

Newmarket Volleyball club made their third consecutive trip into London for National league duty with fixtures against Tooting and fellow visitors Southampton.

A depleted Newmarket Squad took on the Southampton side for their first game and fielded two players in their first NL games of the season. The much changed squad started well and an excellent match developed with the teams never more than 2 points apart. Newmarket reached the 25 point finishing line first but could not get the 2 clear point margin required for victory and Southampton saved 2 match points before taking a 1 point lead at 27:28, Newmarket then saved 7 match points before eventually finishing the first set 39:37 taking 40 minutes in an amazing set that will probably take years to supersede in the English national league .

The second set was a total contrast, and Newmarket still seemed to be thinking about their previous epic set as Southampton took a 25:17 set win. The Newmarket Coach reverted to the same player line up as the first set after the failed tactical switches from set two . Newmarket suddenly found real rhythm and setter Marius Opalanski reverse setting to Dovaston won some good kills . Newmarket struggled with their middle blocking at times but with Fabio stabile and Pete Gale in good hitting form Newmarket raced to an impressive 25 : 12 set victory.

The 4<sup>th</sup> set went the way of Southampton, but at 17:17 Newmarket should have pressed home their momentum leading the match 2.1. But to the coaches frustration unforced errors were made at crucial times and Southampton won 22:25 .

This set up a nail biting fifth set, and at 7:7 it looked to be going to another nail biter, but Newmarket began to panic, made errors with poor hits and with the final point a Newmarket service error, handed Southampton the match with a 10:15 set win

Newmarket 2 Southampton 3 . 39:37, 17:25, 25:12, 22:25, 10:15

This was an epic match of high quality taking exactly 2 hours 30 minutes .

A physically drained Newmarket then Took on a very Young inexperienced Tooting Team, who earlier lost 3:1 against Southampton. Fabio Stabile was rested for the match after his return from Injury , and Newmarket struggled to reach the high Physical tempo of the first match. But in a strangely quiet match Newmarket cruised to a 3:0 win taking just over 1 hour to seal victory .

Newmarket 3 Tooting 0 25:18, 25:19, 25:10