

Derbyshire Squash & Racketball

Press Release - 17 November 2009

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Derbyshire Mens' League Round 5

Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
The Manor 1	5	5	0	92	23	0	92
LA Fitness 1	5	4	1	73	39	0	73
Repton 1	5	4	1	71	41	0	71
Burton 1	5	3	2	63	48	0	63
Duffield 1	5	2	3	58	56	0	58
Brampton Manor 1	5	1	4	43	71	0	43
Hood Park 1	5	1	4	38	73	0	38
Lumb Farm 1	5	0	5	10	97	0	10

Repton (3) 4-1 The Manor (19)

The Manor powered away from Repton at the top of Division 1 after beating their closest rivals 4-1. 21 points now separate the two sides. Craig Walsh enjoyed the fast Repton courts and once the first game was taken 10-8, Walsh's powerful hitting was too much for the retrieval skills of Adam Armiger. Carl Bettison is a class act and at 4th string simply too good for any other side. Bettison was too quick on the ball and too decisive for Simon Price to handle and another 3-0 to the Manor. Jason Walsh puts the ball in awkward places, turning and twisting his opponent - not Lee Watson's forte. Walsh clinched the match for The Manor 9-1 9-0 9-5 win over Watson. Neil Rossin added the gloss and ensured the team points difference would be high in the 4th 3-0 win for The Manor as he defeated last round's hero for Repton Ben Smith 9-5 9-6 9-3. Mark Fuller garnered all Repton's points in a mighty battle with sparring partner Jon Underhill at no.1 string. Sharing the games to 2-2, it was Fuller's slight fitness advantage that allowed him to absorb Underhill's relentless pressure and clinch the 5th 9-7.

Brampton Manor (16) 3-2 Burton (8)

Brampton hauled themselves above Hood Park in a determined victory against Burton. Burton missed the presence of James Hodson at the top of the order, an absence which made the difference. However, Burton did wheel out Richard Davies at no.1 who did just enough to overcome a resurgent Brendan Hickerman. Both players were fighting for full match fitness and they each claimed a game 10-9 as it went

to a decider. Davies' superior positional play just swayed the 5th his way 9-5. Jason Fearn, Ashley Davies and Alex Cutts were Brampton's winners with Lee Stanbury easily winning at 4th string for Burton.

Duffield (20) 5-0 Lumb Farm (1)

Duffield fielded their strongest side this season and gave Lumb Farm another whipping. The 20 points helped Duffield climb the table and all but condemned Lumb Farm to Division 2. Sam Yallop survived late charges in the 2nd and 3rd game from Neil Nightingale to get Duffield on their winning way. Millie Tomlinson now applies serious pace to the ball and with her excellent accuracy didn't allow Barry Marshall much leeway in a one-sided 3-0. Kyle McBride's recovery from a broken finger saw a dominant performance to beat Marcus Thomas 3-0. Sam Brown's deft touch at the front saw him take the 1st against John Slater and lead 6-5 in the 2nd, but from there Slater pressed the accelerator, took complete control of the match and didn't allow Brown another point. Kevin White completed a good night's work for Duffield beating Tom Gregory 3-0.

LA Fitness (17) 4-1 Hood Park (4)

Repton's loss was LA Fitness' gain and the latter's win at Hood Park put them back into 2nd place just two points ahead of Repton. Simon Hirst's unbeaten run continued as he defeated Karl Murray at 4th string 3-0 for Hood's only win on the night.

Division 3

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
Repton 2	5	4	1	88	34	0	88
Queens Park 1	5	4	1	76	46	0	76
Burton 3	5	3	2	62	61	0	62
LA Fitness 2	4	2	2	52	45	0	52
Duffield 3	5	1	4	50	76	0	50
Draycott 2	5	1	4	45	81	0	45
Brampton Manor 2	4	2	2	40	54	0	40
Hood Park 2	3	1	2	27	43	0	27

Queens Park 1 (16) 3-2 Repton 2 (9)

With Repton's 1st team out on the same night and a little light, Queens' Park took advantage of a weaker

Repton 2 side to close the gap on the runaway leaders. John Pearson, Glen Woodhead and Robert Essex all did the damage for Queens while John Kirtland continued his excellent form with a straight games win for Repton over Dave Green. Rob Jackson's perseverance paid off as he turned around a 0-2 deficit to beat a rapidly tiring Charles Noble 9-1 9-7 5-9 1-9 1-9.

