

# Derbyshire Squash & Racketball

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## National Squash Championships

### SportCity, Manchester

9-14 Feb 2010

#### **"Disappointment for Derbyshire's Masters"**

British Open O40s Champion Kevin White was seeded No.2 and was first up against England O40 international Andrew Murray. 6 months after breaking his tibia Murray's movement wasn't quite what it was, but he did show some stunning winners to take the 3<sup>rd</sup> from White in a 11-7 11-6 6-11 11-4 score. At the same time, 5/8 seed Andy Cross eventually dispatched the dangerous Pete Goodings 3-2 and then gave White a serious scare taking the 3<sup>rd</sup> 10-12. White was forced to do some hard yards in the 4<sup>th</sup> as he got over the line 11-7 11-5 10-12 11-8. Meeting White in the semi-final was former National League opponent Peter Gunter from Middlesex. Gunter had played a marvellous match the day before taking out the highly talented 3/4 seed Nigel Willis 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. White used his court coverage to great advantage taking the opening two in quick succession. But Gunter is an experienced campaigner and slowly hauled the 3<sup>rd</sup> round his way as White looked for cheap winners. White upped the pace and the previous days exertions began to tell on Gunter as 4-4 became 10-4 to White. Gunter put together a great string of rallies to serve at 8-10, but White's miss-hit forehand volley found the nick to great relief.

Meanwhile, 2 time National Champion Yawar Abbas serenely made his way to the semi-final where he met 3/4 seed Rick Weatherall from Berkshire in a repeat of last year's final. Abbas took the 1<sup>st</sup> comfortably and made Weatherall work extremely hard for the 2<sup>nd</sup>; the 3<sup>rd</sup> went to Abbas and victory seemed certain at 8-3 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, but a tear to Abbas' calf meant retirement.

The final was played on the all-glass show court and Weatherall used his experience from the previous year well, taking the initiative and driving low and hard. White was uncharacteristically subdued and his sluggish movement and poor positioning dragged the ball into the mid court region time and again where Weatherall cut the ball away for dealy winners. Somehow White managed to level at 10-10,

but a miss-hit winner gave Weatherall a game point which he duly tucked away off another loose shot from White. It was a crucial game and Weatherall was clearly buoyed, storming through the next game 11-5. A little over confidence from Weatherall early on gave White a few cheap points, and in hindsight letting the 3<sup>rd</sup> game go enabled Weatherall to mount a charge in the 4<sup>th</sup>. White just couldn't find his line, length or speed of foot was being picked off with ease by Weatherall and at 10-7 a feeble backhand service return into the tin summed up White's performance.

In the Men's O45 event Greg Loach received a bye in his first round and dispatched Dorset's Mark Hurd 9-3 9-3 9-2 in 30 minutes in round 2. Loach, a 3/4 seed, was up against Adrian Jaski in the quarter-finals and having previously beaten Jaski this season was odds on favourite. However, the courts at England Squash HQ are very different to anywhere else and often throw up unexpected results. After taking the first game, Loach then struggled to find a good length and Jaski was able to pick off some sparkling winners from mid court. Loach got close in the 4<sup>th</sup> at 9-7 to Jaski, but Loach can find comfort in attaining enough points to guarantee his 3<sup>rd</sup> set of Internationals for England O45.

Ashbourne's Mike Herridge gave a good account of himself against Dorset's Robert Hickling a 5/8 seed. Herridge took the 1<sup>st</sup> 9-5, but Hickling's constant volleying paid off as he levelled with the 2<sup>nd</sup> 2-9. Herridge upped the ante and reached a game ball at 9-9 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, but another Hickling volley won the game. Herridge was spent on the airless courts succumbing 1-9 in the 4<sup>th</sup>. This was a good taster for Herridge who is sure to be back for more.

A redraw in the O55s meant Neil Nightingale met Cumbrian Ronnie Bell, a 3/4 seed, the contest going to the seed in three straight games.

Lesley Sturgess was given the No.2 slot in the Ladies O50s after reaching the British Open final last September and was drawn against Susan Pynegar from Nottingham. Unlike the football this match went Nottingham's way with Pynegar fighting back from 2-0 down to win 3-2. Sturgess had stormed to a 2-0 lead, but the hot, energy sapping courts and slowing ball, swung the advantage Pynegar's way.

## Derbyshire Men's League Round 10

### Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">The Manor 1</a>	10	8	2	148	88	0	148
<a href="#">Burton 1</a>	10	7	3	146	79	0	146
<a href="#">Repton 1</a>	10	7	3	142	84	0	142
<a href="#">LA Fitness 1</a>	10	6	4	126	104	0	126
<a href="#">Duffield 1</a>	10	6	4	120	98	0	120
<a href="#">Brampton Manor 1</a>	10	3	7	99	135	0	99
<a href="#">Hood Park 1</a>	10	1	9	66	161	0	66
<a href="#">Lumb Farm 1</a>	10	2	8	65	163	0	65

The Manor remain top while two of the chasing pack, Duffield and LA Fitness, drop away with heavy losses. Burton close up the gap by 3 points while Repton also close in by a similar margin leaving 3 front runners within 6 points of each other.

