

PSL: TEAM CHICHESTER STUNS LEADERS OF THE PACK ST. GEORGE'S HILL

On Tuesday 8th March Team Chichester travelled to Weybridge to play the unbeaten League leaders, St George's Hill; on paper it appeared to be a very daunting task. Last week the squad defeated Winchester and the players were determined to continue its winning streak. Despite the PSL website's crystal ball forecasting a 0.5 win for St. George's Hill, Team Chichester defied everyone and dramatically ended St. George's Hill's unbeaten run 2.3.

Tim Vail was first on the all glass court to play Hungarian No.1, Mark Krajcsak (world No.540). Vail lost 1/3 to the same opponent last season and the task ahead was always going to be tough. Vail started out strongly to take the 1st game 5/11, before Krajcsak struck back, getting quicker and quicker to overcome Vail and win the next 3 games 11/8, 11/6, 11/2.

1.0 to the home side.

Chichester's new signing, Nicolette Fernandes (Guyana and World No.45), took on former Chichester player Dominique Lloyd-Walter (World No.52 and England No.6). It proved to be one of the best PSL ladies matches seen this season. The Chichester player raced to a 0.2 lead, hitting the ball ferociously, volleying everything in sight on her back hand and using some fantastic back hand drops. Dominique fought back to snatch the 3rd. Nicolette did not make a good start in the 4th and Dominique raced through it to win 11/1. The 5th was all set and the players moved each other around the court; Nicolette dived 3 times to retrieve the ball. Dominique lead 7/5, Nicolette rallied superbly to bring it back to 9/9 before clinching a memorable victory in one of the longest matches of the night (68m).

1-all

Olly Pett played World No.47, Nafiizwan Adnan and after Pett took the 1 game, 10/12, the Malaysian cut down on his errors and Pett, looking a bit impatient, hit more tins. Adnan took the next 3 games 11/7, 11/8, 11/7.

2.1. to St George's Hill

Alex Gough was a late entry to the Chichester squad and was pulled in to play at 3.30pm on the match afternoon. The now retired Gough, and a former World No.5, grabbed the opportunity with both hands and rolled back the years to record an outstanding victory over 21 year old Joe Lee (World No.63). Gough read Lee's intentions throughout the match and simply played to his own strengths to produce one of the shocks of the season thus far.

2.2.

Down to the wire; could Team Chichester cause a major upset and beat the leaders of the League? The final match to decide the overall outcome was between Chichester's Max Lee (Hong Kong and World No.62) and the current British Champion, Daryl Selby (World No.11 and England No.9). 77 minutes of pulsating and exhilarating squash ensued. Lee took the first game 11/13 before Selby drew level on a tie-break in the next to take it 13/11. Selby won the 3rd 11/8 and it looked as if the writing was on the wall for Lee. Lee, however, had other ideas and won the next on another tie-break before romping to a 5/11 win in the 5th to pull off one of the best wins of his career.

A stunning 2.3 victory to end St. George's winning streak.

Next Tuesday 15th March Team Chichester is at home to Exeter Diamonds and, with an unchanged side, the players are looking to make it 3 wins in a row in the penultimate match of the season.

Mike Phillips – Team Manager