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So folks season nearly done

2 teams down, 2 teams stay where they are, That all being equal means we will have some promotions next year (glass half full approach) Apparently the dentist is OK and survived his ginger encounter (not falling in)

Si Watkinson is wanting you all to sign his shirt, and he will be getting a detention if he carries out his threat of flour bombs next week One last push chaps .....

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H1

So near yet so far was the cry!

We trudged over to the posh Dingles, battle weary after about 6 consecutive defeats, but buoyed by the return of our Ginger Ninja, fresh from lunchtime dental surgery without anaesthetic, and having played a match earlier in the day, and also the previous Wednesday evening against the managerâ€™s wishes.

And first up he was, still dribbling from the side of his mouth, and playing a terrible warm up, taking on steady Eddie, Mark Green. Mark played textbook squash, and with our Simon H still struggling with the operation after-effects, Mark raced to a 2-0 lead. But our Simon is made of stern stuff and roared back to make it 2-2. Game on! However, his hectic day got the better of him, and Simon succumbed 11-4 in the last to lose very closely 3-2.

Tan was next on against the power machine, Kirk Butler, just his serve is so intimidating I wouldnâ€™t want to even step on court with this guy. Tan matched him shot for shot though, and in a very even game went down 3-0 which did not reflect how close it was. Two of the games were lost to 10 and 9, and an impressive performance from Tan.

Next up yours truly John Corteen, against my old nemesis, Nick Uttley. I finally chalked up a win, taking a tricky match 3-1.

Tim Metcalfe on next, I missed this match as I was celebrating with champagne in the jacuzzi, but by all accounts Tim was serene, winning 3-0 in quick time. After a great performance last week, well played again Tim!

So, the match is poised at 2-2 leaving the stage set for our proud warrior Gordon to bring home that bacon ðŸ¥“

A scintillating match this one, against the vastly improved Chris Smith. The first two games were shared, with both players giving it their all. Gordy edged ahead in the 3rd and reached game point first, but sadly losing 13-11 after a bad refereeing decision against him at game ball. So 2-1 down, but Gordy came firing back, again edging ahead and reaching game point first again. Alas, the same situation, Chris retrieving some great shots and taking the last game 12-10, and the match 3-1.

Overall, a 3-2 loss, which was a 15-9 defeat, but could so easily have been the other way round!

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H2 v City of Manchester

H2 marines v fellow mud wallowers City of Manchester

Could this be the penultimate match we have all been waiting for .....

Simon v joe

Our Mr B set off in some style and opened up a 9-7 lead, great squash buddy, but then a series of Nuttal like tins turned the game on its head - going down 10-12. He ran, he carved out openings, he looked like a winner but no joy 9-11 !!! Unfortunately same again in game three 9-11 !!! Match gone away - boo. Canâ€™t even destroy him as usual as he was so close yet no cigar. However we have a very unusual situation where we have a possible match â€œWâ€ on 29 points !!! Unheard off !!

Chris v Ali

Started well. Driving & dropping not necessarily at the right time but it didnâ€™t matter - game won 11-8 !! Game two, 0-2 down and for some reason Mr B, marking, didnâ€™t give me a let when every body else this side of the wall clearly would have !!! Concentration ruined, head in bits, 3-11 thanks pal !! Quick team talk by Bernerd and we are out for Game 3! Simple, basic squash taking the next 2 - boring - but affective. First win is the season OMFG!!

Simon W v Lexi

Looking down from the gallery I actually thought there were Ants on the court - but no itâ€™s our little boy blue v Little Lexi !! He ran like a leopard on speed, he twisted & turned like an ecstasy child, but finished up more like someone who had taken some spice ! Unlucky Simon - Lexi is a canny player and it showed tonight. Simons halo slipped a couple of times tonight , colourful in his vocabulary & loose grip on his racket but in fairness not helped by the most obvious stroke this season - but heyho thatâ€™s what happen when Mr B is marking and he knows heâ€™s close to his third in a row ..... 1-3 not to be !

