

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 8 September 2008

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

Derbyshire Squash League Pre-Season

Men's League

Division 1

After 5 years and two Derbyshire League titles Hood Park 1 have pulled out of the League because of the loss of several key players. Hood's former no.2 John Freeman has been signed by Lumb Farm providing them with a cutting edge at no. 1. Duffield have picked up Hood's no. 4 Richard Woodroffe who could also prove valuable in their O35 National Club team. Paul Hargrave and Steve Strange return to Duffield's line up after length injury lay-offs.

Winners for the last two season, LA Fitness will remain the front runners and are again led by Derbyshire's No. 1 and England No. 28 Joel Hinds. Rising stars Eddie Charlton and Lewis Walters remain on their books, but are likely only to play if Duffield's strong on-paper team comes together.

The Manor welcomes the return of Nick Hargreaves to their middle order although they have lost part time No. 1 Nick Douglas. Richard Underhill also looks doubtful for The Manor and so they might be struggling to emulate their regular 3rd place at the end of the season.

Burton 1 will surely be served well by Richard Davies being promoted to No.1 after a successful recovery last season from a knee operation. Duffield 2 were promoted to Division 1 when Ashbourne were unable to field an strong enough side. Duffield 2's youthful side did well to recover to the top of Division 2 last season after an early loss against Repton 1.

Division 1 matches start Thursday 11th Sept with the two Duffield sides clashing; LA Fitness take on a tricky opening tie against The Manor and Lumb Farm 1 hope home advantage is enough to overcome Burton 1.

Division 2

Repton 1's strong finish last season saw them just drop short of LA Fitness 2, but without Duffield 2 they appear to be the potential front runners. Newly promoted Draycott will provide a tough challenge in their away matches where their team is bolstered by their non-travelling No 1. Division 2 matches start on 18th September.

Division 3

There will be an interesting battle for supremacy in this division with Queens Park, Duffield 3, Rolls-Royce and LA Fitness 3 all in contention. Sandiacre may prove the dark horses with consecutive promotions up the leagues. First matches are on 11th September.

Division 4

It is hard to pick a potential winner here as the addition of just one player in any of the teams will make a huge difference. Perhaps Repton 2 or Brampton Manor 2 will show their heads early on, but Duffield 5 look certain to struggle. Division 4 matches start on 18th September.

Division 5

Division 5 welcomes new men's team Bradley House to Derbyshire League squash, although they already have a Ladies team. Burton 4 are

clear favourites. First matches are on 11th September.

Ladies League

Duffield Ladies just edged out Burton by 2 points last season to take the title and again look to be the favourites, but only by a whisker. David Lloyd, entering the League for the first time, may break Duffield's stranglehold on the title as they have Lisa McKenna and Derbyshire County players Hanna Legg and Jenny Knibbs to call on.

Individual's Pre-Season

Derbyshire's leading female squash player **Laura Hill** (Eng No 8) has overcome her rib injury which marred the end of last season and caused her World ranking to drop from 43 to 55.

Hill made her comeback in the \$20,000 Internationaux De Squash Feminin De Sannois tournament in Paris, but lacking serious match practise lost out to Egyptian whiz kid Nour El Tayeb 9/6 9/10 5/9 9/5 9/4. A few more weeks' hard training saw Hill breeze through the qualifying rounds of the Egyptian Open held in Alexandria 2-7 August.

The qualifying matches gave Hill some valuable court time to hone her classy length game especially with a first round clash against England Squash' World Open Ambassador Sarah Kippax. Hill dominated the first two games, pounding the ball into the two back corners and giving nothing to Kippax (WR31) to counter attack. Hill's shot-making had returned, but she still lacked tough match play and soon Kippax edged her way into the contest. Hill had led 9-8 in the point-a-rally to 11 format, but Kippax reeled off 3 straight points to take the match to a 4th. The two players were inseparable and on reaching 10-10 it was Hill's plumb length that separated the two players as Hill squeezed through by the required 2 clear points to record a 11/8 11/9 11/13 14/12 win.

Although Hill had never lost to Kippax, she was clearly buoyed by her performance as she managed to wrestle a game off World No. 3 Rachael Grinham. Hill went down to Grinham 11/4 12/14 11/8 11/3, but it was the Egyptian based star's toughest match of the tournament by far.

Hill now heads to the \$54,000 FOREXX Dutch Open starting on the 2 Sept, where she met Sarah Kippax once again in the first qualifying round. The match was a close facsimile of their bout in Egypt, with Hill coming out 11/7 11/8 9/11 11/6 in 45 minutes.

Hill's next match was against another compatriot Dominique Lloyd-Walters (WR24), but the move to the show court and a provocative French referee proved unsettling as Hill crashed out 6/11 5/11 7/11 in 43 frustrating minutes. Hill's only consolation was that the match referee was relieved of any further duties by the Tournament Director.

