

Station Road stay in touch for title

Friday, 02 May 2008

Station Road stayed in the hunt for the Division Two title in the Cokermouth and District Snooker League with a 4-2 home win against Flimby.

The match started with Station Road's league rookie Mark Robertson taking on Flimby's Phil Banton and the new boy started with some fine potting.

With just the colours remaining he was to lead by 20 points but Banton would not lie down and not until a tricky thin cut blue was deposited by the Station Road cueist was the frame won, 57-36.

Station Road's League Individual KO quarter-finalist Mike Walker potted pretty much every ball he was presented with and with two reds still left on the table Flimby's Ian Tinnion conceded the game, 60-7.

Trailing 2-0 a steady performance from Flimby's Ian Harrison was required against Paul Johnston and a dour encounter developed.

The Flimby man forged a lead that was sufficient enough to see him require only one of the remaining six colours to win. As a difficult green down the cushion offered itself he duly obliged to win 72-29.

Division Two's leading player Clive Lister was next to square up against yet another young rising star this time in the shape of Flimby's Paul Vickers.

Great potting by both players throughout saw the frame finely balanced, again with just the colours remaining. However with a yellow to pink clearance it was Lister who crossed the line first with a 58-28 win.

The next frame of the match was to produce the closest finish of the evening as Station Road's Keith Telford was to take on Flimby's Dave Teasdale.

The Flimby player carried a small lead all through the frame and only after Telford potted the pink did he manage to close the gap to just a couple of points with just the black left.

A first-rate pot down the cushion with the long rest was to follow as the gritty Station Road player sealed the match win with a 53-50 scoreline.

The final contest of the night was to enjoy an equally close encounter as Station Road's Peter Collins took his game all the way against Flimby's captain Geoff Banton.

After Collins produced an excellent pot on the final pink the black unfortunately did not present itself. The resultant safety left the Flimby captain with a long black and wasting no time the final ball was dispatched for a damage limiting 45-42 win.

Other matches in Division Two saw table topping host side Workington Legion take on fourth placed Derwent B.

As the last meeting between these two teams produced a 5-1 win for the lower placed side a finely balanced tie presented itself.

However not to be halted in their charge for the title with just two games left the Workington outfit battled their way to a 4-2 win.

Maryport Social B kept their title hopes alive with a 4-2 away win at the hands of Glasson with the highlight of the evening coming from Ryan Ismay in the form of a 30 break in his frame against fellow teenager Ryan Barker.

Trades Hall versus Brigham produced a 3-3 draw, so therefore barring some unusual results it looks likely that Trades will remain at the bottom of the table and Brigham will struggle to make the top four playoffs.

In Division One second placed Railway kept the heat on at the top of the table with a 4-2 win at home to Ellenborough. Producing his sixth and seventh breaks over 25 in the last six weeks with contributions of 36 and 26 Railway's Kevin Basnett limited Ellenborough's Craig Stuart to just nine points with a convincing win.

The other notable performance of the night came from Ellenborough's Simon Holm as a 27 clearance saw him steal victory from Railway's Barry Collins.

Senhouse A made the most of their home advantage with a 4-2 win against a Seaton side who defeated them in their previous encounter.

With Derwent A producing some good results over the last month or so a home fixture against table toppers John Street provided an excellent opportunity to improve on their previous two meetings in which they had not won a single frame.

This improvement was realised but with a 4-2 win for the Workington side they still remain Division One title favourites.

Clifton versus Senhouse B was unfortunately cancelled leaving the Clifton side with some catching up to do now with two fixtures outstanding.

The second Semi-Final of the Individual KO was played this week with John Street's Mark Tunstall and Glasson's Dave Chapman playing for a final spot against Railway's Kevin Basnett.

As Tunstall was giving away 15 points start his home advantage was vital. As a scrappy encounter developed the balance started to swing in favour of the Glasson player and he eventually went on to win the match 3-1.

With the Doubles KO also at the Semi-Final Stage an all John Street clash saw Mark Tunstall and Simon Frazer take on 2007 County Doubles Champions Peter and Stephen O'Hagan in what proved to be closely contested tie.

With Tunstall and Frazer choosing to give up their 15 point start this ended up being a decision that ultimately decided the match.

After Tunstall had clinched the first frame with a 30 break his partner was faced with a vital black in the second that had it been potted with the start in force a considerable advantage would have been gained.

Unfortunately Frazer missed and the O's;Hagan's never looked back. After taking the frame 62-29 the O's;Hagan brothers went on to win the decider with the help of a 39 break from Stephen and a winning 2-1 match scoreline.

With the presentation night arrangements now underway it would be greatly appreciated if all trophy winners from last season could return their cups at Tuesday's meeting in Station Road Club to enable all trophies to be engraved.

Could one representative from each team please attend as this will provide an opportunity to submit venues for all finals. Nominations for presentation night players will also be put forward.