



League new boys Clapton are still looking for their first win on home turf after Welling B took the spoils at the Red House.

Tony Johnson (22.00)

0-4

Mark Boness (24.44)

Boness continued his good start to the season with a straight legs win that was closer than the scoreline suggested. Johnson set himself up to take the second leg with a 125, but Boness stepped in with a 71 finish for the break to gain the upper hand. Johnson had chances to extend the game into a fifth leg, but couldn't take them as Boness walked off with the opening point in the bag.

Paul Nurden (23.49)

2-4

Craig Watkins (25.68)

The second match initially looked as if it too would go the minimum duration. Watkins left the traps like a Derby winner, storming to a first leg break. He began with a maximum and then ended a fine leg with a 121 finish for a 12 darter. He backed this up with a second ton plus finish in a row, a 105 putting him in pole position. After an early onslaught, it would have been easy for Nurden to roll over. But he battled back well, taking the third before breaking back in the fourth despite Watkins hitting another maximum. Both players then struggled, Watkins eventually securing another break in the fifth leg before going on to finish the job with a 70 checkout in leg six.

Paul Hackett (22.34)

3-4

Rich Hill (22.58)

This was an even contest throughout the seven legs played. The first leg went to the home side, Hackett making full use of the chance after Hill had missed the outer ring. Hill redressed the balance, taking the next two legs before Hackett drew level in leg four. The match then settled into a pattern where each player was able to hold throw and in the decider, Hill took out 52 to leave the visitors firmly in control.

Paul Wright (23.16)

0-4

Steve Foley (23.86)

Welling B continued to dominate the overall contest, and were guaranteed the overall victory in the shortest possible time. Wright went toe to toe in the scoring stakes and did have chances to take the legs where he threw first, but the more clinical finishing of Foley proved to be the difference between the two and the contest ended in the fourth leg.

John Badger (22.17)

4-1

Malcolm Morgan (20.01)

With the win secured, it was now simply a matter of what the final margin would be, with the visitors looking to stay in touch with the early pacesetters in Division Two. Badger was in no mood to roll over, and stormed into a three nil lead, breaking Morgan twice in the process. Badger had no trouble at the business end of the leg, taking the opener with a 80 checkout and then cracking home

a 96 for the next. Morgan managed to get back on of the breaks in leg four, but it proved to be a mere consolation as he failed to hold for the third time as Badger finally got the first point on the board for Clapton.

Paul Hart (17.85)

0-4

Kevin Reid (23.03)

The penultimate game saw Welling B get the nap hand. Reid had little trouble in navigating the path to the point, rarely letting Hart into the match with steady if unspectacular scoring. It was only in the third leg where Hart had a chance, but the missed doubles took their toll and Reid eventually took the leg before cantering to the win in leg four.

John Sinclair (20.37)

4-1

Rich Innes (18.26)

Clapton did end the evening on a positive note. Sinclair took the first two legs, a 74 finish in the second backing up the initial break. Innes did briefly raise hopes of a comeback in the third, before Sinclair regained the ascendancy as he closed the game out in leg five.

Welling B are clear in third place on 16 points, but are already seven points behind leaders Woolwich. Clapton are tied for sixth spot with Chadwell Heath. Welling B entertain Woolwich next up so they have a chance to reduce the gap at the top. Clapton travel south of the river to take on Greenwich.