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What a week for the Captains – It was like a merry ship sailing through calm waters on the back of 2 very good weeks then suddenly one after the other we lose players from each team meaning players move up to the next team and those that weren't playing get the call. Teams not finally sorted until 2pm yesterday with the confirmation that Les was there to save the day. In fact after some of the performances Captains now have a selection issue, so thank you to those that moved up and indeed in, there were quite a few, its great to be part of. Poor old Mr Nuttall didn't know who was in the team bus, name badges given on arrival ☺

Hasi 1 vs Fairways 1 (Guest reporter Mr Corteen)

Tonight, we entertained strong top-half team Fairways Lodge, with injured players coming back, but unfortunately robbed of our Tom at the last minute with a very serious....cold?? Anyway, we had a more than able replacement in the bearded wonder Mick Riley...

4th string Simon Latham v Paul "two hands" Brady Won 3-1 Our Clitheroe bomber has been struggling of late, but put in great performance against the Irishman with no backhand, who had previously turned over both yours truly and the former great Simon Holland (who is he?), so a great comeback win for Si. He managed to fall asleep for several points during each game but came out too strong for his opponent in the end. A great start to the night, well played Si.

1st string (or rubber as Gordon prefers) Gordy v Gary "he even looks a good player stood on the balcony" Caldeira Lost 3-1 Gordon told me beforehand this would be a walk in the park, unfortunately he didn't specify for whom! A gritty performance from Gordon, hitting the ball hard, timing it well, and running freely, just one or two more tins than he would have liked. All close games especially the 3rd which Gordon lost 13-11, on another night, with another referee, it could have been so different.

5th string Mick Riley v Rob "I've just driven from Dundee and can't go on first" Pillock sorry Pollick (Still smarting from his defeat to former great Simon Holland (he will return) on his last match with Hasi) Lost 3-0 Mick making his well-earned first team debut, battled all the way, with some furious left handed drives and cross courts, mixed with some curious lob drops, and could have won each of the three games losing them to 8, 10 and 8. Rob was a very good number 5, and Mick starred on his debut, you'll be back Mick!

3rd string Tim Metcalfe v Gino "Italian Stallion" Pino Won 3-1 A super win for Tim, match of the night, losing the first heavily 2-11, but coming back strongly to take the next three, and taking a cliff hanger last game 13-11. A great win, taking the match to 2 all, the stage is set for a a thrilling finale...

2nd string John Corteen v Daniel "don't try lobbing him" Blan I was poised ready to take down the 6-foot 7 inch giant, with a plan hatched by our two gurus Scurlock & Gilchrist, to hit it hard and low. Alas, Dan was just as good on the ground! At one game each, I could smell the bacon, but a weak 3rd game and too many tins in the last game put paid to my chances, going down 3-1. As with Gordon, on another day, it could have been a different story.

So, a 16-8 defeat, and not a bad point haul against one of the better teams.

Massive must-win game next week v City of Manchester. Come on boys!

H2 Marines v Tame Valley 3. Reporter Mr Nuttal

The train left the station at 6.15 prompt - ready for our long-haul overnighter to tame valley. The last Time we played TV was an easy affair, so we merrily discussed who was going to beat who when the penny dropped - we weren't played Tv4 (bottom) we were playing Tv3 (top !!!!) ffs !!!

Danny v Graham

Caveman Dan unusually last on tonight - and after the match already being lost - he had only his pride and enjoyment to have. Ducking, diving, the Hasi boast - he had it all. 2-0 up well done that man points on the board for the H2 massive - one more to go and we home and dry ! Oh ok - not quite home & dry more like lost & wet !!! 2-2 be calm Danny, enjoy it, no pressure - oooops no win either 2-0 up to 2-3 loss. This lad will need counselling !!

Steve (Mr Michie) v Steve

Steve was keen to get his engine running so volunteered to go on first. Too many mistakes to start with but he found his level (above the tin !!) and came back from 2-6 down to take the first 11-8. Get in. Quick talk with team captain and goes and loses 1-11 ???? That's not what I said to do !! Third game much more like it running, dropping, boasting but alas not to be 6-11. So one match down

Chris "wee" Walsh (5'6) v John Long (very long about 12'6. !!) Well we've found his secret - you thought it was his Ironman training - but no It's "EDIT" in a jar - I kid you not - Chris was caught rubbing this creamy milky solution into his hands prior to the game - it's for grip he said - it's probably too much grip that got you here in the first place !!! What can you say about our Walshy that hasn't been said before - a ginger flash across the court, athleticism at its best - unfortunately just never anywhere near the blooming ball !! John simply reached all around the court with one stride. I don't think our man has ever played anyone like this before. 3-11, 4-11, 3-11 consistently on the wrong end of the rally - unlucky pal - welcome to the marines ! (Possible match "w" on its way)

Simon "Banter" Baynes v Barry

First game - nothing to report - too many tins - game gone. Team talk - Such a deft touch for big lad - people have been arrested for less - sublime touches of class from our Mr B in the 12-10, 11-9 his lob was something to be seen - high & wide (like our man) Barry simply did not halve an answer. So 2-1 up - here we go !! Strokes galore - Danny (marking) sticking to his guns and rightly so, no amount of BB (Baynesy Banter) is going to upset the caveman - however it is starting to bother Barry not enough though - game on 2-2 ! All to play for - wide, hard, percentage - instructions received on goes the black panther ready to maul his prey. A quick few points under his belt and our man is playing with Barry. Bit more "BB" and Barry wobbles - no answer to Simon's length - eye watering accuracy. Match won - well done Mr B - match of the night bar none !!!

