

## WTL 2017 Status after Match 12

The 2017 season is building up to an exciting finish with only 2 matches to go (except for 2 teams in Division6 and plus 2 postponed matches from Match 11):

**Division 1:** There are only 11 points (less than 2 rubbers) separating the top 4 teams (Heswall1, Neston1, Hoylake1 & Prenton1) so the last 2 matches will be critical. The title may be decided by availability. Please ensure you don't lose the title by incurring a penalty. The 5<sup>th</sup> team are only 29 points behind the leaders so it's not impossible. Heswall2 will be relegated with WallaseyM1 probably in the playoff having to play 2 of the top 4 and 37points behind Hooton1.

**Division 2:** It's between Birkenhead1 and Thorndale1 with Bikenhead holding a 14point advantage. They both have to play Prenton2 and Oxton1. 2 very big wins could put Oxton1 in the picture. Thorndale2 will be relegated and it's between COaks1, Prenton2 & Hoylake2 for the playoff. The final match COaks1 v Hoylake2 could be a decider.

**Division 3:** Upton1 need only 19 points to return to Division2. Alderley2 are 30points ahead of Neston3 and they play each other at Alderley in match 13 (a playoff decider?). PSunlight1 face a 2<sup>nd</sup> successive relegation unless they have a very good finish as they are 19points behind Thorndale3 and 35points behind Heswall3. Hoylake3 could still be drawn into the playoffs with match13 at Thorndale3 possibly significant.

**Division 4:** Oxton2 are favourites for automatic promotion having a 36point advantage over Pinewood1 and WallaseyM2 with only 2points separate 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hoylake4 could play a significant part as they have to play both. Heswall4 will need a big improvement to avoid relegation as match13 is at Oxton2. Thorndale4 will probably be in playoff but Hoylake4 could be dragged into that position. Match13 games will probably resolve.

**Division 5:** Hooton2 will be promoted and it is between Birkenhead2 & Upton2 for the playoff. Birkenhead currently hold a 16point advantage but Upton have a postponed game in hand to play. Both have to play Hooton2. It is looking like Thorndale5 will be relegated (32points adrift) barring 2 good results and NCheshire1 in the playoff. Penalty points could be significant for both teams.

**Division 6:** The top 2 positions will be between Oxton3 & Pinewood2. Oxton hold a slender 2point lead and Oxton2 appear to have a harder run in which makes Pinewood2 favourites with Oxton in playoffs. WallaseyM3 could still have a part to play (even though they have played a match more than the top2) as they host Oxton3 in final match. It is between Pinewood3 & Oxton4 to apply for reelection and they play each other in final match (who does the fixtures?)

**Men Division1:** Prenton are champions yet again (10<sup>th</sup> consecutive). Runners up is between Alderley1 & Neston1. The decider will probably be when they meet at Neston in final match. Relegation & playoff is between Prenton2 & Oxton1. Again the decider will probably be when they meet at Prenton in final match (who does the fixtures?)

**Men Division2:** It is still possible for any of the top 4 teams to win the division (Hoylake1, Upton2, Thorndale2 or Hooton1). Hoylake hold a 10point advantage from Upton, another 6points to Thorndale and a further 8points to Hooton). PSunlight1 look certain to be relegated with Hooton2 in playoff. Alderley2 are 29points above playoff position but may face penalties?

**Men Division3:** Hoylake2 have won the division and Pinewood1 are in the playoff. NCheshire1 look certain to have to apply for reelection.

**Ladies Division1:** WallaseyM retain the title they won last year with 1 match to go.

Geoff Dewhurst  
WTL Fixture Secretary