

## Hemel Handicapped Squash Tournament 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2013

### Tournament Report



#### **Club Championship**

Donald Luke (left) Runner up and  
Chris Hems - Winner



#### **Plate Challenge**

Charles Marshall (left) Runner Up and  
James Quint - Winner

The Hemel Squash Club Handicapped tournament was held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June. 13 exciting participants took part in this tournament:

Steve King	Chris Hems
Charles Marshall	Jack Gregory
Peter John Phillips (6)	Mark Conlon
Antony Diblasio (4)	Dan Collier (6)
Donald Luke	Gavin Gregory (2)
Ricky Lang	James Quint (4)
David Creese	

**Note** – number in brackets () denotes handicap. Those with no brackets played without a handicap

#### Tournament Set Up

All members were entered into the main tournament called the **Club Championship**. 4 players were given seedings based on their last 3 months league results, therefore were kept apart for rounds 1 and 2. The seeded players were as follows:

Seed 1 – Ricky Lang  
Seed 2 – David Creese  
Seed 3 – Chris Hems  
Seed 4 – Jack Gregory

All participants who were unsuccessful in their 1<sup>st</sup> round matches were entered into the **Plate Challenge** tournament.

This was a handicapped tournament. A handicap was given to players who played regularly outside of the top two leagues. Handicaps ranged from +2 to +6. A player with a +6 handicap who played against a 0 handicapped

player would start a match +3/-3, a +4 handicapped player against a 0 handicapped player would start a game +2/-2 and so on. All matches were best of 3, American Scoring up to 11 points. The handicap system made the competition tougher but fairer for all participants.

### **First Round Matches – Club Championship**

Due to uneven numbers of participants the top 3 seeds were given a bye into the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.

<b>First Round Matches</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Steve King v Charles Marshall	Steve King wins 13-11, 12-10	A tough first round match which could have gone either way. Charles fought hard however Steve managed to find a way through.
Peter John Phillips (6) v Antony Diblasio(4)	Antony Diblasio wins 11-9, 8-11, 11-7	An extremely close first round match which could have gone either way. Antony pulled away in the last game winning 8 consecutive points to lead 7-3, however Peter came back to win 4 out of the next 5 points. Antony however came through to win the final 3 points. Great match
Jack Gregory v Mark Conlon	Jack wins 11-7, 11-7	In a nervy match Jack managed to get past a determined Mark Conlon in straight games
Dan Collier (6) v Gavin Gregory (2)	Gavin wins 11-3, 3-11 , 11-9	In one of the best round 1 matches Dan performed excellently to push the more experienced Gavin to the brink. After Gavin comfortably winning the first game Dan came into his own, winning a stunning 9 out of the first 10 points of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game to take it 11-3. In a much closer decider scores were practically neck in neck throughout until, from 9-9 Gavin managed to win the last 2 games.
Donald Luke v James Quint (4)	Donald wins 11-9, 11-8	In a close first round match Donald was made to work hard against James to get through the first round. James played with a lot of energy and determination, holding Donald to 9-9 in the first game and 8-8 in the second before Donald came through in both. This show of determination gave James a platform to progress in the Plate Challenge

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Round Matches – Club Championship**

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Round Matches</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Ricky Lang v Steve King	Ricky wins 11-3, 11-3	Ricky played with a lot of patience and control to get through a dogged Steve King in straight games.
Chris Hems v Antony Diblasio (4)	Chris wins 11-4, 11-9	Chris entered the tournament as one of the favourites, and showed why with a good display against a determined Antony. After Chris pulled away in the first game Antony dug deep and fought Chris all the way in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> match, narrowly losing this 11-9
Jack Gregory v Gavin Gregory	Jack wins 8-11,11-6,11-9	This was a hard fought out match between two family members. The first set went to Gavin with a score of 11-8. The next set was dominated by Jack taking the game 11-6. With family pride at stake the deciding set was always going to be tough with neither player wanting to give up any points, the game was eventually deservedly won by Jack 11-9 taking him into the semi-finals.
David Creese v Donald Luke	Donald wins 11-9, 5-11, 14-12	In undoubtedly the best match of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> round Donald produced a shock result and a great performance to beat the number 2 seed in an enthralling, and often bad tempered (from Donald's side anyway) match. After trailing 8-3 in the first game Donald made a great comeback to take this game 11-9. Donald fought hard for

		every point and queried many decisions, often to the annoyance of the referee and opponent! David showed all of his experience to come back 11-5 in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game. In the 3 <sup>rd</sup> game both players played brilliantly, and could hardly be separated – drawing at every stage from 2-2 to 12-12! Donald finally managed to win to last two points to take the game 14-12 in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> . Well played to both Donald and David.
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### **Semi Finals – Club Championship**

