



Knight saves the day as Ormesby claim draw

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Posted On: December 06, 2016

The British League Premier Division title is still all to play for after Ormesby and Drumchapel went head to head this weekend and both took away a point from a 4-4 result.

It was a rollercoaster ride as hosts Ormesby went 3-0 up and Drumchapel fought back to lead 4-3, before Darius Knight clinched the draw.

The hosts got off to a fantastic start against their Scottish opponents, with Polish international Filip Szymanski fighting all the way to victory against He Bai in the opening game. It went right to the line across five sets, with the fifth ending on 11-9.

Viktor Brodd then went on to win against the Canadian Olympian Eugene Wang in straight sets (11-7, 11-9, 11-6) and Ormesby went to 3-0 when Danny Reed beat Tao Shi in four sets (6-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-6).

Despite this flying start by the hosts, Drumchapel hit back in the second half of the match to force a draw. Man of the match, Liu Song, started the recovery by winning a tight four-set clash against Knight (14-12, 11-7, 10-12, 11-7). Wang made further inroads with a 3-1 triumph against Szymanski (9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7) and Bai then overcame Reed by the same scoreline (11-9, 11-4, 8-11, 11-9) to level.

When Song defeated Brodd in three (10, 10, 5), Drumchapel were poised for the ultimate comeback, but Knight hit form after losing the first set against Tao Shi, turning it around to win 3-1 (9-11, 11-3, 11-8, 11-4).

Both teams excelled in their toughest match of the season and the result mirrors the equal level of play between the two clubs.

The gap is starting to widen between the top two and the rest of the table, with third-placed BATTs on five points and Halton, in seventh, still yet to gain a point.

North Ayrshire put in an exceptional performance against Fusion, with each one of their players winning one of their games. Each game was played with high intensity and both clubs seemed to be evenly matched on the

day which gave the live crowd and people watching the Facebook stream some exciting table tennis to watch.

It was 4-3 to Fusion going into the last match but Colin Dalgleish powered through to a victory in straight sets (11-5, 16-14, 11-8) against James Smith to secure a draw and that all-important point for North Ayrshire.

Fusion remain in a strong position in the table with four points. Mohammed Emran Hussain took home man of the match after winning both his matches, beating Dalgleish 11-8, 11-7, 11-8 but being taken the distance by Richard Main before taking it 5-11, 11-9, 5-11, 11-5, 11-6.

With two debuts and an 8-0 win, BATTs put in an outstanding performance when they travelled to Halton. Alex Ramsden won both his games, against Kevin Dolder (9-11, 11-9, 11-5, 5-11, 11-5) and Richard Lightowler (11-2, 6-11, 11-2, 11-1). The second debut was by Mateusz Zagajewski and he won both his matches 3-1.

These victories, along with two each for man-of-the-match Jack Bennett and Steve Beerling, have placed Batts firmly in third position in the table, one point above Fusion.

For Halton, it was a first home game of the season and despite the 8-0 loss, they played some excellent table tennis and they deserved something in return for their performance. Dolder was the stand-out player for Halton, taking both his matches, against Ramsden and Beerling to five sets.

Head over to the British League Facebook and Twitter pages to find links to catch up on all the action. The next round is on December 17th and this will be the last set of matches for 2016.

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