Squash Report Devon Men’s Team in the Inter-County Championship

The Devon Squash Team travelled to Southampton last weekend to play in the Inter-County Division One play-offs to gain promotion to the Premier Division. The line-up included:

Mike Harris - Aged 23 & originally from Exeter, currently based in Bristol as a full time professional squash player playing on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) tour & currently ranked 136 in the world.
James Snell - Aged 25 & based in Exeter, ex full time professional on the PSA circuit with a highest world ranking of 85 & currently making his way back following hip surgery.
Dave Palmer - Aged 27 & based in Torquay, ex Torquay Squash Club pro & now a full time squash & tennis coach at Trinity School. Dave has also played for the county tennis team too!
Jonathan Gliddon (Devon Squash Team Captain) - Aged 42 & based in Plymouth, UK Sales Manager for a Cardiac Medical Device company. Played for England over 35's a few years ago, recently reached the quarter finals of the British Nationals over 40's in Manchester & just been selected as reserve for the England over 40's team this year. Has played for Devon for the last 26 years & had his 42nd birthday on the Sunday 17th March whilst playing in the Inter-Counties weekend & so makes him the third oldest player to ever play for Devon!
Ben Rodgers - Aged 21 & originally from Exeter but currently studying in Plymouth to be an actor.
Stuart Perrett - Aged 22 & based in Torquay. A much improved young player that has helped his Torquay Squash Club first team to Devon league title glory recently.

The Devon side, who were donning their new kit sponsored by "Plymouth Floor Sanding" with printing supplied by "Michael Spiers Jewellers", were always going to be up against it at this very high level & the first match against an Essex team who were all full-time professionals, proved exactly that. Devon lost 4-1 with the only people to pick up any points were Ben Rodgers at number 5 who won 3-1 & captain Jonathan Gliddon who lost a close 3-1. The rest of the team lost 3-0.
Devon's next match wasn't any easier either, against a Gwent side who, apart from their number 5 player, are all full-time professional players too! Stuart Perret came in at number 5 with captain Jonathan Gliddon being rested for this match & Stuart picked up his first county win 3-0. Unfortunately, those were the only points Devon were to earn out of this match as everyone else lost 3-0.
With promotion now impossible, the gutsy Devon players were determined not to suffer a weekend whitewash & picked themselves up to play against the home side of Hampshire on the Sunday. The only loss was from Mike Harris at the top of the order, who went down 3-1 & James Snell winning a convincing 3-0 at number two. Devon Captain Jonathan Gliddon was pushed up the order to number 3 with Dave Palmer resting in this match & displayed a captain’s performance to win 3-1. Ben Rodgers played entertaining squash to beat a very experienced 47 year old England Masters International 3-2 & Stuart Perrett pulled off his second win of the weekend to beat another England Masters International player, Stuart Summers 3-1.
The final placings ended up with Essex as winners of the play-offs, gaining promotion to the Premier Division, Gwent were second & Devon came a respectable third with Hampshire fourth. The result means that Devon will remain in Division One for next season where they will hope to build on this experience & aim for promotion once again.