

# Derbyshire Squash & Racketball

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## Derbyshire Men's League Round 12

### Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
<a href="#">Burton 1</a>	12	9	3	179	92	0	179
<a href="#">Repton 1</a>	12	9	3	177	94	0	177
<a href="#">The Manor 1</a>	12	9	3	173	113	0	173
<a href="#">LA Fitness 1</a>	12	8	4	161	114	0	161
<a href="#">Duffield 1</a>	12	7	5	144	123	0	144
<a href="#">Brampton Manor 1</a>	12	3	9	106	174	0	106
<a href="#">Lumb Farm 1</a>	12	2	10	80	193	0	80
<a href="#">Hood Park 1</a>	12	1	11	77	194	0	77

Repton's 3-2 win over The Manor put them into 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Burton. Burton secured 19 points against Brampton leaving them just 2 points ahead of Repton. The Manor are a further 4 points back so just 6 points cover the top 3 teams so its still anyone of those teams' title. LA Fitness have an outside chance, but Duffield have faded completely out of contention. With just two matches to go, Repton probably have the harder run in with Duffield 1 and LA Fitness to play. Burton should collect a full 20 points at Hood Park, while the last match of the season against The Manor could be a nervy affair.

### **The Manor 1 (7) 2-3 Repton 1 (17)**

In what might have been a defining match of the league season, Repton 1 came out on top and moved above The Manor. The Manor were short of No.1 Jon Underhill while Repton were short in their middle order. Lee Watson produced another captain's performance, defeating Andy Roulston 3-1 in what was to be the deciding match of the night. Roulston took the 1<sup>st</sup> 9-4 and was looking good for a 2-0 lead at 8-7, but Watson's arrow straight drives came good for him to go 9-8 up, Roulston replied for another game points, but Watson resisted and took the crucial 2<sup>nd</sup> 10-9. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> Watson's line and length dictated play as the Repton skipper eased through the next two.

Simon Price easily dispatched Nigel Millington 3-0 to put Repton 2-0 up. To The Manor's rescue came brothers Craig and Jason Walsh. Craig's fierce

hitting works well with a new ball allowing a handy 2-0 lead, but as the pace of the ball slowed Ben Smith took advantage taking the next two 9-4 a piece. Once cornered, Walsh hit out again and keeping the errors down allowed himself enough margin to take the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-6. Another hard hitter, this time Repton's Mitch Cook took the opener 3-9, but Jason Walsh use of pace is even better with subtle touches that moved Cook to all four corners. Walsh took the next two 9-6 9-3, but Cook wasn't finished leading the 4<sup>th</sup> all the way to 7-7. With Cook tiring and Walsh again finding the corners the 4<sup>th</sup> went to Walsh 9-7; the match was kept alive at 2-2. The Manor's Neil Rossin put up a great fight against full-time Mark Fuller, but 0-3 to the Repton man was always on the cards. Indeed it was Fuller who took the match 5-9 7-9 6-9 bagging the vital bonus points for Repton.

### **Burton 1 (19) 4-1 Brampton Manor 1 (5)**

Burton lifted their game and their position into top spot after a 4-1 home win against Brampton. Lee Stanbury, Neil Waller and James Hodson all had reasonably comfortable 3-0 victories, but Carl Timms couldn't make it a clean sweep for Burton as he fell 9-7 in the 5<sup>th</sup> to Jason Fearn's persistent and accurate squash. Alex Cutts wrestled the first game off Rich Davis 9-10; Davis' imposed his all court game to take the 2<sup>nd</sup> 9-5, but Cutts came storming back to take the next two 5-9 only for Davis to finally find his rhythm and with a tiring opponent take the 4<sup>th</sup> 9-4 and 5<sup>th</sup> 9-6.

