



## **Dorset Men's County Cup – 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

### **Report by Rich Irwin, Captain**

#### **Day 1 v Leicestershire**

Dorset started their campaign with a new look team filled with 3 debutants and 4 players still eligible for the U18 team against a tricky Leicestershire side. It turned out to be Dorset's day from the off as debutants Louis Allen and Freddie Powell got Dorset off to the perfect start while Dave Hill managed to come through a marathon 7-6 in the 3rd to put Dorset 3-0 up. This was backed up by the spearhead Adam Glynn, captain Richard Irwin and Millen Hurrion playing in his second Men's County Cup putting Dorset in the unreachable position of 6-0 up prior to the doubles. The onslaught didn't stop there as the pairs of Irwin/Glynn, Hurrion/Bathey (also making his debut) and the veteran and ever present Coombes/Hill took all 3 doubles to complete the surprise whitewash and got Dorset off to the perfect start.

#### **Day 2 v East Of Scotland**

East of Scotland were full of optimism going in to the tie due to their number 1 player who had arrived having missed Friday's start whilst also having beaten Dorset in the summer. We knew it was going to be a tough match and it proved to be just that. Dorset named an unchanged team and after the first 3 singles, it was Powell who kept Dorset in the tie at 1-2 while Allen and Hill came unstuck against a strong opposition. In the next round, captain Irwin couldn't overcome Alan McDonald who is Jamie Murray's full time coach however, Hurrion and Glynn came through two 3 setters to put the match all square at 3-3 going in to the doubles. While Hurrion/Bathey lacked the experience and level to cope with the strong number 2 pair for Scotland including McDonald, the ever reliable Matt Coombes paired up again with Dave Hill and after a slow start, managed to fight through in a championship tie break to send the tie in to the deciding match which gave the opportunity to the strong pair of Irwin and Glynn. They didn't disappoint with a near faultless display to take the win and the tie for Dorset!

#### **Day 3 v Durham and Cleveland**

With both teams on 2 wins, it was a straight play-off to see who would win the division and again it proved to be Dorset's day and in turn their weekend. It was impossible given the form and results for Irwin to name anything other than an unchanged side and it proved to do the trick. Following singles, Dorset had done the unthinkable and had sealed the tie with a 5-1 win. Amazing performances swept throughout the team in such tight matches that could have gone either way. Freddie Powell put in a fantastic performance but fell short 7-6 7-6 against a very strong D&C number 4, while the 5 wins for Dorset, all came in 3 sets!!

An unbelievable effort from an inexperienced team who easily filled the shoes of those missing in excellent fashion and made the weekend as epic and incredible as it was.