

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 1 April 2008

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

**Derbyshire Squash AGM 7.30pm 13 May 2008 @ LA Fitness all clubs to send a representative (-5 points if not) & presentation of League Trophies.**

**County Knock-Out Cup - semi-finals and finals at LA Fitness on 11/12 April.**

## Derbyshire Men's Leagues Round 10

### Division 2

Duffield 2 clinched the division title with a resounding 5-0 thrashing of Lumb Farm 2, while the runners-up place was grabbed by LA Fitness 2 despite their close loss to Repton. At the foot of the table Lumb Farm 2 and The Manor 2 will be relegated.

Duffield 2's young guns have improved throughout this season and will be vying for a 1<sup>st</sup> team place. However, it was a Duffield stalwart Felix Frixou who got the ball rolling for Duffield and showed great athleticism well beyond his 45 years. Frixou beat Jake Brown 4-9 0-9 4-9, while Adam Armiger was too steady and covered the court too well for Aide Elks. Jack Blythe and Kyle McBride both started by narrowly winning their first games 10-8 against Steve Grainger and Sid College before youth prevailed. James Barry's court coverage and natural fitness were in evidence as he beat Barry Marshall 6-9 3-9 3-9.

The home clash between Burton 3 and Burton 2 went as expected to the senior side 5-0. Doug Witfield battled hard and held a match point against Paul Baker. Baker had come from behind in the 4<sup>th</sup> and did so again in the 5<sup>th</sup> eventually prevailing 9-2 2-9 9-5 7-9 8-10. Hood Park 2 kept ahead of Repton for third place with a useful 3-2 win over The Manor 2. The Manor 2 were given the best possible start as Todd McQuilkin defeated Mark Northholt 7-9 2-9 9-4 7-9 and

Andy Rolston beat Kenny Grant 6-9 9-7 8-10 0-9. Mick Burton overcame a distinctly shaky start against Andy Hardy, recovering from a pointless first game to take the second, but then relax and allow Hardy to take the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Burton then produced a devastating turn of form taking the next two for the loss of only one point, the final score being 0-9 9-4 6-9 9-1 9-0. Nigel Storer looked well in control of his match with James Healey despite dropping the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Simon Hurst ensured Hood Park received the bonus points in a commanding 9-5 9-3 9-1 win over Steve Smith.

LA Fitness 2 came unstuck against an impressive Repton side who have really turned things around since their disastrous start to the season. Had Repton shown their latter season form they surely would have been in with a shout for promotion. Ian Mackinson was in rare form against an underpar John Kirtland dispatching him for the loss of only 3 points. Craig Simpson looked well in control of the game against Simon Evans and cruised to a 2-0 lead. Evans then turned things around, pushing Simpson into the back corners to take the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The fourth was a real ding-dong scrap which Evans just won, but he'd put too much into that one and suffered at the start of the 5<sup>th</sup>; Simpson again dominating the T. Evans rallied hard driving Simpson back again, but the tall LA Fitness man just held on to win 9-3 9-4 6-9 7-9 9-7. Adrian Oldbury got Repton on the score sheet with an impressive 3-1 win

against Mike Lambert. Simon Price dominated the first two games only to let Neil Thorpe in front of him early in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and wasn't able to get Thorpe behind him again until the 5<sup>th</sup>, winning 1-9 6-9 9-2 9-4 3-9. Ben Smith and Lee Watson's match took a similar path as Smith was too quick for Watson in the first two games, but as Smith began to tire Watson got in front. Smith upped the pace in the 5<sup>th</sup> to win 4-9 4-9 9-7 9-2 3-9.

Division 2	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Duffield 2	13	12	1	0	236	65	236
LA Fitness 2	13	10	3	0	207	110	207
Hood Park 2	13	10	3	0	183	129	183
Repton 1	13	8	5	0	178	131	178
Burton 2	13	5	8	0	148	169	148
Burton 3	13	2	11	0	119	209	119
Lumb Farm 2	13	3	10	0	93	215	93
The Manor 2	13	2	11	0	85	221	85

#### **Division 4**

**LA Fitness 4** captured the Division 4 title and **Duffield 4** look to have sealed the remaining promotion place. LA Fitness's opponents were **Repton 2** and the title celebrations could start early as Rob Sillet and Keith Howard each won 3-0 in convincing style. John Holmes secured the bonus points beating Dave Clibborn 6-9 6-9 9-6 9-7 5-9 and Garth Birtles added some icing beating Andy Drzewiecki 3-0. Martin Allen kept the blushes from Repton's faces as he held his nerve in the 5<sup>th</sup> to beat Martin Edwards 9-5 4-9 9-4 5-9 9-5.

**Burton 5** managed to score a maximum of 12 points for a losing side while their opponents **Brampton Manor 2** collected 17 points to secure them Division 4 squash next season. Despite a brave effort from the whole Burton team they have been consigned to relegation. All matches but one went the full distance and the deciding match between

Russ Davis and Jon Hendy went right down to the wire with Hendy edging through to take the 5<sup>th</sup> 10-8.

