

Munster League Review

10 rounds into the Munster League and defending champions Cork A have extended their lead at the top of the table to one and a half points with an important victory over Ennis A in the most recent double round of matches in Charleville. Cork have had an impressive season winning 9 of their 10 matches so far on an average scoreline of 4-1. All their players have been playing well, Hugh Doyle on board 1 has an excellent score of 8 points from 10, as have Alex Byrne and Piotr Leichert while Keegan O Mahoney has an even better percentage scoring 7.5 from his 8 games. You can read Keegans interesting coverage of Corks progress at the Cork Chess Club website (<http://corkchess.com/munster-league/>)

In second place in the league are Ennis A with 8 points. Ennis A haven't had as settled a squad as Cork using 10 players so far this season compared to Corks 6 and this has perhaps shown in their results. While still in with an outside chance of the title they have already played Cork twice so are relying on other teams to do them a favour.

Also still in with an outside chance of victory in the title race are Adare in third place on 7 points but really at this stage it is Corks title to lose.

At the other end of the table, it's not looking good for Tralee whose first season in the Munster League Division 1 for many years is not proving a memorable one as they are yet to pick up any match points. They still have a chance to catch Limerick A but need to start picking up match points soon.

Division 2 features just 4 teams and the title and promotion spot looks like a battle between Cork B and Charleville. Cork B will be keen to make it a Cork double in the Munster League this year but they are being chased by Charleville who were relegated last season and who are keen to regain their top flight status.

With 4 rounds of chess to go in both leagues my prediction is Cork winners of both leagues but there may still be some twists and turns in the championship races yet!