

Match Report - Hereward Cup St Ivo Vs Hunts County

Hemingford squash Club

23rd March 2013

It was with eager anticipation the St Ivo men's team battled through the snow to Hemingford squash club, where we were to play in the final of the Cambridgeshire division's Hereward cup against Hunts County. It was obvious that Hunts would field their strongest possible players against the runaway league champions of St Ivo, but the mood was 'Bring it on!!'

First on was Alistair Paul (I really must find that other shoe) vs Andy Fenner, the snow from the cycle across the meadow still in his eyes so 1-9 down to start the match for Paul, but he was able to keep his opponent behind and out scamper the Fenner on the warm court to finish 3-1, a good start for St Ivo.

Next on was little Dan Caulkett and big Greg Goodwin, although Dan was still smarting from a 0-3 defeat to Greg a few weeks ago, the mood was 'forthright'. It was 'smite that ball' versus the deft of touch (I'll leave you to guess who was which) as the match commenced, and after 2 sets it was 1-1. However, the youngster was not going to be bullied and found his touch and despite the ceremonial sacrifice of Caulkett rackets, the big yin stretched his legs and the lead Hunts came through 3-1 to tie the match at 1-1.

The No 3s were next, Dave Chapman and Goodwin Snr are closely matched and this could be the decider for the cup, it was too much for Dixon and Broderick to watch, so the pair sneaked off to have a knock up on the show court. Meanwhile, Chapman had a nervous start but stepped up in the second to make it 1-1. Unfortunately, the Doc was on it today transforming into a pocket Minotaur, he seemed to find some more gears that Dave couldn't quite match and St Ivo found themselves trailing 1-2. Oh and its 1-1 in Sean and Matt's match.

The court was free again, John are you ready to play now? This was going to be tough, Dewis unbeaten this season versus Griggs, the professional coach. The match started at a furious pace with Dewis becoming familiar with all 4 corners of the court and Griggs unable to quite suppress his everesant opponent. But a flurry of tins from Dewis found him in unfamiliar territory of 1-1. Colin now was in the groove and Dewis looking more tired than usual, the coach still wincing from the Dixon defeat a few weeks ago was going to make the St Ivo No. 1 pay with his lungs, and sure enough, Dewis on the floor with cramp in the 4th was an ominous sign. Soon both the match and the cup were decided at 3-1 to Hunts ☺

Blimming 'eck are they still playing on the show court?? As we moved through, to find the match at 2-2 and St Ivo support bolstered by some of the other away teams, every Dixon point cheered and some friendly banter during the conversations with the marker. But time was getting on, the elite No 1s were waiting to play and the meter had run out! So a short interval for Broderick to find a 10p coin and normal service was resumed for Dixon to close the match 3-2 and the cup 2-3, it only took 1Hr 40 mins!! Our congratulations to Hunts County as worthy winners, but we will see them next year in division 2 and have our revenge ;-).