

This final Ennis 2015/2016 report should be read in conjunction with the initial report following the festive season and the second in March. And festive it is indeed for Bray/Greystones who captured first place, and Drogheda who managed to secure second place on tie break. Indeed this has been the order of things in my previous two reports and predictions of such an outcome are realised. Both teams of course rightly belong in the second division and their elevation is to a place where they rightly belong. It must also be said that Drogheda put up a magnificent performance in the last round given that both Bray/Greystones and Drogheda had 44 and 41.5 points respectively at the .start of the round

In the relegation zone going into the final round were Dublin on 25.5, Elm Mount on 25.5, Dun Laoghaire on 23. and Malahide on 19.5. On this basis the only question was who would accompany Malahide from Dublin, Elm Mount and Dun Laoghaire. Additionally hinted at in earlier reports being in danger of relegation, and it came to pass that Malahide, with Elm Mount, were consigned to relegation. In terms of my own team Elm Mount, players played to their best, but were outgunned by higher rated players (in some cases 200 - 400 rating difference) during the league season as a whole on the top boards and the rating predictors were realised. However, this was good .experience for our small group of fast improving junior players

The relegation battle was closely fought in the end with Dun Laoghaire and Elm Mount fighting to avoid it. A tense and tough match ensued. Elm Mount were hoping to do better than the 1-5 loss incurred to Dun Laoghaire on the day, but the better team won with two games hotly fought in tense time trouble. Indeed, there was not much in it between the final standings in the lower half of the table. Just half a point separated Elm Mount from the next team up, Longford, and again a half point between them and Dun Laoghaire. This was then followed by a one point difference in the next four teams, so it was a close call in the end when it came to relegation, bar Malahide on this .occasion

Thus it is that joining the Ennis next year will be Gonzaga and Skerries and already this league .looks interesting

Eugene Donohoe