

WINNING! WHAT LONDON DOES BEST

London played Derbyshire in their 2nd County game in consecutive weeks, following on from the resounding loss to County Durham and with that defeat fresh in everyone's minds London were determined to get back to winning ways but the day didn't start well with the Derbyshire side turning up at Greensides two hours behind schedule, everyone from London playing on the Saturday would have to keep their focus for the task ahead.

London Ladies started well with Lynne Biondini (16.41) making her 100th appearance in a London shirt and getting a 3-2 win against Kelly Dean (14.16) it was a close game but Lynne showed her determination to win an what must be such a momentous occasion, this was followed by Ged Carney (17.73) losing 2-3 in another tight game to Louise Rawson (17.79) despite hitting her regular 2 x 180's, Dee Belcher (17.60) fought back well with some heavy scoring after losing the 1st leg to Rebecca Hoyland (17.18) to take a 3-1 win and gaining the Lady of the Match award for London, Andrea Walker (14.97) won by the same score in her return to the county team against Dawn Buckley (15.31) before Lisa Dunford (17.53) found herself on the wrong end of a 0-3 defeat against Derbyshire's Lady of the Match Sara Jukes (19.27) who was a ruthless finisher and Tina Hamilton (15.90) was a 3-2 winner against Kerri Buckley (13.86) to give the Ladies B a well deserved 4-2 overall win.

In the Men's B match Tom McGurn (19.85) found himself back in the B after a single A team game last time out, he played well in a narrow 1-3 loss to Alan Statham (19.57) and this was followed by a 0-3 loss for Chris Copeland (19.11) who played well within himself against Gary Bennett (25.91), Gary had an outstanding game, overall the game was now level and Rob Edwards (24.24) had a fine 3-2 win over Derbyshire's in form Robert Wood (24.98), a great performance from Rob, Lee Clifford (20.15) made his London debut and played well in a 2-3 loss to Ben Holmes (22.95), there's a lot more to come from Lee, this determined young man fought back well from 0-2 down and showed the bottle needed to perform well on the County stage, Johnny Stefano (18.47) stepped up for his 1st home appearance and managed to grind out a 3-2 win in a close game against Andy Wheeldon (18.26), representing London is a very proud thing, but to win that point with so much support from everybody was most definitely the icing on the cake for me. Points win games not averages, but if called upon again I will show more of what I'm capable of, Wayne Livett (20.15) was a 0-3 loser to a solid Carl Frith (25.05) and Alan Hardy (21.74) lost 2-3 in a tight game to Steve Homer (21.04), Derbyshire had now taken the lead for the first time during the day but London were to win the next 4 games with wins for John Nelson (22.77) 3-0 against Frank Davis (20.78), Jimmy Foster (24.95) earned the Man of the Match for London with his 3-1 win over Danny Thomas (23.75), Tony Hamit (23.12) got back to winning ways with a 3-0 win over Graham Crowley (23.93) and Jason Wiles (23.48) also won 3-0 in a game that included a fine 105 finish in the 2nd leg against Ian Hannah (21.81), finally Matt Winzar (24.14) playing his 2nd County game was on the wrong end of a 1-3 loss to Nigel Daniels (29.21) who gained the Man of the Match award for Derbyshire, it must be said that it was a pleasure to watch his final leg which went: 140, 140, 60 and 161 finish for a superb 12 darter, this was also only Nigel's 2nd appearance for Derbyshire, so well done for that.

Ladies (B) 4-2....Men's (B) 6-6....OVERALL: LONDON 10-8 Derbyshire

London Ladies A lost for the 2nd consecutive time and it was the dreaded missed doubles that cost them dear, Kerry Simmons (17.58) played very well but missed 12 darts at a double against Rachel Bird (17.07) in her 1-3 defeat, Hayley Plume (19.28) missed 9 darts in her 0-3

defeat to Tracey Johnson (21.17) and Sue Holt (15.37) was 2-0 up before missing over 21 darts at double to take the game in her 2-3 loss to Rachel Ayers (15.23), Tammy MacKenzie (21.59) had a good game against Derbyshire's Lady of the Match Jane Densley (22.70) who never missed a thing in beating Tammy 3-1, Clare Bywaters (25.49) gained another Lady of the Match award for London with a dominant 3-1 win over Jackie Sweet (18.79), the win gets Clare ready for her England return at the British Internationals on the weekend of April 9th/10th at The Marine Hall, Fleetwood, Lancs. She has a very impressive 86% win ration for England and will no doubt add to that in the Internationals, very best wishes to Clare from all at London darts, finally for the Ladies A Team Jackie Saunders (19.20) got back to winning ways in a superb 3-2 win over Jo Oldershaw (17.47), those two final wins were instrumental for London and brought the game back to level pegging at 12-12 to set up a tense finale for both Men's A Teams.

