

Week 17 report

With just five weeks left of the season there is no certainty that any side will end up Champions of each division this season.

In both the Premier Division and Division Two, just two points (one leg) separates the top two sides and in Division One both the top two teams have lost their last two matches showing that anything can still happen. Throw in the fact that it is just as crazy at the bottom of all three Divisions, i.e. the bottom side in the Premier Division who had never won a match until last week and have now won two, the bottom three places in division one changes almost weekly and in Division Two, The Eclipse (at the foot) fielded the full ten players for the first time this season (and almost won). So it just shows how things can turn so quickly.

In the Knockout Cup Semi Finals this week, both matches went to form as the top two Premier Division teams, Staff of Life and Out of Town beat fellow top flight teams, Village Inn and Carnfield Club. However neither match was a walkover as they both went to four legs. Top scorers for each side were Clive Fuller of the Out of Town (22) and Ben Johnson Carnfield Club (21) and Steve Richardson (29) Staff of Life and John Birds Village Inn (27).

In the league this week, pride of place goes to the Beehive in Division two as they topped the season's highest score in the division by becoming the first team to score 200 pins. This was at the Moulders who themselves scored a creditable 162 but achieved no points from the game. However, it looks as though the Ripley side will not manage to finish in the top two positions as the Snooker Club again won 7-0 to just trail the White Hart by two points. The aforementioned Eclipse scored their highest this season (127) and actually won a leg at home to the Kings Arms. The other two matches finished 7-0 to the Thorn Tree and the Crossings Club who beat depleted sides in the George and the Devonshire. Top individual scores in the division were by M Carrington (Beehive) and R Vane (Thorn Tree) who both managed a 10 pin stick up.

In Division One, both the Heanor Conservative Club and Jolly Colliers are coming with late runs to try and topple the top two teams. The Connie Club did themselves many favours as they scored 201 pins in beating the Boot and Slipper 6-1. In fact the match started in unbelievable fashion as both sides scored 70 in the first leg. The Colliers won away at the high flying Sunnyside Club winning 5-2 and Heanor is dominating this Division with three teams in the top four positions. The Alfreton Town Supporters Club put up a better showing this week but were unlucky as they didn't pick up a single point at the Station who have now picked up 26 points in their last 5 games. The Black Boy won their third consecutive match winning 5-2 at the French Horn and the Victoria are back to winning ways beating the Black Bulls Head 5-2.

The Staff of Life and the Out of Town are seemingly making it a two horse race in the Premier as both won 7-0 for the second consecutive week with the Out of Town making it four wins in a row, since their disastrous thumping at the Village Inn. The Jacksdale SC are making a late attempt not to finish at the foot of the table and are now in sight of three teams above them, all on 39 points – just 8 points above the Jacksdale side. This week they beat the Honey-pot 5-2. Travellers Rest continue their inconsistent season, but this time in a positive way winning 5-2 at home to the Red Lion. This included the top single leg score in the division with 74 pins. In fact both teams scored over 190 pins in the game. Finally it looks like the Heanor Labour Club may just fall short of the top two positions

and although they won 5-2 against the Carnfield Club, they have only picked up 8 points in their last three games. They are now eleven points behind the Out of Town but do have a game in hand and still have to play the top two.

Top performance in the league this week came from Ady Thompson of the Staff of Life who scored 28 including a 12 pin stick up.