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After such a traumatic year on court where out of 6 teams 4 were relegated, (1 would never be relegated as it was in the bottom division and 1 team stayed still) we are here again, benefiting from the 8 months of drubbing we took - the character and commitment of the teams last year was truly magnificent.

So we start the season with our old friends at St Peters, the 1st team joining us at the Pickup stadia whilst our 2nd team head off to St Peters, not to mention a humdinger of a derby also taking place at The Pickup Stadia.

So here we go

Hasi 1 vs St Peters 1 (19 - 5) or bloody good win

Hassy 1 v st Peters at home team report won 4-1 great start first up was Mr Latham at 5 or (Scarface thanks to Mr Hollands wand) with a no-nonsense performance 3-0 well played Simon up next Tim v Rob, Tim just back from Greece tough first game but Tim just got stronger and Rob faded away another solid performance pal well played up next foxy John Corteen to bring the bacon home 1-1 game on, John showing all his league experience and just ground his opponent down so match in the bag. Big Gordy up next against Josh 2-0 up and cruising slight bleep in the third 2-1 squeeze bum time not Gordy winning 3-1 ,so 4-0 up Tony up next losing 3-2 ahhh well can't win them all, great night 3 hassy teams at home no injuries great start lads

BASIC LESSON FOR THE JUNIORS HERE, IF YOU HAVE A CRAFTY PINT AT A LUNCHTIME MEETING BEFORE A BIG GAME YOU MAY WELL LOSE THE MATCH AND BE CALLED TONI (Toni one that lost) for a while ☺

ST Peters 2 vs Hasi 2

Well where do we start - I think it must be the moment Mr H arrives to pick me up (Mr Nuttall) in a little red convertible Mini - roof down, sonnies on. Two ginger muppets in a hairdresser's car looking more like Statler & Waldorf rather the Becks & Romeo. Promptly went the wrong way into Burnley, stopped at a Spar for cash, thought we'd get robbed with hood down so did a short cut to avoid some lights and finished up in Burnley bus station - and when I say in I mean IN !! Wrong turn and we followed a bus onto the stand - omg !! 10 minutes spent laughing at our ginger beaker trying to park. Small car in a big space without cameras - 3 attempts - onto the matches

Chris v Matt

Well after all last year's ribbing from Mr H about not "putting it bed" and stay away from the show shots tonight was serious stuff - so no messing 11-3,11-1,11-1 (all tins from me Finley) match won, points on the board. Message from His Nibs - why didn't you play longer (12 mins) wth - make your mind up !!

Ben v Scott

So, I bumped into Scot (an ex player for Hasi) t prior to the match. "What number are you Nuts" he asked, five I said, "oh sh*t he said !! So, on strolled our calm, collected, late as usual Beno ! Unfortunately, never going to be a contest - Ben was the total gent, smiling, even congratulating Scott on some of his shots but never quite letting him get too far ahead 11-7, 11-6,11-8 game won.

Mick W v Richard

So team night - team colours - obviously our Mick didn't get the memo ! Not to worry - Simon has spares - on with the spandex - very fetching ! I think it must have been pinching as he blooming well nearly lost the first one coming out just on top at 13-11. Attire adjusted, slightly moist, dome polished Mick is on it. A few loose balls but we are starting to go through the gears. 11-9 not a hair out of place !! 11-7 quick sticks - no rallies, job done the boys are 3-0 up !! Team win - no matter what so into the Icing on the cake.

Simon H v Matthew

And as our beloved team leader struts, peacock like on to court, it's not difficult to see where that cake is hiding !! Final words of wisdom - don't lose even a game otherwise you may be match "W" contender ! Slower than a man in tar, Mr H was 0-5 down before we could all really take note - surely not the old fire started to take light but alas not soon enough 0-1 !!! The deft touch of an accomplished assassin returned and the man began to blow, 11-8 game on ! No real arguments with Simon's final 2 games - ginger muppet at his best but Matt back in his box match won !

Tan v Dan

So here comes our No.1 Tan the man playing Dan. Tan is quality - the way he gracefully parades himself around the court easier winner and so clean with his stroke play, unlike his car what the hell, more crisp packets than Gemma Collins and he says he's got a girls friend !!! Aggie & Kim would struggle in Tans skip sorry car - this almost qualified him for match W !! But not quite 3-0 well played mate

So overall 20-1 great win boys !! First match W to Mr H plenty more to come I suspect !! Hooray

Hasi(3) 19 Hasi (4) 11

So..... First game of the season and straight into the first Haslingden Derby - third team vs the 4th. All looks rather tight on paper.

First up, **Aaron vs Derek** at number 2. Crikey..... What a way to start the season. Aaron unstoppable around the court, like a Tasmanian devil with dodgy knees, picking up some of Derek's tricky, accurate and well-balanced squash and firing some fantastic shots back at him. Never more than a few points in it - extremely tight, Derek took it 3-2, 15-13 in the fifth. The relief was evident.....

Next up, **Aiden vs Steve Riley** at 5. Well, here was another fantastic match. Slow start from Aiden with a Few mistakes and maybe lacking a little confidence. Some wise words from Mr Scurlock and he improved throughout the match. Steve played some excellent squash, plenty of drops and counter drops to catch Aiden on the back foot but it must have felt like wherever he put the ball, our metronomic junior was there to send it back with bells on. In the end, AJ found his stride and his ability shone through, moving Steve all over the court and taking the last two games with increasing confidence. 3-2 to Aiden.

1 game all.....

Steve M vs Bruce up next at 4. Again, a bit of a pendulum of a match with Both of us having the upper hand at one stage or another. Looking at the scorecard, it is clear our esteemed club secretary (well..... He is getting on a bit) had a bit of a brain fart as he has marked it 4-1 to Bruce. I can't remember which order we won game in, I just remember I got the fifth after a battle of a match. Great game enjoyed it. Some quality squash and mistakes on both sides. This time I got the run of the green. Small margins 3-2 to Steve.

So..... Now Chris Walsh vs John at number 3. Interesting matchup this one. Some fantastic drops from all over the court and some fantastic lengths by John. However, the Duracell bunny that is Our fluorescent Mr Walsh was all over the court and seemed to pick up everything. This was a game of attrition in that respect with most points being one after a decent fight. In the end, the scorecard shows 3-0 to Chris but I don't think that truly reflects the match.

So..... Haslingden 3 win the match, but by how much.....

Andy Wray steps on court against you Fin McVicker. Another tasty match up..... I missed the first game and came back to find Fin 1 up already. Into the 2nd and Andy fought back with a tight victory. Fin clearly struggling with his goggles but some unbelievable squash from both players. This was becoming more apparent in the 3rd with Andy taking it 15-6 - Fins head appearing to drop. Anyway, some words of encouragement and the 4th game went in the direction of the 4th team. For the fourth time this evening, we ended up with a five game match. With everyone on the balcony offering encouragement to both players, Fin took the decider and secured some additional points for the team. Some fantastic, high quality shots from both players, a real pleasure to watch.

So..... 3-2 victory to the 3rd team, four games going the full distance. Great start to the season, can't wait for the return fixture. I can now hand the Captaincy back to Mr Foster having secured a 100% record! Result!

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