

Derbyshire Squash & Racketball

Press Release - 23 May 2011

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

Northern Cup 2011

Derbyshire U17s finished a very respectable 3rd in this season's Northern Cup tournament held at Grove Park Squash Club in Cheadle Hulme.



Derbyshire U17s

With the non-availability of regular no. 1, Ashley Davies, and no. 3, Adam Turner, plus James Blythe's recent return from injury keeping him down to playing in just one of the two ties scheduled for each day, it meant we were effectively 2½ first choice players short for the weekend. We knew it was going to be difficult, therefore, to try and repeat last year's success when the same squad was victorious at under 15 level.

As the Northern Cup is one of the few tournaments that allow (even encourages) mixed teams, we took advantage of this and brought in Siobhan Baxter to help bolster the squad and with the introduction of U15 player, Matt Barton, we managed to pull together 6 players (well 5½ considering James's predicament). The team was (in ranking order) Russell Clark, James Blythe, Alex Wilson, Siobhan Baxter, Craig Osborne and Matt Barton.

Of the four ties played over the weekend, Derbyshire won two and lost two. Both of the defeats were very closely fought 3-2, one of these being against Yorkshire who ended up as overall winners.

Notable performances from the weekend included Russell Clark winning all of his 4 matches without dropping a game; similarly James didn't drop a game in the two matches in which he played; Alex Wilson won both of the matches where he 'played up' at number two as James's replacement and won one of his other two; Siobhan won two of her matches and only narrowly lost the other 2, both 3-2 and all against male opposition; Craig won one of his 3 matches and provided some fine entertainment with his tenacious but unpredictable squash and Matt, still only 13 years old, won his first competitive match at under 17 level and could easily have won his second.

All things considered this was a good performance and an enjoyable weekend. It would only have taken one or two nicks or refereeing decisions to change one of the 3-2 defeats into a victory, then who knows what the final outcome would have been.

Kevin White
DSR Chairman

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