

table tennis March 26th

Travellers B are Division Two champions

There are only two weeks left in the Isle of Man Table Tennis League and some of the main issues have now been decided. Copy Shop A have almost - but not quite - retained their Division One title. Main focus now switches to the runners-up spot where Breakaway A lead Arbory by just one point. Travellers B are confirmed as Division Two champions while Zurich Spinners are virtually certain to join them in Division One next season. The struggle continues in the Third Division where only three points separate the top three teams.

Results:

Division One

Copy Shop A 5 Arbory 5

This was quite a match as befits the encounter between the first and third placed teams. Three went the distance while five others required a fourth game. Ronan McDonnell won all three for Copy Shop while Ewan Watterson and Sean Drewry backed him up with one point each. Jason Quirk led Arbory's fight back with two wins while John Magnall and Mike Tamarov contributed one each. Arbory took the doubles at 11/5 in the fifth to earn a draw.

Tower A 8 Foxdale B 2

Ken Mitchell and Andy McLarney put the points on the board for already relegated Foxdale B but it wasn't enough as Tower won comfortably with three each from Tim Baker and Paul Kozlowski to go with one from Dave Parsons.

Strathallan 9 Travellers A 1

Paul Nelson's victory over Andy Patterson was Travellers' only win of the night leaving Julian Briercliffe, Hadyn McLarney and Andy to sweep up the remainder for Strathallan. Travellers A are also relegated with Foxdale B and with their own B team having already won promotion from Division Two the Travellers selection committee will have some interesting decisions to make for next season.

Division Two

Tower B 8 Zurich Spinners 2

Second placed Spinners were still without captain Nigel Beattie who succumbed to a football injury. Tommy Cowin did his best to cover for his captain with two wins, only losing to Steve Curtis at 11/9 in the decider. Steve was unbeaten for Tower with Graham McFarlane and Simon Radcliffe only losing once. Despite the defeat Spinners are on course for Division One next season as runners-up to Travellers B who clinched the title even though they weren't playing.

Tower C 1 Peel A 9

Mike Chapman had a five game win over Matty Evans for Tower's only point but Matty, Malcolm Lewis and Maggie Mulhern wrapped up the rest for Peel. Tower need to make up eight points on Travellers C if they are going to avoid relegation but that looks a tough ask with only two fixtures left.

Surestrike Ramsey A 8 Travellers C 2

Travellers edged a point nearer safety with Alan Harding and reserve David Buck picking up their points. However, Rhys Yardley and Wael Kassim were unbeaten for Ramsey. Carl Blatcher added one more to their total.

Peel B 1 Copy Shop C 9

Peel B have been relegated for some time but they fought hard against Copy Shop and there were some long matches. However, it was left to Vishal Patel to get them on the scoreboard. Adam Davies and Rob Sim won three each for Copy Shop and George Melvin, two.

Division Three

This is the tightest division of all. Currently, Travellers D - who have come with a late run - have 147 points, Peel C have 145 and Copy Shop D 144. Ramsey B are not entirely out of the running either on 141. My forecast is that Travellers D and Peel C will claim the promotion spots - but who will be champions?

Results from this division:

Copy Shop E 0 Travellers D 10

Travellers did what they had to do to go top with David Buck, Juan Moore junior and Alex Buck not giving their opponents a look-in.

### Copy Shop D 4 Peel C 6

An encounter between two of the promotion contenders saw Harry Walters showing his team the way with three excellent wins for Peel. Sasha Thomas added two more and Nathan Evans one. Kevin Drewry pulled two back for Copy Shop - only losing 13-11 in the fifth to Harry. Max Walker won another and Copy Shop took the doubles in five hard-fought games but the honours went to Peel.

### Breakaway C 9 Junior Development 1

Tom Noble had a good five-game win over Jack Christian to put Junior Development on the scoreboard but Jack, Kieran Lane and Joe Walters were relatively untroubled in the remainder, although Corin Haddock went to five with Kieran.

### Surestrike Ramsey C 1 Surestrike Ramsey B 9

No mercy from the B team in this local derby but Billy Cain ensured the C team didn't go home empty handed. Three wins each from Marcus and Calvin Koske together with two from Kerenza Baker kept the B team on the fringe of the promotion race.

Finally, it's congratulations to Malcolm Lewis who won the Division Two individual title with a five game win over Ramsey's Rhys Yardley in the final. Malcolm won 6/11 11/6 8/11 11/5 11/8.

ENDS