

# Derbyshire Squash & Racketball

Press Release - 24 November 2009

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

## Derbyshire Mens' League Round 5

### Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">David Lloyd 1</a>	5	4	1	72	52	0	72
<a href="#">The Manor 2</a>	5	4	1	71	53	0	71
<a href="#">Burton 2</a>	5	3	2	70	52	0	70
<a href="#">Duffield 2</a>	5	3	2	65	52	0	65
<a href="#">Ashbourne</a>	5	2	3	60	64	0	60
<a href="#">Draycott 1</a>	5	2	3	57	68	0	57
<a href="#">Lumb Farm 2</a>	5	1	4	47	71	0	47
<a href="#">Rolls-Royce 1</a>	5	1	4	47	77	0	47

#### **Lumb Farm 2 (17) 3-2 Draycott 1 (8)**

An excellent win by Lumb Farm 2 against Draycott lifted them off the bottom of the table although still level of points with Rolls-Royce. Aide Elks and Steve Grainger both won 3-1, but their efforts were countered by Darren & Steve Reeves in Draycott's mid order. Down to the No.1s to decide the contest and it was Matt Whitehead all the way for Lumb Farm in a sparkling display to completely outplay Martin Rose 9-2 9-1 9-0.

#### **David Lloyd 1 (15) 3-2 Rolls-Royce 1 (8)**

David Lloyd rolled their big guns out against Rolls-Royce and just as well as they scraped a 3-2 win courtesy of Nick Merrifield beating Alastair Parsons 9-7 9-2 5-9 7-9 9-6 at no.3. Earlier Kevin Britchford's recent fine form saw him put RR 1-0 up and with Richard Tuck feasting on Ben Arnold's mid-court fayre it was 2-0 to RR. Richard Underhill finished off Cliff Ransom in double quick time before Merryfield and Parsons had got half way through their epic match and with full-time PSA pro Joel Hinds to go on, it was effectively 2-2.

#### **Duffield 2 (18) 4-1 Ashbourne (8)**

Although short of a pair of Allcocks at no.1 and no.4, Ashbourne perhaps felt that this was a match that slipped through their fingers. James Archer looked set to complete a hard earned turn around from 0-2 down until Lesley Sturgess found her length again late in the 5<sup>th</sup> to carry her to 9-6 and get Duffield off to a good start. David Taylor took the 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-9 to

lead Adrian Watts 2-1, but the effort was too much as Watts poured through the last 2 games for the loss of only 1 point. Chris Alcock gave Duffield the team win beating Tom Machell 3-0, while Felix Frixou showed good application and improved line and length to defeat Grant Nicholson 3-1. Mike Herridge showed his Ashbourne team mates how it was done, rolling back the years and hustling Kyle McBride 1-9 6-9 9-6 7-9 for three well deserved points.

#### **Burton 2 (10) 2-3 The Manor 2 (17)**

What a scrap these two teams had in their bids to head the top of the table. Don Davis got the better of Vince Dolman at 5<sup>th</sup> string, but in what turned out to be the crunch match Andy Roulston saw his 2-0 lead wither to 2-2 and with all the momentum Colin Morris' way early in the 5<sup>th</sup>, it looked like a lost cause. Roulston dug deep, urged on by his team mates began to peg back the score. 7-7 and it was finely poised, Morris went to 8-7, Roulston levelled after saving a match point and while Morris was rueing his lost chance Roulston snook in to win the 5<sup>th</sup>. 0-2 to The Manor was soon dragged back to 1-2 as Adrian Murphy defeated James Healey 3-0. Andy Hardy was involved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-2 match as Mathew Maclachlan ran out of legs in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. 1-3 to The Manor and the icing was applied by the 3<sup>rd</sup> 3-2 of the evening and this followed the same pattern as the first as Steve Smith regained his early momentum in the nick of time to take the 5<sup>th</sup> from Tom Comb 9-4.

