

REPORT ON LAST MATCH – 1st March: Winchester – v -Team Chichester

Team Chichester travelled to Winchester in search of its 2nd victory over the IGT Winchester this PSL season.

The home side fielded new signing and World No.5, Gregory Gaultier, to bolster the top of its order and his match against the new World No.10 (his highest WR to date), Mo Azlan Iskandar was much anticipated.

Team Chichester started well. In less than half an hour both Olly Pett and Lauren Briggs defeated their respective opponents, Stacey Ross and Lauren Selby, in straight games; in no time at all Chichester were 0.2 up.

Next on court Chichester's Robbie Temple, World No.75, faced Joey Barrington, World No.37. On paper the task ahead, for Temple, looked ominous. Temple, however, was not fazed and played one of the best matches of his life. He dominated from the outset and with pace and speed he won the first game 2/11. He proceeded to storm through to a resounding 0.3. victory to give Chichester an unassailable 0.3 lead.

Meanwhile on the adjacent court Chichester's Tim Vail was having a tussle with 43 year old former World No.10, Mark Cairns. After a very tight first 2 games, 9/11 to Vail and 13/11 to Cairns, the Winchester player changed match tactics which totally unsettled Vail. Cairns took the next game 11/2 with ease, and finished the match in the 4th, 11/7, to put Winchester back on the score sheet.

1.3

Iskandar and Gaultier then took their places on court for the final match. A frantically paced ensued with Iskandar matching Gaultier in all departments to take the first game. Thereafter, as the tempo and accuracy continued, Iskandar began to feel the pressure and slowly errors and fatigue started to creep into his game.

Gaultier sensed this and upped his game and, showing the packed gallery exactly why he is World No.5, took the next 3 games.

2.3 to Chichester meant the squad had recorded its third victory of the season and move up to 4th place in the League – above Winchester and Bristol.

The next home fixture, against Exeter Diamonds, is on March 15th; tickets now on sale (01243 785664).

Mike Phillips - Team Manager