

## DLP ADAPTED BATHROOMS IOM TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

MATCH REPORT FOR WEEK ENDED 13 MARCH 2016

### **RAMSEY STRIKE DOWN TITLE HOPEFULS!**

The battle for honours in Division 1 of the DLP Adapted Bathrooms sponsored Isle of Man Table Tennis League moved decisively in favour of reigning champions Copy Shop A, as rivals Arbory were beaten 5-4 by Surestrike Ramsey A. Arbory now have a single point lead over Copy Shop, having played a game more, and need a comprehensive victory when the sides meet on Sunday to have any hope of taking the title. Meanwhile, at the bottom, Tower A's relegation was confirmed as they were heavily beaten by Travellers A.

In contrast, Tower B's hopes of taking the Division 2 title were boosted by their 8-2 victory whilst nearest challenges Peel A suffered a surprise 6-4 defeat at the hands of Surestrike Ramsey B. As a result, Tower now have a 15 point lead over Peel at the top, with Travellers B a further point back in third, though both sides have a game in hand on the leaders.

In Division 3, Copy Shop D recorded another big win to secure the runners-up spot and will be promoted along with Kings who secured the championship last week.

### **DIVISION ONE**

#### **Arbory (4) Surestrike Ramsey A (5)**

Surestrike were without Adam Teare and Wael Kassim, but stand-in Tim Baker's hat-trick set them on the road to a shock win. Baker edged out Sam Bailey in 5 sets, before also seeing off the challenge of Keeran Chan and Mike Tamarov. Rhys Yardley also excelled with a win over Chan and a 13/11 fifth set defeat of Tamarov to secure Ramsey's victory.

Bailey, however, had too much power for Yardley and also for Chris Holmes, who battled well on his first division debut but could not overcome either Chan or Tamarov.

#### **Tower A (2) Travellers A (7)**

This was a must-win game for bottom-side Tower against the side nearest to them in the table. However, they contributed to their own downfall by conceding 3 points due to playing a man short, whereas Travellers called up both Paul Nelson and Juan Moore from their 2<sup>nd</sup> division sides.

Dario Mazzotta took both Tower's points with a 12/10 fifth set defeat of Nelson and a 4 set win over the rapidly improving Moore, but was unable to extend Malcolm Cummings beyond 3 sets. Each of the Travellers players overcame Mike Bayley in 4 sets to ensure their own first division survival and send Tower down.

### **DIVISION TWO**

#### **Surestrike Ramsey B (6) Peel A (4)**

Peel's title hopes went west as they tasted defeat for only the second time this season, being beaten by fifth placed Surestrike Ramsey B. 13 year-old Jack Craik starred for Surestrike, coming back from 2 sets down to defeat Maggie Mulhern and then Malc Lewis in a performance that captured the attention of everyone present at Bemehague.

Tim Baker overcame Mulhern, Lewis and Mattie Evans in straight-sets, whilst Evans saw off Craik before coming back to beat Kerenza Baker in 5 sets. With Mulhern and Lewis both too

strong for Kerenza it came down to the doubles to determine the result, which Craik and Tim Baker took in 4 close sets.

### **Tower B (8) Surestrike Ramsey C (2)**

Peel's reverse opened up the opportunity for Tower B, who duly took advantage by securing an 8-2 win over relegation-zoned Surestrike Ramsey C. David Parsons made a rare appearance and was undefeated for the league leaders, whilst Chris Holmes took both Ramsey's points with wins over Steve Curtis and Graham McFarlane. Curtis was also extended by Nathan Walker who came back from 2 sets down before falling short 8/11 in the fifth. With 3 fixtures remaining and a 15 point lead at the top, Tower will now expect to secure the points required to take the championship.

### **Travellers C (0) Travellers B (10)**

Travellers B however clearly showed that they have no intention of conceding the title, with a very comprehensive win over Travellers C.

Juan Moore, Colin Barron and Tommy Cowin carried all before them, with only Adrian Tinkler managed to extend them beyond straight sets, before going down in 5 to both Cowin and Barron. If Travellers do fall short in the final outcome they may well reflect on what might have been but for Cowin's injury woes which caused him to miss several matches in mid-season.

### **Peel B (2) Travellers D (8)**

Upwardly mobile Travellers D continued their good progress as 3 wins for both Mike Dunning and Paul Nelson cemented their 4<sup>th</sup> place at the expense of Peel, who consequently slipped 2 places to 7<sup>th</sup> in a congested mid-table.

David Buck chipped in a point by beating Harry Walters and took the doubles with Dunning, but was beaten by both Nathan Evans and Sacha Thomas in 4 sets. Thomas came close to adding to Peel's tally but was edged out 8/11 in the fifth set by Nelson.

### **Copy Shop C (6) Copy Shop B (4)**

A Ben Christian hat-trick and a brace from Fraser Dorling gave the C team a narrow victory in the Copy Shop derby. Dorling fell to Kevin Drewry in 4 sets, who was beaten by Max Walker in straight sets, all at deuce. Rob Sim took revenge with a comprehensive straight sets win over Walker, who was then edged out 9/11 in the fifth by Freya Melvin who performed well on her return from injury. Sim and Dewry comfortably took the doubles to leave Copy Shop B in 5<sup>th</sup> spot, with the C team in 9<sup>th</sup> but with a comfortable gap over the two sides below them.

## **DIVISION THREE**

### **Junior Development 2 (1) Copy Shop D (9)**

Copy Shop comfortably disposed of Junior Development 2 to take the points needed to secure the runners-up spot they have occupied for virtually the whole time since early October. In the absence of their number 1 Zac Walker Billy Coulter led the way, with 3 straight-set wins, ably supported by Neil Dudley. Leo Doyle was too strong for Lauren Allwright and Victoria Watson, but could not overcome Lily Byrne who recorded another impressive win in 4 sets to prevent the white-wash.

### **Junior Development 1 (5) Copy Shop E (5)**

Junior Development 1 secured an excellent draw with Copy Shop E thanks to Callan Reed's hat-trick, well supported by Louis Faragher. Reed swept aside both Pat Halliwell and Sophie Sheard in 4 sets, and edged out Kitty Thomas 11/7 in the fifth. Faragher chipped in an 11/9

fifth set win over Sheard and teamed up with Reed to take the doubles, also in 5 sets, but was unable to trouble Halliwell or Thomas. Meanwhile, although defeated by each of the Copy Shop girls, young William Shooter showed up well and is definitely a name to watch for in the future.

### **Copy Shop F (4) Peel C (6)**

Tiernan Garvey again impressed with another hat-trick in what has been an outstanding first league season. Archie Walter also shone with 5 set victories over Cam Dudley and Leo Doyle and the two of them took the doubles by the narrowest of margins, 11/9 in the fifth. Josh Dudley edged out Walter in 4 sets thus taking the home side's solitary win to accompany the 3 points awarded due to Peel's missing third player.

TIM BAKER