

After 9 rounds of the Ennis League, Bray/Greystones have surged ahead from Round Tower (they were previously joint leaders after 5 rounds) to lead the league on 39.5, followed closely by Drogheda on 36.5 and Round Tower on 35. Indeed Drogheda have performed well to secure second place with a lot to play for in the remaining two rounds. Having said that though, Bray/Greystones look well placed for the best finish barring any unforeseen upsets.

At the time of writing, Rathmines (26.5) have only played 8 rounds and can still challenge Cavan (28.5) in Fourth place. Cavan have played well in the mid part of the league and Elm Mount did well to beat them 3.5-2.5, cherishing hopes of staying clear of the relegation zone. Fingers crossed.

In the mid group are; Naomh Barróg and Elm Mount jointly on 24.5 and Dublin On 23.5 with Longford following closely on 22. Trailing the group at this point are Curragh (21), Dun Laoghaire (16) and Malahide (13) but it must be noted that they have only played 8 rounds so things could change around a bit there.

Some notable team results in the last few rounds have been Malahide 1.5 - 4.5 Elm Mount and Dun Laoghaire 4.5 - 1.5 Naomh Barróg in round 7. The strength of Bray/Greystones and Drogheda was clearly evident in Round 8 Bray/Greystones 6 - 0 Malahide and Curragh 1 - 5 Drogheda. While Naomh Barróg almost held it against Bray/Greystones 2.5 - 3.5.

Notable individual performances have to include Eric Bennett and Tom Janowski from Bray/Greystones sharing 8 points after round 9. Following them closely on 7.5 is Mindaugas Janusaitis from Round Tower. Again, in the next group of five, but worth mentioning, Kenneth Moore is performing well on 7 being on a lower rating but not for long! David O'Connell 1593 (Dublin) will be pleased with his win against the higher rated Kieran Rogers 1731 (Drogheda) in round 9. Friedrich Wetterlich 1324 (Naomh Barróg) did well to get a win against Joseph Reid 1602 (Drogheda) in round 6. Robert Turley (Curragh) 1506 will be pleased with his draw against Adam Spirek (Cavan) 1986.

Invitations were sent out to the team captains for players to submit interesting games should they wish to, but humility, gallantry and shyness have prevailed thus far. It's not too late!!
Eugene Donohoe 7March 2016