

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

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## Derbyshire Squash Men's Leagues Rnd 10

### Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Repton 1	10	7	3	0	151	97	151
Hood Park 1	10	6	4	0	139	114	139
Lumb Farm 2	9	6	3	0	129	91	129
Burton 2	10	5	5	0	120	120	120
LA Fitness 2	10	5	5	0	118	125	118
The Manor 2	10	3	7	0	106	147	106
Draycott	10	4	6	0	101	140	101
Ashbourne	9	3	6	0	94	124	94

While Repton were made to fight very hard for a 3-2 victory at The Manor, they were grateful that Hood Park 1 also lost vital points at LA Fitness 2.

Draycott are fighting hard to stay up, but lost out to a formidable Burton 2 4-1.

LA Fitness 2's Ian Mackinnon got things going LA's way first easily beating Nigel Storer 3-0; Mick Burton pulled one back for Hood Park as he overcame the loss to the 2<sup>nd</sup> game 10-9 to beat Paul Howell 3-1. Steve Hossent's win over Simon Hurst 3-2 held the match in LA's favour once again, but first Paul Sumpter and then Ian Duffy each won in quick succession to give Hood Park the match and keep them in the promotion hunt.

Without No.1 Ben Smith, Repton 1's middle order wobble could have been worse, but they held on for a 3-2 win over The Manor 2. John Kirtland beat Don Davis 9-7 9-6 9-3, but Andy Roulston struck back beating Simon Evans 3-1. James Healey then put The Manor ahead as he saved two match points to beat Adrian Oldbury 10-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Simon Price made short work of Andy Hardy 9-3 9-4 9-3 to leave club coach Lee Watson the task of overhauling Steve Smith. Once Watson had regained control after sharing the first two games, Smith was run out of position by Watson's accuracy and the gaps opened.

Watson cruised to victory 9-3 5-9 9-5 9-3 to maintain Repton's promotion push.

Burton 2 are a real dark horse and could yet feature in the promotion stakes as a win against Draycott enabled them to make up some ground. Draycott sported a strong line up with Tom Woolgar at No.1, but first blood was drawn by Colin Morris' 3-1 win over Darren Reeves. Matthew Maclachlan looked to have the measure of Steve Reeves taking the first two games on tie-breaks and was 7-6 up in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reeves though, in one last ditch effort, won the 3<sup>rd</sup> 9-7, whereupon Maclachlan's belief left him as Reeve swept through the last two games. Greg Watkins was thankful to win 3-0 as Pete Slowakowski was on an upward curve losing the 3<sup>rd</sup> on a tie-break. Lee Stanbury's 3<sup>rd</sup> game hiccup was overcome as he beat Martin Rose 3-1 and Tom Comb iced the cake for Burton 2 beating Tom Woolgar 9-7 9-1 9-8.

### Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Burton 3	10	8	2	0	162	76	162
Brampton Manor 2	9	8	1	0	159	50	159
Rolls-Royce 2	10	6	4	0	143	102	143
LA Fitness 4	10	7	3	0	139	109	139
Repton 2	9	5	4	0	112	111	112
Hood Park 3	10	2	8	0	78	164	78
Duffield 5	10	1	9	0	73	163	73
Queens Park 2	10	2	8	0	72	163	72

At the foot of the table it was status quo with Hood Park 3, Duffield 5 and Queens Park 2 all losing. Hood Park 3 got close to a vital win as Jim Rossberg and Ray Patrick won in the middle order. However, LA Fitness 4 levelled through Alan Haggard and Neil Grant. John Brooks went for broke taking the 1<sup>st</sup> game off Rob Sillet, but the LA man seized control early in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and didn't let go winning 7-9 9-1 9-4 9-4.

Queens Park 2 couldn't make home advantage tell for them either with only Andy Goodall winning 3-2 against Burton 3's Gary Holmes. Clive Watson hit Queens' hopes defeating Mike Craven 3-2 and Dave Elliot's 3-0 over caused further depression. Roger Hardy stuck the knife in taking out John Kinsey 3-0. Rob Lathbury made it 4-1 to Burton in a competitive 3-1 over Andy Riley.

Rolls-Royce 2 appear to be making a late bid for promotion and scored a handy 19 points to Duffield 5's 5 points. Steve Howard, Andy Leak and Phil Robinson all won 3-0. Joe Harvey showed continued improvement beating Andy Rockley 9-6 4-9 5-9 9-3 9-1. Skipper John Wright captured Duffield's other 2 points, but was outdone by Ewen Tanner in the 5<sup>th</sup>.

### National Championships 2009 8-15<sup>th</sup> February, Sportcity, Manchester

**Jason Foster's** dreams of successive England O35 appearances were scuppered when he withdrew at 2-0 down to the England O35 captain and club team mate **Kevin White**. White looked sharp in the two games played and a recurrence of a knee injury forced Foster out of the contest. Foster is the first reserve.

White then had the dubious honour of playing last year's runner-up and former champion, Manchester's former World top ten player Nick Taylor. Taylor, now coaching in Jersey, was playing on his former home courts and controlled the ball with incredible accuracy to negate White's game; Taylor coming out on top 9-2 9-1 9-5 in 37 minutes. Taylor, the No.2 seed, then went on to take a 2-0 advantage over former World No.3 Simon Parke in the final, but Yorkshire man Parke showed he still has the legs taking the next three games for his first National O35 title, 5-9 2-9 9-5 9-1 9-2.

**Greg Loach** was in pretty good form reaching the quarter finals of the O45s. 5/8 seed Loach first beat Warwickshire's Mark Taylor 9-4 9-4 9-4 in 31 minutes, then Lancastrian Allen Day 10-8 9-1 9-0. However, Loach then ran into the silky smooth play of Greg Pearman the No.2 seed. Loach acquitted himself well and held a game point in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but was denied a hopeful decision eventually going down 9-5 10-8 9-2 in 36 minutes. Pearman then lost out for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running to former National Champion Philip Whitlock 3-0 in the final.

**Neil Nightingale** was unable to make the same impression he did last year where he reached the semi-final of the O55 event. Cheshire's John Helliwell was dispatched in 37 minutes 1-9 9-7 9-2 9-4, but 5/8 seed Ian Holmes proved too strong beating Nightingale 9-5 9-6 9-1 in 26 minutes.

**Lesley Sturgess** had her chances to make the semi-final of the O45 Ladies, having game balls in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> games and was cruelly cut short in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with an outrageous penalty point against at match point. Sturgess went out to Merseyside's Heather Tweedle 10-9 9-0 10-8 and will be looking forward to the being the youngest in the next age group.

### Inter-Counties Championships 21-22 February

Derbyshire O35s emphatic 4-1 victory over Durham and Cleveland in the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage enabled them to top the Division, but a strange ruling by England Squash put D&C through to the Finals Stage as winners and Derbyshire as runners-up. However, in a repeat of last years' semi-finals, Derbyshire take on Middlesex while D&C play home side Kent. D&C may yet regret their artificial promotion having the furthest to travel and playing the home team. Derbyshire have injury questions hanging over Murray Scott and Richard Woodroffe, but the in-form Charlie Wall is more than capable of deputising if necessary.

**Kevin White**  
DSRA Chairman