

## COUNTY SENIOR 1<sup>st</sup> TEAM 2024/25 – 2<sup>nd</sup> WEEKEND

The second weekend of 4 matches in the Senior County Premier Division was held at Wood Green Academy, Wednesbury on 15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Leicestershire 1<sup>st</sup> Team regular's Chris Rogers, Luke Greenfield, and Karen Smith welcomed 2 new players– Mohammed Salameh making his county debut and Jessica Birbeck making her debut in the 1<sup>st</sup> Team.

With Leicestershire starting the weekend at the bottom of the table, it would require a monumental effort to lift themselves out of the relegation zone.

A first match against eventual champions **Middlesex** did not help the cause, and neither did 2 five game defeats in the first 3 sets for Luke and Karen. Mo made a classy debut with 2 wins but they were the only successes in an **8-2 defeat**.

**Yorkshire** were up next in what was pretty much a must win game, and Leicestershire delivered. Mo, Chris and Luke all won their opening singles but 2 more 5 game defeats for Karen and Luke, and a couple of fighting losses for Jess left Leicestershire 4-3 down. However, Karen, Mo and Chris reeled off the last 3 matches for a welcome **6-4 victory**.

Sunday morning saw fellow strugglers **Lancashire** as the opponents, and another closely fought match ended in a **5-5 draw**. Leicestershire had moved into a 4-2 lead with wins for Mo, Chris, Luke and Karen but then found themselves 5-4 behind. In the final match, Luke went 2-0 down in games before a great fightback saw him win 11-9 in the 5<sup>th</sup> and secure a point.

The final match was against **Norfolk** with 4 counties still battling to avoid the 2 relegation spots. Leicestershire knew that a draw *could* be enough to avoid relegation, but also knew that that a win may *not be* enough, depending on other results.

The match was finely balanced at 3-3 following wins for Mo, Luke and Karen. Norfolk took the next 2 sets but another win for Mo and a win for Chris salvaged a **5-5 draw**.

Unfortunately, a point was not enough, and Leicestershire have been relegated.

A great debut weekend for Mo, who won 7 out of 8 singles and looked a class above most players there.

### FINAL TABLE

Team	P	W	D	L	SF	SA	Pts
Middlesex 1	7	6	0	1	53	17	12
Essex 1	7	4	2	1	44	26	10
Sussex 1	7	3	2	2	37	33	8
Norfolk 1	7	3	2	2	36	34	8
Surrey 1	7	2	1	4	30	40	5
Yorkshire 1	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
Leicestershire 1	7	1	2	4	26	44	4
Lancashire 1	7	1	2	4	26	44	4

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