

DLP ADAPTED BATHROOMS IOM TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

MATCH REPORT FOR WEEK ENDED 6 MARCH 2016

KINGS TAKE THIRD DIVISION TITLE!

New-boys Kings have now secured the Third Division championship in the DLP Adapted Bathrooms sponsored Isle of Man Table Tennis League with 3 fixtures remaining, whilst Copy Shop D remain favourites for the runners-up spot.

The battle for honours in Division 1 moved slightly in favour of reigning champions Copy Shop A whose lead over Arbory grew to 3 points with both sides having 2 matches remaining. Meanwhile, at the bottom, the future looks ominous for Tower A who are now 5 points adrift having played a match more than Travellers A whom they meet on Sunday in a must-win fixture.

In Division 2, Travellers B rested whilst their two title challengers both recorded comfortable wins to turn up the pressure at the top. Leaders Tower B have played one match more than their rivals and hold an 11 point advantage over Peel A with Travellers a further 7 points back. The bottom two sides, Surestrike Ramsey C and St Ninians, changed places but despite improving both look to have too much to do to catch Copy Shop C in ninth.

DIVISION ONE

Copy Shop A (8) Tower A (1)

The reigning champions comfortably disposed of relegation-threatened Tower as both Paul Corran and Top-12 champion Sean Drewry recorded straight-set hat-tricks. Adam Davies played a big part in this resounding victory with straight-forward wins over both Mike Bayley and Dario Mazotta. Davies also pushed Paul Kowzloski hard before the Tower number 1 edged home 11/5 in the final set to take his side's solitary point.

Arbory (7) Strathallan A (2)

Arbory maintained the pressure on the leaders with a good win over third-placed Strathallan. Jason Quirk led the way with an impressive hat-trick, though he was pushed all the way by Andy Patterson with 3 of their 5 sets going to deuce, including the final set which Quirk took 12/10. Patterson also went the full distance before going down to John Magnall, but proved too strong for Mike Tamarov in 4 sets, whilst Julian Briercliffe took Strathy's other point with a straight-sets defeat of Magnall.

DIVISION TWO

St Ninians (1) Tower B (9)

The Divisional leaders got back to winning ways after last week's reverse against Travellers B with a 9-1 defeat of Saints, who slipped to the bottom of the table as a result. Steve Curtis and Simon Radcliffe both bagged hat-tricks for Tower, whilst Matt Harvey secured an impressive win over Graham McFarlane to secure Saint's solitary point with an 11/8 fifth set success.

Copy Shop C (1) Peel A (9)

Peel A moved ahead of the inactive Travellers B into runners-up spot as they matched Tower's result with a 9-1 win over Copy Shop C. Malc Lewis and Maggie Mulhern swept all before them for Peel, although Lewis was pushed hard by Max Walker, coming back from 2-sets down to prevail 11/5 in the fifth set.

Walker did however enjoy success in an equally close encounter with Mattie Evans which ended 12/10 in the fifth set to secure Copy Shop's solitary reward from their evening's efforts

Travellers D (6) Surestrike Ramsey B (4)

Travellers D continued their recent rise up the table with a narrow defeat of Surestrike Ramsey B and as a result now occupy fourth place. Their win was secured by a doubles victory from Mike Dunning and David Buck, who recovered from two sets down to edge out Tim and Kerenza Baker 11/7 in the fifth.

Earlier Dunning and Buck had both defeated Kerenza Baker and Jack Craik, whilst Alex Buck had beaten Kerenza but been out-hit by Craik. Meanwhile Tim Baker maintained his 100% season record with 3 wins, which included a hard-hitting 4-set defeat of Dunning in a keenly contested encounter.

Peel B (5) Surestrike Ramsey C (5)

Surestrike Ramsey C continued their recent improvement and moved off the bottom of the table for the first time since September, as Chris Holmes and Frank Feeney took another good doubles win to secure a draw with fifth placed Peel B.

Chris Holmes arrival at the Ramsey club following his return from university has been the catalyst to their improved form and he again bagged a hat-trick of singles wins. Nathan Walker chipped in Surestrike's other point with a straight-sets defeat of Harry Walters.

For Peel both Nathan Evans and Sasha Thomas picked up two victories, whilst Walters beat off Feeney's challenge to ensure that honours ended even.

Copy Shop B (10) Travellers C (0)

Copy Shop halted their recent slide down the table with a 10-0 whitewash of Travellers C. Accordingly, they moved ahead of Surestrike Ramsey B into sixth and with a game in hand on the two sides above them and only a two point differential they will still be eyeing fourth place optimistically.

Only 4 games went beyond a third set as Rob Sim, Kevin Drewry and Pedro Cardoso swept all before them. This result leaves Travellers isolated in eighth place, and with sizeable gaps to the teams either side of them this seems likely to be their finishing position.

DIVISION THREE

Kings (10) Junior Development 2 (0)

Kings whitewash of the all-girl Junior Development 2 side secured the title in their first season in the League. Matt Crabtree, Steve Jelly and Christo Roelorse were all too strong for their young opponents, though Lily Byrne from Ramsey continued her impressive form by taking a set off both Jelly and Roelorse. With Victoria Watson and Lauren Allwright also showing up well, the future of female table tennis on the Island looks in good hands as the development structure led by Malc Lewis and Maggie Mulhern bears fruit.

Surestrike Ramsey D (4) Copy Shop D (6)

The young Copy Shop side edged closer to promotion with a narrow victory over the improving Surestrike Ramsey D team who remain fifth. Zac Walker led the way with an excellent hat-trick, including an impressive 5-set victory over the evergreen Jack Yardley. Billy Coulter provided strong support with 4-set defeats of both Alex and Dylan Yardley, but Jack Yardley's experience proved too much for both him and Jack Christian. Christian was also edged out by Dylan 12/10 in the fifth set, but recovered from losing the first set to defeat Alex in 4 sets. Alex and Dylan however teamed up to take the doubles in straight sets.

Copy Shop E (1) Tower C (9)

Tower moved into third place with this comprehensive win to keep alive their outside chances of finishing in the runners-up spot. Barry Jenkins and Margaret Forsyth were both undefeated all evening, however Libby Quaggin notched up a good win over Heather Kennett to take the Copy Shop girls' sole point.

Peel C (6) Junior Development 1 (4)

Tiernan Garvey continued to impress in what has been an excellent first season of league table tennis and was undefeated for Peel. Archie Walter provided strong support with wins over Louis Faragher and William Shooter, before teaming up with Garvey to take the doubles 11/9 in the fifth against Callan Reid and Faragher. Reid however was just too strong for Walter, edging home 11/5 in the fifth, adding to the 3 points JD picked up from Peel's missing third player.

TIM BAKER