### Mick W v vicki

Two more opposites you could not have. The lovely Vicki (who beat me last time 3-2) versus our very own Mr Potato head !! (Love you Mick !! ) dressed all in black tonight - going for the slim look (!! ) Mick somehow possesses a turbo boast, just when he looks like he's not getting there - whoosh !!!! Ball back - point won !! 12-10, 11-9, 11-9 you can't get any closer to losing - but loser you are not - WINNER all the way !! Get in !

### Ben v Joel

Match of the season so far !!! 3-2 to our Ben - flipping epic and some real gamesmanship to boot ! Running, retrieving, volleying, drops, drives this Match had it all. Even time for Ben to throw in an audacious cross court volley lob thing (Taught by Ray Nevin I think) that just got applause from the gallery. Have to mention Joel who could have had a match point stroke but chose to play on as he wanted to win 'proper' (not many of these types out there!) not to be though, with more running and a classic 16-14 win for Ben and more importantly a team WIN !! Yes I said win !!!

H2 marines have gone over that hill more than most this season without success but tonight the bacon has well and truly been brought home !!! Well done boys - and well done Mr B - 3 in a row - a prize is on its way.

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### H3

Away to COM

### Me v George?

Story of my squash life. Start off well, got the first game then implode. Not good.

3-1

### Steve v John k

Didn't see this as I was playing at the same time. Went to 5 so was close as you like.  
Unlucky John.

3-2

### Alan v Chris

All I would like to say is that Alan is a grumpy old ba\*\*\*\*d that is a s\*\*t marker and doesn't like it when the call goes against him!!!!

Anyhow the game was a cracker and Chris should of won it.

Unlucky pal.

3-2

## Steve v Steve

No he's not playing in the mirror ☺~3

Probably should of been.

This guy wasn't in our Steve's league but he put him there and got spanked for it.

Sounds harsh but Steve knows he should of buried him.

3-0

## Last up Shen v Andy

Cracking result this against a very fit opponent.

Glad to have Andy back and the div 3 experience showing through.

Worked his opponent out and over coming out on top.

Well done mate.

1-3

All in all we contested well.

All though Alan hiding the lager under his armpit because he didn't like my marking was amusing ☺ TOSSED

## Last game next week

Let's go out with a bang ☺¥

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H4

At home against Cheetham Hill. Never know who they're going to turn up with. Only 1 player was the same as in 1st half!

#4: Ray on first stepping in at short notice for the unavoidably detained Aaron. Fresh from his jollies in somewhere warm, sporting an impressive tan, Ray took time to find his rhythm , but could have won the second game. Lost 0-3 in the end , but the signs were there that a win is coming.

#5: Fin did his best to make me look stupid for playing him at 5. He battered Martin, which Martin moaned about on the balcony. I guess he had a point , maybe I should have played Fin at 4. Going into the evening Ray was ranked higher than Fin. By the time you all read this on Friday morning I suspect Fin will be above Ray.

#3: Steve playing the strangely named Volve. Took his time to get going, lost the first won the second, narrowly losing the next two to go down 1-3 but the games were all tight.

#2: Derek against Gary, was 9-3 up in first game but managed to lose it 14-16 in the end. As it transpires that was the crucial game. Managed to hang on to win second 16-14. Lost 3rd , ground out a win in the 4th. 2-2, all to play for to give Mick a sniff of the bacon. Ray counselled that a good start in the 5th was needed and then cling on. Yeah, right. Somehow I didn't even

get out of the starting blocks and lost the 5th heavily.

#1: Mick, our find of the season, played like a man possessed to ensure he got a shower.

Playing to 11 to save time it was all over in 20 minutes. Wham, bam, thank you maam.

Played 7 , Won 6. Impressive stuff.

So, a close match in the end, finishing equal in games (9-9) , but just the wrong side of the victory. I blame Aaron ðŸ˜

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