Ricky Lang v Chris Hems	Chris wins 11-6, 8-11, 11-8	The first of the semi finals brought together the number 1 seed, Ricky, against the number 3 seed Chris Hems. In the first game Ricky started fast rushing to a 6-1 lead. Chris came back however Ricky held for a 11-6 win. In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game Chris started a lot stronger, exchanging long rallies to gain a 6-3 advantage. Ricky fought back hard however Chris managed to win this 11-8. The 3 <sup>rd</sup> game was a classic. Ricky started well to get a 4-2 lead. Ricky continued to play hard to take a 8-4 lead, with many thinking that he had one foot in the final. However Chris, exhibiting the excellent fitness and fighting spirit shown over the last 4 months, staged a brilliant comeback winning the next 7 consecutive points, taking the last game 11-8, and the match. Well done Chris in reaching the finals. Well played Ricky.
Jack Gregory v Donald Luke	Donald wins 11-8,7-11, 13-11	After Donald's excellent but tough 2 <sup>nd</sup> round match against the number 2 seed, David Creese, he now has to face the number 4 seed, Jack Gregory. How much energy would Donald have left for this match? Donald started well moving into a 5-1 lead, however Jack stormed back to take a 7-6 lead, then eventually the game 11-8. In a tough 2 <sup>nd</sup> game Donald again started strongly, taking a 5-2 lead. In a game full of energy and excellent rallies Donald managed to stay in the lead eventually taking the game 11-7. In this high quality match the final game was a classic. Both players fought extremely hard for every point, with Donald showing more experience than his counterpart in calling stokes wherever possible. The points went back and forth until 7-6 to Jack. Jack then surged into a 10-8 lead. With Jack being on two match point, Donald dug deep and played bravely to draw at 10-10, then at 11-11 before taking the last 2 points to win 13-11. Well played Donald and Jack – cracking match!

### **Final – Club Championship**

Chris Hems v Donald Luke	Chris wins 11-8,11-2	After two cracking semi finals, the final was more of a one sided affair. Donald started well taking a 5-2 lead, however there were early signs that his exploits getting to the final had taken a toll on him. Donald continued to fight through fatigue to gain a 7-4 lead, however Chris – with his superior fitness – came back with one of his now customary spurts winning 7 out of the next 8 points and took the first game 11-8. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> game was all Chris. With Donald now extremely fatigued and Chris going from strength to strength Chris ran away with the last game 11-2. Well done Donald and Chris in reaching the final of the first Club Championship, and well done Chris for winning the final.
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## **Plate Challenge**

Due to uneven numbers in the Club Championship, resulting in 3 first round byes, only 1 first round Plate match was played- the other participants went direct into the semi-finals

### **Plate Challenge - First Round**

Mark Conlon v Dan Collier (6)	Mark wins 11-9, 11-9	In a close match Dan again played extremely well to push the more experienced player all the way. With the game starting at +3/-3 to Dan, Mark started the brightest clawing back the deficit to draw at 6-6. From here on it was neck in neck until Mark broke away to win 11-9. In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game Dan played even better leading 8-5 at one stage. Mark fought back to draw at 8-8 and 9-9 until he achieved a 11-9 win. Well done Mark. Special mention to Dan who played excellently throughout the tournament
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### **Plate Challenge – Semi Final 1**

Charles Marshall v Peter John Phillips (6)	Charles wins 11-9, 11-5	In an entertaining semi-finals Peter played well in the first game to take a 9-5 lead. Charles however came back with a magnificent run taking the next 6 points to take the game 11-9. Charles maintained his good form into the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game, convincingly taking this 11-5. Well done Charles – you're into the final. Well played Peter
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### **Plate Challenge – Semi Final 2**

Mark Conlon v James Quint (4)	James wins 8-11, 11-4, 11-6	James produced one of the shocks of the tournament to beat Mark in this semi-final. James started strongly going into a 7-2 lead. James then moved into a 8-4 lead before Mark came storming back winning the next 7 points to take the first game 11-8. James again started strongly, showing a lot of heart and determination to go 7-1 up. This time James kept his nerve to win the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game 11-4. In an excellent 3 <sup>rd</sup> game the momentum shifted from player to player, however James showed more consistency. James got to 5-0, and then continued the momentum to go 8-2 up. Mark won the next 4 points however James won the next 3 to win 11-6. Well done James
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### **Plate Challenge – Final**

Charles Marshall v James Quint (4)	James wins 11-6, 11-3	In the biggest upset of either tournaments James beats the more experienced player in Charles to win the Plate Challenge. A composed and confident James played great against a nervous Charles to rush into a 8-0 lead. Charles rallied back winning 6 of the next 9 points, however James held on to win the first game 11-6. In the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game James again showed a lot of skill and determination going 8-2 up. Charles tried hard, however could not relax and play his natural game in this final and lost the 2 <sup>nd</sup> game 11-3. Well done James – fantastic result
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I would like to thank everyone who competed or supported the players during this tournament. I would also like to thank everyone who attended the meal at the Fishery's Inn.

Donald Luke – League Organiser



**Chris Hems – Club Championship  
Winner June 2013**



**Celebratory meal and drinks at the Fishery's Inn**