

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 23 September 2008

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Derbyshire Squash League

Men's League

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Lumb Farm 2	1	1	0	0	19	7	19
Draycott	1	1	0	0	17	7	17
Burton 2	1	1	0	0	15	12	15
Hood Park 1	1	0	1	0	12	15	12
The Manor 2	1	0	1	0	7	17	7
LA Fitness 2	1	0	1	0	7	19	7
Ashbourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Repton 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

A rejuvenated Lumb Farm club saw their 2nd team emulate their 1st team's great start to the season with a 4-1 win over LA Fitness 2, last season's runners-up. Garth Birtles managed to see off Sid College 9-7 in the 5th to record LA's only win. Steve Grainger lost his opening game to Martin Edwards, but then raced through the next three games; a pattern of play that worked well for Barry Marshall, Neil Nightingale and Marcus Thomas to give Lumb Farm a healthy 19 points and see them top the Division.

Newly promoted Draycott showed their intent beating The Manor 2 4-1. James Healey stopped the whitewash for The Manor, dispatching Draycott's captain Martin Bostock 3-0. Greg Wemys hung on to the 4th game to beat Andy Roulston 9-5,4-9,6-9,8-10 in a typically energetic game. Pete Slowakawski staved off a comeback from Andy Hardy at no.2 and Martin Rose got off to a quick start that Steve Smith

couldn't master in time. Draycott picked up 17 points to The Manor's 7 for a dream start.

It was a good night to be the away team as Burton 2 squeezed a 3-2 victory out of Hood Park 1, despite the latter team's 12 games to 10 count. What's more 2 of the Burton players found themselves 2-0 down. Doug Witfield was the first to hit the comeback trail beating Kenny Grant 10-8, 9-2, 2-9, 2-9, 3-9, followed by Matthew Maclachlan's last gasp win over Paul Sumpter 9-5, 9-2, 2-9, 4-9, 8-10. Leon Armston used his four season of Division 1 squash to beat Burton's no. 1 Greg Watkins 9-6, 9-6, 10-8. Simon Barnett secured the match for Burton, himself digging from 2-1 down to overturn Simon Hurst 10-8, 7-9, 9-6, 3-9, 2-9.

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Burton 3	1	1	0	0	19	5	19
Repton 2	1	1	0	0	15	8	15
LA Fitness 4	1	1	0	0	15	11	15
Rolls-Royce 2	1	0	1	0	11	15	11
Duffield 5	1	0	1	0	8	15	8
Hood Park 3	1	0	1	0	5	19	5
Brampton Manor 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Queens Park 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Burton had the upper hand over Hood Park in this opening round of matches as respective 3rd teams clashed. Clive Watson and Dave Elliot were untroubled in setting up a 2-0 advantage and when Ray Patrick couldn't capitalise on the momentum gathered by

winning the 3rd and 4th games against Gary Holmes 9-3,9-4,2-9,3-9,9-7; the bonus points were pocketed by Burton. Jim Rossberg showed Patrick how to maintain the momentum as he won through 9-7,9-7,3-9,5-9,3-9 against Rob Bell for Hood Park's only win.

Repton were thankful for their Nigel Gill's finishing skills as he defeated Duffield 5's no.5 Nike Dyer with the incredible scoreline 9-10, 8-10, 9-8, 8-10. Repton stalwart Tim Stretton and Martin Allen were in good form beating Richard Gilbert and Nathan Davies 3-1 and 3-0 respectively to take the bonus points.

LA Fitness 4 somehow escaped to victory over Rolls-Royce 2 3-2. On adjoining courts Dick Vasey and Garry Smith were each 2-0 down, but both crept over the finishing line 9-7 in their 5th games. Alan Hagger's experience was too much for Steve Howard after the 1st game; Hagger succeeding 9-5, 5-9, 2-9, 3-9 to give the win to LA 4.

