

Table tennis April 9th

Double triumph for Travellers as season concludes

The Isle of Man Table Tennis League came to a conclusion on Wednesday with the final two issues resolved - but what a dramatic night it turned out to be, particularly in the third division. So let's go through the results and then see what they all mean.

Division One

The unresolved issue here was whether Breakaway A or Arbory claimed the runners-up spot behind Copy Shop A. Arbory led by six points going into the last match.

Breakaway A 7 Foxdale B 3

Paul Corran and Mark Johnson finished the night unbeaten for Breakaway having done all they could to put pressure on Arbory - Andy McLarney, Ken Mitchell and Mike Bayley each winning one for Foxdale. This meant Arbory only needed two points from their last match to take second position. That shouldn't have been a problem and it wasn't.

Arbory 7 Travellers A 3

Despite having to play one short and thus concede three games Arbory were never in danger and Liam Chan and Mike Tamarov ensured they easily got the points they needed. Travellers did make them work for it as five of the ten matches required a fourth game.

Tower A 10 Foxdale A 0

This was an impressive performance by Tower against the team one place ahead of them in the league and the two change places after this result. Dave Parsons, Tim Baker and Paul Kozlowski pocketed all ten points. Three matches required a fifth game but Tower won them all - Dave Parsons just pipping David Lovelady 17/15 in the decider.

Division Two

Surestrike Ramsey A 0 Travellers B 10

Champions Travellers finished the season unbeaten - the only team in the three divisions to do so - and for good measure they didn't drop a single game in this encounter. Ramsey were without captain Rhys Yardley who would have had some say in the final result.

Tower C 1 Zurich Spinners 9

Spinners welcomed back captain Nigel Beattie after his enforced absence with a football injury and Nigel, together with Tommy Cowin, was unbeaten, Colin Barron losing only once - to Dave Callow.

Breakaway B 5 Travellers C 5

Breakaway were playing one reserve but it was still a good result for Travellers who celebrated retaining their Division Two status. Chris Kewley won three for Breakaway and Aaron Faragher two. Maurice Campbell put two points on the board for Travellers which included a four game win over Aaron. Alan Harding and Adrian Tinkler added one more each and Travellers then won the doubles for a share of the spoils.

Peel B 0 Peel A 10

Peel A finished the season in third position with this win over their B team. Malcolm Lewis, Maggie Mulhern and Mattie Evans were in no mood to concede anything to their clubmates but Vishal Patel took Maggie to 11/9 in the fifth game.

Division Three

This was where the real drama was played out. Travellers D and Peel C were already promoted but the question was who would be champions? Travellers D led by just two points going into the last match, so what happened?

Peel C 10 Breakaway C 0

Nathan Evans, Sasha Thomas and Harry Walters wrapped up all ten points - although they only won the doubles 11/7 in the decider - so this meant Travellers D had to win 9/1 or 10/0 to become champions. The result was:

Travellers D 9 Surestrike Ramsey C 1

So Travellers won the league title by just one point in an exciting finale to the season. Juan Moore junior and David Buck were unbeaten while Juan Moore senior lost only one. Billy Cain pulled one back for Ramsey.

Copy Shop D 10 Copy Shop E 0

The D team just missed out on promotion although Kevin Drewry, Zac Walker and Max Walker finished off the season in style, Pat Halliwell and Libby Quaggin making their opponents go to a fourth game.

Junior Development 0 Surestrike Ramsey B 10

Ramsey B finish in fourth position with Kerenza Baker, Calvin Koske and Marcus Koske denying their young opponents the need for any deciders.

So, to sum up. This is how the championship and relegation issues have gone. Division One: champions, Copy Shop A; runners-up, Arbory; relegated: Foxdale B and Travellers A. Division Two: champions, Travellers B; runners-up, Zurich Spinners; relegated: Peel B and Tower C. Division Three: champions, Travellers D; runners-up Peel C. So it was a double triumph for Travellers who claimed both the Divisions Two and Three titles.

Finally, congratulations to Mark Johnson who won the Division One singles final by inflicting a rare defeat on Ronan McDonnell. Mark came back from two games down to take the decider 11/8

ENDS