

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY VETERANS 1st TEAM REPORT

The first 3 matches in the Veterans Premier Division took place at Ashford TTC on 3rd / 4th December 2021. Leicestershire were represented in all matches by Chris Rogers, Dave Gannon, Abraham Conteh (making his Vets 1st team debut) and Karen Smith.

The first match against Berkshire started well with Chris beating Dave Barr and Abraham victorious against Hari Gehlot, both in 4 games. Chris and Karen recovered from 2-0 down to win their mixed doubles and Karen won her singles against Lisa Sprackling to maintain a 2 sets advantage at 4-2. This became 5-2 as Chris and Dave won the Mens doubles and Dave sealed the match with an extraordinary win over Hari Gehlot – at 2-1 up in games and 9-1 up in the 4th Dave was in control, but Gehlot fought back to win 12-10. Undeterred Dave went 10-1 up in the 5th only for Gehlot to incredibly level it at 10-10 before Dave somehow managed to stay composed and win the final 2 points. The last 2 sets were close wins for Berkshire leaving the final score as 6-4 to Leicestershire.

We then faced a strong Kent side who started strongly moving into a 4-1 lead with Chris beating Phil Cox to get Leicestershire on the scoreboard. Karen started the fightback with a 5 set win over Angie Bristow and Chris & Dave won a tight Mens Doubles. Abraham then produced an outstanding performance with a 4 game win over Phil Cox and Chris put Leicestershire 5-4 ahead with an 8 in the 5th win over Chris Bartram. Unfortunately, the final mixed doubles went the way of Kent leaving the final score 5-5.

The final match was against Yorkshire and a good start with Chris beating Chris Clinton, but the next 6 matches all went to Yorkshire. Leicestershire fought hard but luck was not on their side with 3 of those matches being lost close in the 5th – Karen to Janet Adams and a mixed and mens doubles. Dave fought back from 2-0 down to beat Tim Dyson and Chris beat Simon Pugh, also in 5 to give a slightly better look the final scoreline – 7-3 to Yorkshire.

This left Leicestershire in mid table on 3pts with 4 matches to play at Draycott at the end of January.

Table

#	Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	SF	SA	Pts
1	Yorkshire 1	3	3	0	0	71	52	19	11	6
2	Nottinghamshire 1	3	3	0	0	69	50	19	11	6
3	Kent 1	3	2	1	0	64	46	18	12	5
4	Leicestershire 1	3	1	1	1	54	65	14	16	3
5	Berkshire 1	3	1	0	2	57	57	15	15	2
6	Sussex 1	3	0	1	2	58	67	13	17	1
7	Middlesex 1	3	0	1	2	49	67	11	19	1
8	Derbyshire 1	3	0	0	3	48	66	11	19	0