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Emphatic victory gives Lions title

Lions A are the new Doric Insurance Brokers Division One champions.

They beat their only rivals, Whistlers A, by an emphatic 9-1 score line.

Very little had separated the two teams all season and the one-sided nature of the win surprised even the Lions players. Full credit must be given to Phil Ogier, Jez Powell and James Lesbirel who all performed excellently when it mattered.

Since Christmas, Lions have been playing consistently well and at the start of the evening were probably slight favourites.

The first game of the night set the tone as the big two, Ogier and Pipet, fought for the early initiative.

The games between these two have been entertaining and tight encounters all season, but on this occasion Ogier at one game all sprinted to a 3-1 win, taking the last two games 11-1, 11-3.

Whistlers never recovered. Wayne Rihoy lost in straight sets to Powell, then Lesbirel beat Hunkin in five tight sets and with Ogier beating Rihoy 3-0, Lions were already 4-0 up.

Whistlers had to win the doubles and established handy leads in all three sets, but they were frittered away and Ogier and Powell played well to win 3 sets to nil. Lesbirel continued his impressive evening when he held match point against Pipet in the fourth set, but when the former missed a relatively easy smash at 10-9, Pipet pinched the fourth and won the final leg 11-7.

Powell secured Lions the title by beating Hunkin 3-1 in tight games.

The final three games were a bit flat as Lions coasted to the championship.