



EBATT and Ellenborough take JBL honours

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EBATT Boys and Ellenborough Girls are the Junior British League Premier Division champions for 2015/16.

They took their respective Premier Division titles at the end of an exciting second weekend of competition at the Derby Arena.

EBATT had started the weekend level on points with Clifedale Chandlers Grantham College at the top, but ahead on games difference.

Clifedale suffered an immediate blow to their ambitions as they were held 3-3 by London Academy, while EBATT beat Irish Boys 5-1.

Ebatt then avoided a similar banana skin against London Academy, winning 4-2, while Clifedale ended with a 4-2 victory over Ormesby.

That was where the division split in two, with Northfield and London Academy joining the top two in Premier A and Ormesby, Greenhouse, Sussex Blades Alliance and Irish Boys forming Premier B.

EBATT went one better against the Londoners in their first match, beating them 5-1, while Clifedale beat Northfield 4-2.

The next round saw the decisive clash between the two title pretenders and it was EBATT who stamped their authority on the match with a resounding 6-0 victory.

It rendered the last round of matches irrelevant to the title destination, though for the record, EBATT finished in style with a 6-0 over Northfield.

So the line-up of Alex Ramsden, James Chappell, Josh Bennett and James Smith were left to celebrate victory with 19 points, dropping only nine sets out of 60.

Draycott E-M Boys won Division One with 16 points, while Division 2A saw the only 100% record, belonging to Pompey. In Division 2B, the victors were Byng Hall Boys on 18pts.

The Division 3A winners were Kingfisher (17pts), while Halton took 3B on 16pts. Division 4A went to Draycott E-M Boys BII (18pts) and 4B to Jersey Academy (15).



Girl's Premier Division Winners: Ellenborough Girls A. Picture by John Upham

In the Girls' event, Ellenborough went into the second weekend level with Burton Uxbridge, the two teams having drawn 3-3 with each other and won all four other matches on weekend one.

With the two teams set to meet again in the final round of fixtures, both knew it was imperative to keep up their winning ways in their earlier matches – and both did just that.

Ellenborough's line-up of Emily Bolton, Denise Payet and Kitty Korda were in more dominant form, seeing off Irish Girls, Fusion and Draycott 6-0 and then beating Halton 5-1.

By contrast, Burton Uxbridge, represented by Letitia McMullan, Gina Rieck, Amy Blagborough and Charlotte Bardsley, had two 4-2 wins – over Irish and Halton – as well as a 5-1 against Fusion and 6-0 against Draycott.

In the final, Korda was the player who tipped the balance, winning her two matches. With Payet and Bolton winning one each, it was enough for Ellenborough to celebrate a 4-2 victory and take the title, finishing with 19 points out of a possible 20 and only nine sets out of 60 conceded.

Warrington won Division One with 19 points, while Sussex Alliance took Division Two on 17 points.

The tightest final table was in Division Three, where Ellenborough Girls B, Swerve and Great Stukeley all finished on 15 points. It was Ellenborough who shaded it, winning 40 sets to Swerve's 38 and Great Stukeley's 35 to make it double delight for the Enfield club.

There was a noteworthy achievement in the Player of the Weekend awards, with brother and sister Josh Weatherby (Ormesby) and Charlotte Weatherby (Great Stukeley) taking the boys' and girls' accolades.

The Team of the Weekend awards went to Irish Boys and Swerve Girls.

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