Burton 3 v Brampton Manor 2

Brampton Manor 2 continue to recover from a slow start and now have their second victory with a game in hand. Top three Steve Barker, Jono Lovegrove and Nick Melton form a strong presence and duly turned a 0-2 advantage to Burton 3 into a 3-2 win for Brampton.

Draycott 2 (15) 3-2 Duffield 3 (9)

Draycott picked up their first win of the season while hosting Duffield 3. Cliff Martin managed to hold off Keith Elson 10-8 in the 3rd to put Draycott in the lead only for Tony Gregory to do the same to Chris Graham to level things. Dave Bott's experience at crucial moments was the difference as he beat Richie Bell 10-9 in the 4th, while Dave Holland dominated after losing the opener to Darren Reeves. Nick Drew and Simon Law, as usual, occupied a court for most of the night in their 3-2; Drew taking a 2-0 lead only for Law to force his way back into it at 2-2, but as often he does the foot and the accelerator pedal parted company allowing Drew to claim the 5th for the team win.

Division 5

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
Queens Park 2	4	3	1	61	32	0	61
Burton 5	4	3	1	57	38	0	57
Lumb Farm 3	4	2	2	48	44	0	48
Duffield 5	5	1	4	44	71	0	44
LA Fitness 4	4	1	3	39	53	0	39
Bradley House	3	2	1	38	32	0	38
David Lloyd 3	4	2	2	38	55	0	38

Burton 5 hit top spot after a close 3-2 victory at LA Fitness 4. The match hinged on Sean Sullivan versus Gareth Edwards at 4th string. Home player Sullivan took the initiative winning the 1st and 3rd games, but superior fitness saw Edwards scamper home 9-6 in each of the last two games. Lumb Farm 3 gave their club some cheer in a difficult season with a superb

victory away at Duffield. Paul Catermole and Pete Wilson each won 3-0, but their efforts were equalled by Alex Carter and Perry McKellan for Duffield. Aide Elks stood up and was counted for Lumb Farm as he resisted Mike Dyer's best efforts and managed to hang on to the 4th eventually winning 9-5 5-9 3-9 7-9. Lumb Farm swap places with Duffield 5.

Harris Inter Counties Championship

Derbyshire Men had been relegated to Division 2A after last season's tantalising last game loss to Cambridge. Up against some new opponents Derbyshire looked to the future and inserted three younger players, Mitch Cook (Repton), Tom Gregory (Lumb Farm) and Jono Lovegrove (Brampton Manor). Kevin White and Brendan Hickerman were present at the top of the order as ever.

Derbyshire travelled to Stourport and took on hosts Worcestershire in the opener. Jono Lovegrove's debut was a successful one as he found some good line and length to dominate the Worcester no.5, duly winning 3-0. Tom Gregory relaxed after taking the opening 2 games each 11-3, allowing Jamie Barnett to take the 3rd and to game ball in the 4th. Gregory just got his game together to snatch the 4th 12-10. Mitch Cook's booming drives resounded around the club and kept Adam Granger on his heels throughout a 3-0 win for the Derbyshire man. County captain Hickerman and White quickly mopped up at the top of the order to give Derbyshire a 5-0 win. With South East Wales not travelling, probably at home filling sandbags, this win virtually guaranteed Derbyshire entry to the promotion group.



Brendan Hickerman led Derbyshire Men into the promotion play-offs

Almost immediately Derbyshire were back on court against the fresh-legged West Wales team.

