

University of Liverpool Darts club VS University of York Darts Club

MATCH REPORT

Liverpool scores are on the left, with York scores on the right.

BOARD 1; James (c) vs Matt

By general consensus from the team, the club president and captain was elected to lead the University out against their first ever opponents. Opening game jitters seemed to get to both participants in 1st two games with the York man taking the 1st leg with a D18 checkout. The second leg was a drop in standard from both players, with both left of madhouse D1 to take the leg, which the Liverpool man finally managed to do. The standard went up a gear in the decider with both players hitting tons and numerous 80+ scores. Fortunately the Liverpool captain held his nerve and finished with a 54 checkout and a 24 dart leg to take Liverpool 1-0 up in the match

SCORE; 2-1

MATCH SCORE; 1-0

BOARD 2; Chris vs Sean

Probably LUDC's most consistent player since the society started in February was chosen to play at board 2. Due to lack of experience playing in team games, the nerves obviously effected Chris, with a below par performance which frustrated him immensely. Even if Chris had played his best, it would have been a tough game, as 3 tons in two legs from the York player meant the game went in favour of the Yorkshire lads.

SCORE; 0-2

MATCH SCORE; 1-1

BOARD 3; Lee vs Ben (c)

Lee started well, hitting the bull in the nearest bull shot before the game started. As for Chris, the nerves and lack of team match experience came through and the York co-captain, hitting 3 tons on the way, took this game also to take the York into the overall lead.

SCORE; 0-2

MATCH SCORE; 1-2

BOARD 4; Punisher vs Marc

A little bit of pressure on the LUDC new boy didn't seem to faze him. Two tons in the opening leg saw to that, but the quality of Marc was evident as he was hitting solid 60's or 85 every set of darts. In a game that could have finished either way, the little bit of luck Liverpool needed didn't come and Marc took the game 2-0. It was a promising introduction to Liverpool Darts for James "The Punisher" Bowditch; he's got a good future in this society ahead of him.

SCORE; 0-2

MATCH SCORE; 1-3

BOARD 5; Ben vs Kirk

Up stepped Ben, the reigning champion of LUDC. Not playing his best this year, and openly admitting that he hates pressure, he was played at board 5. The pressure didn't really show as his vast experience from playing team matches in his local pub in Stafford showed. He lost the 1st leg but fired back in the second with the 1st 140 of the day, and a 19 checkout that had him showing emotion, a rarity from Ben. The 3rd leg was a cracker; even scoring from both players with a ton each and numerous 80+ scores. It could have gone either way but Kirk held his nerve to hit double 8 and take York into a commanding 4-1 lead.

SCORE; 1-2

MATCH SCORE; 1-4

BOARD 6; Richard vs Lawrie (c)

This was the game of the afternoon, by an absolute mile. The 1st leg between these two was pretty close with the Liverpool lad taking it on double 12 in a 28 dart leg. The other York co-captain (who, sources tell us, was their best player) then pulled a 21 dart leg out of the bag with 2 tons and a 140 in it. Richard was still back on 150+ points and the pressure was on in the decider. The Liverpool Club Secretary then opened up the last leg by hitting 3 consecutive tons and taking the game with a nice 60 checkout and a 21 dart legs that matched his opponents previous leg. Everyone appreciated the standard in the game and York wanted to see if Richard would defect to York. Not a chance. The boat was, momentarily, steadied!

SCORE; 2-1

MATCH SCORE; 2-4

BOARD 7; Paul vs Tom

The other newby to the club was Paul, who only just made the team from trials. Thank god he was on the side and he held his nerve really well, especially after losing the 1st leg when Tom checked out 78, the highest of night so far. Paul should be nicknamed “no shoes” in line with how he likes to play. He is a very emotional player, which was made evident when he took the next leg on madhouse. He then took the decider, with a 116 and 140 helping him along, on double 16 and let out a shriek of joy, which he then proceeded to get embarrassed about and say, “that was bit of a gay celebration”. Who cares! Liverpool were back to within one game. Good lad! A few people have mentioned how good Paul could be: this performance did everything to confirm that!

SCORE; 2-1

MATCH SCORE; 3-4

BOARD 8; Dave vs Simon

Not too much can be said about this game. Simon was a little better than board 8 would suggest and he played very solidly. Dave, LUDC Treasurer, played well, hit a 134 but the other guy just doubled out very, very quickly in both legs to take it 2-0. Dave was quite unlucky in these legs.

SCORE; 0-2

MATCH SCORE; 3-5

BOARD 9; James (c) and Paul vs Simon and Matt

Liverpool needed at least 3 of the 4 pairs matches to have a chance at victory so decided to go out strong with two strong players on the night. Unfortunately the form both showed in singles did not show in the doubles and both played like muppets, particularly the captain. James managed a score of 105 amongst the numerous 45's, but it wasn't good enough against Simon and Matt who took both legs with the Liverpool pair only having about 3 darts at doubles in both legs. Never mind.

SCORE; 0-2

MATCH SCORE; 3-6

BOARD 10; Tibbers and Elaine vs Sean and Tom

Tibbers (the newest member of the society) and Elaine, 2 of the reserves, were given a chance to show what they could do. And they did just that. They both threw Shanghai 20's in the 1st leg and steamrolled threw the leg with Elaine hitting an impressive 64 outshot. York were not taking this game too seriously till this point as they thought the reserves wouldn't be very good. York found another gear and the next two legs were very close, with Tom hitting 3 tons. Alas, doubles were not being our friend tonight and York took the last two legs to win the match overall. Good performance from both the Liverpool players though.

SCORE; 1-2

MATCH SCORE; 3-7

BOARD 11; Richard and Chris vs Marc and Kirk

The last legs were played anyway and the York pair were on fire. 2 tons from Kirk in both the 1st and third leg and 2 tons for Marc in the second gives you an idea of the quality. York took the first and Liverpool took the second, with an 80 checkout from Richard, which was the highest of the match. York held their nerve in third leg to take the game 2-1.

SCORE; 1-2

MATCH SCORE; 3-8

BOARD 12; Punisher and Ben vs Lawrie (c) and Ben (c)

This was another high quality game. The first leg was pretty even with some steady scoring and Liverpool Ben finished on tops to take the 1st leg. The second leg saw a ton from Punisher and 2 tons from York Ben, with the latter doubling out on madhouse to even it out. The last leg of the night was pure quality. A ton a piece from the Liverpool boys couldn't match the 2 tons from Lawrie and the sweet 180 from York Ben. Lawrie finished on double 4 to take the final game of the night

SCORE; 1-2

MATCH SCORE; 3-9

SUMMARY

York were just a little too strong for us on the night. People suffering from nerves and no luck on the doubles did not help and I don't think 9-3 was really a fair reflection of the match. Every leg bar about 5 were on the doubles; they just showed a little extra quality and were more clinical on the finishing. We were not overpowered or outclassed. We held our own and I don't think we are too far behind the standard of other uni's. It was fantastic experience for us and a great opener to our inter-university life.

I had a great afternoon, and I am sure the York guys did too. We will be going back to York in March to play a 4 way tournament against York, Durham and Oxford. We need to practise playing doubles games and with the experience gained from this match, I am confident we can give them a surprise at their end. We will be taking a squad of 12 for the return match so there are still a few places on the squad up for grab.

I would like to give a special thanks to Ben, and particularly Elaine, for scoring throughout the match. It was much appreciated. I would also like to thank Alex for coming along, even though he did not get a game (sorry!)

Report by James Gaynor