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Subject: 21112019 The Hasi MAssive match reports - get your self a newspaper, and a warm seat - its a good read

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Another Thursday night and another full turnout for the Hasi Massive including debutant Chris Farr , welcome to the fold sir and some green shoots showing for Hasi 1. Well done all looks like we are enjoying it, Even the Full Sick Bay turned up to watch tonight, just missing retiree Ben Nelson who I am sure will be there one night and sadly missed the visit of Cheetham Hills own snapper - Enjoy the read

Hasi 1 vs Cheetham Hill

Our captain Tan , treasurer, number 1, coach and general all-round good egg is worn out with all his responsibilities, so over to the ageing silver fox to scribe the evenings events. We welcomed high flying Cheetham Hill 1 to the Pickup Stadia, to face our newfound optimism, buoyed by a great win last week. All arrived on time (ish) and underway at 7pm.

4th string Simon Latham v Bryn Turk

Our "62 year old" started brightly, bossing the first game with some authoritative squash to take a deserved lead. The spoils were shared 11-5 each game, for the next two, but the youngster with a name from some South African fiction war novel took the 4th to level at 2-2. Our Simon then played serenely in the fifth, eking out a good lead, and heading to match point at 10-8. He couldn't lose now. However, the South African warrior suddenly found an injection of energy (drugs?) which upped his speed and power tenfold, to somehow take the last four points and win the game and match 14-12 ☹. Some quality squash from Simon tonight, good to see the old form and touch returning, especially at the ripe old age of 62.

5th string **Finley McVicker v Jonny Marsh** Our youngest player against their oldest, with another trendy name, and a very good number 5. Fin broke his strings in the warmup, changed briefly to a "prototype" (what's one of those??) before returning unhappily to a loose stringed old racket, which clearly unsettled him. Fin used all his style and running, but alas came out second best 7-11, 8-11, 2-11. We like Fin in the first team, don't be down lad, progress is still being made.

3rd string John Corteen v Matt Marks

Another better name than ours, I guess he must be a teacher. Yours truly started out like a bull on heat, chasing and chopping and taking the first 11-6 in rapid time. "How old are you?" cried Matt after the first game, "not as old as that Simon Latham" came my quick reply, though I think that was lost on him. Clearly appearing younger than my undisclosed age, Matt battered me into an old man the next two games, to leave me floundering, 2-1 down. A second wind saw me somehow take the 4th, to take it to 2-2 with Matt hitting the ceiling in frustration with his racket, not a mean feat at the Pickup Stadium, and one that clearly impressed young Fin. Anyway, onto the 5th and ready to fail gloriously as usual, but wait on... a kind referee, and a mishit winner on match point just edged it for the boy Corteen. Riotous scenes, more Matt racket throwing, threatening the marker, and smashing the bin, Thursday nights were back on track. "How old did you say you were", asked the 28-year-old Matt again, but I'm not gonna tell him.

First string **Tan Hussain v Stuart Henderson** We'd the best name in this one, but up

against their number one, could our demon dentist □ make it tell on the court? You bet he could! Taking a 2-1 lead Tan looked every inch the true number one he really is. Alas, he ran out of steam, losing the next two to a very good player, but for a very creditable 3-2 defeat, and retaining his number 1 spot.

Second string Tim Metcalfe v Richard Myers “Richard is Jewish” pointed out Matt forcibly before the game, I’m not sure why he made that observation, but Richard is clearly stingy when it comes to giving points away. Tim glided around court and looked in fine fettle, but Richard is a quality player, and this was always going to be a tough one, with Richard edging it 3-1. Tim lost the second 13-11 and winning that one could have caused a different result; they’re fine margins at this (second bottom of the league) level.

So, the overall result, a 19-8 defeat, but showed lots of good signs against a top side, and we’d have taken 8 points at the start of play. We move on next week to a must win match away at Monton 2. Hold on to your hat’s guys, Hasi 1 are on the comeback trail!

H2 Marines v Village

The Ossy odd balls decided to take their own transport whilst the crew arrived in the team bus. Discussion on the way as to who would playing our old fellow Hasi club member - selection made onto the lovely Village Hotel

Aaron v Roger

I think only David Weir has less knees than our Rodger tonight - anything front court was Aaron’s point so all he had to do was go long - and then play short. By Jove we have a plan. First game 11-1, beautiful, game two 11-2, ruthless game 3 - lost (wtf !!) surely tonight is the night Aaron finally slays the Thursday night monster - he can’t lose this can he absolutely not !!! 3-1 winner and points on the board and a special mention to Marker Mick who’s staring to like his new authoritative role !

Mick v John

Love Mick & Aaron’s ability to crush any confidence their opponents have simply by running everything down. However, losing the first 12-14 was not in the plan. Quick team talk pointing out the blooming obvious and Mick is a different player - sweet shots moving John round - watching him get annoyed with himself even though he was winning !!! No contest match won 3-1

Simon v Rory

He was quicker than Mourinho getting in at Tottenham in filling in the player order tonight - I wonder why no one wants to be match “w” and only some have their destinies set. First game won quick sticks and it looks like Mr B is going to be bringing that bacon home. Nope lost 10-12 !! Quick mention of more pizza & chips for an early finish and Simons panther leads the way. Great couple of games by a very relaxed Mr B and what do you know - match won 3-1 and H2 already have the match in the bag, bacon well and truly safely home.

