

## **Wirral Tennis League 2013**

### **Situation with 2 matches to go**

**Division 1:** Hoylake1 have had a phenomenal season and have regained the title from Neston1 with 2 matches to play. It is very close for runners up with only 4 points separating Prenton1 (who only retained their place in the division by virtue of last season's playoff), Heswall1 and Neston1. Neston1 have an easier run in and therefore look favourites. Heswall1 are at Prenton1 in final match. Upton1 look as though their stay in division 1 will only be 1 season. Hooton1 will be in the playoff to stay in division1 unless they can gain 13 points on Birkenhead1 who have 2 tough matches left.

**Division 2:** It's going to go to the wire! Hoylake2 have been top all season but are now 2 points behind CheshireOaks1 with Neston2 only 7 points further adrift. I think even the bottom club (Heswall2), who have a rearranged game against PortSunlight1 to play on Sunday, could mathematically be in the shakeup. Hoylake2 are probably favourites because CheshireOaks1 go to Neston2 for final match. Relegation and playoff will almost certainly go to final match with 5 teams (Thorndale1, Alderley1, PortSunlight1, Prenton2 and Heswall2) in the mix. Match 13 may help clarify the situation.

**Division 3:** Oxton1, having only stayed in the division by 2 points last year, look as though they are going to win the division. Neston3 still have a say and their final match at Oxton1 could be decisive. WallaseyManor2 are unlikely to be able to catch the top 2. NorthCheshire1 and Bertram1 will be fighting it out for who goes down and who goes into the playoffs. The decider will probably be the last match between them at Bertram.

**Division 4:** It is possible that any of the top 6 teams could finish up in the top2. Upton2 have gone top by 5 points from Pinewood1. Hoylake3 could go top but at time of writing I haven't received their result card. They needed 8 points at home to Birkenhead2 to go top. With 2 good results Alderley2, Bertram2 and Birkenhead2 could be in the shakeup. PortSunlight2 will be relegated and Thorndale3 will find it difficult to avoid the playoff.

**Division 5:** Hoylake4 are in the driving seat and are 6 points ahead of Oxton2. They meet in the probable decider in the final match at Oxton. Upton3 return to division6 after 1 season in division5 (providing they are reelected). Neston5 can avoid the playoff if they have 2 good wins against the other bottom teams (Upton3 and Thorndale4).

**Division 6:** It is possible that any of the top 4 could occupy the top 2 places. Thorndale5 are 2 points ahead of Pinewood2 but Pinewood2 have, on paper, the easier final 2 matches. WallaseyManor3 and Oxton3 are not far behind and probably will have a say in the final positions. Match 13 will probably clarify the positions. Birkenhead4 finish bottom and need to seek reelection on 2 counts.

**Division 1 Men:** Prenton1 have won the title for the 5<sup>th</sup> year running and Neston1 are runnersup again. NorthCheshire1 are relegated after 1 season (providing they are reelected). Helsby1 will probably be in the playoff. It is possible that they could catch Bertram1 with 2 good results.

**Division 2 Men:** Oxton1 win the division after just missing out on promotion last year. Hoylake are favourites to be in playoff, however Hooton1 and Thorndale2 could have a say. The bottom 3 places are between Upton1, Alderley1 and Hooton2. At time of writing they all have 3 to play.

**Division 3 Men:** WallaseyM3 lead by 4 points but only have 2 matches to play including 2<sup>nd</sup> placed Alderley3. Alderley3 have 3 matches left. Betram2 are 13 points adrift but have 3 matches to ply including the top 2. Oxton2 will need to apply for reelection.

**Division 1 Ladies:** Oxton1 lead Thorndale1 by 4 points and they meet at Oxton on Sunday to decide who are champions.