Hill travels again to the Netherlands to take part in the \$8000 Pepsi Enschede Open on 25th Sept and then the Bymac Leinster Open starting on 2nd October. These two tournaments should sharpen Hill ready for the World Open in Manchester starting on 14th October.

Joel Hinds (Eng No. 28) capped a successful season reaching the BSPA Finals in June. Hinds lost out to former junior adversary Tom Richards 3-0, showing the difficulties of studying full time. Much to the delight of his home fans, Hinds will join Hill in Benz Bavarian Duffield's PSL team. The partisan crowd particularly like to get right behind their home grown stars to get the best out of them. It will be interesting to watch his progress again this season and whether he gives squash his full time come June next year.

Master's Series

<http://www.englishsquashmasters.com/>

The Master's Series of tournaments begins on 26 September with the East of England Open in Bury-St-Edmunds. This Series comprises 5 regional Open events finishing with the National Championships in February 2009. Points are collected depending on which round is reached. The top 4 finishers are automatically selected for England, along with 2 discretionary places.

Duffield's **Kevin White** reached the semi-final of the recent O35 British Open and as these ranking points also count starts the regional tournament season off with a head-start. O35 British Open quarter-finalist **Jason Foster**, also of Duffield, will be looking for his 3rd England selection this season.

Neil Nightingale will continue his quest for a third successive England place in the incredibly competitive O55 age group. Nightingale had poor result in the British Open and will have some catching up to do.

Lesley Sturgess moves up an age category into the O50s after 5 straight seasons playing for the England O45 team and one National title. Lesley should walk into the team, but her real challenge will be to pick up a 2nd National title next February.

Like White, **Greg Loach** starts the O45s Masters' Series off with a very useful 440 points from the British Open, over a third of the required tally. Loach's should easily gain enough points for England qualification and should have his main aim to beat Greg Pearman, the winner all 5 Master' tournaments last season.

Junior Squash

Derbyshire's leading Junior, **Millie Tomlinson**, represented England U17s in the European Junior Championships in France and England U19s in Norway during the summer and will be looking to add to her England representations

this season. Tomlinson also won the German U17 Open last April and the Prince Nottingham Junior Open U19 in June where she beat her main rival Kimberly Hay to head the U17 rankings. Tomlinson is also No3 in the U19 rankings - just behind Hay.

Kevin White

DSRA Chairman

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 17 September 2008

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

Derbyshire Squash League

Men's League

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Duffield 1	1	1	0	0	18	5	18
LA Fitness 1	1	1	0	0	17	7	17
Lumb Farm 1	1	1	0	0	17	7	17
The Manor 1	1	0	1	0	7	17	7
Burton 1	1	0	1	0	7	17	7
Duffield 2	1	0	1	0	5	18	5
Brampton Manor 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LA Fitness started their campaign in fine style with a 4-1 victory over The Manor. The Manor has assembled a very strong team with Darren Lewis a last minute addition to their line up at No.1. Despite this ambush LA Fitness showed stood firm from the off. Mike Lambert must have thought Nigel Millington a spent force after taking the first 9-6, but Millington's tough summer training enabled him to take the next 10-8 and then take the third 9-5 to lead 2-1. On the back foot, Lambert rallied hard, found his good length and pulled ahead in the 4th. Millington chose to let the 4th go and concentrate on the decider. It was a good choice as Millington eased to match point 8-6, both players equally tired, but could not convert his first match point and another went begging at 8-7 with another 'tin'. Lambert capitalised on these errors and slotted away his first match ball. LA were on the back on the road to win.

Karl Murray also looked fit and sharp and after a close 1st game went his way 10-9, Craig Walsh

was no match. LA were now 2-0 up. Jonathan Underhill struck back for The Manor with an assured display of shot making against Ryan Loska. Again once the 1st was captured 10-8, Underhill's confidence grew and took the next to reasonably comfortably. Greg Loach showed he was ready to reclaim an England O45 spot beating Jason Walsh 3-1. Loach doesn't give too much away and it was only Walsh's speed around court that kept him in the 1st game. Once Loach had honed his length game he ran through the 1st 9-6, quickly added the second 9-0 and looked set to administer a 3-0 drubbing, but Walsh responded well in the 3rd and took the game 10-8. Loach's looked fitter this season than last and it showed, another remorseless 9-0 to see LA to a team win.

And to the clash the spectators were looking forward to ... Joel Hinds (Eng No. 28) against Leicestershire's No. 1 Darren Lewis. Perhaps this was too early in the season for another epic encounter, but Hinds looked keen and in good form whereas Lewis only briefly looked himself - taking the 2nd game. Hinds triumphed 9-3, 1-9, 9-2, 9-3.

Duffield 1 top the Division by a single point over LA Fitness, but failed to grab maximum points over their 2nd team. This is the first time in 5 seasons that Duffield have topped the table. More is surely to come when Paul Hargrave, currently in training, is fully recovered from injury.

