

Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 9 December 2008

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

Derbyshire Squash Men's Leagues Round 7 Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Duffield 1	6	5	1	0	96	42	96
LA Fitness 1	5	5	0	0	87	22	87
Lumb Farm 1	6	4	2	0	82	67	82
The Manor 1	6	3	3	0	75	75	75
Burton 1	5	2	3	0	57	61	57
Brampton Manor 1	6	1	5	0	45	91	45
Duffield 2	6	0	6	0	28	112	28

In a strangely muted match LA Fitness 1 defeated Duffield 1 3-2 and drew within 9 points, but significantly they have a match in hand - against Burton 1, on 11 December. Steve Strange was all offense taking apart Karl Murray with decisive early shot-making 9-1 9-0 9-2 and giving the home side Duffield a 1-0 head start. Club Captain Jason Foster added another win for Duffield as he beat Greg Loach 9-4 9-2 9-6. Once Loach had managed to get Foster off the T, the 3rd game proved to be the closest of the entire evening, but still it was another 3-0 to Duffield.

The match then took a sharp turn in LA Fitness' direction, first with Lewis Walters taking out a lackluster Paul Hargrave to give the away side a big psychological boost. At No.1 Joel Hinds was in top form against a mis-firing Kevin White, Hinds letting just 6 points slip passed his long reach. Ryan Loska's long trek from Leeds didn't dint his speed around court and that was the telling difference against Laura Hill in perhaps the best game of the tie. Loska won the 5th 3-0 match of the night and with it gave a massive boost to champions elect LA Fitness, who are now well placed for their 3rd successive title.

Lumb Farm 1 slipped quietly into 3rd spot beating Brampton Manor 3-2 and now have only lost to Duffield and LA Fitness. Sam Brown overcame Derbyshire's top junior Ashley Davies in a close 3-2. Brown's early 1-0 lead quickly evaporated as Davies' confidence grew and in the 3rd Davies defended several game points to take a 2-1 lead. Brown then showed a more positive approach to the 4th and in the

5th, as Davies tired, Brown kept him just behind to win 9-6. Matt Whitehead again showed the benefit of taking your chances and a positive game plan, taking the ball early to pressurise an opponent, as he beat Ian Hilton in 3. Alex Curran got one back for Brampton in a hit or miss affair with Tom Gregory 3-1.

At No.3 string Mark Thomas came back from 2-1 down to beat Charlie Wall, but at 7-7 in the 5th this was the match that could have clinched a much needed half-term victory for Brampton to dispel any fears of relegation. County Captain Brendan Hickerman reversed recent form by beating Leicestershire's John Freeman in a fast action, full speed 3-1 where each player had opportunities to take any of the games.

Burton's visit to The Manor saw a very welcome return to Division 1 squash by Lee Stanbury, having twice recovered from Achilles tendon ruptures. And a winning return it was for Stanbury, 3-0. Colin Morris' first venture into Division 1 was also a winning one as he beat Dave Stones 3-1 to give Burton a 2-0 lead. 5 games of Craig Walsh's powerful hitting usually requires a carpenter to repair the top of the tin, but in this match with Adrian Murphy his sights were set a little higher. Walsh bravely called set 1 in the 2nd and duly took a 2-0 lead, but the same call in the 4th let Murphy back in to the match as he took the game. Walsh was unperturbed and continued his hard hitting ways that proved too penetrating for Murphy to get one back for The Manor 9-0 9-8 5-9 8-9 9-2. Brother Jason Walsh soon levelled the tie at 2-2 beating Tom Comb 3-1.

Down to the No.1s and a great fight back by Neil Rossin from 2-0 down to James Hodson. The 5th was always led by Rossin, but Hodson refused to give this one away and eventually levelled at 8-8. Rossin's calm approach kept him in good stead as patient lengths opened the court up to put the ball away for a well deserved victory 9-10 3-9 9-5 9-1 10-8.

