**CBS WIN OVER KILBRIN SETS UP GENUINE MUNSTER TITLE TILT**

***Report compliments of Colm Murphy***

A full-strength Ennis CBS hosted Kilbrin of North Cork in the Division 4 Munster Squash League last Thursday. A tough challenge was expected and so it transpired.

With Kilbrin missing two of their first-choice players, Chris Guiney faced the CBS’ Paddy Vaughan at number five. With Vaughan’s all-action style on show, he dominated proceedings early on with a 15-8 win. Guiney showed some excellent touches and some cool finishes kept him competitive but Vaughan’s athleticism drove him on to 15-8, 15-8 finishes for a 3-0 win.

Martin Daly was at number four, with Paddy McMahon of Kilbrin providing the opposition. McMahon’s ferocious power and superb boasts were a constant menace to the Lissycasey man, but his controlled and consistent technique gave Daly two 15-10 wins. Into the third, Daly’s fitness kept his level high and, though McMahon’s kills were impressive, it wasn’t enough to deny the CBS man his 3-0 win.

At number three, there was a terrific match between Ennis CBS’ Declan Downey & Jason O’Callaghan. O’Callaghan’s precise technique saw him dominate the early exchanges and claim the first game. Downey then found his rhythm with some fine drops and cross-court drives to level matters. It remained extremely even between the two players with O’Callaghan’s fluent striking posing a huge threat. Downey maintained a slightly higher level of consistency to take a 2-1 lead and then had the fitness to stave off a strong challenge from the Kilbrin man to gain a vital 3-1 win.

Oisin Casey and Kilbrin’s Brendan Barrett faced off, at number two, for the third time in a year and, as expected, each game was decided by the minimum margin. Casey’s solid defence and tight, straight drops were a key feature in his points won, while Barrett’s excellent technique meant he was killing his opportunities as they arose. The CBS man’s composure at the death in each game was exemplary and it just proved to be the difference in a 15-13, 15-12, 15-13 win over a tough opponent.

Ogonnelloe’s Colm Forde made his debut for Ennis CBS in Munster League competition with Tomas O’Riordan as his counterpart. This was a superb contest befitting its top seed billing. Forde’s patient play down the walls was matched by O’Riordan’s tremendous defence and quality attacking boasts. Forde took the first game 15-8 and had a 9-4 lead in the second before the Kilbrin man launched a determined rescue bid, brining it back to 13-14 before a relieved Forde took the game. Forde’s fitness was strong and he kicked on in the third for a 15-4 win and a 3-0 success. Ennis CBS now face an away trip to Thurles on November 23 and, even at this early juncture, it looks like a defining fixture in the competition.