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So, the season is 4 weeks old and already beginning to feel like we have never been away. Another week of chopping and changing with those lower down the order not knowing if they are part of hasi 1,2,3 or 4 - the main thing is though they are part of Hasi and if 1 limps ( or in our case 5 ) then we all limp !  
Great stuff again tonight and once with all the challenges faced, we have to be the greatest battlers.

### **Hasi 1 ( 5 ) Crowe Wood (19)**

Guest reporter John Corteen in the chair, welcoming the posh Dingles to the Pickup Stadium, with Lord Pickup himself in attendance to witness the shenanigans. Good to see Simon happy hamstrung Holland also in attendance, managing to wrestle himself out of his wheelchair.

I arrived bright as a button at 7.00pm on the dot (poetic licence)to see our newly installed number 1 Simon Latham (apparently started at 6.53pm) already 1-0 up against their number 5 Nick "I'd rather be playing golf" Uttley. What a battle royal ensued!! Great racket craft from our Simon, aided by the guru that is Dave Scurlock between games, and ran out a deserved winner, taking the last 11-6.

Next up at number 3, our coach Tan verses the big hitting mean and moody Kirk Butler. Tan played so sweetly all night, and especially the first winning it by a gruelling 15-13 margin. The harder Kirk hit the easier our Tan found it. I can't believe he eventually succumbed in the next three games to go down 3-1. The coaching is making Tan play more responsibly, and I fully expect Tan to continue improving through the season.

I always complain I end playing the opposition best player, no matter what number I play, and tonight was no exception, at number 2, against the wily Chris Smith. I lost the first two games to 7 & 9, holding my own but not troubling Chris. I stepped it up in the 3rd taking that well to 7 and filling me full of hope for the next game. Alas, my bolt was shot, and I fell apart, losing that to 3 in the next and going down 3-1.

I missed the last two games, one played on the outside courts, but was there to witness both our gladiators, Ben N and Simon W, storm into the changing rooms with different levels of intensity of anger, and you can guess that Ben was the worst!

Ben lost 11-4, 11-5, 11-6 to the experienced Paul Downes, and Simon went down 11-6, 11-6, 11-8 to PC Plod James Owen.

So, it was down to the pub to listen to Paul Downes explaining how he toyed (yawn), with his opponent to just lose enough points so it didn't affect his ranking. Ben explained to me how to take hard core drugs, and a drunk tried to charge me £20 for parking on the pub car park.

A decent effort from the boys, disseminated (is that a word?) by injury, Simon L was the shining light of the night, and Ben N was the match W. We go again next week, heads bowed, but not yet broken, and in dire need of some points on the board.

## **Rochdale 4 vs Hasi 2**

So, Mick & Arron needed to be quick so they can go to some sort of gig in Darwen? What sort of leisure activity do two grown men rush off for ....

### **Mick v Alister**

Dressed in grey & black but anything but boring. Our Mick moved his opponent around the court like a puppet on a string. Not seen Mick this dominant for ages (obviously preparation for his gag) anyway bish bosh 3-0 winner

### **Arron v Al**

Arron up against a Wiley fox - took al almost a couple of games to suss our Arron's game but suss it he did - boo ! 1-3 unlucky Arron. I even told Aaron not to hit it as hard - how ironic !

### **Andy v Andy**

Loudmouth frog v our silent assassin ! Best squash I've seen Andy play in ages - down to his matching outfit tonight ! Even though I'm not quite sure what goes into Mr W overnight bag as there was a lot of non-squash items in his squash bag ?!! Anyway, like I said - controlling, smooth, relaxed (not words usually associated with our me Wray) 3-0 boom !!!!

So we only need one from 2 - c'mon H2

### **Simon B v Ben**

After all last week's superlatives for Mr B performance this week was just not the same. Simon made good running, but it was not to be losing 0-3

So could Mr N bring home the bacon???

He bloody well should have - but with 7 tins in game 2, nothing short of suicidal at times, he was flipping rubbish - you are shit Nuttall - deal with it ([Editors Note - steady on](#)) !!!

Baynes should be awarded match W based on points - but I'll award it to me Tin Tin of the North - absolutely shite !

### **Team 3 report**

### **Home v tame valley 5**

### **Danny v Leigh**

Nice and simple was the plan for tonight and Danny applied it perfectly. Ever the stalwart and ever reliable he delivered the goods.

**3-0**

### **Steve v Chris**

Same as Danny keep it simple nothing stupid.

What did he do ? Something stupid in giving a point away he knew was never to be given. Fourth game proved the fact as the steely eyes returned and duly despatched his opponent

**3-1**

### **Welcome back Saul v Derek**

A pleasure to have Saul back where he belongs on a court for the hassy massive. Played a man older than the earth who I think had borrowed step toes teeth ☺. A bit rusty but hard against someone who doesn't hit the ball. Good to have you back pal! 3-0

### **Chris w v Les**

Another straightforward affair made more difficult by the level of play against him. Was never in doubt but more difficult than should of been.  
3-0

### **Me v Walter**

Exactly the same as Chris's match. No match really but ended up being harder than should of been.

3-0

Not the hardest nights work but a full house of points and top of league still. (Hopefully if they register one of their players ☺)

**Hasi 4 Won 4-1 ( 18 points to 7)**

### **#5: Steve Riley v Max (Junior )**

I've seen golfers with the yips but never a squash player. It's a bizarre affliction. All Steve needed to do was get into a rally and the game was won. But he struggled initially to even get the rally started. Watching from the balcony we could feel his pain. It really is very odd. He struggled through the first game winning 15-11. We suggested he switch to serving backhand just to get the ball in play and it worked. A comfortable 15-5, 15-5 in the next two games. Job done. A triumph over adversity. Well done Steve.

### **#4: Aiden (Junior) v Adam (Junior)**

The good news is our junior was taller, faster , more experienced and a better squash player all round.

It was quite touching to see Aiden making sure he didn't demolish Adam by too great a margin in order not to dent his confidence.

A smooth 3-0 win.

### **#3: Ray v Lawrence**

Ray was always in control and , as he did last week, he brought home the bacon. A comfortable 3-0 win. Match won ☺

### **#2: John K v Eddie**

A Titanic match. 3-2 to John after being 2-0 up. Loses the 3rd 18-16. Eeeeek! Getting worried now cos John is not renowned for his fitness ( as his box league comments attest to). Loses the 4th, now we are really worried. An epic 5th game with John holding his nerve to play his demon drop shots with aplomb at the right time. 18-16 winner. Fantastic stuff.

### **#1: Derek v Andy**

I started the season with the goal of NOT playing #1. Already failed miserably on that score twice now. It's starting to annoy me.  
Andy coaches the Rochdale juniors and he certainly has the shots if you put the ball anywhere near him. I tried to put the ball where he wasn't as he's not the most mobile but couldn't do it. Lost 0-3.

Afterwards Eddie and Andy were reminiscing about how they used to play Division 1 squash in their younger years. I don't feel so bad now, and John should be chuffed with his win.

So, it's 4 wins out of 5 now with our only loss being to Haslingden 3. We must both be doing something right. Let's keep it rolling.

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