### Division 4

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">LA Fitness 3</a>	5	2	3	64	59	0	64
<a href="#">Sandiacre</a>	4	3	1	62	35	0	62
<a href="#">Burton 4</a>	4	2	2	52	42	0	52
<a href="#">David Lloyd 2</a>	3	2	1	43	34	0	43
<a href="#">Rolls-Royce 2</a>	3	2	1	36	36	0	36
<a href="#">Duffield 4</a>	3	1	2	32	42	0	32
<a href="#">Hood Park 3</a>	4	1	3	28	69	0	28

#### **LA Fitness 3 (16) 3-2 Duffield 4 (9)**

Mark Steadman's win in the opening tie against Mike Dyer proved to be decisive in this close match.

Steadman just outlasted Dyer 3-2 and with Dick Vasey defeating Nathan Davies 3-0, team confidence grew. However, that didn't worry the youthful duo of James Blythe (3-0) and Joe Harvey (3-2) who levelled for Duffield. Skipper Richard Grindrod's early success in the 1<sup>st</sup> quickly vanished as his poor length was harshly punished by Chris Coe at no.2 eventually taking the match 3-1 and bonus points for LA.

### Hood Park 3 (4) 1-4 Sandiacre (19)

With a game in hand over LA Fitness 3, Sandiacre have an excellent chance to go top at the half way mark. Their solid 19 points and 4-1 victory over Hood Park 3 greatly help and they appear to be all on form after a slow start to the season. Bill Murray was the only victim of the home side, Paul Bullen manfully hanging on to the 5<sup>th</sup> game 9-7 for Hood Park's only win of the night. With the 3 teams above Hood Park having a game in hand, the bottom side will have to produce the goods next half.

### Division 6

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">Brampton Manor 3</a>	3	3	0	51	23	0	51
<a href="#">Burton 6</a>	3	3	0	48	20	0	48
<a href="#">Repton 3</a>	4	2	2	47	44	0	47
<a href="#">Hood Park 4</a>	4	0	4	34	67	0	34
<a href="#">Kimberley Manor</a>	2	2	0	32	18	0	32
<a href="#">Queens Park 3</a>	4	0	4	28	68	0	28

With the withdrawal of Draycott 3 it will take time for Division 6 to play out, but Brampton 3 and Burton 6 looking likely to be the teams to beat. Repton move into 3<sup>rd</sup> place with some solid performances from the top order. Neil Webster got Queens' hopes up with a stoic 10-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> win against a despondent Will Herbert.

### Ladies Squash

#### Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">Duffield 1</a>	5	5	0	72	35	0	72
<a href="#">Burton</a>	5	3	2	62	41	0	62
<a href="#">Trent Vale (Bramcote)</a>	5	1	4	42	64	0	42
<a href="#">Ashbourne</a>	5	1	4	35	71	0	35

Duffield 1 continue to dominate, but the gap looks like its closing after they scraped through their last two matches. Trent Vale ran them close with Louise O'Reilly beating Sheila Alcock at no.5 and Heidi Walters defeating Hannah Blythe 3-0, but Naomi Hardy played an excellent 5<sup>th</sup> game against Sandra Albinson to win the tie for Duffield as Anne Mason and Donna Jackson both won comfortably. Ashbourne also made in-roads to Duffield's domination taking 6 games off the champions elect.

Trent Vale took a notable scalp when they beat annual runners-up Burton 3-2. Sandra Albinson's 3-2 win over Helen Smith got them on their way, and with Karen Laughton effecting a 5<sup>th</sup> game recovery to win an excellent match against Baljinder Beesia they could safely rely on Heidi Walters to get them home. It'll be a big gap for Trent Vale to make up in one match, but they have an outside chance of catching Burton who play Duffield, while Trent play Ashbourne.

### Division 2

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">Bradley House</a>	4	4	0	59	22	0	59
<a href="#">Rolls-Royce</a>	5	3	2	58	40	0	58
<a href="#">David Lloyd</a>	5	2	3	46	57	0	46
<a href="#">Repton</a>	4	0	4	19	63	0	19

Bradley House are well out in front and with their outstanding result to come in against Repton, they will be uncatchable. Both David Lloyd and Repton continue to show improvement.