### **Hood Park 1 (7) 2-3 LA Fitness 1 (15)**

Hood Park recorded yet another 2-3 loss this time to LA Fitness. Nigel Storer and Mark Hoffman gave Hood Park the best possible start with 3-1 and 3-0 victories at nos.4 and 5. Mike Lambert turned things around for LA with a commanding 3-0 of his own over Paul Sumper. England O45 Greg Loach was in a mean mood allowing Mick Burton just 2 points, both claimed late on in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ian Duffy surprised Ryan Loska in the 1<sup>st</sup> taking it 9-6, but suffered thereafter for his over eagerness as Loska won the next three 3-9 1-9 0-9.

### **Lumb Farm 1 (7) 2-3 Duffield 1 (16)**

Sam Brown and Kyle McBride were almost inseparable trading games until the 5<sup>th</sup>. McBride had taken the 3<sup>rd</sup> without dropping a point and looked odds on in the 4<sup>th</sup> at 5-5, but a loss of concentration allowed Brown to extend the match into the 5<sup>th</sup>. Momentum was now

with Brown and he led 7-3, but McBride was stung into action reeling off 5 successive points to reach match point, but a mishit return of serve disappeared into the 'nick' to halt McBride in his tracks. McBride was still think about that shot as Brown closed out the match 10-8. Laura Hill and Tom Gregory traded points to 7-7, but Hill had that extra touch of class finding 2 immaculate forehand drives to take the 1<sup>st</sup>. The mercurial Gregory stormed to a 7-2 lead in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, before Hill got to error-free work digging out that game also 9-7. Gregory was finished in the 3<sup>rd</sup> which was gladly taken by Hill 9-0. Chris Alcock looks likely to feature in Duffield's 1<sup>st</sup> team next season and certainly looked the part except for a blip in the 3<sup>rd</sup> that saw Neil Nightingale grab that game 10-8. Barry Marshall's tight game caused Felix Frixou great problems; Marshall running out a 3-0 winner. Matt Whitehead, looking much trimmer, caused Kevin White some difficulties with his excellent racket work, but White did enough to secure a 3-0 win.

### Division 3

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
Repton 2	12	10	2	202	76	0	202
Queens Park 1	12	9	3	178	110	0	178
Brampton Manor 2	12	10	2	172	104	0	172
LA Fitness 2	12	5	7	132	149	0	132
Hood Park 2	12	5	7	131	157	0	131
Duffield 3	12	3	9	127	172	0	127
Burton 3	12	4	8	109	176	0	109
Draycott 2	12	2	10	92	199	0	92

#### Repton 2 (20) 5-0 Queens Park 1 (2)

This was not the result Queens were hoping for, a drubbing at Repton allows Brampton 2 to close to within 6 points of their precious 2<sup>nd</sup> promotion spot. Repton have probably done enough to advance to Division 2. Owen Humphries just missed out to Rob Jackson 10-8 in the 5<sup>th</sup> otherwise it was all one-way traffic in Repton's direction.

#### Brampton Manor 2 (20) 5-0 Burton 3 (0)

Brampton come hammering up behind Queens Park closing from 24 points to just 6. Brampton have an easier run in than Queens with stragglers Duffield and Draycott to play, while Queens have LA Fitness 2 and Burton 3. Clive Watson had a game point against Jono Lovegrove, otherwise it was plain sailing for Brampton.

#### LA Fitness 2 (14) 3-2 Hood Park 2 (8)

LA's narrow win just gave them a sufficient points difference to overhaul Hood Park to go into 4<sup>th</sup> place. Rob Sillet, Garth Birtles and John Holmes were good enough to give LA the win, but Pete Wood and Kenny Grant struck back with 3-0s of the own to minimise the damage.

#### Duffield 3 (11) 3-2 Draycott 2 (14)

11 points from a lost match was pretty handy for Duffield 3 and keep them well away from Burton 3 in 2<sup>nd</sup> from bottom place. Cliff Martin's persistence paid off as he lost the first two 9-7 10-9, before saving a match point in the 4<sup>th</sup> to win the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-6. Steve Reeves secured the win for Draycott when he won the 5<sup>th</sup> 9-3 against James Russell.

