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Subject: FW: Report - Hassy get swept away.....
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So we have a clean sweep this week, Not in a great way results wise, but generally spirit seems generally solid. If good guys get a break, then we are due one
Good to hear the Lion roar on the Show Court (Benno), I thought I'd have a go, it was a bit more Hello Kitty, and turned into a proper teenager age strop, followed by some sulking, Real classy Bruce (try showing some), The cool cats (H2), were away, as were the prospectors (H4)

Some great reports again, and cobbling these together is quite straight forward, we all need to be purring next week

H1 6-18@ Home

Guest reporter Corteen again (I don't want this to become a habit) coming to you from a cold wet and windy night at the Pickup Stadium. They say you've got to grind out those results on a cold November night in Haslingden, so let's see how we faired....

John Corteen v Paul "double hand" Brady (fourth string)

Arriving keen and bushy tailed at 6.55pm the silver fox had promised to his captain, just like Ian Poulter at the Ryder Cup, that he would deliver a point. Deservedly dropped to number 4, he was playing a man with no backhand and a sinister Irish accent, Corteen made his usual ponderous start going down 9-11 in the first. Things didn't improve with a 7-11 loss in the second, with Corteen blaming everybody including the marker Tan, probably the nicest guy on tour. I rallied in the third and fourth to take them 11-8 and 11-3 to set up a last set thriller. Alas, 'twas not to be, standing at 10-8 up with two match points and the world at my feet, I proceeded to lose the next four points going down 12-10, and losing the match. Bad start, but at least I'd beaten my promise and delivered two points!

Tom McVicker v Tom Dwyer (first string)

We'd not seen young 26 year old Tom before, I had been looking for his mate Huckleberry Finn, only to realise he was not actually Tom Sawyer. However, when he was introduced as a former first division player, we knew our Tom was in for a tough ride. Our Tom battled valiantly, but the young buck was just too hot and Tom went down 3-11, 8-11, 8-11. Great try though Tom, keep those drops out of the tin next week...

Tan Hussain v Gary Caldeira (third string)

I missed this match as I was performing my post-match ablutions, but nice guy Tan gave the "big bastard" (not all that nice eh Tan?! 😊😊) a good run, taking a game and going down 2-11, 11-8, 7-11, 7-11. Apparently Gary, with a name sounding like a cruise ship singer, was a big unit to get round! The match is over, we're 3-0 down, but wait....

Ben Nelson v Neil Rodda (fifth string)

Up steps our calm crusader, against a man older and greyer than me, but possessing a magical badminton deftness of touch like Gillian Gilks. Ben fought and fought, always

clawing back the deficit until Neil constantly produced another worldie to restore his lead. Despite Neil taking oxygen and about 25 minutes between games, Ben eventually succumbed 6-11, 10-12, 5-11. But, that was not before a few expletives, racket throws, and tantrums, but another good effort Ben.

Gordon Gilchrist v Sam Boughton (second string)

Yes, second string, Gordon in an unusual spot after so gloriously leading the Hassy Massive for many years, but with his 40th birthday now just a distant memory, was Gordon maybe beginning to creak and show signs of wear? The first game was lost a little timidly 6-11, but ended with the drama of Gordon being slashed on the eye by his opponent on the last shot of the game. With blood gushing from his throbbing eye socket, Gordon refused my offer of the kiss of life, and insisted on bravely carrying on. The fully trained paramedics at the sports centre could only offer a lemon scented KFC wet wipe from the comprehensive first aid box, so Gordon was left to soldier on. Barely conscious, he wobbled back on court like Neymar after a bad challenge, and muttering he might not be able to go out on Saturday night now. But this whole episode brought new life into our wounded warrior, and he turned an exhibition of pure power squash to level the match with an 11-6 win in the second. Falling behind in the third Gordy made some miraculous pick ups and retrieves to somehow always keep the rally going, before winning the it 12-10 with a swashbuckling final volley. He was now fired up, but fatigued, and not fancying a fifth game, once again piled on the pressure to take the the fourth game 11-5, and win the match. An epic performance, right out of the top drawer against a tall, fit 21 year old, who he simply ground down and out. Superb effort Gordon, and game of the night. Those reports of your decline were clearly premature!

So there we go, an 18-6 defeat against the league leaders, not disgraced, but must still improve. On we go next week to play second in the league next week, it's becoming a tough November...

H2 (6-16 away loss)

H2 - The Panthers marvel comic

Simon La - Aka Little Panther (LP) v Simon So interesting first game by our LP - checking out the injury not running too much and narrowing going down 10-12. Cmon LP we can get this back ! So into the second game and I spotted it (I was marking from above) LP secrets weapon - he's wearing a small heat exchange flap on his Barnett ! Out comes the steam and boom 11-8! Winner get in. LP prowling, sliding, starting to purr 11-9 get in !! So our calm opponents suddenly looks a little forlorn - LP spying the kill, scenting the fear 11-5 job done H2 on in its way !!