**Duffield 4** narrowly won an important match against **Rolls-Royce 2** for their promotion hopes. Phil Robinson gave RR a good start as he came back from 8-5 down in the 4<sup>th</sup> to win that game 10-9 and his match, but otherwise the Duffield players seized the crucial games. Paul Harrison took a game to work out Hashard Mistry and then played a tactically superior game to secure a 3-0 win. Tony Gregory looked to have his match sewn up with a couple of match balls in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, but Steve Howard played some brave short shots to take the 3<sup>rd</sup>. The roles were reversed in the fourth and Gregory was pleased not to have to go to 5. 18-6 didn't seem to do justice to how close the tie was.

Division 4	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
LA Fitness 4	13	12	1	0	233	55	233
Duffield 4	13	11	2	0	202	109	202
Sandiacre	13	9	4	0	185	122	185
Rolls-Royce 2	13	6	7	0	148	162	148
Brampton 2	13	4	9	0	137	180	137
Repton 2	13	5	8	0	141	167	141
Burton 5	13	3	10	0	102	210	102
Hood Park 4	13	2	11	0	80	223	80

**Sandiacre** were once again at full strength and showed that a consistent team might have enabled them to edge out Duffield 4 in the chase for promotion. They still have a very slim chance, but Duffield only need 3 points from their last match. Sandiacre dominated 4 of the matches, but Steve Robinson had to retire when 2-1 up denying Hood Park 4 the chance of making the score look respectable.

### County Knock-Out Cup

The County KO Cup semi-finals and finals will be hosted at LA Fitness on the 12/13<sup>th</sup> April. In Section A, for Division 1 and 2 teams LA Fitness play surprise semi-finalists Lumb Farm who beat an abject Duffield side. Hood Park and The Manor contest the other semi-final, which is likely to be decided on whether Darren Lewis is available for Hood Park.

### Racketball

The Manor 1 looked well set to take the inaugural Racketball League Title, but Duffield 1 have seriously dented their title chances as they took a surprising 3-1 win. Neil Shorrocks showed how tennis players can adapt to a squash court as he defeated James Healey 15-7 15-9 15-7 to get Duffield underway. Craig Walsh hit the ball incredibly cleanly in the first against Duffield's Pete Radford, but in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Radford really turned thing around with some deft touches to frustrate Walsh who began to find the tin. Momentum was completely with Radford as he raced through the next to for an excellent example of controlled play, 7-15 15-4 15-6 15-8 and to put Duffield 2-0 up. One of the county's most experienced racketball exponents, Nigel Millington, found great width and length as he put The Manor back on track beating Stuart Maclean 10-15 3-15 8-15. Jason Walsh was clearly looking to avenge his early season defeat to Ladies National Champion Laura Hill and raced to 14-9, only for Hill to tighten up and go to 14-14 'set one'. Hill dumped the double game ball in the tin off the serve, but that was to be one of her last mistakes as she ground down an increasingly frustrated opponent. Still Walsh looked to be taking the match to a 5<sup>th</sup> as he led the 4<sup>th</sup> 10-3 through some superb racket work, but Hill steadied her play, driving the ball deep to suffocate Walsh's shot-making and finally clinching the match 14-15 15-10 15-12 15-12.

**Kevin White** DSR Chair  
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Division 1	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
The Manor 1	10	9	1	0	138	47	138
Duffield 1	11	8	3	0	138	73	138
David Lloyd	12	7	5	0	116	108	116
The Manor 2	11	4	7	0	91	124	91
Brampton Mnr	5	3	2	0	59	39	59
The Manor 3	6	2	4	0	42	72	42
LA Fitness 1	5	2	3	0	41	49	41
Duffield 2	10	0	10	0	34	147	34

### Inter-Counties Racketball

Derbyshire travel to Thame, Oxford this weekend for the UK finals of the racketball Inter-Counties tournament and they are pooled with Merseyside and Kent.

### Individual Performances

Joel Hinds (Eng No. 30) was playing in the Wimbledon Cup BSPA event last weekend. Hinds drew Pontefract's Sam Wileman in the first round of qualifying and made short work of the youngster 11-4 11-5 11-2 to book a spot in the first round proper. Hinds' next challenge was to overcome a very fit and strong Mark Fuller (Northamptonshire) without spending too much energy before a sterner test in the evening. Hinds weather a concerted effort from Fuller in the second game, but otherwise was comfortable winner 11-7 12-10 11-6. Ben Ford was next up for Hinds, but is an altogether different proposition having highly skilled racket work and excellent shot selection. Hinds took the opening game starting well and holding on, but once Ford became more comfortable he was able to punish loose shots of Hinds. Hinds was perhaps a little unlucky not to take the 4<sup>th</sup>, but a lapse in concentration proved costly as he went out of the event 9-11 11-5 7-11 9-11.

