

## Wirral Tennis League 2013 Report for Week 14

**Division 1:** Hoylake1 have had a phenomenal season and have regained the title from Neston1 and confirmed their superiority with a 14-2 win at home to Birkenhead1. It was very close for runners up with Heswall1 only 3.67 points ahead of Neston1 following a 13.33-2.67 win at Prenton1 which put paid to Prenton1's aspirations. Neston1 would have been runners up, ahead of Heswall1, but for a result card error in match 1.

Upton1 lost 15.33-0.67 at WallaseyM1 and therefore could not catch Hooton1 and return to division 2 after 1 season in the top division. Hooton1 go into the playoffs.

**Division 2:** Was decided by the final rubbers of the season. Hoylake2 finished 1.67 points ahead of Neston2. Hoylake2 just did enough with 11.33-4.67 win at home to Alderley1 where Hoylake's 2<sup>nd</sup> ladies won 7/6 7/5 (a reverse result would have given the title to Neston2). Extremely disappointing was the fact that week 13 leaders and possible favourites for successive promotions (Cheshire Oaks1) were 4 players (2 men & 2 ladies) short at Neston2. With that unfortunate situation Neston2 looked favourites after the straights winning 6/3 6/1 & 6/1 6/0. They therefore looked a good bet for the mixed and only needed one 2-0 but managed to lose them both reasonably easily. Neston2 will playoff for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year having been the playoff guinea pigs last year. Hoylake2 only avoided relegation last year by 5 points.

Prenton2 & Thorndale1 both had good wins to ensure survival. Prenton2 beat Heswall2 12.67-3.33 to relegate Heswall2 who only survived last year by 2 points. Having been relegated last year Alderley1 go into the playoffs by finishing 1.33 points above Heswall2. Alderley1 picked up 1.33 points in final (4<sup>th</sup>) mixed at Hoylake2. The 4 point penalty given to Heswall2 at AGM last year was significant. It was a very very competitive division and less than 38 points separating top from bottom with the bottom team winning 7 of their matches (6 at home).

**Division 3:** No change at the top. Oxton1 take the title, having only stayed in the division by 2 points last year, drawing with Neston3. They only needed 1.67 points in the final match at Oxton1. Neston3 have a chance of returning to division2 in the playoffs.

Bertram1 won the decider at home to NorthCheshire1 8.67-7.33 and finish 2.67 points ahead of them. The final positions decided in the mixed rubbers and even though NorthCheshire1 won them 4.67-3.33 it was not quite enough.

**Division 4:** Hoylake3 gained the 9 points required to win the division with a 12-4 win at Alderley2 and gain the promotion they missed last year by 9 points. Upton2 gained the 4 points required to go into the playoffs having won 12.67-3.33 at home to Birkenhead2 and could take successive promotions having won division 5 last year.

PortSunlight2 will be relegated and Thorndale3 are in the playoff. Thorndale3 have the chance to stay up having been promoted last year.

**Division 5:** Hoylake4 confirmed their title by drawing 8-8 at The Oval against their only possible rivals Oxton2. It means that all 4 Hoylake mixed teams have won their divisions and they go one better than Upton last year whose 3 teams won their respective divisions. Oxton2 could gain successive promotions through the playoffs.

Upton3 return to division 6 after a disastrous season in division5 (providing they are reelected). Neston5 won 12-4 at Thorndale4 and just needed a further 3 point reversal to change positions. Neston5 are therefore in the playoffs.

**Division 6:** An amazingly close finish. Thorndale5 (10-4 winners) finish 1 point ahead of Pinewood2. In Thorndale5's match at home to Oxton3 they won 2<sup>nd</sup> mens 2-1 (2/6 7/6 7/5) but did not finish 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> mixed (light at Weatherhead). Pinewood2 won 11.33-4.67 at Birkenhead3 which included a 3<sup>rd</sup> mixed loss 7/6 7/6. 1 penalty point for an incorrect card meant it's a playoff for Pinewood instead of automatic promotion and a winners shield. 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 runners-up again.

NorthCheshire1 are relegated after 1 season (providing they are reelected). I have received a provisional result of a 6-3 (5.33-2.67) win by Helsby1 at NorthCheshire1 and together with the Bertram1 loss 8-0 at WallaseyManor1 it means that Bertram1 have to playoff because Helsby1 finish safe 1.33 points ahead. Bertram1's stay in division 1 may therefore only last 1 season.

**Division 2 Men:** Oxton1 win the division after just missing out on promotion last year. Hoyle1 gained the 0.67 points required to ensure their place in the playoff going 2 places better than last year with 4.67-3.33 win at home to Hooton2.

Alderley1 are relegated will need to seek re-election through conceding matches. Hooton2 will playoff.

**Division 3 Men:** Alderley3 need 2.67 points on Sunday at Bertram2 to take the title away from current leaders WallaseyManor2 who have completed their fixtures.

**Division 1 Ladies:** Oxton1 won the decider 8-0 to become champions.