

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 12 February 2008

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

Please remember to play your County Knock-Out Cup matches. The semi-finals and finals will be held at LA Fitness on 11/12 April.

Inter-County Matches: Ladies 8/9 March at Duffield SC; Men 8/9 March at Brampton Manor - matches start at 12:00 17:00 on Sat and 11:00 on Sun.

Current: National Squash Championships 10-17 February 2008

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

Derbyshire Men's Leagues Round 10

Division 1

LA Fitness' romp to successive titles almost came unstuck as they were pushed to the limit by Burton. In what turned out to be the 'decider', Adrian Murphy's late stroke play caused Neil Thorpe real problems and the Burton man took the opening two games easily 9-2 9-3. The LA Fitness squad are known for their grittiness and Thorpe was no exception as he refused to go down without a fight. Thorpe was getting used to the pace of Burton's courts and began to move Murphy around stifling his delayed shots. Murphy looked tired and the third game slipped away 9-3, the 4th in similar fashion 9-4. The 5th was closer as each player tried to establish a lead, but after levelling at 5-5, it was Thorpe who pushed home an advantage to take the game 9-5 and give LA Fitness a temporary 1-0 lead.

Meanwhile, Mark Pinkerton levelled for Burton as he overcame the loss of the first game 7-9 to Karl Murray. Pinkerton hung in

well to take the second game 10-8 and it proved decisive as he won the next two 9-3 9-5. Greg Loach was too efficient for Carl Timms winning 9-7 9-6 9-2 and Joel Hinds (Eng No 29) far too sharp for Phil Brailsford in a very one sided 9-0 9-0 9-1. LA Fitness breathed a sigh of relief as the bonus point came their way. However, Staffordshire team mates Rich Davis and Ryan Loska had a real ding-dong battle at second string. Loska was as quick as ever out of the blocks winning the first 0-9, Davis hit back 9-7 9-0, but then relaxed as Loska wound up the pace in the 4th (6-9) to take the match to a decider. And what a decider; Loska having never beaten Davis could sense a victory and Davis not wanting to break his spell, meant that this was destined to go to the wire and after a titanic battle Loska was the first to game point, but a delicate drop by Davis wrested the initiative and he levelled at 8-8 before some excellent tight lengths saw the Burton player through 10-8.

Duffield managed their first win over higher ranked opponents this season as

they beat Brampton Manor 3-2. Again it was the first match on court that proved to be crucial, but you wouldn't have known it as Ian Hilton appeared for the first game still in his tracksuit bottoms. Millie Tomlinson stature defied her determination and she soon had Hilton fetching the ball out of the back corners. Hilton's unorthodox swing caused Tomlinson some problems, but she soon began to read the game. After a game ball at 8-6, Tomlinson seized the first game 10-8. Hilton's legs were now free to move and he swept through the second game 9-3. Tomlinson got back to her excellent line and length to restrict Hilton's shots winning the third 9-4. Hilton upped the pace and breezed through the fourth 9-0 and looked to have the match in his grasp as he went 4-0 up in the fifth. Tomlinson managed to grab the serve and chip away at Hilton's lead to level the score 6-6. Hilton was looking edgy and Tomlinson capitalised keeping the ball tight and finishing the match with a timely drop shot (9-6).

Adrian Watts made his Duffield 1st Team debut, but Steve Barker didn't allow him to front where he is best, taking a 9-5 9-1 9-5 win. Jack Blythe showed his improvement as he gave the experienced Jason Fearn a hard time taking the second game off the Brampton pro. However, Fearn was too accurate winning 5-9 9-5 1-9 2-9. Laura Hill (Eng No8) was too strong and accurate for Charlie Wall, 9-0 9-4 9-3 and Kevin White too quick and consistent for the error prone Brendan Hickerman. Duffield were pleased gain further distance from the relegation zone.

Hood Park's faint hopes of the title were kept alive with a 5-0 drubbing of Lumb Farm. John Freeman, James Hodson, Richard Woodroffe and Leon Armston all had straightforward 3-0 wins. Sam Brown saved Lumb Farm's blushes as he won their only point, giving Ian Duffy a hard run 9-7 9-1 3-9 9-7.

The Manor dominated their match with the league's whipping boys Ashbourne, winning with a points score line of 20-1.

