

O55 Premiership relegation play offs

Played at Leamington Spa against Warwickshire Hertfordshire and Cumbria.

An awkward weekend a big struggle to get a team because of injury, sickness and general availability. In the end we just managed to get 5 on Sat Mark Lewis, Paul Reader, Chris Wilson, Dave Harris and Brian Purdy also Farooq and Tony Stanley Jones agreed to play on Sunday. At the last moment Cumbria pulled out, so we had only two games to play against Herts and Warks who played each other first. A close encounter which Herts won 3-2 Slightly marred by Herts no2 constantly challenging the markers decisions.

We were next up against Herts first on Chris Wilson and Brian Purdy Chris had tough game and wasn't allowed to settle into his usual tenacious game and lost 3-0. Brian had an epic game 65 next month and standing in at short notice. He lost his first game 10-8 and then with tireless retrieving he wore down his opponent and ran out 3-1 winner 8-10 9-3 9-3 9-7 after 50 mins.

Mark up next who had hard task playing the very in-form David Cooper and lost 3-0 Last on Paul Reader and Dave Harris. Paul had an uncomfortable game with Herts no2 who carried on his grumblings from previous match against Warks, but Paul had his number. First game to Paul 9-6 Paul was 7-1 up in second game when Herts gave up!!!!!! stating injury 2 games all on the other court Dave Harris needing a captains performance failed at final hurdle after being 2-1 up lost 3-2 Herts won 3-2 and go through.

All on last match against Warks who had brought in fresh no1 Rob Shay ex British open quarter finalist which strengthened them at all strings we were under the cosh. Warks asked if no1s could play first and to Marks credit he agreed Bob Shay contested every decision made by the marker(Herts no2) his behaviour in my opinion was completely unacceptable and his team mates all seemed embarrassed by him Marks demeanour served him well and with strength of mind and body won the first 2 games 9-2 9-4. Rob Shay then gave up in a fit of pique.

On the other court Brian after 1st round heroics came up against a very strong no 5 and lost 3-0 (1all) next on Chris this time we saw the usual tenacious stalwart but after a drawn out game finally losing 3-1 (1-2 in ties) next on Dave and Paul Dave started slowly 6-2 down in first but winning 9-6 8-2 up in next started nervously missing drops and lost 9-8 lost next 9-1 .Then game turned, Dave finally getting range for drops and lobs winning 3-2 (2-2)

As per per usual all on Paul who was playing over55 England captain Geoff Redfern who had beaten him 3-2 the last 2 times they had met. Paul was very dominant (no prisoners) hard cross courts, super serving and deft drops into the nicks saw him and the team through. Premier status retained with Herts .Cumbria and Warks relegated

Dave Harris