



Clapton threw a spanner into Romford B's title aspirations with a shock 4-3 win at the Prince Albert.

Danny Faulkner (23.34) 4-3 James Williams (22.33)

Romford B drew first blood but needed all seven legs before doing so. The first four legs of the session all went with the head, with the player on throw checking out with plenty in hand. It looked like the turning point of the match had come in leg five, with Faulkner breaking throw and looking set to complete the job in the next. Williams hung in there and survived match darts as he pinged the double eight to regain control. He began the finale with six poor darts and Faulkner weighed in with a maximum. Williams did fight back but it was all in vain as Faulkner took out 72 for the win.

Steve Harold (20.33) 2-4 John Sinclair (23.22)

The next two points went to Clapton. The second match started as expected, the opening three legs were comfortably won with throw. Both were scoring well, but Harold's started to tail off and Sinclair made hay. He pegged 94 to equalise in the fourth and he kept his form going in what proved to be the gamebreaker in leg five as he broke Harold, and could afford to miss darts with his opponent well in arrears. The sixth was a replay of the one that preceded it, Sinclair had enough in the locker to miss seven darts for the match before securing it at the eighth time of asking.

Ernest Hodgson (18.60) 0-4 Paul Hackett (21.09)

Clapton took the lead for the first time in the session with a comfortable win in minimum time. The first two legs were slow burners, with the treble 20 being quite difficult to locate. Hackett was more proficient at the sharp end and took out the game shot each time to assume command. Hackett then upped his game and showed a bit more consistency and despite Hodgson finally finding a bit more completed the job in leg four.

Danny Knight (29.04) 4-0 John Badger (26.62)

Knight showed what he is capable of with a sublime display. Badger certainly was no back number, and would have won many other games with a repeat performance. Consistent scoring allied with some dazzling finishing from Knight was too much for the Clapton thrower who battled gamely. Knight served notice of what was to follow as he took out 84 to snare the opening leg. Even better was to follow, as he broke Badger with a fantastic 118 checkout to go two ahead. A routine hold left him only needing one more, and he signed off in style, as he knocked over 107 to break Badger in 15 darts for the victory.

Danny Brown (17.72) 0-4 Paul Wright (22.02)

The visitors regained the lead in the fifth contest. Brown looked ill at ease throughout the duration of the encounter and never got going at all. Wright was in mood to be benevolent, taking the opener and then breaking Brown in a lengthy second. Had the Romford man took the double it may have been different, but the struggles continued. Wright kept his foot on the pedal and signed off in grand fashion as he smacked in a 114 to end the contest in the fourth leg.

Sean Lahiff (22.34)

2-4

Paul Nurden (23.28)

The hosts would have held realistic hopes of taking the overall match all the way. Lahiff looked very flat from the beginning, losing legs one and two with minimal resistance before Nurden broke for the second time in the match, cracking home a 100 finish to leave him in total control at three nil. Lahiff then began to show glimpses of his true form and bagged the fourth and fifth legs. Nurden started off the sixth with purpose as Lahiff once again found the trebles to be elusive. This left enough in the tank for Nurden to miss seven match darts without any pressure before finding the clincher to give Clapton the overall victory.

Mark Landers (23.03)

4-0

Paul Hart (19.82)

Although the match had been lost, points were still vital for the hosts as they sought to keep pace at the head of Division Two. They did bag the last point of the night's play as Landers produced a steady performance. Hart missed darts to hold in the opener and once Landers nailed the double it was one way traffic from then on. Landers was consistently around or in the treble twenty and Hart had little answer. The Romford man was clinical when it got down to pinning the doubles and he finished things off with little fuss.

The surprise defeat may prove costly for Romford B. They are now four points behind leaders Woolwich and their hold on second place is now under threat with Welling B only two adrift in third. They hit the road to take on Greenwich in their next fixture. Clapton are placed fourth as we approach the mid-point of the season, and are on their travels again with a tough looking game at promotion chasing Welling B.