Division 3

A long night was in store for Duffield as they hosted promotion hopefuls Draycott, this time without their no.1 Tom Woolagar. Steve Reeves got the visitors off to a winning start downing John Wright 3-1. Richard Grindrod saved a couple of match balls in the fourth before levelling the match for Duffield, beating Dave Bott 7-9 9-3 2-9 10-9 9-6. Draycott's skipper Martin Bostock's run of close matches and bad luck continued as he missed out extending his match with Chris Alcock. Alcock saved several game points as he edged out the fourth game 10-9 to take Duffield 2-1 up. Lesley Sturgess couldn't quite hang on to give Duffield the team win as Pete Slowakowski outlasted her in another see-saw battle 10-8 3-9 3-9 9-2 4-9. The match was poised nicely at 2-2 with Phil Bond taking on Martin Rose. Yet again another marathon ensued, Bond this time showing his fitness and all court game by taking the last two games in a 4-9 9-6 6-9 9-4 9-7 victory to seal the match for Duffield.

Queens Park maintained their promotion hopes with a solid victory over Burton 4. Charles Noble, Robert Essex and John Pearson all recorded 3-0 wins, while Dave Green lost a game to Gary Holmes. Rob Bell had initially given Burton a foot hold as he clung to a third match ball in the fourth beating Tom May 9-5 9-4 6-9 10-9. Burton 4 remain rooted to the bottom of the table.

Division 5

Queen's Park 2 look certain to be promoted after collecting maximum points against bottom side Belper. Belper's performance has improved throughout the season with Alec Cheyne and John Cunningham pushing their opponents to close to a 5th game decider. However, Mike Dyer almost overturned Queen's Dean Brewin in a cracking match. Dyer had taken the first only for Brewin to win the next two, determined for a win he dug deep into his reserves, fending off several match points to take the match to a 5th, only for Brewin to edge him out 9-7.

Men's Division 3	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>Draycott</u>	10	9	1	0	167	67	167
<u>Queens Park 1</u>	10	7	3	0	146	97	146
<u>Rolls-Royce 1</u>	10	6	4	0	134	95	134
<u>LA Fitness 3</u>	9	6	3	0	128	85	128
<u>Duffield 3</u>	10	5	5	0	120	116	120
<u>Hood Park 3</u>	10	4	6	0	91	148	91
<u>David Lloyd</u>	9	2	7	0	84	138	84
<u>Burton 4</u>	10	0	10	0	53	177	53

Men's Division 5	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>LA Fitness 5</u>	7	7	0	0	134	19	134
<u>Queens Park 2</u>	7	6	1	0	116	45	116
<u>Burton 6</u>	6	3	3	0	64	80	64
<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>	7	0	7	0	33	129	33

Men's Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
<u>LA Fitness 1</u>	10	10	0	0	182	46	182
<u>Hood Park 1</u>	10	8	2	0	160	60	160
<u>The Manor 1</u>	10	7	3	0	142	107	142
<u>Brampton Manor 1</u>	10	5	5	0	122	106	122
<u>Duffield 1</u>	10	4	6	0	112	113	112
<u>Burton 1</u>	10	3	7	0	94	142	94
<u>Lumb Farm 1</u>	10	3	7	0	73	155	73
<u>Ashbourne</u>	9	0	9	0	23	167	23

Ladies League

Burton are still flying high and maintained their 7 point lead over Duffield as both teams scored maximum points. The eagerly anticipated clash in a couple of weeks is likely to be a straight shoot out for the title.

Burton's top order were too strong for Bradley House, but Sheila Gilford was perhaps unlucky not to take another game off Wendy Prestige as she was unable to convert two setted games, eventually going down 9-3 9-10 8-10 5-9.

Trent Vale were also in ruthless mood as they cruised to a 5-0 win over Rolls-Royce. Only Tanya Charlton managed to get RR onto the score sheet as she took the first two games comfortably 9-3 9-5, before Karen Laughton turned on the power to take the next two 9-1 9-1 and then squeeze through in the 5th 10-8.

