

## Heidenfeld Trophy

As we fall just shy of the halfway point of the Heidenfeld Trophy we start to see who will be competing for promotion come the final game of the season. It seems to have come to a four-way shoot-out between Rathmines B (28.5), Elm Mount (25.5), Ballinasloe (25) and Blanchardstown (24) for the coveted promotion spots. At this stage in time it seems that Rathmines B and Blanchardstown are well placed based on their arguably more difficult set of opening fixtures than Ballinasloe (who are vying for their 5th consecutive promotion) and Elm Mount.

At the other end of the table there are only 4 points separating Lucan (12th) and Celbridge (6th) so it appears far too close to tell who will be battling it out for survival come the end of the season.

There have been a number of standout performers thus far on an individual basis also with Emmanouil Pandelias of Blanchardstown on a perfect 5/5 mainly from Board 3 and Marco Dienstmann of Rathmines B enjoying a very strong 4.5/5 on the lower boards for them.

With 6 rounds left to play it would take a brave man to call who will finish where on a fantastically competitive Heidenfeld Trophy this year. A number of questions remain:

- Can Rathmines B continue their good start and keep their momentum going into the second of the season?
- Can Elm Mount build on a good 6.5-1.5 win over Rathmines C?
- Will Ballinasloe ever field their strongest team? Even after a good 7-1 win over Celbridge?
- Can Blanchardstown continue to field a strong team and not give any more walkovers like they did in the first round?
- And at the bottom who will be the ones who just cannot get enough momentum to avoid the drop?