

Kingfisher & London Academy are Premier-bound

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Marcus Giles

Kingfisher and London Academy have been promoted to the British League, Premier Division via the play-offs.

Kingfisher topped the group of six clubs in the series, played at Cippenham TTC, having won four matches and drawn 4-4 against their nearest rivals to finish with nine points.

Both sides started with back-to-back victories, Kingfisher beating Woodfield 6-2 and Bournemouth Sports 7-1, while London Academy saw off Derwent 7-1 and Woodfield 5-3.

The key meeting between the two top sides in Match 3 saw Kingfisher twice come from two down to claim a 4-4 draw.

Jesper Berglund beat David Barr in five and Sebastian Loso made it 2-0 by beating Marcus Giles in straight games, only for Daniel Moses and Daniel Kolesnik to emerge victorious against Ryan Maynard and Gabriel Achampong respectively.

Barr then lost in five again, this time to Loso, who went on to finish with a 100% record from his 10 matches. And when player-of-the-match Berglund beat Moses 3-0, it looked as if London were on course.

But Kingfisher came back again, Giles beating Gabriel Achampong 3-1 (11-8, 12-14, 11-9, 11-9) and Daniel Kolesnik then leveling matters with a 3-1 defeat of Ryan Maynard (12-10, 6-11, 11-5, 11-9).

Both teams won their fourth encounter – London triumphing 7-1 over Burton Uxbridge and Kingfisher 6-2 over Derwent.

But it was Kingfisher who took top spot as they beat Burton Uxbridge 6-2 in their final match, as the Academy were beaten 5-3 by Bournemouth Sports.

It was 3-3 going into the final pairings. Stephen Foster's 3-1 win over Hiba Feredj (11-5, 11-3, 9-11, 11-6) put the south coast side in front, and player-of-the-match Niklas Meijer Garmstad then completed victory by beating Eren Gozcu 3-2 (11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 7-11, 11-8).

It meant London had to settle for second spot in the final standings with seven points.

Bournemouth finished third on five, with Woodfield, Burton Uxbridge and Derwent each picking up three points.

[Click here](#) for more details from the play-offs

For official photos from the event, [click here](#)

Paul Stimpson (12th May 2014)

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