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Rolls-Royce 1	7	6	1	0	117	51	117
Duffield 3	7	5	2	0	105	55	105
David Lloyd	7	5	2	0	102	67	102
LA Fitness 3	7	4	3	0	88	77	88
Queens Park 1	7	4	3	0	87	86	87
Duffield 4	7	2	5	0	59	106	59
Sandiacre	7	1	6	0	58	118	58
Hood Park 2	7	1	6	0	56	112	56

Hood Park 2 recorded yet another 3-2 loss this time away at LA Fitness 2. Ray Patrick made amends after a narrow 3-2 loss last round and Pete Wood won an important 3rd game 10-8 to then take the 4th 9-0 to give Hood Park their two wins. However, John Holmes, Keith Howard and Rob Sillet all had solid wins for LA's middle order.

Rolls-Royce 1 won the their top of the table clash with Duffield 3 and finish the first half season 12 points clear. Kevin Britchford put RR ahead hanging on to the closely fought 1st and 3rd games to beat John Wright 3-0. Adrian Watts' new found confidence enabled him to dispatch Ian Rigby 9-1 9-1 9-1 with some quality tight lengths for Duffield to draw level. Lesley Sturgess was left to rue several game balls in the 2nd as Richard Tuck won the 2nd 10-9 and the 3rd 9-7 to put RR back in the lead. Chris Alcock then struck back for Duffield in the longest match of the night, outlasting Cliff Ranson 7-9 9-5 9-7 0-9 9-6. Fitz Hays then showed a touch of class defeating Neil Mitra at No.1 9-4 9-0 9-2 to give RR the bonus points and a healthy lead going into the festive break.

In a vital tie at the foot of the division, Duffield 4 beat and overtook Sandiacre 4-1. Joe Harvey and Tony Gregory got Duffield off to a great start beating Andy Coring and Stuart Lee. Simon Law clung on to the 2nd 10-8 and then the 3rd 9-8 to beat Bill Murray. Each game of Dave Yallop's match with Eric Archibald depended on who started well. Yallop deft touch in the front court and delicate top-spins gave him all the impetus he needed to take the 5th 9-3 and ensure Duffield would finish ahead of Sandiacre at the break. David Harrison got hold of Qamran Yaqoob 3-0 to minimise the points difference, 1, between the teams.

Queens' Park can breathe a deep sign of relief as they scored an important 4-1 victory over David Lloyd and in so doing seriously dent David Lloyd's promotion push as they allow Duffield 3 above them. A weak David Lloyd's win came from Aaron Jackson, who clicked into top gear after losing the first two games to Martin Slack, winning the last three in fine style 9-4 9-2 2-9 1-9 0-9. Dave Green showed some mettle to defeat Darren Crowshaw 3-2 and Charles Noble showed he can finish off games beating Lisa McKenna 9-2 10-8 10-8.

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Burton 4	6	6	0	0	107	36	107
Burton 5	7	5	2	0	98	70	98
Hood Park 4	7	4	3	0	92	76	92
LA Fitness 5	6	3	3	0	77	59	77
Kimberley Manor	6	3	3	0	70	79	70
Bradley House	6	3	3	0	62	85	62
Lumb Farm 3	6	1	5	0	61	86	61
Repton 3	6	0	6	0	31	107	31

Burton 5 maintain 2nd place above Hood Park 4 after beating Bradley House 4-1. Paul Howe scored Bradley House's sole win in a tough 3-2 encounter with Graham Reid. Gareth Edwards and Bruce Jones each won 3-2 and 9-6 in the 5th showing that there can be only the slimmest of differences between winning and losing a tie.

Hood Park 4 claimed a useful 4-1 victory against Repton 3 with no match extending beyond 3 games. John Moore held off Simon Hall 3-9 7-9 8-10 for Repton's only win, but otherwise it was a points collecting exercise for Hood Park.

