New team, the Beverley Cougars, started the pre-season with a tough match against the league favourites, Hull Hornets. Although it was only a friendly match, both teams set out to win.

The Hornets started the brighter of the two teams, taking advantage of the mistakes that the Cougars made, and took a slender first-quarter lead of 18-14. However, in the second quarter, the shots started to find the basket for the Cougars. They captured the lead thanks to baskets from Rob Brown and Chris Roberts. The defence played their part as well, working well as a unit, only allowing the Hornets to score two baskets.

At the start of the third quarter, the Cougars were brimming with confidence, extending their lead to eight, thanks to another Chris Roberts shot and one from Sam Dewsbury. But, the momentum started to change. The Cougars started to commit unnecessary fouls, which ruled out some key players and gave the Hornets a way back into the match. The Hornets took the incentive and re-gained the lead.

It was all still to play for in the final quarter, with only four points in it. Ciaran Mills scored a quick basket but the Hornets responded straight away. Coach, Steven Lindsey, made an appearance and was instantly effective, getting two points. But everything the Cougars did was responded to by the Hornets, who carried on scoring until the end buzzer, winning 55 – 47 in the end.

The Cougars may have lost the match, but they certainly left with their heads held high. Coach Steven Lindsey said “*The boys played really well tonight, especially considering it was their first time playing together. We hope to build on this result.*”