

2022/23 Warrington Snooker League Mid-Season Review

Division 1

Division 1 of the Warrington Snooker League is probably the tightest in recent memory as we reach the Christmas Break with most teams having played just over half of their 24 league games for this season and just 15 points separating the top and bottom of the league.

Irlam Steel are the current leaders on 51 points thanks to 6 of their 8 wins having been by a score line of 5-2 or better showing the importance of not just winning games but getting those additional points which make a huge difference to the total come the end of the season. They've got a slightly tougher second half of the season with just 5 home games remaining but they do have the choice of picking who their players will play when playing away and this may come to their advantage when it gets to the latter stages of the season.

With a record of 7 wins and 6 defeats you wouldn't automatically assume this would put a team in 2nd place but that is where **Walkers B** find themselves just 2 points behind Irlam Steel. Having started the season with a 7-0 defeat they have bounced back superbly and have scored at least 3 points in every single league game since including winning 5 of the last 6 by the same score line of 5-2.

Having the best win/loss ratio of 10 wins out of their 12 league games has helped **Penketh Cons B** into 3rd place and with a game in hand they have a great chance of being top should they get at least 3 points in that match. Admittedly they would probably say that they could have done with a couple of wins being more than a 4-3 margin however a winning team brings confidence week to week and they are in great shape for the 2nd half of the season. They will be hoping they have done enough before the last week of the season as this is their bye week for the second half.

Three teams are just behind the prize positions on 47 points in The Hatter, Irlam Catholic and Alford D. Both The Hatter and Irlam Catholic have won 8 games but **The Hatter** are in the more favourable position as they have had both of their bye's for this season so each week they will have the chance to claw points back on all the rest of the teams in the division which will put them right back into contention with the leaders and considering they were only promoted last season this is a great achievement. **Irlam Catholic** have been pushing at the top of the division for most of the season and had it not been for 3 consecutive 5-2 defeats at the end of November and start of December they would very likely be right on the tail of their neighbours Irlam Steel. Going back over the last few seasons **Alford D** always seem to be just on the edge of top 3 and the same trend seems to be going again this season. 10 of their 13 games have come out with a score line of 4-3 either way showing consistent scoring most weeks and a demonstration of how tight the league is.

Defending champions **Kings Club A** sit mid-table at the Christmas break but have surprisingly only won 4 of their 12 games so far. Two of those wins however have been 7-0 results which have helped them pull away from any potential relegation trouble and with a game in hand they are only 6 points behind leaders Irlam Steel. They are yet to win away from home this season however and should they want to retain their division 1 crown they will need to start picking up wins away from home or they will leave themselves too much to do come the end of the season.

Like Kings Club A, **The Grange** will be hoping to push on in the 2nd half of the season as they also have a game in hand on the leaders and are in good form having not lost in the league since 3rd November, winning 4 games on the bounce. Sitting just 7 points from the foot of the table and 8 from the top, they can't be complacent as they could easily get pegged back from the teams below but with their experience in the league and the match in hand you would imagine they will be more of a threat to the teams above as the season rolls on.

Monks A are just 2 points behind The Grange but they have played an additional game and will anxiously look over their shoulder as they are only 1 point above the relegation places. Just 2 victories in their 8 games has stalled their progress but having finished in the top 3 in both of the last two seasons they will be looking to find that form again in the 2nd half of the season to ensure they stay in the division.

The remaining two promoted teams from last season GESM B & Deaf Social A are both tied on 40 points along with Woolston A. All three teams have only won 4 games all season but **GESM B** are in a favourable position with a game in hand. Returning to the division for the first time since 2016/17 season they struggled at the start with just 1 win in their first 6 but have found their feet and will be hoping that the game in hand will allow them to consolidate a mid table position and provide them with another season in the top division. **Deaf Social A** started the season well on their return to the league and were pushing on the top 3 in the early stages, However 7 defeats in a row found them tumbling down the league to the foot of the table until they beat fellow strugglers GESM A 6-1 the week before

the Christmas break. **Woolston A** are one two big disappointments in the division this season and will be frustrated to see themselves down in the relegation places with the quality in their squad. They have some big games coming up against teams around them just after Christmas and you feel these will be critical to outcome this season.

The other disappointment are the team at the foot of the table on 36 points in **GESM A**. Even though they have managed to win 6 of their 13 games they have only won the aggregate on 3 occasions which is costing them points nearly every week and chances to keep up with the rest of the division. Like Woolston A, many have suggested they have too good a squad to go down but with a bye the first week after Christmas and already 4 points adrift they will have left themselves with a lot of chasing to do if they are to retain 1st division status.

