

## Week 22 – Final League Report

In an exciting end to the league season, there were joys and sorrows for clubs. With the Premier and Division One championship titles already determined, the only title debate was whether it would be the Somercotes Snooker Club or the White Hart who would take the Second Division title. With the Somercotes side leading the division by two points, then both sides had to win 7-0 to give themselves the best chance... and that's exactly what both sides did. Neither gave anything up in their matches against the Devonshire and Thorn Tree respectively and it was heartbreak for the Bargate team who had won every match this year, including beating the Snooker Club twice, as they finally finished in second place. Although it has to be said that Somercotes won their last 8 matches without dropping a single leg. Third place in the league went to the Beehive, who having won their last six matches 7-0 found stiffer opponents at the Westhouses Social Club. They did come through but only just by a score of 4-3.

Bottom side, Eclipse, again played well scoring over 135 pins on the night against the Moulders who finish the season in a creditable fifth place, but for the Loscoe side, they finished the season with a 7-0 defeat and without an actual playing win from their 20 games. Next year it could be oh so different. The underachieving George Inn side, who themselves know they could have finished the season in a lot higher place, won a tight match against the Kings Arms. The Crich team have had an up and down season and finished in seventh place in front of the George (8<sup>th</sup>), Thorn Tree (9<sup>th</sup>) and the Devonshire (10<sup>th</sup>) who only won one leg in the last eight games but are a very sporting side. The Crossings Club had a bye week but had some great performances this year, especially in the second half of the season scoring 53 points after a slow start to their campaign. Perhaps a side to watch next year!

The top individual scorers in league two this week were G Perks (Eclipse) 13 and A Licence (Moulders) (11)

The two things not settled yet in the Premier Division were, who would claim runners up spot and who would finish in the bottom two. Going in to the last week the Out of Town were four points in front of third place Heanor Labour Club and with the two sides meeting in the last week, the Out of Town needed just one leg to claim second position. This they managed in the opening leg, mainly thanks to a 16 pin stick up from T Stone and then they lost the last two legs, resulting in them achieving second place by just a single point. The Miners Arms finished fifth after winning 7-0 at bottom placed Jacksdale Social Club who only managed two League wins this season. The Gate finished sixth with a better second half of the season culminating in a 5-2 home victory versus the Carnfield Club who themselves finished eighth. This was a better season for "Carnie" after finishing bottom last season. Below them in ninth came the Travellers Rest despite a 4-3 reverse at the Honeypot who finished one place below the Travellers in second to bottom place. Neither of these sides, like the Carnfield Club nor the Jacksdale Social Club achieved a single 7-0 victory throughout the season. Strangely, in their final match, the League Champions The Staff of Life went into meltdown and scored their lowest total pins of the season, just 155. This saw them collect just 3 points at the Village. This was just the Marehay sides second win in the second half of the season which saw them achieve just half the total points that they gained in the first half of the season.

The Red Lion had a bye week and finished fourth after winning their last 4 matches 5-2. Their downfall was not being decisive enough in matches resulting in them only winning 7 points in 2 of their 20 games.

The Top two final positions in Division One were decided last week and by a twist of fate they met in the final round of matches. It was the Runners Up who came out on top as the Boot & Slipper ran out 5-2 winners against Champions Sunnyside Club. The Sunnyside Club had 13 seven – nil victories over the season as opposed to the Boot's 10. This was the significant factor which made the difference as the Heanor side amassed just six more points over the season. In third place with ten wins out of their last thirteen games came the Heanor Conservative Club who began the campaign at the Langley Mill MW. In their last match they beat the Station 7-0. The Station with probably the highest total pins in the Division this year finished in seventh place. With thirteen victories this season the Jolly Colliers finished fourth in the table and in their final match beat the Black Bulls Head 5-2. There were wins for the fifth place side Black Boy and the sixth place French Horn, beating The Keys 5-2 and the Alfreton Town SC 7-0 respectively. These teams having differing fortunes as the Black Boy had a poor first half of the campaign whereas the French Horn had 28 points after just five games and then only won 6 of their remaining 15 games.

Last years promoted sides from Division Two didn't do so well this time round with the Black Bulls Head and the Alfreton Town SC finishing as the bottom two and last years Div Two Champions, the Victoria finished just a little higher in eighth place. Sandwiched between them in ninth spot are the Keys who again find themselves towards the bottom of Division One. Between the bottom four sides only the Vic and the Keys managed to gain a seven nil victory and that was just on one occasion each.

As for next season, it is normally the top two sides in each division that go up and the bottom two sides that are relegated but as always this is really determined by which sides enter the league next season and total numbers of teams. With two new entries already accepted this may see the formulation of the number of teams in each of the divisions change.