



Dead heat at top of Premier British League

Author: Paul Stimpson

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Hardly anything can separate Ormesby and Urban heading into the penultimate round of Premier British League after the latter moved joint top at the weekend.

Urban's 4-1 victory over two-man Ormeau moved them top of the table – on game ratio!

Such is the closeness of the top two, the duo can't be split on points or even sets ratio.

Urban's ratio was undoubtedly aided at the weekend after Belfast-based Ormeau were forced to forfeit two of the singles sets after turning up with just two players.

Matt Ware and Gavin Maguire were unable to boost Ormesby's title hopes in the singles, though their victory over Daniel Kosiba and Satoshi Aida in the doubles, a five end thriller, did see them get at least a set.

Ormesby, meanwhile, registered a 3-2 win over Drumchapel.

There was no battle of the undefeated streaks as David McBeath and Darius Knight avoided playing each other, but both saw their 100 per cent records crushed anyway!

Knight was dispatched of by Simon Berglund 3-0 while McBeath suffered a shock 3-2 reverse against Tianyuan Liu.

Before that, Knight and Tianming Zhao had handed Ormesby the lead with a doubles success over McBeath and Victor Guang Shi.

The excellent Berglund eased past Liu before Zhao hammered Shi in an even more emphatic style.

Ormesby sealed the win with Liu's excellent win over McBeath before Berglund ruined Knight's perfect average.

Urban and Ormesby are now locked on 28 points, with Ormeau third on 23 and Drumchapel fourth on 22.

In the bottom half of the league, Fusion were the big winners in the doubleheader weekend with two big victories.

An excellent 5-0 win over North Ayrshire on Saturday was complimented with a 3-2 win in Cardiff a day later.

Joseph Hee starred against Cardiff with two wins, although Lorestas Trumpauskas and Kazeem Adeleke contributed admirably with doubles success and singles wins.

The aforementioned duo won a set each in Wales, with Trumpauskas teaming up with Robert Pelc to win the doubles.

Fusion picked up eight points over the weekend, with BATTs in hot pursuit as they secured seven points.

Their 5-0 win over Cardiff on Saturday, a match that saw Hugo Battochi win twice, and homegrown stars Jack Bennett and Ethan Walsh pair up in the doubles and then win their singles, was then backed up on Sunday with a defeat.

But despite going down 3-2 to North Ayrshire, this despite a Jack Bennett double, they are now certain of avoiding the wooden spoon as they are seven points clear of Cardiff with a game to go.

It was a disastrous weekend for Cardiff, who after two defeats now need a 5-0 win over North Ayrshire on May 4th to draw level with the Scots and attempt to avoid bottom place.

Fusion, who have for so long been bottom this year, are now fifth on 21 points, followed closely by BATTs, who are on 19 points. North Ayrshire have 17, with Cardiff on 12.

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