Outstanding/Postponed League Matches from 2022/23 Season

Week 4

Penketh Cons B v Kings Club A - Date TBC

Week 14

The Grange v GESM B - Date TBC

Division 1 - Most Wins (Race for Player of the Year)

Player	Team	P	W	L	Pts F	Pts A
McJay, Mitch (25)	Kings Club A	11	10	1	915	665
Brown, Ryan (39)	Walkers B	11	9	2	933	744
Malkin, Nick (9)	The Hatter	11	9	2	746	617
Picken, Tyran (21)*	Irlam Catholic	12	9	3	1,015	888
Whittaker, Tyler (3)	Kings Club A	12	9	3	840	644
Brown, Wes (17)	Walkers B	13	9	4	952	825
Newton, Jon (4)	The Grange	11	8	3	719	612
Owen, Keith (29)	Monks A	11	8	3	902	722
Fenney, Glyn (13)	The Hatter	12	8	4	866	769
Richmond, Mike (8)	Irlam Catholic	12	8	4	881	725
Morley, Steve (37)	Alford D	13	8	5	1,125	895
Taylor, Mark (16)	Alford D	13	8	5	972	796

*New Player therefore not eligible for player of the year.

Division 1 - Highest Break

Player	Team	Break
Whittaker, Tyler (3)	Kings Club A	63
Taylor, Gary (-8)	Deaf Social A	56
Veldhoven, Keith (-10)	Irlam Steel	55
Giblin, James (4)	Penketh Cons B	48
Lunn, Gary (-16)	Woolston A	48
Hall, Brian (-34)	The Grange	48
Barton, John (-6)	G.E.S.M. A	47
Morley, Matt (-8)	Alford D	44
Dean, Paul (-33)	G.E.S.M. A	42
Dean, Paul (-33)	G.E.S.M. A	41
Hall, Brian (-34)	The Grange	40
Morley, Matt (-8)	Alford D	40

Division 2

Due to the number of entries into the Warrington Snooker League this season, teams in division 2 find themselves in the unusual situation where they play a couple of games less than those in division 1, having an additional bye home and away. With this being the case it's been difficult to judge trends and see an accurate reflection of the table as there hasn't been a stage where all teams have played the same number of games as we got to the Christmas Break.

Leading the way on 48 points though are **St Benedicts** and to show the unpredictability of the division they have only won half of their 12 games with 6 wins and 6 defeats. Their home form has been particularly strong only losing one game which was a score line of 3-4. In all the matches they have won this season they managed to win at least 5-2 once again showing the importance of getting those additional points when winning matches.

Perhaps the surprise package in the whole of the Warrington Snooker League this year is **Woolston B** who find themselves in a brilliant 2nd place just two points behind St Benedicts and with a game in hand. Winning their first 5 games gave them the perfect start and they haven't looked back since. With St Benedicts having a bye the first week after the Christmas break they have a great chance to take top spot and who knows if this is the year they will return to division 1?

Having just missed out on promotion last season **Alford A** are right in the battle again and currently hold 3rd place on 45 points. 5 consecutive wins in their matches up to the Christmas break have put them right into contention and with no bye until late February they have a great chance of continuing that run in the next few weeks which could cement their place in the promotion places come the end of the season.

The next 4 places are separated by just one point with 3 teams all on 43 points. **Kings Club C** have the advantage having won more games with a record of 8 wins from 11 and they also have a game in hand on some of the teams around them. They are looking to put pressure on the teams above them to bounce back to the division one at the first time of asking. Another team looking to bounce back at the first time of asking is **Penketh Cons C**. Having the tough job of playing at a new venue following their move from Eagle Sports they have understandably struggled to find consistency but like Kings Club C they also have a game in hand having had 3 of their 4 bye's already. This could be key with them playing every week but one until the end of the season. **Deaf Social B** are the 3rd team on 43 points and find themselves 6th in the league with the same win/loss ratio as 1st place St Benedicts emphasising the unpredictability and competitiveness in the division. Their home and away form though is Day and Night as they have won 5 from 6 at home but are yet to win away and will need to start picking up more points away should they want to be in the mix come the end of March.

Another team with 6 wins from 12 is **Penketh Cons A** and they find themselves just 1 point behind the three teams above. They are only 3 points off the promotion places and with 2 of their bye's coming in the last 4 games they will hope that they have picked up enough points before then should they want to have a chance of being promoted.