### Racketball

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">David Lloyd</a>	5	4	1	59	34	0	59
<a href="#">Duffield 1</a>	4	4	0	57	13	0	57
<a href="#">The Manor 1</a>	4	2	2	44	32	0	44
<a href="#">The Manor 2</a>	4	2	2	37	35	0	37
<a href="#">Duffield 2</a>	4	1	3	30	46	0	30
<a href="#">Brampton Manor</a>	4	2	2	29	40	0	29
<a href="#">LA Fitness 1</a>	5	0	5	18	74	0	18

With just one round of matches to go and with potential leaders Duffield 1 playing their 2<sup>nd</sup> team next week, they are likely to have a sizeable points

difference to David Lloyd. The gap between The Manor 1 and their 2<sup>nd</sup> team should also widen in their inter-club clash although nothing should be taken for granted.

In the last round of matches it was The Manor 2 who stole the show against Duffield 2 in the battle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> teams. Although 2-2 the games count-back was heavily in favour of The Manor 2. Harry Winfield proved the most obdurate of opponents for Ben Moulds, the County O55 squash player belying his years to eventually take the tie 11-15 15-12 15-12 13-15 17-15. The Manor 1 hammered a LA Fitness 1 side lacking their front-line squash players. The Manor 1 were also in fine form dispatching David Lloyd in their only loss so far. Could The Manor 1 still keep hold of their title?

### Harris Inter Counties Championship

Derbyshire Men O55s played host to Northumbria, Cumbria and Merseyside at Duffield Squash Club. Derbyshire's squad of six included Neil Nightingale, John Beastall, John Pearson, Tony Robinson, Phil Howe and Adrian Shepherd.

On Saturday morning Derbyshire played a strong Northumbrian side and got off to a good start with John Pearson winning an epic battle in his match. He defended match balls in the 4th game to come back and win 3-2. Adrian Shepherd was in determined mood playing against a very strong opponent. After a long hard battle that hung in the balance in several of the games he lost in the 4th. The remaining three matches were also very hard fought with Nightingale, Beastall and Robinson coming out the eventual winners. A great start for the team with an overall win 4-1. In the meantime Cumbria had cruised to a comfortable win over Merseyside and the battle lines were drawn for Derbyshire's match against Cumbria on Saturday evening.

John Pearson started the second round on his favourite glass back court and was in imperious form winning 3-0, never letting his opponent in the game. Phil Howe returning to the team after a long injury spell was immersed in a baptism of fire that went down to the wire over a marathon five setter. Every game was long and hard and Howe defended match ball in the fourth game before he took it 10-8. The fifth was no easier and he served no fewer than five times on match point before he took the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-7. The going was tough and Nightingale went down to a very in form Ronnie Bell at No.1. So the match came down to Tony Robinson at No.2 and he duly took a 2-0 lead,

but in very close games. His opponent valiantly and slowly clawed his way to 2-2. The match hung in the balance all the way through the 5<sup>th</sup> and seemed harder the Captain and the rest of the Derbyshire supporters than it was for the players. It was an absolute nail biting match that Robinson eventually won and secured Derbyshire's win over the Cumbrian team, the crowd went mad.

In the other rubber Northumbria took maximum points against Merseyside but this did not reflect the individual game scores with several matches that could have gone either way.

On Sunday morning Derbyshire were leading with Cumbria and Northumbria hot on their heels. With only one team guaranteed moving forward to the promotion group, Derbyshire still had to beat Merseyside, but fatigue had told and Merseyside were down to 4 players. Again John Pearson did the business in the opening tie to secure his trio of wins for the weekend and leave him with a permanent grin on his face for the rest of the day. Derbyshire now 2-0 up needed one more to win. Robinson and Nightingale went on court about the same time, but it was Robinson who finished first securing his third win of the weekend in three straight games and securing the tie against Merseyside. Meanwhile Nightingale, blissfully unaware of the situation, was battling ferociously with the Merseyside No.1 and was struggling at 2-1 down. In determined mood he pulled it around in the 4<sup>th</sup> and took the 5<sup>th</sup> in grand style once he'd broken his opponent's spirit.

Derbyshire could not be caught and were top of the group. Although, John Beastall was a little disappointed not to have won his Sunday morning match this did nothing to dampen the ecstatic mood of the winning Derbyshire side. Phil Howe's crucial win against Cumbria, where he saved match point would have allowed Cumbria to over-haul Derbyshire for the top spot.

**Kevin White**  
DSR Chairman