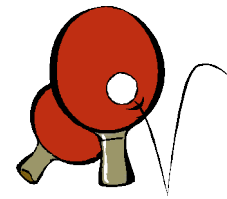


## **Boyne House Goals Competition 2010**



*For those of you who are not aware with the format of 'goals', and lets be honest, that will be most of you, here is a quick explanation! It is played on the table tennis table, however, you don't score points, you score goals. A goal is scored by landing the ball on the opponents half of the table and then making the ball hit the back wall....simple ey! Sadly not, when you throw in other local rules such as handball, double hits, free kicks and penalties it suddenly becomes one of the most complicated games one could possibly play....but the boys love it. Beneath is how the group games unfolded earlier this term.....*

It was always going to hard pushed to beat the thrills and spills of the inaugural competition last year, but we thought we'd give it ago. So, 28 boys entered, to form 4 groups of 7 with the top 3 progressing to the super 3's. Across the groups there was everything from, epic goals, outstanding defense and even skullduggery, yes, I'm horrified and embarrassed to admit it.

### **Group 1**

On the face of it, it was a forgone conclusion that the top 3 seeds of Shimi, Wheeler and Lowe would progress unscathed to the super 3's....this however was not the case! Due to 'disciplinary matters' Lowe was unable to compete for 4 days, so the GAC (Goals Association Committee) had no option but to forfeit his games 0-5. This effectively ended his title campaign as all this remaining opponents picked up the 3 points for the win, plus the winning bonus point.

James Wheeler, was all but unstoppable in the group stages, winning all but one of his matches (with bonus points too). However, that match he lost was crucial as it was to the unknown force of Ludo Millar, who was unseeded.

Ludo was the shock of the group stages, not only beating James but also the other top seed Shimi, which paved the way for his progression through this daunting group.

Shimi, lets be honest had a shocking group stage. I don't think anyone would argue that in his last bid for the title he was under prepared and some what arrogant in his approach to his matches.

The other athlete to progress in this group was none other than that man Jack Chang, who played some solid goals and was the main beneficiary of the Angus Lowe ejection.

One lad who deserves and mention is Ross Oliver who was a brave and courageous competitor but sadly left the group stages with 0 points, but as the say Ross, 'Rome wasn't built in a day!'

### **Group 2**

I think its fair to say Group 2 is where we saw the most action, and varied action at that. This group had 3 players placed on 14 points behind the group winner, George Burt on 21 points.

After reaching the semi finals last year Sam Frost was a top tip, and certainly a fans favorite. However, his games were all tight in the 2010 competition and this was ultimately going to lead to his demise, not picking up enough bonus points and then having an inferior goal difference to Andy Chang and Sean Wilson.

Sean Wilson, must be one of the finds of the group stages, with no previous form he played an uncompromising style of goals, with a thunderous serve and a celebratory fist pump reminiscent to that of Tim Henman to really put the shivers up any opponent.

The big talking point from this group was the skulduggery occurring right under the nose of the GAC, with Frost and Burt at the centre of the scandal. In his final game Frost knew that a loosing bonus point would be enough to see him through to the group stages. So it was agreed between them that Burt would 'win' 5-4.

However, not a lot gets past the fans on the terraces of the Boyne Common room and the GAC was soon made aware of this heinous crime. Disqualification could be heard echoing up and down the corridors, and this was not off the cards, trust me. It was decided in the end that both players would start the remainder of their games one goal down from this stage on. This incident act can only be compared to the Pakistan cricket teams performance this summer and has marred the name and reputation of this great sport. It will take some doing to win back the respect and trust of the faithful fans after this.

### **Group 3**

This group was probably the most straight forward, with the top two seeds (Charles Price and Mr McKegney) equally playing high quality goals and progressing with relative ease. Charles Price was in usual annoying form, employing his 'individual' style using his body to block most shots, which quite frankly doesn't in keep with the etiquette of this magnificent sport. He also has a way of talking utter rubbish at all times, and if truth be told, the pilgrims that turn up day in day out to watch these College Class athletes are getting rather fed up with it.

Unfortunately Price went through with 21 points from a possible 23 points, with Mr McKegney in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a solid 19 points. His only blemish came against Price, and if truth be told, it was early in the competition and he caught the classy McKegney cold and was quite frankly lucky to win by the narrowest of margins 5-4.

Louis Graves was another unknown quantity from the 3<sup>rd</sup> form, another raw talent who will only get better with age. It's so encouraging that we had 3 of our 3<sup>rd</sup> form progressing through to the super 3's this year; it really bodes well for the future of the sport.

### **Group 4**

Peter 'the serve' Bruins was by far and away the stand out man of the group stages, and the GCA are proud to give him the tital of 'man of group stages': he qualified with a staggering 23 points, out of a possible 23. His serve was quite simply devastating, however, one may be asking if he has depth to his game and if someone indeed finds a way to get in back will he be able to cope?

As expect, Stirland was hot on Peters' heels only loosing one game, indeed to Peter....UNTIL: more skullduggery occurred.

For some unknown reason, Charlie decided to throw his game against Juan Pablo, loosing 4-5. The GCA was dismayed to hear of more match-fixing, and quite rightly dished out the same sanction to both players if they progressed. The GCA would like to inform all fans of goals that a full-scale investigation into any more match fixing, spot betting or any other scandalous behavior has been launched.

Harry Taylor was the other member of the group to progress with 13 points, and the GAC would like to wish him well in the super 3's particularly has he seems to get an undeserved barracking from the terraces in most of his games.

Harry Whiteman, played with heart and panache throughout the group stage but if you only score 4 goals and an overall goal difference -21, your always going to struggle. Harry did manage to pick up 1 bonus point against a rather lackluster Gossage. Harry, one positive to come out of this is that you have 4 more years of practice and 3 more competitions to compete in!

**One final word:**

With members of all years going through to the super 3's the breath of talent spread throughout Boyne is clear to see. Come back to read more about how the Super 3's, semi-finals and finals pan out.

Charlie McKegney

President  
Goals Committee Association