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Subject: Revolving Doors /Sliding Doors /Diana Doors- Mind the gap.....
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Gordon Bennett !!!!

If he was fit he'd be getting a game presently, we are spread kind of thin at the moment, but like the merry men, we stick together. No doubt Mr Holland will be pedalling team tights next week, likes a marketing opportunity !

Fortunately H3 had no game this week, some would say our finest week of the season to date, But you can't standing around licking your wounds

Worryingly these team reports are getting better and better

H1 Report (3-20, we lost)

Stand in reporter John Corteen tonight I'm afraid, though there was more news here than in any Brexit Cabinet resignations. We has a complete top team reshuffle ourselves, bringing in three new players, let's hope there are no resignations afterwards.

We travelled over the hills to Monton, with Scurlock and Baynes stuck in diverted traffic around Prestwich, Nelson as usual fashionably late, leaving me to claim I was first there at 7.05pm, only to be usurped by a phone call from McVicker claiming to be telephoning from the toilets and saying he was first.

The Monton Sports Club was breathless in anticipation, the heaters were blasting out like a sauna, I paid my subs to Tom, and the stage was set for us to spring an upset.....

John Corteen v Lewis "too tall" Rigby (second string)

First up Foxy, a notoriously slow starter, and still rattled from not being first there, I started brightly but got progressively worse. Having been advised in the week by Gordon to "give him a hard first game and then he'll tire", things were very even until I gave the first game away with vital misses at crucial times towards the end, going down 11-6. Tom correctly advised me to play him on his weaker backhand in the second, the game improved a little, but again costly end of game errors saw me lose 11-9. The old legs gave way a bit in the third losing 11-4, so a 3-0 defeat to start, was a poor effort from me

Tom McVicker v James "whinger" Merenghis (not sure if that's spelled correctly!) (first string)

Our magnificent captain produced game of the night. A bad tempered affair, like Charles and Diana, there were three in this marriage, with the referee definitely having secret liaisons with his fellow Montonian. Tom won a tight first 11-9, only to be warned for "stamping" in the second, and going down 11-9. More bad decisions saw Tom lose the third 11-7. So at 2-1 down, Tom dug like the trooper he is, and despite warnings for pushing, shoving, and dangerous play, he managed to pull through 11-9, to set up a fifth set decider. Sadly, Tom didn't have the best start, going down 4-0 early on and never really recovering to go down 11-4, and lose the match 3-2. A great gritty performance

though, well played Tom.

Dave Scurlock v John "hairy legs" Macdonald (fifth string)

A tough one this for our evergreen † Mr Scurlock against the rapid Shadow Chancellor. This was exasperated by Dave not being able to see the ball in the first two games, and going down 11-4 and 11-4. Dave then set about his opponent with some usual deft touches and great lengths to take the third 11-9 and bringing back to 2-1, and game on! A valiant effort in the forth saw Dave very much match his younger opponent, but went down 11-8 to lose the match 3-1.

Simon Baynes v Jez "Stan" Boardman (fourth string)

Expectant eyes were on Baynsey to reproduce last week's magic on his first team debut. He looked sharp and fit in the warm up, though the football he was carrying under his shirt (apparently he calls it his panther?) was just tugging a little. He was bouncing and prowling like the Haslingden panther he is. A tight, hard hitting first game saw Simon go down 11-6 and I thought he deserved better until he turned his disappointment on the marker (yours truly!) accusing him of being deaf. The second game got away from Simon losing 11-3, and the frustration took over and the third was lost 11-5. A tough opponent Simon!

Ben Nelson v James "Kray Twin" Cray

I nipped off to the showers during the warm up to this match, only to meet Ben in there, and ask him what he was doing mid-match, to find he'd already gone down 11-4, 11-2, 11-1 against a hard hitting, fast opponent. A clearly emotional Nelson talked about retirement in his post match press conference, citing 7 defeats in a row. Ben, you've had the toughest matches of any player this season, don't be down on yourself. I may however reverse that advice if you lose your box league match against Baynsey on Monday. Watch this space....

So there we go, a resounding 20-3 drubbing at the hands of Monton 1 for Hazy 1.

