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The personnel may change but the effort and results don't - on a week where holidays and Injuries account for several players creating opportunity for others and causing selection problems for Captains in the coming weeks, Led by Skippers Chris N and Derek Hasi 2 and 4 maintain their excellent run, Despite the return of Gordy to Hasi 1 they continue to find it tough, with Hasi 3 experiencing their first defeat.

Report Highlights - Hasi 1 supported well with Injured Tom M and Tim in Attendance, a first call up to the first team for Lancashire U 15 selected Fin Mac, the return of Gordon -

Hasi 2 - seems a night where it all came together with banter a plenty

Hasi 3 - Surprise defeat

Hasi 4 - Rise up the order and another victory for Lancashire Under 15 selected Aiden, first and victorious appearance for Dave C.

Season goes on till April so for those on the receiving end, it will turn, for those on the distributing end, keep giving it, it's a 5-man team remember.

Look up the division tables (Div 3,4 ad 5 NE) and your own ranking points to check your progress <https://nwcounties.leaguemaster.co.uk/cgi-county/iconty.exe>

Now resident reporter John Corteen in the chair, suffering with flu and pneumonia, but the show must go on:

Match result Bury 1 beat (thrashed) Hasi 1 by 20-4

1st string **Steve "Beano" Withington 3 Simon Latham 0** A valiant effort from our newly installed permanent number 1, Simon, against the best player in the league. How he retained his cool against those boasts, flicks, lobs and drives, I'll never know! Added to that, he played some very impressive winners himself and managed a respectable 12 points to avoid the Match W award, but more of that later.

2nd string **Matt "tight shorts" Brennan 3 Gordon "rusty" Gilchrist 0** Matt strutted about in his very short tight Lycra running gear, clearly to Gordon's distraction, and ran out a 3-0 winner. Gordon showed plenty of effort but lacking the match practice played too many loose and down the middle shots, which enabled Matt to control the rallies. Gordon fluttered briefly in all three games but could not maintain sufficient pressure to dent the scoreboard.

3rd string **Steve "I like a pint before I play" Creegan 3 John Corteen 2** First two games lost without as much as a whimper but won the next two to go into the fifth as hot favourite. Alas, Corteen's confidence and racketry deserted him in the last to lose sadly 11-7, and match lost.

4th string P "first name not known" Cygler 3 Ben Nelson 0 Next up Bento try to salvage some pride for the depressed looking Hassi boys. Unfortunately, Ben turned up late, left early, didn't pay his subs, and forgot his squash game, only gaining 9 points and winning the Match W@@nker award ☺ I think I also heard the pitter patter of a flying

racket in the corridor after the match. Ben left asking where the 4th team were playing next week...

5th string J “another one without a forename” Weeks 3 Finley McVicker 1 Fin lost the first narrowly 14-12 and played sublime squash in the second to win that 11-9. He lost the tight third 11-9 with the big points just not going his way, but was still very much in the game, competing toe to toe with a much more experienced player. Unfortunately, the fourth slipped away 11-4 and Fin lost a match he could easily have won.

A pretty depressing night all round, but good to see the support of our wounded heroes Tim M and Tom M, we need you back soon boys! We even had the junior bonus point deducted by our very own banter police 😷♀ disguised as results police 😷♀, so the final score was actually 20-3. How to kick a team when they’re down!

H2 v Marines

Chris w v Amanda

Red top, black sorts, blue & white trainers, quiff suitably hair sprayed back ready for action. Chris has this in the bag before the off - Amanda has already said oh no - not Chris again - I've never beaten him - and tonight was not going to be any different. 3-0 nothing too stressful for our pocket dynamo. Points on the board for the H2 massive

Aaron v Lee

Luminous orange shirt, black shorts. Blue trainers & yesterday's socks. What goes through our man's mind before a Thursday I'm not quite sure ??? Played great squash Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday - but not tonight (over squashed ??) 9-11, 4-11 cmon Aaron you're better than this. Quick team talk - slow it down, hit it softer (ironic I know from me) but you need to relax more - enjoy !!! And so for one game our Aaron went and put all his little ducks in row and played some lovely calm squash 11-7 winner, get in ! Game 4 more of the same required but not delivered going down 9-11. So match lost and a potential match "w" contender!!

Andy W v Nigel

Lemon shirt, teal shorts, tangerine strip white & blue trainers - and they say there is no variety in life !!! Omfg - I didn't think they even made sonny colours let alone send somebody out with that kit choices in his bag ! Andy for the second week running was uncannily sure in his ball position tonight - nothing to see here Vicar - everything placed exactly right, and he played with his opposite number like an Orca with a seal. Moving, batting and then BANG - match won 3-0 cool as be careful Andy - something of a habit forming here !!!

