

Bodley Cup

Successive promotions has been a theme in the bottom divisions of the Leinster leagues in recent seasons, as new clubs like Round Tower, Blanchardstown, Gorey and Skerries, or expanding clubs like Gonzaga, have started at the bottom and very quickly worked their ways up a couple of divisions. And 2015/16 is no different – at the Christmas break, the two group winners in the O’Sullivan last season are the top two in the Bodley this season, while the three teams promoted from last year’s Bodley are all in the top half of this year’s BEA.

Despite being the first league to finish round 1, the Bodley is a whole round behind at the Christmas break, which makes Trinity’s four-point lead all the more impressive – as does their 4½-½ hammering of arguably their main promotion rival, Blanchardstown A. The top two boards in that match saw 1760 v 1405 and 1660 v 1470 – a far cry from the beginners’ league the Bodley was a few short years ago! Enniscorthy, promoted with Trinity (and the current Blanch B) last year, sit in second – although their squad is much weaker ratings-wise than Blanchardstown’s, you have to take juniors’ ratings with a fair pinch of salt, and if they can beat Blanch A in January, they’ll have a big chance at another promotion.

The relegated teams are showing no signs of bouncing back – a sign of the strength in the division and the game in general as new clubs and strong players emerge with regularity. Bray/Greystones currently occupy one of the relegation spots, while Dún Laoghaire are only in mid-table despite having two players on a perfect 4/4.