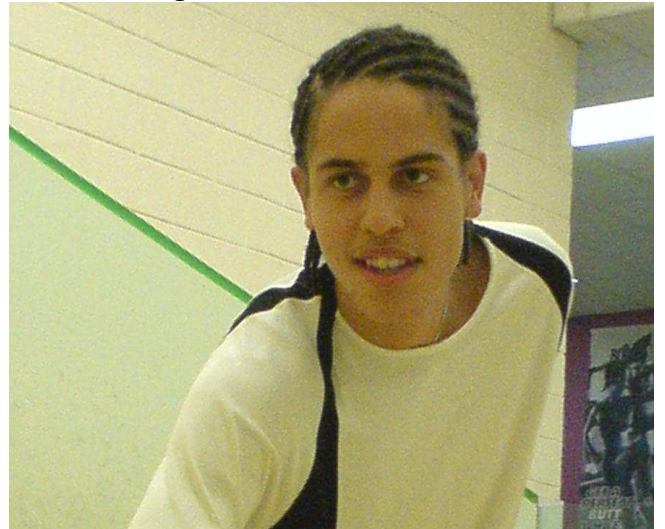
Ashbourne were unable to score any points against a Duffield side honing their squash for the clash with Burton. Hilary Herridge made Rikki Shepperd work hard for her three games 9-6 9-4 9-6. Duffield look well placed with Leo Sheppard getting back to her best and Hannah Blythe improving with every game, each winning very comfortably.

National Squash Championships

<http://www.nationalsquashchamps.co.uk/today.htm>

The Men's Qualifying event has finished and Derbyshire have their first entrant to the main draw for almost a decade as Joel Hinds first beat Sam Wileman 11/5, 11/5, 11/4 in 21 minutes and went on to beat one of the top England U19s, Joe Lee, 14/12, 11/5, 5/11, 9/11, 11/6 in 81 minutes.

Hinds then had the rather stiff task of playing 8 times finalist and No.2 seed Lee Beachill from Pontefract in Yorkshire. Hinds seemed to be in most of the rallies, but it only takes one loose shot for Beachill to find an impeccable line and length winner. Hinds rallied well in the third and made Beachill work for the third game, but the Yorkshire man limpet like drives and decisive shot play proved too good as he went through 11/3, 11/3, 11/7.



Joel Hinds Eng No 30

The news wasn't so good in the Ladies event as Eng U17 No. 2 Millie Tomlinson exited the after a brave fight with Katie Burgin from Durham and Cleveland, going down 12/10, 11/4, 7/11, 11/9 in 31 minutes.

Derbyshire Junior Grand Prix

The 5th round of the Derbyshire Junior Squash Grand Prix was held at Duffield Squash Club on 10 February. 29 u15's took part, with a good number of newcomers helping to keep numbers high, despite there being a number of regulars missing due to a clash with another tournament and half term in some areas.

In the top group Joe Harvey had an easy ride to first place, to set up a battle with current GP leader Tom Turner at the final round, which should produce some high quality squash. Match of the day in Group A involved eventual runner up Alex Wilson and Naomi Hardy, who fought back in the final game to push Alex all the way.

Chris Wilkinson in Group B, Alex Ross in C, Craig Osbourne in D, Matt Lamin in E and Ben Harvey in F all won their group without losing a match.

Matt Lamin won his group by beating newcomer Julian Ng in the final Group E match, which proved to be the match of the day in the group.

Ben Harvey and Max Gilbert went into the final match in Group F level on points, but Ben proved too strong for young Max.

Group A	Group B
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Kevin White DSRA Chairman
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Joe Harvey Alex Wilson Naomi Hardy Madeline Tomlinson Owen Whitfield	Chris Wilkinson Chris Caranza Tom Goodwin Alec Hawkins
Group C	Group D
Alex Ross Joe Woods Joel McNab Cole Buxton Oliver Favell	Craig Osbourne Zac Beevers Greg Sulley Robert Law Alex Thomas
Group E	Group F
Matt Lamin Julian Ng Jeremy Ng Matt Barton Oliver Jacob	Ben Harvey Max Gilbert Isabel Favell Sam Cottrell

Current top 5 in the GP are -

1. Tom Turner 34
2. Joe Harvey 32
3. Alex Ross 30
4. Oliver Turner 30
5. Matt Lamin 27

FINAL GP ROUND - SUNDAY 30 MARCH
@ BRAMPTON MANOR, CHESTERFIELD
@ 10am - Entries (no later than Fri 28
Mar) to Helen Wilson, 114 Chartwell Ave
Wingerworth, Chesterfield S42 6SP; Tel
01246 - 558056

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