### Division 5

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
Queens Park 2	10	7	3	149	82	0	149
Bradley House	10	8	2	141	96	0	141
Burton 5	10	5	5	122	110	0	122
David Lloyd 3	11	5	6	117	141	0	117
Duffield 5	11	4	7	116	142	0	116
LA Fitness 4	10	5	5	114	120	0	114
Lumb Farm 3	10	2	8	81	149	0	81

#### Burton 5 (8) 2-3 LA Fitness 4 (15)

Bob Lathbury's and Rob Gower's win weren't enough to keep Burton 5 in the hunt for honours as their side went down to next from bottom LA Fitness. Alan Haggard, Garry Smith and Mark Steadman all recorded solid victories and with a game in hand LA have a good chance of going mid-table.

#### Lumb Farm 3 (7) 2-3 Duffield 5 (17)

A good points haul at Lumb Farm give Duffield the chance to avoid the drop especially as bottom side were the home team. Perry McKellen just had enough to beat Paul Catermole 3-1, but Pete Wilson got one back for Lumb Farm defeating Keith Elson 3-1. Robert Cope came out just on top in a ding-dong battle with Tony Gregory 10-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. Mark Benson and Steve Sims were easy winners at nos. 4 and 5 for Duffield.

#### Bradley House (14) 3-2 David Lloyd 3 (9)

Bradley's win keeps them in strong contention for a promotion spot, 19 points ahead of Burton 5. Both

teams won 9 games, but it was Bradley House who arranged them in the right order that gave them the laurels. At 2-2 John Saunders nearly blew the teams chances when he surrendered a 2-0 lead, but he managed to get his game together in the 5<sup>th</sup> to take it 9-1 against Andy Robinson.

## Racketball

	P	W	L	F	A	D	Pts.
Duffield 1	10	10	0	147	30	0	147
The Manor 1	9	6	3	109	57	0	109
The Manor 2	9	5	4	87	79	0	87
David Lloyd	10	5	5	84	100	0	84
Duffield 2	9	3	6	74	97	0	74
Brampton Manor	9	3	6	59	102	0	59
LA Fitness 1	10	1	9	46	141	0	46

### Duffield 1 (16) 4-0 The Manor 2 (3)

Duffield 1 have one hand on the trophy after defeating The Manor 2; a win that leaves them 28 points clear of The Manor 1, although that gap could be closed to 12 points in The Manor's game-in-hand. Duffield remained unbeaten thanks to a pair of 3-0s from Geoff Cook and Chris Alcock, while Martin Nicholls and James Foulk rounded off a good night with 3-1 and 302 victories.

### LA Fitness 1 (16) 4-0 Duffield 2 (6)

LA Fitness pouched their first win of the season against Duffield 2 adding nearly 50% of their points to date. They still trail Brampton Manor by 13 points at least having played one more match. Lee Watson took a while to settle against Neil Shorrocks until his trade mark tight line told in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> games. Chris Coe also won the last two against Lesley Sturgess, but in much closer fashion 11-9 11-7. Daves Marshall and Lambert each won 3-1 to complete a good night's work.

### The Manor 1 (16) 4-0 David Lloyd (0)

The Manor 1 kept their chances of back-to-back titles alive with a 4-0 drubbing of David Lloyd. Anthony Ryder and Suki Sandri both had games points, but non-conversion meant they went home pointless.

## Individual Performances

### Huddersfield Junior Open

Duffield junior James Blythe (13) won the U15s event of the Huddersfield Junior Open on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Following a first round bye James recorded 3-0 wins over Tom Howell (Yorkshire), Thomas Baines (Nottinghamshire) and Edward Stallworthy (Yorkshire) to book his place in the final with Rahul Bansul (Lancs). Blythe and Bansul had last met the previous weekend at the English Junior championships where Blythe won by a narrow margin 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup>. However the Huddersfield final proved very different with Blythe dominating the proceedings winning in 3 games this time, 11-6 11-6 11-9.

[Photo James Blythe]

### Kevin White

DSR Chairman