Chris Nuts v Mike

The joys of playing number one is that you are guaranteed absolutely nothing !! Fist game - tried to bully but could not find any real deep corners, went down 7-11. Second game - change of tact. Gentle, steady, slow - no not really, went down 8-11. So game 3 shit or bust as they say - and bust it was. The tin became my new best friend and I went down quicker than the titanic hitting the iceberg. Nuts you really must be match "w" tonight ?

What, someone got less points than you I hear you ask.....who can that be step

forward are very own model (as in action man figure) Mr Chris Walsh - take a bow it's yours "W"

Team 3 report home v tame valley 6 Reporter Mr Foster

Whilst the hassy marine corps were invading tame valley the hassy commandos were demolishing the tame valley counterattack. Actually, smashing it 🎯😊

Yours truly (si f) v Andy (3-0)

Hate being first on but Andy answered the early call. This looked close on the card but shouldn't of been. Trouble with lesser players as this report will testify is that you get dragged down to their level. (**EDIT we know how you feel Mr Foster** 😊)
Never in doubt but made to look good on the card

Dave C v Laurie (3-0)

As above Laurie was nowhere near Dave's standard but made it difficult as she couldn't hit the ball hence a lot of half-hearted shots that turned into decent drops. As soon as Dave stopped feeling sorry for her and applied his own game the result was inevitable.
3-0

Ray v Karl (3-0)

Best game of the night.

Love ray. He has his own unique style and give him a chance to smash it it's smashed. Karl was certainly game and had some nice shots on him but when you see ray playing a cross court boast through his legs what can you do.

Dave Scurlock v Derek. (3-0)

Step toe was back and playing at 3?😊. Pretty sure Karl would of been a better choice. This was cat and mouse. Dave being the predatory cat and Derek the poor mouse as Dave toyed with him just giving Derek enough of a sniff to keep him interested.
No contest really.

Ben v Kieran

What do you say about Kieran apart from I bet him and Malcolm get on really well 😊. Kieran turns up on court dressed like he's auditioning for foot loose with his Lycra and reversed base ball cap sporting a massive jumper. Soon lost the jumper as Ben went to work on him. Should of been over sooner but Ben wanted a workout so prolonged it and got a smack on the wrist for it (literally).

Middle of the third game and Ben sticks his hand out to catch a ball and get a smack on it that gives him an open wound and a good talking point for the Xmas do 😊. After that he smashed Kieran to the back wall.

3-0

Total shut out tonight with maximum points.

The hassy 3 steam train is rolling along nicely.

Hasi 4 vs Tame Valley Lost 20 points to 6 (0-5) Reporter Mr Mills

As I am writing this report you will be relieved to know we made it back from the far side of the world. Only Steve Riley in Australia has travelled further recently.

There were some good matches, and it was a good night, with good craic and we were well taken care of by our hosts.

Cottage Pie, Crusty bread, chocolates and mince pies. Special vegetarian option for Bruce too.

Oh , the squash? You want to know about the squash?

#1: Derek v Eric.

Marker Bruce has been waiting all year to say that. That was about as good as it got. I was ahead in every game and managed to lose them all. Not happy. I'm dropping down the order next week. The number 5 slot is mine.

#5: Les v Phil ' the flash ' Ashton.

I think the name is intended to be ironic. Two very well-matched opponents, Les played well to get to 1-1 but couldn't take either of the next two.

#2: John v Glyn.

Bit worried in the knock up , Glyn was really smacking the ball about. He's only played one game this season. I smell a rat here.

John won the first, narrowly lost the second, and then broke his racquet at the start of the 3rd. Les bravely tossed down his best Head 110 but John was discomfited and wasn't in the game. He then gave himself a good talking too and adopted the motivational technique of screaming at the top of his voice when he messed up. Pauline was in hysterics. How can anyone take it this seriously? Whatever, it worked. John took the 4th, game on! But despite spilling blood for the cause it wasn't enough. Lost 2-3.

#4: AJ v Nigel.

So far AJ has been cruising, at least since playing Steve in the Derby at the start of the season. Tonight, he had a tougher one. He was really frustrated in the first two games mostly with himself. Then some motivational chat from the 2nd teams ginger ninja did the trick. A different AJ appeared for the 3rd and he was always in control. The 4th game was a tight one, but Nigel edged it 15-13. The balcony was impressed with our young gun.

#3: Bruce v Mark.

It was just one of those nights for Bruce. Every mishit from young Mark seemed to be a winner. Tight first game to Mark. Even tighter second game to Mark 18-16. Bruce stuck to his task and took the 3rd even though he didn't seem to know he'd won it. The 4th seemed to get away from him too quickly, again with several flukey winners by Mark. Lost 3-1.

Overall, 4 good performances from the boys, didn't quite get the rewards we might have.

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