Simon B v Eric

Black top, black shorts - is he going for the Ninja look ??? Our Mr B hit the court like a man who had just had them squeezed !! Everything was smack, bang wallop- only thing was the other guy didn't have to do a lot to take the game. Quick team talk and a little rub down & what do you know - a relaxed, argumentative Si had returned. That's more like it - questioning obvious Lets and generally being a nuisance - Eric Started to wobble and Mr B has 2 back !! C'mon Simon - seal the deal make it an easy ride home for yours truly! And so he flipping well did - little bit of show boating 11-9 winner and that ladies & gents is that. H2 home and dry so just up to moi for a bit of icing on the cake - that's right folks - more points !!

Chris N v Mel

Black shorts - team top (YES guys the only blooming one with a team top tonight !) black & white trainers. First team tubigrip borrowed to look a bit injured on the left ankle and we are ready to play Mel. Mel - a chap with painted nails, pony tail ear rings and wearing a

skort - but if you're playing No1 - girl or boy - you're up for it yes ? What can you say about tonight - last week 7 tins in one game - this week only 3 in the entire match ! 11-6, 11-2, 11-2 Bernerd's "special" strings working their magic as well as unusual amount of good quality drops from the fat lad. ! Best You've played for ages I was told after - you really were shite last week Nuts (I'm sure there's a compliment in there somewhere?!)

So there you have it H2 Marines without the usual crew BUT still out & out winners and Aaron getting match W ! Next week he's drinking before coming on rather than after !!!

Team 3 report away v bury 3

Well it's happened we lost. Bugger!

Dan Walsh v Bruce

Dan is massive no doubt about it. It's a long way around him as Bruce will attest to tonight. Bruce's calf was a problem and it showed in lack of mobility.

3-0

Al v Saul

Sauls back . Als a nice guy and a nice player but no match for the resurgent Saul.

0-3

Duncan v Steve

Great game this. Proper chew your nails tackle. A bit more belief in the fact you can win, and this match would of been yours pal.

3-2

Jimmy v Danny.

Jimmy is a very good player at this level and should of been no 1 tonight. Danny almost had the measure of him. Fitness not a problem as jimmy was fading but his lengths were the difference.

3-1

Ben v me.

I don't know what I do to deserve the games I've had this season.
Tonight, was the first time I've played someone who was pissed.
The big self-harming second rower had at least 4-5 pints in him before and brought a pint and a half down for his interval drink.
Shouldn't of lost a game but other than that it was easy enough.
My view shouldn't be allowed on court.

1-3

After all the dropouts this week this was a great effort with a good haul of points to keep us in the running.



Haslingden 4 v Tame Valley 6: Won 20 points to 9 (4-1)

We started bang on 6.30 and despite making use of the other court when strings 1 & 2 overlapped we still didn't finish until 9.50.

There was just enough time for a shower before the plug was pulled.

#5: Dave C making his season debut after some good box league results this month. Started well, winning both the first two games, and then the wheels fell off. Well, not fell off exactly, but maybe sprang a puncture. Lost the next two, 14-16 and 15-17 so all on the last game. Dave found his mojo again and ground out a 15-10 win to set the ball rolling.

#4: Steve R again suffering with his serve but sticking with the backhand version which enabled him to get into the rallies. Won the first game, but then let the next 2 slip. 4th and 5th games were more like it, both won fairly comfortably.

#3: Aiden against one of the Hall brothers. Took the first, lost the second, came back to take the third and fourth, so the match is ours. Needs to work on his drop shots with one of our magnificent coaches, they tend to sit up rather high. Nevertheless a good win, more ranking points seized.

#2: Ray against the other Hall brother. Ray showed all his usual unorthodox shots, corkscrews, between the legs, looking one way and playing the ball the other. Ah, you can't beat the old stuff. Good 3-1 win. Now he can swan off on his holidays warm in the knowledge he is undefeated so far, 3 from 3.

#1: Derek v Kiran. Last year I battered him 3-0, so either he's got better, or I've got worse. Don't bother telling me which one you think, I don't want to know. Lost the first, won the next two, lost the important final two. Bummer. I hate this #1 slot. It's not doing my ranking any good at all.

So, a healthy 20-9 win. Only Hasi 3 have beaten us so far. At the time of writing Hasi 3 and 4 occupy the top two positions in division 5NE. Let's keep it rolling.

New barmaid in the Station, she's er 'a character' shall we say. Larger than life. Took quite a shine to Ray, then when he left managed to insult Dave C, before moving on to Steve. She's looking forward to meeting the 1st team next week.

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