



## **MEN'S SUMMER COUNTY CUP 2018**

Report by Rich Irwin, Captain

### **TEAM**

Ben Battey  
Sam Bossem  
Adam Glynn  
Milen Hurrion  
Rich Irwin  
Tim Prossor  
Toby Samuel  
James White

### **Monday - Beat Hereford and Worcestershire 6-3**

The first day of what was due to be a gruelling week for all Counties involved with the heat staying in the high 20's, early 30's started superbly for Dorset and was a sign of what was to come. 3 difficult matches against a Hereford and Worcestershire team strong in depth found Dorset leading 3-0. A fantastic debut win for Sam Bossem partnering Ben Battey v H+W number 1 pair, was matched with a strong win for the power pair of Millen Hurrion (also making his Summer County Week debut) and James White, while the trusty pair of Irwin/Glynn came through in 3 sets to put Dorset in a strong position. While the pair of Bossem/Battey couldn't back up their first win, it was the other 2 pairs who again clinched two very tight matches. Hurrion/White came through having lost the first set to put Dorset 4-1 up while Irwin/Glynn battled again through another 3 setter winning 7-6 in the 3rd set to seal the tie for Dorset after only 2 rounds. For the 3rd round, both Toby Samuel who had arrived in from Holland later than expected and Tim Prossor, a recently graduated Cambridge student were brought in to mix the team up. Toby also making his debut got his week off to a good start with a win, while Hurrion/White and Battey/Prossor fell in tough matches but albeit with the job well done on Day 1.

### **Tuesday - Beat Warwickshire 5-4**

Following the results on Day 1, it soon became apparent that Dorset had been dealt the 3 toughest teams on the first 3 days and it didn't get any easier as a strong Warwickshire team were in front of us on Day 2. The first round saw the debutants Samuel/Bossem pair up who unfortunately fell short in their first match together, while Hurrion/White again powered through a 3 setter leaving the tie all square at 1-1. Irwin/Glynn were up against the Warwickshire number 1 pair and it looked to be slipping away as chances weren't being taken and Warwickshire had 2 match points. A superb pick up volley winner from Irwin when match point down turned the match on its head and an hour later, they had kept the winning run going and Dorset led 2-1 after another 3 set match. The second round saw the Dorset Dogs spirit shine through as Samuel/Bossem got their first win destroying the Warwickshire 3rd pair, Hurrion/White were too strong for the number 1's while Irwin/Glynn came through this time in 2 sets and again, Dorset had sealed the tie before the 3rd round. Again, the captain made changes to give Prossor and Battey more match time, and although Dorset lost all 3 of the last round, the job had been done and they didn't go down without a fight.

### **Wednesday - Beat Nottinghamshire 5-4**

Nottinghamshire arrived on Wednesday as the other team who had won both of their opening matches so we knew it was going to be another long day. Dorset had already been the last team there on the first 2 days and the 3rd day was no different. Irwin/Glynn kept their unbeaten run going with a straight forward win, while Samuel/Bossem started with a 3 set loss (which was due to be their first of 3 x 3 set losses on that day) but an unbelievable effort and learning curve for

the debutants who were showing the promise they hold in future years and how close they already were. It was Hurrion/Whike who pulled off the big result in the first round coming through 7-6 in the 3rd set to get Dorset 2-1 up. This time it wasn't to be a clean sweep in the 2nd round as Samuel/Bossem again coming so close, but falling in the 3rd set. Irwin/Glynn came through a tough battle v the Notts number 1 while again Hurrion/Whike came through in 3 sets to set Dorset up with a 4-2 lead. Irwin didn't make any changes with all still to play for and while both Samuel/Bossem and Hurrion/Whike fell short, the tie was tied at 4-4. Glynn stepped up though with some unbelievable returns when it mattered most to seal another win to keep the unbeaten record going for the pair and with it, sealed another nailbiting win for Dorset and edge them closer to promotion!

#### **Thursday - Beat Staffordshire 6-3**

Just when Dorset were hoping for an easier day, Staffordshire were fighting to stay up so came out guns blazing determined to pull off an upset and the first round was just as tough and intense as the previous 3 days had shown. Samuel/Bossem came through 7-6 7-6 in a fantastic match to overcome the heartbreak of the previous day's matches, while after another gruelling round, Dorset came through the tough matches. Irwin/Glynn and Hurrion/Whike both coming through 3 set matches and from a place where it could have gone either way, Dorset were again 3-0 up. The second round followed a similar suit as Samuel/Bossem again had another addition to the learning curve suffering another 3 set loss, but the experience of Hurrion/Whike and Irwin/Glynn prevailed as they came through in 2 sets to seal the win and with it Dorset's promotion!! Again Irwin made changes for the final round of matches but with nothing to play for, for either team, the last round was a formality and played in a friendly style as the match ended 6-3.

#### **Friday - Beat Oxfordshire 5-4**

With promotion secured and Oxfordshire relegated, the tie felt like the last stage of the Tour de France as Dorset made changes to give all of the players an opportunity. Oxfordshire also made changes but the match was done after 2 rounds as Dorset made light work of the day winning the tie 5-1 and with it securing the Title and Winners of the league.

An absolutely phenomenal achievement from all of the team and a fantastic opportunity for the debutants to come in and see how tough the week is but how beneficial it is. We hope this is the start of a climb up the divisions but as this year showed, no County Week is ever easy so to get through it with 5 wins, Irwin/Glynn undefeated (unfortunately Irwin wouldn't have lasted 15 so didn't play all) and strong performances through the whole team both on and off the court, it couldn't have gone much better!

On to Division 4.