

Copy Shop stay top!

It's very much as you were in Division 1 of the **DLP Adapted Bathrooms Isle of Man Table Tennis League** with leaders Copy Shop A expanding their advantage over ABC Arborists to 2 points, whilst only 8 points now cover 3rd place Foxdale down to bottom club Travellers A.

It continues to look like a 2 horse race for the title, with a strong Copy Shop team disposing of Strathallan 6-3 thanks to a maximum from Island Champion Ronan McDonnell. Julian Briercliffe starred for Strathy with 2 wins, whilst Sean Drewry edged out Andy Horne 13-11 in the decider and Ewan Watterson held off Andy Patterson 11-8 in the fifth to see the champions home.

ABC Arborists kept up the pressure with a 5-4 defeat of Breakaway A, for whom Man of the Match Keeran Chan took 2 points, including an impressive 3-1 defeat of his father Liam. Paul Corran did likewise, whilst doubles from both John Magnall and Jason Quirk led the Southerners to victory.

Newly-promoted Travellers A remain bottom despite a 5-4 defeat of Foxdale in which they played a man short. A full set from Stu Douglas, well supported by a pair from Stu Mason took them to the win, whilst only Will Bayley notched for 'Dale.

Meanwhile a hat-trick from the impressive Nigel Beattie was all that fellow new-boys Zurich Spinners could muster as Tower A recorded their first win of the season. A pair each for Paul Kozlowski, Mike Bayley and Graham McFarlane were sufficient to take Tower out of the relegation zone at the expense of their opponents.

It was also a good week for Tower B who increased their lead at the top of Division 2 to 3 points thanks to a comfortable 8-2 defeat of 2-man Travellers C. Whilst captain Steve Curtis was quick to play down their promotion chances this 4th win out of 5 reinforces their strong start to the season.

Just behind them Peel A and Travellers B are emerging from the pack as likely promotion challengers. Both have games in hand and recorded big victories this week. The Westerners moved into 2nd spot after demolishing their B team 9-1 for whom only Sasha Thomas scored with a win over Maggie Mulhern. Both Malc Lewis and Mattie Evans took maximum points, whilst this result leaves the B team anchored in the relegation zone after 5 straight defeats.

Travellers B took the honours 7-3 in the derby match with their D team, thanks to maximums from Paul Mathieson-Nelson and Gary Shilling, though the latter only just edged out the fast-improving Juan Moore Junior 12-10 in the fifth.

In the final fixture a solid team performance from Copy Shop C saw them hold off SureStrike Ramsey A 6-4 to record their 3rd win from 4. The key moment came when Max Walker held-off Carl Blatcher 11-9 in the decider, whilst Rhys Yardley put up stout resistance remaining unbeaten all night for the Northerners.

In Division 3 St Ninians' lead at the top is down to 4 points clear as nearest challengers SureStrike Ramsey C and Breakaway B were made to work hard to convert their games in hand into points.

Frank Feeney's 3 wins, supported by 2 from Kerenza Baker, took SureStrike to a 6-4 win over 4th placed CopyShop D, for whom Freya Melvin starred with 2 victories.

Meanwhile Breakaway B are a point behind in third after being held to a draw by SureStrike Ramsey E who preserved their unbeaten record thanks to a narrow doubles win by Fin Hill and Jack Craik. In a cracking match 4 sets went to a 5th game decider. Only an 11-9 final game defeat by Jack Christian prevented Jack Craik taking a maximum on the night, whilst Ramsey's Tyler Hannay edged out Kieran Lane at 12-10 in an even tighter encounter.

A draw was also the outcome as the two bottom sides met, with IOM Junior Development looking set to record their first ever league win until Alex and Dylan Yardley edged SureStrike Ramsey D home 12-10 in the final leg of the doubles. Cameron Dudley and Scott Horne both took 2 wins for Junior Development, whilst a maximum from the evergreen Jack Yardley underpinned Ramsey's haul.

Finally Libby Quaggin was undefeated all evening as CopyShop E showed Peel C the way home in another long encounter. Kitty Thomas also grabbed 2 wins in an impressive performance by the girls whose rapid improvement continues, providing further encouragement for the future of Island table tennis which is seeing young talent continue to emerge at a fast pace.

DLP Adapted Bathrooms Isle of Man Table Tennis League - Results for Week 5

Division 1

ABC Arborists	5	Breakaway A	4
Copy Shop A	6	Strathallan A	3
Travellers A	5	Foxdale A	4
Zurich Spinners	3	Tower A	6

Division 2

Copy Shop C	6	Surestrike Ramsey A	4
Peel B	1	Peel A	9
Travellers C	2	Tower B	8
Travellers D	3	Travellers B	7

Division 3

IOM Junior Development	5	Surestrike Ramsey D	5
Peel C	3	Copy Shop E	7
Surestrike Ramsey C	6	Copy Shop D	4
Surestrike Ramsey E	5	Breakaway B	5

Tim Baker

9/10/14