#### **Hood Park (7) 2-3 The Manor (17)**

The Manor came through a wobble to retain top spot after their visit to Hood Park, whose 7 points kept them just above Lumb Farm. James Healey 3-0 was immediately cancelled out by Paul Sumpter's fine win over Steve Smith 3-1. Craig Walsh didn't adapt to the slow pace of the Hood Park courts and was adeptly picked off by Mick Burton. However, brother Jason was there to level the match at 2-2 easily beating Simon Hurst. Neil Rossin took a while to suppress Ian Duffy, losing the 2<sup>nd</sup>, but eventually captured the match for The Manor 5-9 9-7 0-9 1-9.

#### **Lumb Farm (17) 3-2 LA Fitness (8)**

Lumb Farm took full advantage of LA Fitness missing Greg Loach who was away at the Nationals. Ian Mackinnon gave LA a good chance beating Marcus Thomas in 5 games, but Neil Thorpe was undone by Barry Marshall in another 5 game thriller. Sam Brown kept Paul Howell at bay and with Tom Gregory having too many shots for Mike Lambert they gave Lumb Farm an unassailable lead for their 2<sup>nd</sup> win this season. Ryan Loska was made to work hard by Matt Whitehead at no.1. Lumb Farm remain in mathematical reach of Brampton, but it doesn't look good.

#### **Brampton Manor (3) 0-5 Repton (20)**

A dominant display from Repton pushed them into 3<sup>rd</sup> position and they look a good bet for the title if they can turn a full team out in the remaining 4 matches. Ian Hilton took a game off Ben Smith at 5<sup>th</sup> string and Charlie Wall got stuck into Richard Woodrooffe narrowly losing 3-2, but that was Brampton's lot. Mark Fuller underlined his status as the leagues best player beating Alex Cutts 3-0 with the last two games each 9-0.

#### **Burton (20) 5-0 Duffield (0)**

Incredibly Duffield failed to turn out a team for the first time in their history leaving Burton with a handy 20 point boost for their title aspirations.

### Division 3

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">Repton 2</a>	10	8	2	165	67	0	165
<a href="#">Queens Park 1</a>	10	8	2	158	83	0	158
<a href="#">Brampton Manor 2</a>	10	8	2	138	98	0	138
<a href="#">Hood Park 2</a>	10	5	5	116	126	0	116
<a href="#">LA Fitness 2</a>	10	4	6	112	127	0	112
<a href="#">Duffield 3</a>	10	3	7	109	140	0	109
<a href="#">Burton 3</a>	10	3	7	92	149	0	92
<a href="#">Draycott 2</a>	10	1	9	71	171	0	71

#### **Repton 2 (8) 2-3 Brampton Manor 2 (15)**

Brampton gave themselves a chance of a promotion place as they beat high flying Repton 3-2 away from home. Martin Allen and Adrian Oldbury prevailed 3-0 and 3-1 over Simon Watt and Steve Barker respectively for Repton, but Danny Busby and Jono Lovegrove answered for Brampton. Nick Melton kept Brampton's season going with a determined effort against John Kirtland. Despite losing 2 tied games, Melton managed to pull himself together to take the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-7.

#### **Queens Park 1 (17) 4-0 Hood Park 2 (7)**

Queens Park keep a healthy 20 point lead over Brampton, but will need to avoid dropping point carelessly as Brampton have strengthened their order and won't lose many points during the run in.

#### **Duffield 3 (18) 4-1 Burton 3 (7)**

Duffield scored a crucial win over relegation rivals Burton and open up a 17 point gap. Rob Lathbury's 3-1 defeat of Dave Yallop minimised the points difference.

### LA Fitness 2 (15) 3-2 Draycott 2 (8)

LA Fitness similarly were relieved to grab a win over fellow strugglers Draycott to almost certainly condemn them to Division 4 next season. John Holmes was LA's saviour returning from 2-0 down to defeat Nick Drew 3-2.

### Division 5

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">Queens Park 2</a>	9	7	2	141	66	0	141
<a href="#">Bradley House</a>	9	7	2	127	87	0	127
<a href="#">David Lloyd 3</a>	9	5	4	100	110	0	100
<a href="#">Burton 5</a>	8	4	4	96	92	0	96
<a href="#">Duffield 5</a>	9	2	7	83	127	0	83
<a href="#">LA Fitness 4</a>	8	3	5	82	104	0	82
<a href="#">Lumb Farm 3</a>	8	2	6	71	114	0	71

### Burton 5 (4) 5-0 Duffield 5 (20)

Burton's promotion prospects were left in tatters by a resurgent Duffield team who dished out a 5-0 beating. Tearaway James Blythe was a notable winner for Duffield at no.1 defeating Rob Gower 3-0. Glyn Bowen couldn't quite hang onto Steve Sims coat tails after taking a 2-0 lead, Sims edging the 4<sup>th</sup> 10-8 before adding the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-6; meaning Burton left without a win.

### Bradley House (16) 3-2 Queens Park 2 (9)

Bradley House turned over league leaders Queens Park and closed in on top spot and ensuring they remain well placed in 2<sup>nd</sup> above David Lloyd in 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bradley were grateful to Mike Allen's persistence after narrowly losing the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> games to capture the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-3 against Mike Craven.

### David Lloyd 3 (18) 4-1 Lumb Farm 3 (5)

David Lloyd kept a very small toe in Bradley House's door by taking 18 points from Lumb Farm. Lumb Farm aren't out of it yet and a surprise win could put them out of the drop zone.

**Kevin White**

DSR Chairman