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Match: Kenilworth vs. Cleaver

**Slight set-back for Kenilworth after surging start to season.**

On a night which saw some tight nail-biting squash coupled with some flamboyant shot making Kenilworth were unlucky to be edged out in a tense 3-2 loss vs. an organised Cleaver outfit.

Up first for Kenilworth was Sarah Jane Perry who put in a solid performance in an evenly matched tie. In a tit-for-tat exchange SJ levelled out a defeat in the first game before being edged out in the third and fourth games by narrow margins in which both games were level at 9-9. The 4<sup>th</sup> string tie involved Kenilworth's latest recruit, young Hugo Diamond, an Irish International with much promise. Unfortunately, his debut display was somewhat unsettled and though displaying promise in the third game was beaten 3-0. More, to come from Hugo next time.

With Kenilworth 2-0 down, enter coach, inspirer and squash legend Steve Townsend. Just what the doctor ordered to get Kenilworth back on track. Steve battled hard, displaying wonderful control and weighting on his shots which was making his extremely talented (and at times lucky!) opponent work for every point. His deadly accurate drop-lob tactics were forcing his opponent to cover all corners of the court and the effects of his toil began to show as Steve forced the match into a deciding 5<sup>th</sup> game. The difference in the end was his opponents Ramy Ashour like cross-court nicks which he seemed to be pulling out with alarming regularity. This was a tense game, much appreciated by the crowds and unfortunately Kenilworth came out on the wrong end, ending its 100% record.

Whilst Steve was sweating in the 5<sup>th</sup>, a different kind of game was taking shape in the Fortress of Kenilworth on the court next door and taking centre stage was Guy Pearson, fresh of his 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive county championship victory. His opponent, a young Jack xxx who was shut down immediately as Guy unleashed his full range of racket skills in a comfortable 3-0 cruise. Of particular note in this game were his straight and cross-court volley kills which raised a clench and pump of the fists as Kenilworth restored some pride.

Last but not least, Chris Hall vs. James Bowden in the 1-string tie in what promised to be a good game. Chris has been focussing and training hard recently as he sets himself to embark on a number of international tournaments with the hope of surging up the world rankings. After a slightly sluggish start which saw Hall lose the 1<sup>st</sup> game, he surged back to gain some valuable points for Kenilworth. His speed around the court meant that his opponent was struggling in points which he would normally win. Hall was sharp with his short-game, very tight with both drops and counter drops which was where he won a large percentage of his points.

A narrow 3-2 loss in the end for Kenilworth, but with an 11-4 win:loss ratio after 3 matches – Kenilworth have little to worry about and we expect to be seeing more of the same, keeping us at the summit of the Warwickshire League. Good work.