



PRESS RELEASE (for immediate publication)

Monday 16th November 2009

PAHC09/05

NOTTINGHAM RETURN TO TOP OF THE TABLE

Liverpool Speke Garston HC 21 – 25 University of Nottingham HC

The University of Nottingham Handball Club's Men's team are now joint top of the league after winning their game in hand while leaders Manchester had a day off. In a tough match, which saw both teams ending the game a man down, Nottingham showed enough composure to record their fourth win of the season.

In a tense start, both teams looked strong in defence as Nottingham went ahead but were pegged back to 5-5. In a sign of what was to come, the home team defended strongly and found several opportunities to shoot on goal. They were unlucky to strike the woodwork with many of their efforts, however, as Nottingham proved more accurate with their shooting. Despite this, Nottingham found themselves losing 8-6 as Speke showed how they beat champions Manchester earlier in the season. Nottingham regrouped to draw level and take a narrow 12-10 advantage at half time. The lead did not come cheaply though, as line player Ali Karakiprik sustained an injury in the process of scoring.

In the 2nd half, Speke started strongly, taking a quick lead before the visitors settled and restored their advantage. Throughout the 2nd half, Nottingham were pushed by their opponents but managed to maintain a slight lead throughout. The match was marred by the dismissal of 2 players late in the half, moments after confusion over a Speke time-out. Nottingham watched in frustration as a Speke goal was scored after the referee had blown the whistle for a time out. Then Nottingham's Cedric Biguenet and Speke's Ryan were both sent off by the referee, following an argument after the Nottingham player had been subjected to some aggressive treatment from the home side.

Nottingham defended strongly, restricting their opponents to 21 goals in 60 minutes. They outscored their opponents thanks to the contributions of Cedric Biguenet's 7 goals as well as strong performances from Hubert Marcinowski and Alberto Camara, both of whom scored 5 times. Alberto's contribution to the team was felt, after he missed the previous match, particularly in the line position in the 2nd half. Almost half of the home team's score came from Hennessy, whose 9 goals from the half and centre positions kept them in the game. Radcliffe and Ryan – before his dismissal – also contributed 3 goals each.

Nottingham are now kept off the top spot by goal difference alone as they picked up their fourth win of the season. The mid-way point in the league comes next week as they face Salford Quays for the first time. Nottingham will test whether their play off hopes are realistic in the next match, at Sutton Bonnington sports centre on Sunday 22nd November. For more information, see www.handballclub.co.uk

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The University of Nottingham Handball Club was established in February 1992 and is currently the only handball club in the East Midlands. The men's team are taking part in the National Division One North League in 2009/10. The club trains on Tuesdays (9-10:30pm) and Thursdays (8:30-10:30pm) at Nottingham University Park Sports Centre. Training is open to students and guests, male and female, of all levels from beginners up.

More information is available from Ahmad Beltagui, University of Nottingham Handball Club communications officer, 07717226565, nottingham_handball@hotmail.com or online

at www.handballclub.co.uk



Photo: The University of Nottingham Handball Club Men's team, following their win over Liverpool Speke Garston.

Back row (l-r): Claude-Eric Roy, William Eysauttier, Ruben Wolf, Alberto Camara, Dana Muhammed, Ali Karakiprik

Front row (l-r): Guillaume Bodet, Cedric Biguenet, Apostolos Fakis, Hubert Marcinowski, Karol Radziejowsk, Ahmad Beltagui