Supper was a tasteless affair, after waiting over half an hour they said they were waiting for the other match to finish, so we all departed, heads bowed and under-nourished to face the closed M60 and arrive home close to midnight.

We'll be back to do the same again next week though....hope the other teams fared better

H2 v David Lloyd (4 -18 ,we lost)

Com'eth the hour - and cometh our very own mr guts & gravel big Simon. And what a JUBILEE'ation to watch. Swinging the racket like a no2 conc shovel - not too much subtlety here and unfortunate to be on the wrong side of 11-8. Quick team chat with the boss (moi) a little bit less shovel and much more border spade and guess what H2 have their very first game of the evening HOORAY!! So guess what another little whisper at the break and Simon is now playing with a trowel of tranquillity - teasing and caressing some beautiful boasts taking the game 11-5 (wtf this isn't in the script!!) He's 2-1 Up - yes I said up - could it be more running and more pruning of the boast shot and guess what ladies and gents we have ourselves a blooming winner !!!!! Get in 3-1 match to Simon !!!

Here Endth the report - chuffing brilliant !

Just kidding - Danny v Danny

Unfortunately didn't see much of this as I was marking on the other court - I did spot Danny near the exercise bike and said good lad make sure you warm up pal - however Danny replied he'd already finished - oops !! 3-11, 8-11, 2-11

Andy Wray v David Whittle

Andy not quiet on his Andy game tonight but against this type of opponent always going to be hard. The kills and cross courts were too much for Andy's running even though he did try bloody hard. Unlucky matey 7-11, 3-11, 7-11

Mick v Nick

Mick arrived at 8.20pm and in football terms they thought it was all over - but it wasn't !! 8-11, 6-11 cmon Mick. Team talk by our winner of the night and what do you know - a very different Mr Wright! 11-9 get in !!

Chris (2495) Jamie (3185)

You know it's going to be a good game when you get a cheer from the opposition when you get your first point !!! And so it was 7-11, 3-11, 7-11 perhaps more points that I thought I was going to get but felt I could have got closer but no doubt he would have then moved up a gear.

So there we go a Jubilee - marvellous 4 points

H4 report (21-1 we won)

The juggernaut/bandwagon/funbus that is Hasi 4 just keeps rolling along.

Another super performance by all concerned, maximum points, what more can a captain ask of his men?

Due to the late arrival of our guests we let the 2nds have first use of our court to avoid the wrath of RLT if we overstay our welcome.

Apparently late last night Bury had only 3 players confirmed so we are just grateful they eventually turned up with a full contingent.

Dave C on first made hard work of the 1st game but got it 20-18 and did not look back from there as he improved the score game by game. A straightforward 3-0 in the end. Goal for the next time is to persuade him to watch his opponent and not just the front wall!

Steve R next against the unorthodoxy of Chris Bluer. Chris asked if I had warned Steve about his style (or lack of it) beforehand? Of course not, why spoil the fun. Steve won the first then somehow lost the second. Chris was chuffed to have won a game. That was all he was going to get as Steve played with a bit more drive and aggression in games 3&4 to win nicely.

All set up now for Fin to go on and 'bring home the bacon'. I wondered if Callum's big hitting might faze him but it didn't. I wondered if playing shots between his legs might annoy Callum but fortunately he took it in good spirit. Careful with that one Fin. After a close-ish first game Fin did the business in the next 2 games. Good to have Ray back to advise between games. Match won. We're on a roll 😊

John K 's result was never in doubt even though the game scores may suggest otherwise. Welcome back John.

Finally a chance for me to play someone even older and less mobile than me. As long as I

kept playing at the front of the court Rod was happy to watch it from afar. So I did,relentlessly. I am not ashamed of spotting a weakness and playing on it mercilessly.

So a maximum for the 3rd week in a row. Have to admit it feels good. Tune in in a week's time for the next thrilling instalment.

Currently 3rd in Division 5NE , have we peaked?

Monton next week, the first new club to me for a long time.

Marvellous performance tonight boys.

Ed's final note. If playing at home please be there for 7 (at least 3 of you). We are in danger of using up our goodwill at the Sports centre. I know the 3rd's are doing their absolute best to be finished for 9pm most home games (and away games come to think of it)

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