Last year's Team Championship winners **Alford B** are one of two teams on 39 points but with just 1 win in their last 7 games they will need their form to change quickly should they want to be in the mix for promotion. With the quality in their ranks you can never bet against them and they do have a game in hand on some of the teams above them so a couple of wins on the bounce will have them right back in the mix. **Warrington Cons** are the other team on 39 points but having played a game more. Similarly to Alford B they will need to have a change of fortunes in their form having won just 1 of their last 6 games. They have lost 6 of their games this season by the score line 3-4 which goes to show the fine margins as had they gone the other way they would be in 3rd place.

Having to recently change venue due to the Bridgewater club closing in Lymm, **GTBL (Formerly Bridgewater A)** have the tough task of getting use to a new venue and tables halfway through a season. Due to this reason, you would say that the chances of promotion for them is slim but they have managed to sign some new players since the move to Thelwall to bolster their squad. Should they win their game in hand they will have the same win/loss ration as 1st place St Benedicts but they had an awful start to the season picking up just 2 points in their opening 3 games which is why they sit in 10th place 33 points. Level with them but having played a game more are **Woolston C** who have really been struggling for form in recent weeks. Their 5-2 over Warrington Cons is the only time since 20th October that they have scored more than 2 points in a game and they will be looking to improve when the league recommences later this week.

The team that finds themselves in last place of the Warrington Snooker League at the moment is **Kings Club B**, 4 points adrift of Woolston C. They are yet to win away from home this season so they will need to pick up some form away from home should they want to avoid the wooden spoon prize at the end of the season. As with Penketh Cons C, they have had 3 of their bye's already and this may

play into their hands as the season progresses. A derby match against their C team is next up, giving them the chance to pick who they want to play on their own tables and could be the perfect opportunity to start their fightback and help in their objective of getting off the bottom of the table by the end of the season.

Outstanding/Postponed League Matches from 2022/23 Season

Week 12

Alford B v GTBL (Formerly Bridgewater A) - Date TBC

Kings Club C v Woolston B - Date TBC

Division 2 - Most Wins (Race for Player of the Year)

Player	Team	P	W	L	Pts F	Pts A
Brereton, Jason (13)	St Benedicts	12	11	1	1,027	787
Broadfield, Ron (44)	Woolston B	11	10	1	1,176	770
Broadhurst, Andrew (26)*	Penketh Cons C	11	9	2	1,001	765
Cheng, Nick (1)	Kings Club C	11	9	2	813	614
Myatt, Geoff (45)	G.T.B.L (Formerly Bridgewater A)	11	8	3	1,049	870
Gibbons, Joe (31)	Alford A	12	8	4	1,010	975
Berry, Colin (50)	Woolston C	8	7	1	790	542
Johnson, Jack (38)	Alford B	8	7	1	752	555
Cole, Jonathan (36)	Deaf Social B	9	7	2	804	651
Cook, Dave (36)	Penketh Cons A	9	7	2	795	713
Sullivan, David (34)	Deaf Social B	10	7	3	838	743
Withers, Mike (18)	Kings Club C	10	7	3	735	686
Babington, Brian (21)	Alford A	11	7	4	914	726
Acton, Mark (-2)	St Benedicts	12	7	5	843	832
Jones, Arfon (48)	Penketh Cons A	12	7	5	1,139	987
McNamee Jr, Danny (17)	Warrington Cons	12	7	5	920	923

*New Player therefore not eligible for player of the year.

Division 2 - Highest Break

Player	Team	Break
Cheng, Nick (1)	Kings Club C	43
Dodd, Steve (1)	Alford A	39
Dodd, Steve (1)	Alford A	36
Seymour, Andy (-7)	G.T.B.L (Formerly Bridgewater A)	36
Seymour, Andy (-7)	G.T.B.L (Formerly Bridgewater A)	35
Owen, Gareth (-7)	Kings Club B	34
Acton, Mark (-2)	St Benedicts	33
Chester, Mike (-34)	Alford B	31
Aspinall, Wayne (5)	Penketh Cons C	31
Seymour, Andy (-7)	G.T.B.L (Formerly Bridgewater A)	31
Aspinall, Wayne (5)	Penketh Cons C	31
Owen, Gareth (-7)	Kings Club B	30
Cheng, Nick (1)	Kings Club C	30
Davies, Andy (20)	Warrington Cons	30