First up for London was Chris Stevens (23.12) who played well within himself in a 0-3 loss to Derbyshire's Man of the Match Mark Robinson (26.84), Richard Angelo (23.44) making his home debut was involved in an entertaining 3-1 win against Gary Fenn (25.17) 'Dickie' took his doubles when presented in what was a tight game, Paul Killington (21.22) lost 2-3 in another tense game against Robert Needham (22.54) and Richie Buckell (21.80) won a tight 3-2 against Tim Daniels (21.72), up next was Lewis McGurn (28.90) who earned the Man of the Match award for London with his 3-0 demolition job on Mick Chapman (22.65) sealing the game with a superb 14 darter, Graham Rackstraw (22.77) also won 3-0 against Reece Spurr (18.40), Paul Amos (25.46) was involved in the best game of the day and came out a 3-2 winner against Wayne Pepper (25.60) and making his A team debut Lee Cocks (21.35) was involved in a tight game and won 3-1 against Simon Birkett (21.87), those four consecutive victories put London in a commanding position at 18-14 and up next was Paul Wright (22.42) missed doubles cost him in a 1-3 defeat to Ray Sallis (26.13) and then it was the turn of a returning Robbie Hain (26.84) who was returning to the County side after missing the last two games, his 3-0 victory against Steve Pashley (22.57) included a superb 15 darter in the 2nd leg that was finished off with a 156 outshot and ensured London would be walking away with the three bonus points, Steve McHale (22.73) played well but was on the losing end of a 1-3 defeat to Richard Hanson (23.12) and finally George Killington (20.67) playing only his 2nd A team game was a 1-3 loser to Paul Bettney (20.19) in a tight game.

Ladies (A) 2-4....Men's (A) 7-5....OVERALL: LONDON 22-17 Derbyshire

London fought well in this game after what happened up at County Durham, but that game was soon forgotten with some good displays from the Ladies B side, with Lynne Biondini starting us off in her 100th appearance must have been nerve wracking for her but she held her self together to get us off to a great start, to be honest in the Men's B we need to be stronger but there were outstanding performances from Rob Edwards, John Nelson, Jimmy Foster, Tony Hamit & Jason Wiles, my performance wasn't exactly outstanding but I fought hard with every darts to get that point for the team, Lee Clifford set himself on the path to a long county career in my opinion showing what's needed to excel at this level, the same can be said of Matt Winzar, there wasn't much he could do in his game against a player playing as well as Nigel Daniels did, but the signs are there and as soon as he gets that all important win under his belt I'm sure many more will follow, what was surprising on the Sunday was the amount of missed doubles that plagued the Ladies game, I'm not pointing any fingers but it was just a shock to see, It was great to see Dickie Angelo win his first game on his home debut, he's such a great addition to the London County side and has the skill and most importantly the character to be awesome at this level and Lewis McGurn getting the man of

the match award, taking his win ration this season to 8 out of 8 is great, best of luck to him in the final game against Middlesex, Paul Amos' game against Wayne Pepper can't be underestimated as Wayne is one of the finest players I know and I always thought this game would be pivotal and so it proved, so well done Moo Moo, well done also to Lee Cocks for getting a win in his 1st A team game, more to come from him now he's playing at the level he's wanted for a while now and it was great to welcome back the legend Robbie Hain who just dominates the stage when he steps up there. The final game of the season is on the 7th /8th May away to Middlesex who will be playing darts in the 2nd Division next season, it will be a 'derby game' atmosphere at Tithe Farm and they have a good few ex-London players in their team that will be wanting to prove a point or get one over on their local rivals, London will need a vocal support for sure in this one and I urge as many players/supporters to be there for both days, the games only in Middlesex so make the commitment to go and support London to what I hope will be a good win, it won't be easy in such an atmosphere.

Johnny Stefano