

Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells & District Table Tennis League

Newsletter Seven – March/April

I decided to combine the March and April newsletters as there wasn't much to report on between the beginning of February and the beginning of March. February is a little shorter than the average month.

Division One ended with Otford A at the top of the pile, finishing ahead of Byng Hall A despite a 7-3 win for Byng Hall over their rivals in early March. Player availability certainly seemed to be an issue for them in the title run in. The defending champions, Leigh A, finished fourth, ten points behind their successors, only securing safety from relegation in the final match of the division. Otford B were third and Darent Valley fifth.

Division Two was once again won by a convincing margin. Like Darent Valley in the first half, Teen & Twenty A cruised to the title and will take their place in Division One after the summer. Leigh B held on to their second place they held before Christmas despite player injuries and other unavailability issues. Teen & Twenty B would have taken second had avoided defeat to the Leigh team in their last game of the season, but lost 7-3. Otford C finished fourth whilst Leigh C were fifth.

Division Three was the closest of all three divisions at the top. Unfortunately Otford D had to pull out of their match with Byng Hall B very shortly before their top of the table clash due to player illness. As player illness is neither inclement weather nor non-availability of home venue, the rules were very clear that the committee had to adjudicate. Having taken everything in to consideration, a score of 5-0 was awarded to Byng Hall B.

This made it very close heading in to the final round of matches. Byng Hall B were on 48, one ahead of Otford D on 47. Otford D won their final match 10-0, against Teen & Twenty C. As Otford D had more wins than Byng Hall B, Byng Hall B needed a 10-0 win over Otford E. In the end, they fell just short and won 8-2.

Another case of so near but yet so far for Byng Hall B who were the only side to pick up more than 100 points over the season, finishing with 111. Darent Valley finished "second" with 97 but were still relegated from Division One.

Teen & Twenty C finished third in Division Three, ahead of Otford E and Leigh D who were fourth and fifth respectively.

Andrew Hancock of Byng Hall B had the biggest ratings rise of the season with 327. Second was Martin Tate of Otford with 202. Rounding off the top five were Andy Larnar (169), Laurence Muscat (166) and me (158).

Now that the main league season is over, it's time to start looking forward to the closed tournament. With the deadline for entries extended, entries now close on Monday 31st March. The event itself is on Sunday 6th April with anyone fortunate enough to get in to a final playing in the finals night on Wednesday 9th April at 19:30.

The Doubles Competition reaches its conclusion soon after that, with the final session being held on Friday 11th April. At the half way point, Kapow lead the way with 23 points with The Tweenies not far behind on 21.

Congratulations to the three division winners and good luck to all those taking part in the tournament next Sunday.

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