Derbyshire's Individual Performances

Kevin White captured his 6th Masters O35 title at the East of England Open in Bury St Edmunds this weekend. Going into the tournament with a heavy cold and little match play this season, White found some excellent touch to defeat Oxford's Ashley Bowling 9-7 9-5 9-2. Bowling will be vying for an England spot come next April and was unlucky to have been draw against White in the quarters. White didn't have any expectations going into the semi, other than a long drive home, as he was up against Warwickshire's Steve Townsend who he has never beaten. Townsend held game point in the opening game, but White held his nerve with some super-tight backhand volleys to take it 10-8. White continued his good shot-making taking the 2nd 9-2, but breathing was proving difficult and a 'tactical' 3rd enabled a concerted push in the 4th to reach an unexpected final.

The final was a repeat of last year's, but this time against an out of form Jamie Goodrich. Goodrich's error count was too high and allowed

White to establish a 9-2 and 6-0 lead. However, Goodrich suddenly found some form and although White took the 2nd 9-2 long rallies at 6-2 had cost White dear with little oxygen getting to the muscles. Goodrich noted White's laboured movement early in the 3rd and frequently cut the ball short to take that and the 4th games easily. At 2-0 down in the 5th White looked doomed, but a mistake from Goodrich and last ditch, error free effort from White turned the tables once again as he spluttered over the line 9-3.



*Kevin White O35 East of England Open
Champion*

For those in favour of all squash scoring being point-a-rally, surely the match between **Greg Loach** and John Cordeaux would have changed their minds. Both players had progressed similarly to this semi-final; Loach beating Eamonn Price after a slow start, 3-9 9-2 9-0 9-4. Back to the semi-final and Cordeaux led 7-1 in the 1st before Loach got going, eking out point after point to close the gap. Ever one to exploit an opportunity Loach took the game 9-7. Cordeaux the led 8-1 in the 2nd and again Loach came alive, tightening his game and giving nothing to his opponent; Loach took that

10-8. This time it was Loach's turn to lead 7-2, just two rallies from victory, but as it turned out that happened some 30 minutes later. Cordeaux took the 3rd 9-7 to the disbelief of Loach. It all looked set for a 5th game as Cordeaux went 8-1 up. Now in point-a-rally most would have given up, but when you can only score a point off your own serve any outcome is possible. Loach again tightening his game and drew the sting out of Cordeaux's legs. The rallies were tough, really tough neither giving an inch of ground. Loach levelled at 8-8, but then Cordeaux seized his 3rd game point. Loach hammered a volley away and a mistake by Cordeaux, head in hands, gave Loach the match. Cordeaux's will find this loss easier to overcome than he did Multiple Sclerosis and their next encounter will command another full gallery.

Loach's bid for a Master's Regional title never took off the ground in the final against the dominant Greg Pearman, winner of all the Masters events last year, 9-0 9-2 9-5.

Duffield Squash Club based **Millie Tomlinson** was in action this weekend as the top 32 English U17 Junior Players battled it out at the England Squash Grand Prix held at the Edgbaston Priory Squash Club, Birmingham. The juniors, unlike their Masters counterparts, have adopted the point-a-rally scoring system and Tomlinson was quick to adapt. The first round matches started on Friday evening, and Tomlinson clinically dispatched Essex's Hannah Payne 11/0, 11/0, 11/0 in the 1st round. The next day saw Tomlinson play Herts girl Jemma Ockwell, who put up a little more resistance as Tomlinson won this match 11/4, 11/5, 11/0. Later that day Tomlinson booked her place in the quarter finals by beating Rebecca Quinney of Lancashire 11/5 11/2 11/3

Sunday's matches were always going to be tougher as all the top 4 seeded players progressed to the last four places. Tomlinson faced her old rival Harriet Ingham of Surrey and after a close 12/10 first game Tomlinson looked in control winning the next 2 games 11/8, 11/3 to progress to the final. After Julianne

Courtice of Gloucestershire had taken out the No.2 seed Kimberley Hay of Northumbria, Tomlinson faced the powerful Gloucestershire girl in the final and showed why she is currently ranked no1 in the U17 rankings with an emphatic victory 11/6 11/6 11/3 to take the U17 trophy repeat her earlier success in the same event last April.



Millie Tomlinson U17 England Squash Grand Prix Champion

Kevin White
DSRA Chairman