**Tony Squash Doubles Tour**

**The Manor Health & Racquets Club**

There was some fantastically competitive Squash on display at the Manor Health & Racquets Club in Ilkeston on Saturday 14th April.

There were 2 grades of competition – the ‘A’ Grade (for county standard players) & the Mixed Grade (open to any level of male/female pairings). Format for the day was best of 3 games to 11 points, with point-a-rally scoring.

 The Mixed group was played on a round robin format so everyone played each other, with a remarkable score-line of everyone winning one match apiece, so bizarrely everyone in the league drew. 5-point play-offs took place for all pairings, with Phil Scully & Mhairi Dougal narrowly taking the honours.

With the ‘A’ event attracting some strong players the winners were going to be difficult to predict. Some excellent rallies and flamboyant shots were on display and none more so than from junior players Chris Longman and Gavin Hitchenor. They won their group comfortably enough and met Phil Scully & Dan Busby (from Chesterfield) in the semi-finals, who managed to get through a scare in the group stages. This was the most evenly contested match of the day and some amazing retrieving and creative shot-making was the theme for the entire match, with Phil & Dan just scrapping home by 2 games to 1.

The Final had father and son Dan & Robin Soar matched up against Phil & Dan B. Dan Soar played 3 quarters of the court, retrieving some unbelievable balls and volleying at every opportunity, whilst his dad took care of the backhand corner. This tactic seemed to unsettle Phil & Dan B for a while, with Phil & Dan B just sneaking it. After settling down in the 2nd Dan S just couldn’t keep the error rate down and made some mistakes and it ended being a reasonably comfortable 2-0 win for Phil & Dan B.

Everyone was treated to a great day and a very entertaining competition. A huge thank you goes to Tony Gay of Squash Court Plastering & Services who sponsored the event and the whole tour. The event was so much fun that next year has already been booked to return to the Manor.