Lovegrove couldn't quite find the same length of drive and although taking the 3rd lost out 3-1. Tom Gregory started slowly losing the first two, before turning in a much more focussed performance in the next two to level at 2-2; however, on a cooling court Gregory lost his length - so important on these courts - and faded to an 11-7 loss of the 5th. Mitch Cook won the 2nd and 3rd in tie breaks, but the extended 3rd 14-12, and his earlier match saw him also fade to a 3-2 loss. Again Kevin White and Brendan Hickerman each won this time 3-1 apiece.

West Wales took a close 3-2 win over Worcestershire and finished just 1 point above Derbyshire although both go forward to the promotion group next March.

Derbyshire Ladies

The Derbyshire Women's team were also in action last weekend, playing their Inter-county matches in Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. After a tough journey being stuck on the motorway for 2 hours, the team managed to pull together to win their first match 3-2 against Durham and Cleveland. Wins came from Laura Hill, Lesley Sturgess and Heidi Walters.

However, Derbyshire struggled against tougher opposition in the next 2 matches losing 4-1 to both Northumbria and Lincolnshire. There were some close matches that could have gone either way with narrow 3-2 loses from Lesley Sturgess and Heidi Walters at numbers 2 and 3. Rikki Shepperd and Hannah Blythe fought hard and had some great matches playing at numbers 4 and 5. Meanwhile Laura Hill managed to win all her matches at No1 after sharpening up her game in London the week before.

Individual Performances

London Coronation Women's Open

England No.8 Laura Hill upset two seeds on her way to the semi-finals of the London Coronation Open, held at the Cumberland Tennis & Squash Club. Having dropped to World No.78 following a summer of injuries, Laura beat the tournaments' No.8 and 3 seeds, before finally losing to Canadian Alana Miller the WR46 in a hard fought but very frustrating 3-1.

Although initially struggling Hill played herself into some form throughout the tournament. The first round saw her up against Czechoslovakian Olga Ertlova and a slow start saw Hill 0-1 down. The next game proved decisive and perhaps the longest so far on the women's circuit - 23-21 to Hill; each player

having countless game points. Hill capitalised on winning this game to capture the next two 11-4 11-3. The quarter-finals saw Hill taking a good win over the young Malaysian WR 33 Low Wee Wern. Hill took the opener and made Wern work hard to play catch up squash. After sharing the next two games each 12-10, Wern, the No.3 seed, eased through the 4th 11-6, but Hill was far from done and completely dominated the 5th 11-2 to record a significant victory in 58 minutes.

However, Miller proved a match too far, as her experience and the referee's rather relaxed interpretation of 'continuous play' helped secure a 3-1 win over Hill. Hill had started well but couldn't quite take an energy sapping first game going down 17-15. Hill took the next in another tie-break 13-11, but thereafter Miller controlled the tempo taking 15-20s rest between each point, barring Hill from exploiting her advantage. Only at the end of the 4th game was Miller reprimanded by the referees for time-wasting, but that was too late. The finals score was 17-15 11-13 11-7 11-8 to Miller. Miller didn't get the same time between rallies luxury in the final being on the end of England's WR 22 Dominique Lloyd Walter's impressive play; 11-7 11-6 11-8.



Laura Hill in good form at the Coronation Open, London

Junior Super Series: Surrey Junior Open

Brampton Manor's Ashley Davies continues to impress on the junior circuit this time by winning the Surrey Open, an England Squash Silver Event rating. This was Davies', the England No.2 U15, penultimate event at U15 level and now has just the British Junior Open to concentrate on in early January. 3-0 victories abounded in the first 3 rounds up to the semi-finals where James Evans proved a sterner test.

After taking an easy 1st game Davies was troubled in both the 2nd and 3rd, with just two points separating the players in each. However, Davies has that natural confidence and will to win to see him through to the final. Lyell Fuller was another step up in class and Davies was yet again up to the task taking the opener 11-8 and a marathon 2nd 19-17. Fuller reacted well to the disappointment of losing such a close 2nd by taking the 3rd 6-11. Davies regrouped and back to his best captured the 4th 11-4 and his second successive title.

Kevin White
DSR Chairman