

DLP ADAPTED BATHROOMS IOM TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

MATCH REPORT FOR WEEK ENDED 20 MARCH 2016

COPY SHOP ARE CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

Copy Shop A crushed nearest rivals Arbory 7-2 on Sunday night to ensure that they again retained their title in Division 1 of the DLP Adapted Bathrooms sponsored Isle of Man Table Tennis League. Led by Ronan McDonnell and Sean Drewry they were far too strong for an Arbory side missing its injured number one Sam Bailey and now have a 4 point lead over Arbory who have completed their league programme.

There were more yet twists in the race for the Division 2 championship as leaders Tower B could only manage a draw whilst both Peel A and Travellers B recorded convincing wins to turn up the pressure. Consequently, Tower's lead is now just 10 points over Peel, with Travellers 3 points back in third, with both sides having a game in hand on the leaders.

At the bottom St Ninians and Surestrike Ramsey C are destined for the drop, and their fate is likely to be sealed this week – with Kings and Copy Shop D destined to replace them.

DIVISION ONE

Copy Shop A (7) Arbory (2)

Arbory's championship hopes were already slim following last week's defeat to Surestrike Ramsey A and they were dealt a further blow when Sam Bailey picked up an injury during the week. Copy Shop were at full strength with Ronan McDonnell making only his sixth appearance of the season and both he and recent Top 12 winner Sean Drewry notched hat-tricks to ensure a comfortable victory for the reigning champions. However, whilst McDonnell was taken to five sets by Mike Tamarov and only edged out Jason Quirk 12/10 in the fifth, Drewry dropped just a solitary set (to Tamarov) all evening.

Arbory's points came as Quirk battled back from 2 sets down to take Paul Corran 14/12 in the final set and Tamarov conquered Corran in 4 sets – though Corran was victorious in his other encounter, comfortably beating Keeran Chan in straight sets.

Travellers A (1) Strathallan A (8)

Strathallan are destined to finish 3rd and they inflicted a heavy defeat on 5th placed Travellers, although 4 of the games went the full distance. Andy Patterson and Julian Briercliffe took 3 wins each, with Travellers only point coming when Malcolm Cummings edged past Andy Horne 11/8 in the final set. However, it could have been more as Cummings pushed Patterson all the way before succumbing 7/11 in the fifth and went even closer to upsetting Briercliffe, eventually going down 9/11 in the final set.

Patterson was also extended to 11/8 in the fifth by Juan Moore, one of the rising young stars of Manx table tennis, who will have benefited hugely from the experience of stepping up from Division 2 for the night.

DIVISION TWO

Peel B (5) Tower B (5)

An under-strength Tower saw their lead at the top shrink as they were held to a draw by the young Peel B side. Steve Curtis and Graham McFarlane each won two and then combined to take the doubles to secure the draw. Curtis fell in 3 sets to Sasha Thomas and McFarlane lost out 9/11 in the fifth to Nathan Evans.

Peel's other points came as Thomas and Evans both saw off Barry Jenkins in 4 sets, then Callan Reed impressively defeated Jenkins in straight-sets in the battle of the substitutes.

Travellers D (0) Peel A (10)

Peel closed the gap by 5 points as they hammered an under-strength Travellers D side, with only 3 encounters going as far as a fourth set. Malc Lewis, Maggie Mulhern and Mattie Evans revitalised the Westerners' title challenge with a performance to which David and Alex Buck and Jack Nelson had no answer.

If Peel can take maximum points from their game in hand they will move level with Tower B at the top, so an exciting end to the season is in prospect.

Copy Shop C (2) Travellers B (8)

A very strong Travellers team kept up the pressure on the leaders with a comfortable victory over third bottom Copy Shop. Juan Moore and Paul Nelson both weighed in with hat-tricks, whilst Mike Dunning stepped up from Travellers D for the evening and picked up wins over Ben Christian (11/8 in the fifth) and Max Walker (straight-sets). However, Pedro Cardoso disposed of Dunning 11/7 in the fifth and then combined with Christian to take the doubles 11/8 in the fifth to ensure that Copy Shop got some reward for their evening's endeavours.

Copy Shop B (5) Surestrike Ramsey B (5)

Tim and Kerenza Baker's doubles victory in the final action of the evening secured Surestrike's 4th draw of the season. With Jack Craik's defeat of Kevin Drewry in 5 sets combined with Tim Baker's hat-trick, this result saw the upwardly mobile Ramsey side move into 4th spot, their highest of the season to date.

For Copy Shop, Freya Melvin played very well to beat Craik 11/9 in the fifth and Kerenza Baker in 3 close sets, whilst Drewry just squeezed home against Kerenza 11/7 in the fifth. Rob Sim edged out Craik by the same score in the fifth and also beat Kerenza in 3 sets to ensure that honours ended even.

St Ninians (4) Travellers C (6)

St Ninians were gifted 3 points as Travellers were a player short but could only add to this through Matt Harvey's 4-set defeat of Adrian Tinkler - although Harvey did push Alan Harding all the way, taking the first 2 sets before succumbing 7/11 in the fifth.

Harding and Tinkler took the remainder of the singles in straight-sets and then edged out Harvey and Matty Kelly 11/6 in the fifth to secure victory. This result leaves St Ninians and Surestrike Ramsey C now level on points in the relegation places - but with a 25 point gap to the next side (Copy Shop C) it is only a matter of time before both their fates are sealed.

DIVISION THREE

Kings (10) Surestrike Ramsey E (0)

Another straight-forward evening for champions Kings as they recorded their tenth whitewash of the season. Whilst Surestrike Ramsey were never close to picking up any points they battled well and did manage to take 4 of the matches to 4 sets.

Kings have still dropped just 10 points in their debut season and Matt Crabtree remains undefeated. He, Steve Jelly and Mark Cooper will be looking forward to testing themselves at the higher level next season, where they will undoubtedly will find life much tougher than they have this term.

Tower C (6) Surestrike Ramsey D (4)

Tower C sealed third place with this win, but will be disappointed not to have managed to secure a return to Division 2 after last year's relegation. In contrast, Surestrike Ramsey D

will be pleased to have moved ahead of their E team into fourth spot and particularly encouraged by the improving form of young Dylan and Alex Yardley.

Dylan led the way with excellent wins over Heather Kennett and Margaret Forsyth (11/4 in the fifth) and also took a set off Barry Jenkins who was undefeated for Tower. Jack and Alex Yardley both overcame Kennett, but fell to Forsyth before Jenkins and Kennett took the doubles to ensure a narrow win for Tower.

Junior Development 1 (6) Peel C (4)

Ninth placed Junior Development 1 rounded off their campaign with their 4th win of the season as they edged out two-man Peel C. Callan Reed led the way with wins over Tiernan Garvey in 4 and Archie Walter in straight sets, whilst Louis Faragher overcame Walter in 4 but found Garvey much too strong. Both Garvey and Walter saw off Lauren Allwright in straight sets and then took the doubles in similar fashion over Reed and Faragher to ensure Peel move up to seventh position.

TIM BAKER