



Plumstead kept on the fringes of the title race with this narrow win at the Plumstead WMC.

Lewis McGurn (23.52) 2-4 Stuart Pickles (26.02)

Wood Green got off to the faster start with this win in six legs. The first three legs went as expected, with throw being held. The pattern was maintained in leg four, as McGurn levelled the contest with a fine 102 finish. Pickles made use of having the first chance at the oche in the fifth. The sixth leg saw McGurn have darts to take it the full trip, but was made to pay as Pickles cleaned up to take the opening point.

Pip Blackwell (26.28) 4-1 Paul Killington (24.94)

Blackwell got things back on track with a fine display of scoring. He led off with a maximum in the first three legs of the contest. He took out 95 to hold the opener, and then started leg two with 6 perfect darts before eventually breaking Killington in 13 darts. Better finishing would have clinched the third earlier, but he still pinned the double to assume complete control of the tie. Killington did delay the inevitable, taking leg four, and despite keeping pace with Blackwell in the fifth he wasn't able to break and extend the match into a sixth leg.

Nigel Payne (25.38) 3-4 Craig de Almeida (27.21)

Wood Green regained the overall lead, but needed the full seven legs to do so. It looked as though the point would be going to Plumstead, as Payne started superbly. Two breaks of throw by Payne had him three nil ahead and looking at a brief night's work. Almeida was keeping pace with the scoring, and pulled one back to avoid the whitewash with a 100 checkout. He kept the finishing boots on, taking the fifth courtesy of an 82. The Middlesex man was now on a roll and broke Payne to force a decider. There was little to separate them as they vied for the win, but de Almeida had the throw and that proved the difference as he completed the come from behind victory.

Tommy Sanwell (25.93) 4-1 Gary Middleton (23.47)

Sanwell started the fourth game in the same vein as Payne had in the previous game, and matched his team mate by swiftly going three nil ahead. It would have been harsh on Middleton had he come away without a leg to his name, and he did get some rewards for his efforts as he took leg four. Any hopes of a second straight win after being three down were soon dashed, as Sanwell held in leg five to complete the job.

Nicky Turner (22.71) 3-4 George Killington (24.90)

With three games left to play, it was still hard to predict who would come away with the overall win. Wood Green did get back in front, in the second of three games which went the distance. It was a

game where having throw proved to be effective, with each player rarely threatening to break the other. Killington was in fine form at the business end, talking the double as soon as he was in range. The third leg was concluded with a 94 take out, but the experienced Turner was haging in and levelled it in the fourth. Leg five went to Killington without little pressure, and he put himself in a position to make the first break and finish the match in the sixth. The chance wasnt taken, and Turner stepped in to tie the match for a third time. The longest leg of the game then followed, but Killington saw Turner narrowly miss taking out 128 before knocking in the match winner.

Kevin Smith (27.72)

4-3

Matt Finch (29.41)

The penultimate game was a cracker and the seven legs simply flew by with both combatants producing some sparkling darts. There was nothing to choose in the scoring department, but Finch was edging it when it came to hitting the outer ring. The first four legs all went with throw, and Finch sent it to effectively a best of three with a superb 11 darter to take the fourth. He promptly broke the Smith throw in leg five to gain the ascendancy, but Smith started the better in the sixth leg and broke to force a finale. The last leg was a repeat of the previous one, with Smith gaining the upper hand and ending the match befitting what had gone before with a 70 finish.

Graham Rackstraw (30.16)

4-1

John McDermott (26.30)

A very even contest came down to the final game, with both sides confident of taking it for the overall win. McDermott struck first, holding on throw. From there, Rackstraw hit a purple patch to give the County selectors another nudge for a return to the A side as he continued his fine start to the season. A hold levelled things up, before he took the lead, breaking McDermott with a superb 13 dart leg. Despite McDermott hitting a maximum in the fourth, Rackstraw put himself one away as he cracked home an 82 finish. He then topped leg three with another break, only requiring 12 darts this time around. Three consecutive 140s were followed with a great 81 finish to end the night on a real high for the hosts.

After coming into the game tied on 18 points, Plumstead now sit in fourth spot with Wood Green in fifth. Plumstead head to Lewisham, while Wood Green will be expecting a big win as they entertain bottom side Bermondsey.