

# Derbyshire Squash Rackets Association

Press Release - 24 February 2009

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

## Derbyshire Squash Men's Leagues Rnd 11

### Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Duffield 1*	9	8	1	3	151	52	148
LA Fitness 1	8	7	1	0	131	46	131
The Manor 1	8	5	3	0	110	88	110
Lumb Farm 1	9	5	4	0	107	111	107
Burton 1	9	3	6	0	95	115	95
Brampton Manor 1	8	2	6	0	66	115	66
Duffield 2	9	0	9	0	38	171	38

\*Deducted 3 points for ineligible player

Duffield 1 maintained their top spot in Division 1 as they beat Brampton Manor 4-1 accruing 17 points in the process. James Blythe acquitted himself admirably as a last minute standby making Derbyshire U19 Jono Lovegrove work hard for his three games. Laura Hill's tight game nullified the unorthodox play of Ian Hilton for Duffield to level. Steve Strange speed and racket work was far too much for a dispirited Charlie Wall. Kevin White and Brendan Hickerman had their usual tussle in preparation for Derbyshire's O35s Inter-Counties Final with White finally taking control in the 4<sup>th</sup> - 9-6 9-6 4-9 9-2. Jason Foster's match against Alex Cutts was a cracking encounter and was excellent preparation for Foster, also in the O35 team. Foster initially looked well in control taking the 1<sup>st</sup> 9-1, but Cutts was reading the game better and covering the court impressively well to tire Foster. Cutts took the 2<sup>nd</sup> 7-9, then the 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-9. Foster gathered himself in 4<sup>th</sup> making Cutts do some incredible retrieving and at 5-5 Cutts eventually pulled away to match point. Foster wasn't finished and halted Cutts' momentum forcing him to all corners. As Foster control of the ball improved with each rally, Cutts' was under constant pressure. Cutts couldn't take advantage of his 2<sup>nd</sup> match ball leaving Foster the chance to close out the game which he did at the first time of asking 10-9. Foster kept in front all the way through the 5<sup>th</sup> taking the game 9-5. Possibly a vital few extra points gained there for Duffield.

Burton eased away from Brampton Manor in the lower half of the table and left Duffield 2 floundering. However, there were some good efforts from the whipping boys, with Felix Frixou being edged out 9-6 in the 5<sup>th</sup> by Colin Morris. Adam Armiger had a chance to extend his match into the 5<sup>th</sup> with a game ball in the 4<sup>th</sup> against Lee Stanbury at No.3. Kyle McBride showed more improvement and a steady head as he turned around a desperate situation - 2-0 down and match point down - to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> on a tie break and then romp through the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to a credible 3-9 0-9 10-8 9-0 9-1 victory. James Hodson polished off the night for Burton with an assured 3-0 win over Mitch Cook.

The Manor move above Lumb Farm into 3<sup>rd</sup> place by virtue of a 3-2 win in their tie. Things looked good for Lumb Farm as Sam Brown beat the hard hitting Craig Walsh 3-1 and Barry Marshall overcame a concerted effort from Dave Stones 3-2. However, Jason Walsh began the fight back beating Marcus Thomas 3-1 and Neil Rossin took out Tom Gregory 3-0. Left for the No.1s to fight it out for their teams it was The Manor's John Underhill who took the honours 3-1 after a high paced match lasting over an hour against John Freeman.

### Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Duffield 3	11	9	2	0	176	75	176
David Lloyd	11	8	3	0	166	104	166
Rolls-Royce 1	10	7	3	0	154	90	154
Queens Park 1	10	7	3	0	146	100	146
LA Fitness 3	10	5	5	0	120	120	120
Hood Park 2	11	3	8	0	102	163	102
Duffield 4	11	2	9	0	78	184	78
Sandiacre Friesland	10	1	9	0	72	178	72

Hood Park 2 can finally see daylight between themselves and Duffield 4 at the bottom of Division 3 as they but a big dint in Rolls-Royce's promotion

hopes. RR were short of their No.1 Fitz Haye and Hood took good advantage at home. Richard Wormsley beat Vic Malysz 3-0 and once Mark Northholt beat Kevin Britchford 9-7 in the 5<sup>th</sup> it looked like RR would run away with the match. However, first Richard Tuck hung on to his 4<sup>th</sup> game 10-8 to beat Kenny Grant 3-1 and then Chris Murray eventually overcame Pete Wood 3-2 the match was all square. Simon Hurst played this crucial match very well winning all the big points in a nail-bitingly close 3-0, 9-7 10-8 9-6.

David Lloyd kept their promotion chances well watered with a 4-1 victory over LA Fitness 3 away from home. Ben Arnold and Darren Crowshaw both won 3-2 to ensure victory and only Lisa McKenna dropped a point as Steve Hossent got LA Fitness' only win 9-7 9-2 2-9 8-10 9-3. Sandiacre will be thankful for their game in hand after a drubbing at Duffield 3's hands. Andy Coring saved a few blushes taking John Wright all the way before succumbing 9-5 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Duffield 3's top position was enhanced by the full points haul. Queens Park 1 may yet have a say in the nicely brewing promotion battle with a 20 point victory over Duffield 4. Dave Yallop came closest for the visiting Duffield team taking a 2-1 lead before Glen Woodhead took the last two games 9-3 9-5. Charles Noble was in particularly good form for Queens' with a 9-4 9-3 9-2 win over James Russell at No.1.

## Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts.
Burton 4	10	9	1	0	165	72	165
Hood Park 4	10	7	3	0	149	86	149
LA Fitness 5	11	6	5	0	140	113	140
Burton 5	11	6	5	0	135	130	135
Lumb Farm 3	11	4	7	0	122	141	122
Bradley House	11	4	7	0	112	152	112
Kimberley Manor	11	4	7	0	105	160	105
Repton 3	11	3	8	0	94	168	94

Hood Park 4 and Burton 4 both have a game in hand and are both already clear of the chasing pack in Division 5. Hood Park closed the gap slightly on Burton 4, thanks to Burton's 5<sup>th</sup> team. Glyn Bowen beat Russ Davis 10-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> for the Burton 5 and

Guy Litherland demolished Gary Holmes at No.1 9-1 9-1 9-3 for Burton 5's second win. Burton 4 were thankful for Ray Salt's recovery from 2-0 to beat Gareth Edwards 3-2. Hood Park 4 also won 3-2 against LA Fitness 5. Oliver Radburn and Mark Steadman were LA's champions, but 3-0 scores were the order for Alf Becket, Jim Lockhart and Elliot Ward for Hood Park.

Repton 3 are fighting hard not to finish bottom and had an important win 3-2 over Bradley House at home. John Moore didn't get disheartened one bit after he lost the 1<sup>st</sup> two games on tie-break eventually winning this crucial match against Mark Talbot 8-10 9-10 9-6 9-6 9-3. Lumb Farm 3 lifted themselves away from the bottom of the table leapfrogging Kimberley with a big points difference of 18-3.

## Technifibre British Junior Championships 19-22 February 2009

### Girls U19

Duffield's **Millie Tomlinson** reached her seeded position to earn a semi-final match against the No.1 seed Sarah-Jane Perry from Warwickshire. In the earlier rounds Tomlinson made short work of Avon's Rebecca Epke winning 11-3 11-1 11-3 in 18 minutes and then Surrey's Emma Wardle 11-2 11-6 11-3 in 21 minutes. Tomlinson was then tested in the quarter final by 5/8 seed Julianne Courtice; after taking the first two game comfortably Courtice took the 3<sup>rd</sup> and looked dangerous in the 4<sup>th</sup> before Tomlinson steadied her game eventually winning 11-3 11-6 4-11 11-8 in 34 minutes. In this age group a gap of 2 years is a lot to make up and the extra power showed in the final as Sarah-Jane Perry, who made the quarter finals of the Women's National Championship a few weeks ago, dominated the match 11-4 11-7 11-4. Tomlinson can justifiably look forward to a crack at next years Championship with a very good chance of success.

### Boys U15

Brampton Manor's **Ashley Davies** was seeded 5/8 even though he is currently ranked England No 4, due to the inclusion of the Welsh No 1 Jordan Davies, despite Ashley beating his namesake 3-2 in the U15 Inter Counties earlier in the month. Ashley lost to Lincolnshire's Hamish Falconer the England No 7, in the second round which dropped him into the 9-16 play offs. Ashley had been up in the first before losing 12-14 and in the 2<sup>nd</sup> game he was 10-11 down,

but had the momentum when his opponent collided with him. Ashley had to be carried off court with a badly bruised shin. He was awarded a stroke which made the game 11-11. Unfortunately Ashley had to take an hour's injury break during which time he was treated by the English Institute of Sport Physio. Upon his return to court, in some difficulty still, he lost the 2<sup>nd</sup> game 11-13. He got a 5 point lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> game but couldn't lunge due to his injury and lost the 3<sup>rd</sup> game 6-11.

Meanwhile, in the lower half of the draw Derbyshire's 9/16 seed **Russell Clark** also won his first match 11-6 5-11 11-4 11-8 in 35 minutes against Sussex's Stuart Allcock. Clark was then bumped out of the main draw by No.2 seed Matthew Sidaway 7-11 5-11 9-11 in 25 minutes.

After an evening of treatment, Ashley's early stiffness dissipated during an encouraging win against a potentially tough opponent in Andrew Taylor from Middlesex. Ashley's 2<sup>nd</sup> match on Saturday was against Yorkshire No 3 Ollie Hotchkiss and here he quickly got into his stride and won with reasonable ease 3-0.

On Sunday, as luck would have it, Ashley, the Derbyshire No 1, drew the Derbyshire No 2, Russell Clark, in a 9-10<sup>th</sup> place play off. However, Ashley was hindered by another injury picked up on Saturday afternoon when a court door closed on Ashley's left hand fingers. Come Sunday morning he had difficulty holding his racket tightly. Ashley won the 1<sup>st</sup> game 11-3, before Russell battled back in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to take it 11-9 to level the match at 1-1. Ashley braved his finger injury well to recover and win the next two 11-6, 11-5 and take a very worthwhile 9<sup>th</sup> place despite the injuries. Congratulations also go to Russell who will have another chance in the U15s next year.

### **Girls U15**

Duffield's **Siobhan Baxter** successfully got through the qualifying stages into the 1<sup>st</sup> round proper but drew 3/4 seed Brogan Lane from Herefordshire. Baxter put up a spirited performance, nearly taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> game, but lost out 7-11 3-11 9-11. Baxter then had another close match against Lancashire's Katrina Burrows losing 4-11 9-11 7-11. It was a good experience for Baxter and she is sure to progress much further next year.

### **Inter-Counties O35B Team**

The Derbyshire O35B team emulated their successful A-side by winning their Division and gaining promotion into Division 2 North.

### **Kevin White**

DSRA Chairman