



Warwickshire Basketball League

Press Release

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CLASSY HAWKS SINK CLAWS IN TROJANS

Tile Hill Trojans 94-105 Aylesford Hawks

For the second time in eight days, Tile Hill Trojans hosted a final, but, unlike the previous week when they won the Shield in overtime, they came unstuck in the Handicap Cup and were undone by their old rivals Aylesford Hawks.

Trojan armies fought battles hundreds of years ago, and this contest had everything a civilised, modern society could allow, but their Achilles heel was Alex Birch, whose one-man shooting show was a Herculean-like performance to win the cup almost single-handedly for Hawks. Birch scored 40 points including 16 from 20 at the line in a pulsating game in which Hawks took everything Trojans could throw at them, before the home side burnt themselves out.

The handicap had five points separating them at the start, at 15-20, and Hawks held that advantage, building on it after a slightly shaky three minute spell. Birch was supreme to put Hawks 33-50 ahead just before halftime, but Trojans came back to close strongly at 50-54 and Hawks were hanging on, until a late burst put them 61-54 up at the interval.

The sides traded baskets, the tempo increased even further, tempers became frayed and the home side struck to get within six, but up popped Birch again, whose speed combined well with his silky smooth captain Erik Zimmerman to go back on the offensive at 84-72. What a day it had been for the 6'5" Aylesford skipper, who had left Sweden in the morning, and arrived minutes before the game via Norway, London's Heathrow and Birmingham airports before donning the blue and white strip to lead the charge.

Trojans gave it one more crack. They powered their way back to 90-88 as the game became even more physical and feisty, until Birch took charge once more to steer Hawks home and break Trojans' hearts. Tired, but happy to hear the final buzzer, Zimmerman took the trophy from his Chairman and former leader of Warwickshire Basketball John Mumford.

So the season climaxed and ended in dramatic fashion with the two finals, but Warwickshire Basketball's two oldest clubs took a trophy each home for the summer, and they can re-charge before resuming battle stations once again in October for the elusive League title.

Points – Tile Hill Trojans: Duckers 2, Stephenson 2, Onions 15, Owen 7, Edwards 2, Robinson 15, Emery 13, Reinson 21, Fleming 2.

Aylesford Hawks: Impey 2, de Jong 13, Birch 40, Graham 2, Fennell 17, Alder 5, Zimmerman 6, Rotherham 0, Rumnyin 0

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