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Subject: Squash Report 28-02-2019
Date: Fri, 1 Mar 2019 09:47:20 +0000

Slightly late on the report this morning, I was getting several messages from our new mate Arron, who when mixed with Guinness, becomes a bit of an Oscar Wilde poet ! A tumultuous night for The Big H tonight for several different reason, a few frantic calls and texts, and a last minute shuffle of the pack, but yet we put 4 teams out

The top brass of England Squash have taken an interest in our little club, as a vibrant hotbed of youth and an internal league structure that is becoming (if not already) the envy of the North West. We should all take a moment and think about what a cracking club thing we have going here, from various contributors, from being a bod that plays his internals to the collective that play team and the structure and people that give us what we have.

I think I may have caught a virus off Arron !!!!!..... Enjoy ..

H1 Lost (6-20)

Last day of February, with the season approaching its sharp end, the weary, depleted, relegation-threatened Hazzy 1 make the long trip over to title pretenders Tame Valley, without the usual numbers 1 and 2, Tom (STILL on holiday) and Gordon (working and internet trolling), but also completely devoid of a number 5 due to a last minute injury.

We were however full of fight, ambition, and pride, and a new number one in the shape of in-form Simon "Leftie" Latham, fresh from destroying everybody in the February box league.

We gave it a right good go, and a 20-6 defeat doesn't reflect the true performance where we lost 3 matches 3-2, and could easily have won the match.

Jamie Maddox v Simon Latham

A real tough baptism of fire for our new number 1. Jamie explaining beforehand how he'd won last week in division 1, and that he didn't want to hang around, our man Simon made him wait a little though, surprising him with some great disguised retrieving, and producing a creditable performance against a quality player, but going down 11-4, 11-6, 11-5.

Sam Darke Williams (made up name?) v Tim Metcalfe

Match of the night, this one, Big Sam at only 19 has improved his game immensely winning 11-8 in the fifth. Sam took the first two games with a combination of power and deft touches, but our Tim was full of fire and ibuprofen, gallantly fighting back to take the third, with Sam's glasses steaming up and flying all around the court. Tim then went 10-3 down in the fourth,

before a remarkable comeback saw him take the game 12-10, with both players displaying eye watering gamesmanship which drew warnings from umpire Corteen. The fifth was another grueller, but Tim was just edged out 11-8, fantastic try though Tim!

Matt Walsh v Simon Holland

A true heavyweight contest this one, our Simon, as usual, looking worn out after three points, but then taking the game all the way to the wire, and then, as usual, being the wrong side of a 3-2 defeat. Sporting a tennis ball sized swelling on his knee, and going 2-1 down, Simon produced some very good defensive squash, comfortably winning the fourth 11-4, and taking us into the fifth decider as favourites. However, Matt somehow found something extra to push him over the line 11-8 in the last. Another valiant try and a proper shift from the ginger magician 🍀.

“Shaun” Wright Philips v John Corteen

Another losing marathon for the unfit grey haired 🤷 Corteen, but a slight improvement shows that his recent warm weather training in Spain was not all worthless. The changing rooms extractor fan had crashed onto my head before the match, but that probably served me right for spending too long in there. Wright is my nemesis, having lost 3-0 to him on four previous occasions, I was determined to nick at least a game. And boy did I do that! Racing to a 2-0 lead, my legs suddenly turned to jelly, and he clawed it back to 2-2, to set up a fifth that I was not looking forward to. I went well ahead but simply could not maintain the pressure, though we did manage to reach 10-10 before I succumbed 12-10, after a great battle. Wright is a great guy, but I hate that man, I'll be back!

Barry Stringer v No show Hazzy fifth man

Ben Nelson was sacrificed to the second team and no match for the fifth strings, so I'll look forward to that team report to let us know how Ben convincingly won there.

So there we go, another plucky losers evening for Hazzy 1, and we march on unbowed to next week.

H2 lost (20-2)

H2 marines v Moss side

Dave v joe

On strolls our very own obi wan and immediately loses the first game 4-11. Cmon Dave you're better than that !! and so he was 11-4 the other way !!! Wtf !! Dave glides around the court, his silver locks bouncing like a loreal advert - or a wet dog at Pets4you - you decide !! Anyway first game on the board for H2. Unlucky Dave 1-3

Chris v Riki

Well probably the best I've played for a long while - running, moving volleying (for a while) and dare I say not much tin!! First game to me 11-9. I have a game - hurrah!! Game 2 in reverse lost 9-11. Keep pushing Nuts !!! And indeed I did 11-6 !! 2-1 up what do you know - Chris is in danger of a win I heard Derek murmur!! 8-11, 5-11 match lost 3-2 but do feel a win is on its way!! 2 points for

the marines though and that's what counts !!

