

Surrey County Notes (March 2007) by Chris Andrews

At Cippenham, Surrey's 1st team was made up of Chris Bush, Adam Laws, Robert Lemon, Marcia Ma, Maria Taylor Woodward, Carmen Vajdi and Fei Fei Pei. Fei Fei Pei played one match on Saturday and Carmen played three matches on Sunday.

The team started poorly, losing to Bucks 6-4, but they recovered brilliantly, defeating Glamorgan 8-2, Wiltshire 7-3, Middlesex 2nds 9-1 and Devon 2nds 8-2. This set them up for a showdown with leaders Gloucestershire, knowing that another win would make them favourites for promotion into the Premier division. Chris got Surrey off to a great start, beating Dave Harvey 3-1, but 1-0 became 1-2 when Rob lost to Brian McRandal and Carmen lost to Natasha Hurd. Undeterred, Surrey won 3 straight matches to go 4-2 up. The most impressive of which was Rob's defeat of Dave Harvey at deuce in the 5th in an exhilarating battle. When Carmen went 2-1 up against Suzy Robinson, Surrey looked to have the match sewn up. However, Gloucestershire had other ideas as firstly Robinson came back to win 3-2, and Darren Griffin beat Chris to make the match score 4-4. Following this, the two No.1's, Marcia and Natasha played out the match of the weekend. Both women were unbeaten up to that point and determined to remain so. The first four ends contained some truly breathtaking rallies that had all spectators enthralled, and the match rightly went to a decider. However, Natasha went 5-2 up at the change of ends and didn't look back, taking the game 11-4, putting her team 5-4 up. Adam levelled the match at 5-5 by beating Brian McRandal, but it was Gloucestershire who achieved promotion, as Surrey had lost an earlier match, while Gloucestershire had won all their matches.

Surrey ended the weekend with a defeat to already relegated Dorset, following the highly intensive Gloucestershire match.

It was a great performance by all Surrey's players, with special mention to Maria and Fei-Fei (an under-13 player) who won their first ever matches for the Surrey first team.

The Surrey 2nd team played at Graham Spicers in Division 2D. They were Captained by Simon Philipsz, with Paul Carter and Carmen Vajdi, plus debutants Lawrence Orekoya and Jessica Trimmell. The day started with a resounding 8-2 win over Kent 2nds, and followed this up with a solid display, holding Kent 1sts to a 5-5 draw. Lawrence was the star performer, winning all 4 of his matches, whilst Paul and Simon both won 3 out of 4. Carmen won 2 out of 4 and Jessica won her first ever match at Senior county level.

The day's results leaves Surrey 2nds with a good chance of promotion.