

Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells & District Table Tennis League

Newsletter Two – October

We're now about a month in to the new season, and already the league tables are starting to take shape. Leigh A lead the way in Division One with 20 points from their first three matches. Otford A are second on fourteen points and Byng Hall A third on thirteen. Crucially, however, Otford and Byng Hall have only played two matches. They played out a 5-5 draw towards the end of September and look the most likely to take the title at Christmas. Neither side fielded their strongest line up, but I'm sure both will be looking to do so for the return leg at Byng Hall on the 11th November. Teen & Twenty A look like they're struggling at the foot of the table with just the one point from their two matches and are eleven points behind fourth-placed Otford B, albeit with a game in hand.

Division Two is far less close at the top, but far closer at the bottom. Darent Valley have twenty-seven points from their first three fixtures and are eight clear of second-placed Leigh B. In fact, Darent Valley thrashed their nearest rivals 10-0 last month and look set to return to Division One. Otford D and Teen & Twenty B are fourth and fifth respectively and separated by just the one point. They meet this Wednesday at Otford in what could be a crucial match for both in the battle to avoid relegation.

Division Three looks like it is Leigh C's to lose. Like Darent Valley, they have won three out of three and are well clear of the rest of the field. The match of the month came in Leigh C's 8-2 victory over Teen & Twenty C. Martin Dunville was making his debut for Teen & Twenty and played John Lynch in his last match of the evening. John won the first set 11-9. It would turn out to be the only set to not go to deuce! Martin went 2-1 ahead with set wins of 14-12 and 15-13. John levelled the match at 2-2, winning the fourth set 13-11. All level on both sets and points, John and Martin then fought out a close deciding set which John managed to win 12-10. Matches don't get much closer!

A more detailed run down of all the match results can be found on the website. To supplement the monthly newsletters, I hope to write a brief weekly commentary on the matches from the previous week to be made available online. It would be nice to have some guest writers throughout the year to get a different point of view and to give everyone a break from me! If you're interested in writing just a few paragraphs for a week, or even part of a week, just let me know.

Don't forget to send your scorecards to me after you've entered the results in to the website as per the rules in the handbook. I'm missing a couple already!

As I'm sure most of you are aware by now, the handicap competition starts later this month. The first round fixtures are Otford C vs Leigh D on Tuesday 15th October, Leigh J vs Otford D and Leigh C vs Byng Hall B on Thursday 17th October, and Teen & Twenty C vs Otford E on Friday 18th October.

The second round matches will take place the following week with the ties depending on the first round results. However, due to the way in which the draw has been made, each team can work out whether they will be home or away in the second week – Otford C, Otford D, Leigh D and Leigh J will be at home whilst the other four sides will be away on either Tuesday 22nd October or Thursday 24th October.

Clearly the quick transfer of information regarding results of the first round matches is essential, so I would ask **every team secretary involved to email me the result of their match as soon as possible** after the match has finished (as well as sending me the scorecard). I will then let team secretaries know who, where and when they are playing their second round fixtures. This information will also be posted on the website.

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