Simon B v Fitz

Shouting, cursing and not even any banter - where is our usual Mr B ??? Went in second from last and obvious doesn't rest up well 4-11, 4-11, 5-11 ladies and gents we have tonight's first match "w" contender !!! The Panther was well and truly sick tonight - more tin than a baked beans can (and that's coming from me!!) unlucky brother - there's always next week !!

Simon w v George

Our little boy blue has returned to his rightful home - home where we can hold him up to look over the balcony at his fellow marines playing this marvellous game !! First game down 8-11 so let's see happens !! He ran, he retrieved but he still lost this one 7-11 but you know what that means folks - Mr B is officially crowned match "w" and we haven't even finished this match !!! Simon tried but never quite got the upper hand 0-3

Ben v Ray

Always a pleasure watching one of your team mates on a workout !!! Nobody is ever going to beat this guy so you've just got to enjoy it. 4-11, 6-11, 4-11 so on my reckoning that's 14 points this time - 3 last time out - which from my calculation is 366% improvement - WELL DONE BEN!!

Special mention for our young cycling hero - Nick- who is apparently injured (didn't look injured to me) who whilst supporting the teams still found time to check his tinder app !! Not sure I saw him "swipe" ???

H3 Finally won a do 15-8 (Or 3-2)

Get in there, at last I've got something good to report 😊😊😊😊😊. A bloody long time coming.

Rod v hero Bruce

The first rung on the ladder towards victory.

Steady performance with a few gifts for his opponent as in 4-0&5-0 starts but always had enough to reel him in.

0-3

Andy v hero Aaron

Debutant Aaron was a bit sketchy about turning up for us but thank god he did. Brilliant performance with some lung busting running. Totally demoralising his opponent.

0-3

Duncan v hero Danny

Bit of a blip here as Danny took on Bruce's old sparring partner ☺️☺️. Started off well and got pipped in the first game. Stepped off in the next but then stepped back on in the 3rd. 2-1 back in business. Back and forth in the fourth but just fell short.

3-1

Mike v hero Chris

Game of the night. 0-1 and all is well then Chris forgets to hit the ball and lets mikes drop shot dictate. 1-1 then 2-1 and not looking good. Then the ginger ninja finds his inner zen or chi and fights back to 2-2 Decider game on. Went all the way to the end with Chris pipping his opponent.

The collective yell was deafening.

VICTORY IS OURS

Fred v me.

Dead rubber this as the champagne corks were popping on the balcony.
I struggle with Fred's high serve and it was on form tonight.

3-0

Don't care we won!

H4 won (20-4)

We kicked off bang on 7:10 and it was still 10:05 when we finished ☺
We really should think about booking the 630 court too ☺

#3: Derek first against Hassan. I was making damn sure I was able to get a shower this week, taking no chances, get on first!

He surprised me in the first game, hitting the ball quite sweetly off the back wall, so a change of plan was needed.

Needed to tighten things up, play a better length so he had to take it before the back wall.

Hmm, that seemed to work, better keep doing it.

2-1 up even though the 3rd game was a squeak, 18-16. Stay in control, easy, 15-8. Sorted. We are off and running.

#5: Steve R against very tall Matt. Always in control, never in doubt, biff, bash, bosh, 3-0.

Now we are cruising.

#1: Chance for Mick to 'bring home the bacon'. New experience for him.

Playing Craig who is a bit of an oddball but a nice chap.

Mick wins the first but it was a tight one. Told him to calm down and just play his game. Won the 2nd game a bit more comfortably, but managed to clout Craig on the knuckles with his backswing. It must surely have affected Craig's grip but it seemed to affect Mick's concentration more as he lost the 3rd.

Strange as he didn't seem to be too concerned for Craig ☺.

Not to worry, 15-10 in the 4th and job done. Match won. Well done Mr Riley.

#2: Alan playing Joe who turned out to be surprisingly quick around the court. Before we knew it the first game is over 4-15.

Time for a corridor conference.

We agreed the tactics and Alan played to the script. Wins the 2nd 17-15, so it seems to be working. Stick with it. Good decision, 15-5, 15-8. Job done. Four down one to go.

#4: Last man on at 9:35, Ray, need a quick one if we are not to fall foul of the leisure centre Gestapo.

The first game was too close for comfort, but 15-13 will do. His opponent Numair didn't look like a squash player but he kept surprising us when it looked like Ray had him.

2nd game Ray tightened things up, aided by a nice high serve to the forehand court and 15-5 was the result. Final game was another closer one, but Ray pulled away at the end to clinch a 3-0 win.

Would you believe it, a maximum point win, well done boys.

That moves us up the table a place. It might have been 2 places but a couple of teams had walkovers giving them maximum points too, undeservedly of course. We earned ours!

Next week it's away to Bury 4. They couldn't raise a team this week, let's see who they pull in next week.

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