Andy v Jason

Always going to be a beautiful thing this game. - Simon quick to sidestep a re-match in the court but like a bullet from a gun to mark, Jason’s better half was there to cheer all (any) of Jason’s points but no match for the H2 cheer leading squad. Andy was dressed relatively normal tonight and for the most naked of his trademark bandana but he merely played with little Jase - allowing him even to take a game 3-1 match won

Chris v Chris

So you always smell a rat when there are 700 points between No1 & no2 and this lad definitely won the warm up - but saying that he had more shots than me ! Lost the first

11-9 but that was closer than I expected - so on to the second. Some great shots popping up - but everything in the corners were dead no real bounce on here tonight. Tried, ran, dug in but somehow finished on the wrong side of 13-11 so two down. Team chat with Mr Wray fresh from his victory - and yours truly knocks out the first of the night 11-5 get in !!! Another story of what could have been in game four losing out 11-7 so match lost 1-3 and unfortunately for me - match "w" duly awarded

H2 winners !!!!! Yes

Hasi 3 vs St Peters (Guest scribe Stevie Mich)

So..... Bush bash Bosh, 5-0. Without trying to sound cocky (slight edit) But you do 😊) we were expected to win this at a canter against a reasonably weak St Peter's team.

Ray vs Jon at 5. Ray had the class and intelligence to win 3-0. Unfortunately, he was feeling a bit musical tonight and seemed a little flat so made hard work of it. Some real quality squash when under pressure though. Won 3-1.

Steve vs Bryan at 2. So.... note to self, Domino's pizza an hour before a match isn't a great plan. In my defence, my opponent wanted to scarper early, so I lost some recovery time. Sluggish and slow in the first 2 (imagine that...), losing the 2nd through virtue of being a dipstick. Kick up the arse from Mr Templar and Mr Pickup, games 3 and 4 were fine. 3-1.

Danny vs Matt at 4. Looks like Danny was on a promise or something. Crikey, no let up at all, got better and better through the match and barely let his opponent up for air. Sprinting into the service box before each point. Think it was over in about 20 mins. 3-0
(Editors Note - I had a hot date with 2 pies)

Saul vs Keith at 3. Took Saul a while to get going this evening. Seemed a bit lethargic in the first two against a tricky player with some decent shots. Not as clinical as we have seen recently. Finally found some intensity in the 3rd and gave us what we were expecting. 3-0

Chris vs Scott at 1. 1st game was a real battle. Lots of running from Chris, lots of well-played, simple squash from Scott. Looked like it could go either way..... until Scott came on for the 2nd exclaiming that he'd ran way more than planned and was now bugged. Chris, barely breaking sweat played into this and took the next two more. Comfortably. some good squash to watch though. 3-0.

Wagon is rolling again.

Fairways 2 Vs Hasi 4

Off we trek to what was once a mighty division 1 club, but now reduced to competing at our level.

Fairways 3rd team usually feature several juniors and tonight was no exception.

First on court , #3: **Bruce v young Edward Bailey (once of this parish)**. With Dad Saul cheering him on this could have been a tight one for Bruce as Edward has a similar ranking .

Bruce has played and beaten big brother Thomas Bailey in the past so tonight he was out for helping himself to a 'double Bailey's with ice please '. 😊 The ice was needed when Edward managed to somehow bruise Bruce in the nether regions with his racquet, or was it his knee?

Edward may be small, very small in fact, not sure Bruce could see him under his wok some of the time, but he makes up for it with his court coverage.

Just won the first, lost the second but held his nerve to win the next two, not exactly comfortably, but a 3-1 win will do for me.

At the same time on the other court we welcome **Chris Farr** to the Hasi massive, transferred at great expense (a pint of lager and a packet of pork scratchings I believe) from Leeds Metro. Playing #4 to give him a gentle introduction he was up against another junior, Niall. The first game was close, but like many juniors Niall is prone to lose heart when he gets behind. Chris romped through the next 2 games to record a comfortable 3-0 win. A great addition to the teams. Watch out folks, he'll be challenging up the ladder in December.

John playing at #2 v Mark McKee. On paper Mark should have won by a margin but John wouldn't let him. He fought hard and lost the 5th game by the narrowest of margins, 15-13. A great performance, John was gutted not to close it out, but still 2 points for the team are always welcome.

So, we are 2-1 up, and need to win 1 more rubber so who do we need? Someone who has won 7 out of 7? Ladies and Gentlemen I give you **Mr Aiden Price**, Playing at #5 against yet another junior. Bish bash bosh, 3-0. No messing. Match won. I told him not to show any mercy and to bring home the bacon and that's exactly what he did. Nice one, 8 out of 8 now, might have to find him some tougher matches 😊

#1 Derek against Kris, who is the best #1 I've come across this season. Should be playing #1 in their second team in my opinion. I was on a hiding to nothing, and that's exactly what I got. Lost 0-3.

So, yet again my boys carried me to a win. We would be top of the league if bloody posh Dingles would register their players so our fantastic scores would show up.

A tough one next week, Rochdale 5, grumpy Dawson and his clan, they are near the top with us and Hasi 3 so a win is imperative.

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