

NVC 2
Rhinos 3

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Newmarket welcomed Rhinos for the second home County League match of the new season, Pete provocatively selecting an ex-Rhinos player in the first 6.

An early lead was established largely on the basis of Rhinos errors before spells of point trading ensued. A final flurry saw the "Market Boys" run out easy winners of the first set, as expected on past form.

Provocative Pete then made 3 substitutions at the start of the second set, Rhinos also made substitutions & raced to an early 5-0 lead. Newmarket were initially unable to make inroads into the deficit but in the third quarter of the set came back to within 2 points. Rhinos then applied the pressure again & took the set easily.

The third set saw a further 3 Newmarket substitutions & a closely fought set ended with Rhinos clinching it by 3 points. 1-2 & all to play for.

Set 4, another 3 substitutions & an early Rhinos lead. In one service rotation Kris produced 10 hard flat serves persecuting the libero to destroy a potentially winning Rhinos position & take Newmarket from 9 to 19 points, the set was won at a canter from there...

Set 5, 2 all, more substitutions including a position change by PP & Rhinos raced to an 8-2 lead. At this point "loser birthday-boy" Watts was subbed off & the Market Boys recovered to 10-10. However it all ended in tears 11-15, a rare loss to Rhinos.

The silver lining was the astute move to pre-book the duty manager to re-open the bar for a "late taste"...