Simon - aka big panther (BP) v Ash

Set off like 2 big cats carrying their prey - hit it, no hit it harder, no hit it harder so Down he went 11-5, 11-6 quick tip from skip aka SP (wait for it !) completely changed his game and almost took it - but instead had to settle knowing he still has a full tummy to dine out for another week

Chris - aka Shit Panther (SP) v Scott

Looked pretty close in the warm up but really very little to report. My hair even looked brown from up top matching the style of my squash. SP did some amazing tin shots, lots of little twists and turns but probably should have stayed on the settee. SP going down 7-11, 2-11 (wtf) 7-11 even the poachers would have left me tonight !

Mick - aka night panther NP v Neil

Back from another batch of night hunting, which looking at him had definitely been successful our NP just didn't seem to be on all paws. Perhaps the daylight is hurting his

eyes or the heating melting his coat but our mucked NP was off his A game. Good job I gave myself the SP title first as I finished with one more point overall - unlucky pal 7-11, 3-11, 5-11

Tom - aka vocal panther VP v John

There's certainly no creeping up with our very own VP !! Lots of expletives, lots of sighs and the boy is 1-0 down. Cmon VP make sure I'm not writing about visible panties later - let's get it back. No more hiding this VP came back in full attack mode 11-2 get in. John had no answer, VP, in between the oohs & the aahs, and the Ffs, was just epic game won 2-1 up !!! Could this be victorious panther it certainly was winning 11-8 bloody brilliantly well done VP you get the top panther award - you are cleared to breed

Quote of the night from young Fin - is that every match you have lost Chris - yes - you must be shite !!! Thanks Tom - teaching subtlety at such a young age !! I said perhaps the quality of the opposition is better lol

H3 6-18

Well another night and another thrashing ☹️no wonder I drink

Bruce v Kevin

Bruce will admit that he didn't turn up for the first two games. This was a guy he should of put to bed. 2-0 down then decided to take it out on me (how dare he) worked though as he took it to 5. Unfortunately lost out
2-3

Danny v Tim

Cracking game this. Two runners who didn't know when they were beat. 1-0 up and looking good ,unfortunately next 2were close but on the wrong side.
Our Danny won't lie down 4th game went on for ever. Eventually falling short at 24-22

1-3

Alan v Richard

Al defies physics with some of the balls he gets too.
Richard bombarded Al with missiles and to be fair they were tight and accurate.
Took the third to 22-20 but not enough.
0-3

Chris v Mike

Game and result of the night. Our very own ginger ninja wore down his opponent with a mixture of aggressive stroke play and sheer doggedness (that word looks weird) Well played pal.

3-1

Last up yours truly v Dave

This guy would give any of our first team a game.
To be honest he blasted me off court, did well to get to double figures in the third.
Oh well the price of being the sacrificial lamb.

To be fair we may have got beat but all knew they'd had a game.

Also only 2 from Hassy came to the pub. Must do better

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H4

Lost 5-0, 20 points to 5.

The run is over, all good things come to an end. There's only one thing for it, we'll just have to start another winning run next week 😊

It looked ominous when the rankings showed every one of their players outranked us. But we'll give it a go.

So, first on court Me (Derek) after a longer than expected journey on the M 60. My first ever visit to Monton after 40 years of team squash, can you believe it? Keith , my opponent, just happened to have exactly the game to beat me. Drops and volleys. Wouldn't join in a length game with me. Admittedly I didn't play well but I was never really on a par with him. 0-3, a crushing defeat.

Les, who generously stepped into the breach after a long trek back from Newcastle, was always struggling against a big lad who had a surprisingly delicate drop to go with his occasional thunderous drives. Lost 0-3.

Fin played the first game to perfection. His opponent was a 25 year old from the Rigby clan (there are several of them at Monton) who we were told was a very good junior 12 years ago but then dropped due to injury. Fin comfortably won the first game 15-8 and really looked the better and more poised player. But Daniel's dad , a 1st team player having a rest , gave him some sensible advice and to be fair Daniel executed it to perfection. He lobbed to the back of the court in every rally. Even had Fin been on stilts he wouldn't have reached them! All Fin could do was chase and retrieve but he was then out of position and couldn't get back in the rally. Tough lesson, but he took it well and was quite philosophical about it. If the shoe had been on the other foot am sure he would have adopted the same tactic. Lost 1-3.

Steve had the closest game of the night, swinging back and forth. 1-0 up, 2-1 up, before finally going down 2-3. It was close butbummer!

John didn't get going until the 2nd game , which he then won comfortably playing some really nice squash. The match then got a bit tense with his grumpy opponent moaning and groaning about markers decisions. There were a few brief verbal exchanges which thankfully didn't go too far before John went down 3-1.

So, although we lost , good points from Fin, Steve and John which should keep us in the top 4 of our division as we head up to the half way

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