Ladies Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Duffield 1	5	5	0	0	87	7	87
Ashbourne	5	4	1	0	70	33	70
Burton	5	4	1	0	66	30	66
Trent Vale	5	2	3	0	47	52	47
Bradley House	5	1	4	0	39	62	39
Rolls-Royce	5	2	3	0	31	66	31
David Lloyd	6	0	6	0	10	100	10

Burton kept themselves in some contention when they beat **Rolls-Royce** 5-0 and will be looking forward to next weeks' clash with Ashbourne to see who finishes behind Duffield. There were straight games wins from Jayne Lathbury, Baljinder Beesia, Andrea Cox and Desley Smith, but Tanya Charlton put up a great fight to take a game off Sue Smith for RR's only point.

Trent Vale won their second match of the season against **David Lloyd** 4-1. David Lloyd have had a tough season and remain adrift at the foot of the table, but can look for inspiration at a few individual performances and one of those came from Michelle Mauro. Mauro, the No.3, played some devastating squash in the 1st, taking it 9-1, to set the tone. She managed to keep the momentum to win the next two 9-5, 9-6. Caroline Gray, Sandra Albinson, Fabian Schiess and Karen Laughton all won 3-0 for Trent Vale.

Ashbourne maintained their impressive form as they beat **Bradley House** in their local derby. Sheila Gilford excelled at no.5 taking out Jane Constable to give Bradley initial hope. Lorraine Taylor and Pat Chetwin both won their opening games for Bradley to believe they might stage a big turnover. However, the Ashbourne team spirit came to the fore as first Lindsay Smith took the next 3 games off Taylor and Jane McIntyre followed suit just holding off Chetwyn 10-8 in the 4th. Barbara Bradshaw and Hilary Herridge both had 3rd game hiccups before winning 3-1.

England Masters Series - Midlands

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

In the **O35s**, **Jason Foster's** bid for a top 4 ranking place and automatic selection for England took a blow when he crashed out in the quarter finals to Norfolk's **Jamie Goodrich**, last season's top points scorer. Foster did show much improvement over his season's form thus far and put up a strong display. Foster took the 2nd game 9-6, but found Goodrich's express pace around the court just too much in the 3rd. Foster levelled at 6-6 in the 4th, but was unable to sustain the necessary pressure as Goodrich went for the kill.

Duffield's Kevin White, the No.1 seed, was delighted to watch Foster and Goodrich pushing each other so hard, as he would later take on the winner. White progressed via an emphatic 3-0 over Lancashire's **Glen Ragou** 9-1 9-4 9-2. Ragou briefly led White 4-0 in the 2nd, but as White opened up the court Ragou ran out of legs. The Lancastrian's bid for his 5th straight England cap looks a very long shot now. White was then in top form against Goodrich covering the court well and putting the ball deep into the back corners nullifying Goodrich's speed and cutting off his counter attacks.

It was White's telling line and length that cut short Goodrich's tournament with a forceful 9-1 9-2 9-3 victory. In the bottom half of the draw, 'new boy' **Clive Ewins** was cutting a swathe through the field and his 3rd place in the World Masters in New Zealand showed he had class. In the final Ewins 'mastered' the hot court superbly, putting pressure on White, who's movement looked laboured, with every shot. White briefly imposed his game in the 2nd, but a reverse angle and a crucial drop shot both caught the top of the tin, to effectively end any chance. Despite his run of six Regional Tournament wins ending, White now heads the points table and probably has already automatically qualified for England selection.

LA Fitness stalwart **Greg Loach** was bizarrely scheduled to play 3 matches on Saturday, without a game Friday. Warwickshire's **Mark Taylor** had the racket work to trouble Loach early in each game, but Loach's reach and movement proved too much. Loach won 9-5 9-5 9-0, but this scoreline betrayed Loach's poor length. And it was poor length in his next match that did for Loach against Oxford's **Darren Withey**. Time and again Withey picked off weak and straight shots that lack any purposeful depth or width. It wasn't until 7-0 down in the 3rd that Loach put some whip into his shots and from there the match was extended to almost twice its length, but Loach, the 2nd seed, went out 3-0. Back to back games didn't help, but finding the back corners more frequently will. In a stunningly high quality final the previously unstoppable **Greg Pearman** finally ran aground against **Eamonn Price**.

Kevin White
DSRA Chairman