the available slots in the main draw and could face one of Duffield PSL stars Andy Whipp or Alex Stait.

Masters

O35s - Kevin White is seeded 6 and is likely to play title holder Nick Taylor in the quarters, while at the same stage Jason Foster is seeded 8 and plays Alex Gough the No. 1 seed, who is still a World top 20 professional.

O45s - Greg Loach plays his closest rival for an England spot, Stuart Farrar, in his first round, victory there guarantees England selection. Loach is then seeded to

meet 3/4 seed James Ockwell in the quarters.

O55s - Neil Nightingale is seeded 5/8 and will play Paul Reader whom he beat in last week's Pontefract Masters. Nightingale then faces 3/4 seed John Duckworth for a place in the semi-finals. John Beastall plays 9/16 seed Mick Broomhall in his first round.

O70s - John White MBE makes a return to the court after an 8 year absence and takes on old sparring partner Tony Breakwell for a crack at defending champion John Woodliffe.

Ladies O45s - Amazingly defending champion Lesley Sturgess has been completely overlooked and is unseeded. Worse still she has been drawn to play the No. 1 seed Victoria King in the 1st round.



Lesley Sturgess National O45 Champion

Division 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>Duffield 2</u>	9	8	1	0	161	51	161
<u>Dragons (LA Fitness) 2</u>	9	8	1	0	155	62	155
<u>Hood Park 2</u>	9	7	2	0	127	91	127
<u>Repton 1</u>	9	5	4	0	116	92	116
<u>Burton 2</u>	9	3	6	0	94	127	94
<u>Burton 3</u>	9	1	8	0	86	150	86
<u>Lumb Farm 2</u>	9	3	6	0	78	137	78
<u>The Manor 2</u>	9	1	8	0	52	159	52

Division 4	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>Dragons (LA Fitness) 4</u>	9	8	1	0	165	29	165
<u>Duffield 4</u>	9	8	1	0	143	73	143
<u>Sandiacre Friesland</u>	9	5	4	0	111	97	111
<u>Repton 2</u>	9	4	5	0	104	107	104
<u>Brampton Manor 2</u>	9	3	6	0	93	119	93
<u>Rolls-Royce 2</u>	9	3	6	0	87	125	87
<u>Burton 5</u>	9	3	6	0	71	140	71
<u>Hood Park 4</u>	9	2	7	0	63	147	63

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