John Slater showed a big improvement from last season beating Laura Hill 2-9, 9-7, 7-9, 3-9 for Duffield 2's only win. Hill's patience wore thin with the non-playing 2nd Team captain who again couldn't help himself get involved in and spoil an otherwise intriguing match.

Steve Strange showed that class is indeed permanent in his welcome return to the 1st team. Strange was far too quick and accurate for Kyle McBride and powered to an easy victory 9-4, 9-2, 9-1. McBride will need to cut out the vast number of mistakes if he is to step up a level. After a quiet 2007/8 season Andy Storer's enthusiasm has return fending off a late challenge from Adam Armiger at no. 5. Storer was all over Armiger leading 9-4 9-3 and 4-1, but then began to get involved in some long rallies which went in Armiger's favour. Armiger took the 3rd 9-7, the fourth went his way also, 9-0 in less than 3 minutes, and was 7-2 up in the decided before Storer went back to square one a dispatch the ball into the 'nick' to take the 5th 9-7. Kevin White and new team captain Jason Foster showed their experience taking out Mitch Cook, looking ready for hibernation, and James Barry each 3-0.

Lumb Farm 1 put last season's blues well behind them with an encouraging victory over Burton. John Freeman made all the difference at No.1 even though Tom Gregory and skipper John Beastall were absent.

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
LA Fitness 3	1	1	0	0	20	4	20
Queens Park 1	1	1	0	0	19	7	19
Rolls-Royce 1	1	1	0	0	19	7	19
Duffield 3	1	1	0	0	18	5	18
David Lloyd	1	0	1	0	7	19	7
Hood Park 2	1	0	1	0	7	19	7
Duffield 4	1	0	1	0	5	18	5
Sandiacre Friesland	1	0	1	0	4	20	4

New boys Sandiacre were at home to LA Fitness 3, but the home advantage came to nothing as in a 4-20 whitewash. John Holmes opened LA's account beating John Ockenden 3-1 and Keith Howard made it two with a 3-0 win over Stuart

Lee. Eric Archibald took the first game and had a game point in a crucial second, but Rob Sillett hung on to take it 10-9 and then won the 3rd 9-1. Archibald halted the slide winning the 4th 9-4, but the effort proved too much as Sillett won the 5th 9-5. Garth Birtles won in 3 straight games and Ian Mackinnon held off Jordan Skinner 10-9 in the 4th to hit maximum points for LA 3.

Queens Park showed they weren't dwelling on missing promotion last season when they beat Hood Park 2 4-1. Martin Slack took a little time to settle in before comfortably winning 3-0. Richard Wormersley was the only winner for HP 2 beating Tony May 9-7 in the 4th and 5th games. Dave Green squeezed through 9-4 in the 5th and Charles Noble saved a match point to beat Pete Wood 10-8 in the 5th. Robert Essex was too strong for Kenny Grant 3-0 to give QP1 19 points.

In another all Duffield clash the 3rd team were happy to take 18 points to the 4th team's 5. Richard Grindrod starred for 4th team as he overcame the loss of the 1st game to John Wright to take the tie 3-9, 9-0, 9-5, 9-7. England O45 and Duffield stalwart was slow to start against the short game of Tony Gregory to hit back 1-9, 9-5, 6-9, 2-9. Chris Alcock and Neil Mitra both won 3-0 to wrap up the bonus points and team captain Phil Bond beat Qamran Jaqoob 3-1.

Rolls-Royce 1 got their season off to almost the perfect start with a 19-7 point win over David Lloyd 1. Kevin Britchford and Ian Rigby showed the way with two 3-0 wins, but Chris Murray and Cliff Ransom had it much harder, both coming back from 2-0 down to give RR a rather handy 4-0 lead. Lisa McKenna missed out on a match ball in the 3rd and then her opponent Fitz Hays powered through the 4th and looked good to add to David Lloyd's woes. However, McKenna's great record from last season continued as she took the 5th 9-6.

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
LA Fitness 5	1	1	0	0	20	2	20
Burton 4	1	1	0	0	18	8	18
Burton 5	1	1	0	0	16	8	16
Hood Park 4	1	0	1	0	8	16	8
Lumb Farm 3	1	0	1	0	8	18	8
Bradley House	1	0	1	0	2	20	2
Kimberley Manor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repton 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

LA Fitness 5 beat league newcomers Bradley House 5-0, but at least Bradley recorded their first points. Mark Talbot and Shail Chauham each eked out a game from Alan Haggard and Mark Steadman. Bradley House certainly weren't overwhelmed and are a welcome addition to the leagues.

Burton 4 were stopped by Lumb Farm 3's skipper Aide Elks from recording maximum points in his 9-7, 4-9, 6-9, 2-9 win over Andy Hambleton. Burton 5 are hot on their 4th team's heels taking out Hood Park 4. Steve Quigley, Dick Lathbury and Steve Green doing the business for Burton.

Kevin White
DSRA Chairman