



PRESS RELEASE (for immediate publication)

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PAHC09/07

NOTTINGHAM END 2009 WITH BIG WIN

Manchester University HC 19 – 33 University of Nottingham HC

The University of Nottingham Handball Club's Men's team ended the year with a fine win after overcoming a shaky start against Manchester Uni. This season's objective of reaching the national end of season play-offs is back on track now that Nottingham have already won as many games as the whole of last season.

It could have been so different as Manchester Uni took an early 3 goal lead and the visitors looked shell-shocked. An ankle injury deprived Manchester of one of their best performers early in the game as Buczowski sat out the rest of the half. That co-incided with Nottingham eventually finding their feet and scoring quickly to get back into the contest. Eventually Nottingham began to assert themselves, particularly in defence, where they got to grips with their opponents attacking style and began to cancel them out. An excellent display of invention and movement in attack saw them build up a lead and the half ended with Nottingham in the ascendancy and leading 15:10.

In the second half, Nottingham took control and, after the Manchester goalkeeper took a knock to the head while brilliantly saving a penalty, things only got worse. In a mesmerising second half performance, Nottingham dominated their opponents and scored some wonderful goals to ensure the points and then improve their goal difference. The previous meetings between the sides had been tense, narrow matches, most notably, when the two teams met in Nottingham in October. A late flurry of goals on that occasion saw the home team win by only 3 goals. This time, however, Nottingham looked confident, strong in defence and creative in attack and they never looked back after taking control in the first half.

Nottingham's Jon Mardaras displayed his customary efficiency in attack, with 10 goals, while Guillaume Bodet contributed 7 and William Eyssautier added 5. Once again, captain Dana Muhammed produced some spectacular saves to keep the score down, but was beaten by Buczowski (7) and Hough (4).

The win leaves Nottingham in a strong position to push for the play-offs in the New Year. After a well earned Christmas break, the team returns to action on January 17th, when they face one of their nearest rivals for a place in the top three. After a narrow win on the opening day of the season, Nottingham will hope for another victory over Liverpool in January. 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, nottingham_handball@hotmail.com or online at www.handballclub.co.uk