

LONDON DEALT HANTS HAMMER BLOW

London's hopes were dented against promotion rivals Hampshire in their 5th match of the 2010/2011 season, with the Hants team coming out 24-15 victors.

Proceedings started well for the home side with Sue Holt (19.52) maintaining her fine for in a 3-0 win, Two defeats followed for Tina Hamilton (15.22) & Lynne Biondini (16.03) who lost to Hants Lady of the match Charlotte Burgess (18.20) before Tammy MacKenzie (20.68) gained a good 3-1 win to get the Lady of the Match award, Andrea Walker (15.85) lost and Ged Carney (16.77) lost in a very close encounter for Hampshire Ladies 'B' Team to take the 4-2 win. Rob Edwards (23.55) was up first for London men and he duly delivered a fine display in a 3-2 win, next there was a loss for Tom McGurn (22.17) who lost to Hants' Man of the Match Mike Gillet (28.34), Chris 'Chaos' Copeland (22.01) fought for a tough 3-2 win and debutant Wayne Livett (19.38) will rue missed doubles in a 3-2 loss, Tony Hamit (25.54) continues his fine form but came up short in a 3-1 loss, Lee Cocks (23.85) came back from 2-0 down to win his game that included a 14 darter in the 4th leg, Stuart Pickles (22.95) lost but Alan Hardy (19.78) won 3-0 to be followed by Hackney team mate George Killington (24.00) who won 3-1 and gained the Man of the Match award for London in the process, London were now 5-4 in the men's game and only a point behind overall, unfortunately the last three London players Dave Goodwin (21.61), Paul Hackett (22.70) and Steve Dolan (23.04) all lost and Hampshire would be taking a 11-7 lead into the Sunday 'A' Team matches.

It has been a long time since London have been behind after the Saturday matches and against a strong Hants team it was going to be difficult to gain back the 4 point deficit, fighting spirit would be needed and that was personified in the opening ladies performance from Kerry Simmons (19.29) who won her game 3-2 against a determined Sue Thompson (16.54), Kelly Bobby (18.19) lost 3-1 to former World Championship qualifier Stef Smee (18.59) who got the Lady of the Match award for Hampshire and Dee Belcher (14.73) lost to Wendy Reinstadtler (16.48), Hayley Plume (18.75) kept up her 100% win record by beating Sue Lowther (17.83) 3-1, Lisa Dunford (17.94) was unlucky to lose 3-2 against Pennie Lewis (18.23), the final Ladies 'A' game saw Clare Bywaters (20.87) got another Lady of the Match award for London in a close fought 3-2 win against Jane Monaghan (18.42), all this after receiving a well deserved recall to the England Squad for the 2011 British Internationals to be held in Fleetwood on the weekend of 9th & 10th April 2011.

London Darts would like to wish Clare all the best in what will be her 15th appearance for the National side after a short time out of the international reckoning, winning 12 out of her previous 14 starts for an 86% win ratio.

Coming back from 4 points down going into the final round of Mens 'A' Team matches was going to be an hard task for London, Paul Amos (27.67) took the London Man of the Match award with a well deserved 3-1 victory over Tony Hutchinson (24.23) followed by Lewis McGurn (23.18) winning a close 3-2 against Kev Murrell (22.06), two defeats followed for an under par Chris Stevens (23.65) who lost 3-0 to Danny Smith (25.05) and Graham Inniss (25.28), a 3-1 loser to PDC Youth World Champion Aaron Monk (30.52) who got the Hampshire match award for his efforts, next up was what I thought would be the most entertaining game of the afternoon, and so it proved to be, Robbie Hain (27.34) blasted a 13 darter in the opening leg against Sam Rooney (26.10) and with the first 4 legs going against the throw it was close all the way but Robbie turned the tide in the final leg to take a 3-2 win and record his 100th win in a London shirt, the man is truly a legend, Paul Killington (20.95)

won 3-2 against Phil Harty (22.52), four consecutive defeats for London saw the game slip away at this point with losses for Jimmy Foster (22.36) against Steve Musson (26.61), Richie Buckell (20.41) against Mark Thorne (19.91), Graham Rackstraw (26.04) lost to Nilsson Pritchard (26.84) but showed enough in his 'A' team debut to prove he will be a great addition and Paul Wright (25.85) lost to Andy Mitchell (28.06), Hampshire had already secured the bonus points going into the final two games, Dan Day (26.17) stepped up for London to take a 3-1 win against Kevin Ede (24.29) and Steve McHale (24.32) lost 3-2 in a close battle with Gary Stafford (23.88).

Final Score was LONDON 15-24 HAMPSHIRE.....A deserved victory for Hampshire who push themselves up to 2nd place in the BICC Division One table, they are pushing hard for a promotion berth and will take some stopping, London went down to 4th place in the table and will need to be bringing in the bonus points in the remaining games to have a chance of playing in the Premier Division next season. It was a good encounter against Hampshire and showed London what we have to beat in order to progress the success of the previous season, some players were under par for London but it was nice to see Wayne Livett make his London debut and it was also good to watch young George Killington get what will probably be one of many match awards, Sue Holt showed what a fine asset she will be for the Ladies side, Hayley Plume continue her great start for London and it was such a privilege to see Robbie Hains 100th London win.....Yet again the production was pretty faultless from the London officials and there must be thanks for Stef Smee who stepped up on Saturday to call all the Ladies 'B' games and Steve McHale called all the 'B' games on the Saturday, callers for London on the Sunday included Alan Hardy, Dave Goodwin and Alex Day.