

Big two lead the way in top division

After only three weeks of the league season the indications are that the big two - Copy Shop A and ABC Arborists - will again battle it out for the First Division Championship.

Both won 8-1 this week - champions Copy Shop against Foxdale and Arborists against Tower A, so Copy Shop remain one point clear of their rivals. Ewan Watterson and Sean Drewry were 100% for Copy Shop while Andrew Tam and Liam Chan were unbeaten for Arborists.

The match between the only other unbeaten teams in the division ended in a 5-4 victory for Strathallan over Breakaway A, Paul Corran's three wins for Breakaway not being quite enough to clinch victory. It was a similar story in the match between the two promoted teams. Nigel Beattie took all three for Zurich Spinners but it was Travellers A who claimed a 5-4 victory.

Division Two

This has all the hallmarks of being a very open division with any two from possibly half a dozen teams being in with a chance of promotion. Two of the likely contenders are SureStrike Ramsey B and Peel A. The two teams settled for a 5-5 draw after a hard fought encounter which saw three matches going the distance while five others required a fourth game. Tim Baker won three for Ramsey with Matty Evans, notching up two victories, being best for Peel.

Copy Shop B still top the division but their lead was cut to two points after they were held to a draw by Travellers C for whom Alan Harding won all three. This was another long match with three matches going the distance while six others need a fourth game. Tower B's 7-3 triumph over Travellers D keeps them in second place, Steve Curtis and Simon Radcliffe taking three apiece.

Another player to finish the night unbeaten was Rhys Yardley of SureStrike Ramsey A. He did it in style, not dropping a single leg, and helping his team to a 6-4 victory over Peel B. Travellers B began their campaign with a 9-1 win over Tower C and will undoubtedly have a say in who gets promoted at the end of the season.

Division Three

Breakaway B and St. Ninian's look like the teams to beat in Division Three. Both had big wins - Breakaway B by 10-0 over Junior Development and St

Ninian's 8-2 over Peel C. These two share the lead and are followed by Copy Shop D who accounted for their E team 7-3.

I suspect these three teams will still be around the top - with the possible addition of one of the SureStrike Ramsey teams - when the medals are handed out.

There was further good news this week in regard to table tennis sponsorship. Hard on the heels of the agreement for league sponsorship from DLP Adapted Bathrooms, Isle of Man Bank has announced it is to sponsor this season's Top 12 Junior and Senior tournaments. The Association welcomes the involvement of these local companies in one of the Island's fastest growing sports.

Results of the DLP Adapted Bathrooms Ltd Table Tennis League:

Division One

ABC Arborists 8 Tower A 1; Copy Shop A 8 Foxdale 1; Breakaway A 4 Strathallan 5; Zurich Spinners 4 Travellers A 5.

Division Two

SureStrike Ramsey B 5 Peel A 5; Travellers C 5 Copy Shop B 5; Peel B 4 SureStrike Ramsey A 6; Tower C 1 Travellers B 9; Travellers D 3 Tower B 7.

Division Three

IoM Junior Development 0 Breakaway B 10; Copy Shop D 7 Copy Shop E 3; Peel C 2 St Ninian's 8.

ENDS