

## **LEICESTERSHIRE TABLE TENNIS** <https://www.topspin-ldttl.co.uk/>

Fleckney 1 were confident going into the final Elbow Tankard match to decide the fourth semi final team fully expecting to overwhelm their own second team but were pulled up short when the latter went into a 4-0 lead. The first team dug deep with Bob Palmer notching 5 from 6 and Andy Haddon 4 from 6 to grab a 12-8 victory. For Fleckney 2 James Robertson took 5 from 6.

The semi final draw resulted:

The 3 Musketeer v Fleckney 1. Abbots All Stars v Fox Flicks.

It is 60 years since the current Grading system was inaugurated into the Leicester and District League, at the time with the English Table Tennis Association also showing great interest. All as a result of William Bentley, head of the massive Bentley Engineering Group asking if his annual table tennis tournament could be a handicapped event.

At the time it was set up with various levels to indicate standards beginning with Club Master at 200, then League, County and National Masters at 250, 300 and 350 respectively. Sadly the fail-safe put in place has not been used for many years so those levels are no longer officially valid.

However, I maintain interest in the system and work them out each year using that original one hundred percent mathematical formula and find that just three players are into the 300 County Masters range at the moment, with several others needing a decent start to the season to rise to the same section as they are all well into the 290's

The main reason for this is that most players in Division One last term got nowhere near playing the requisite 50 sets and so still have quite a few from the previous season still counting and this just holds them back a tad.

Top and undefeated but having played only seven matches (21 sets) is Mo Salameh the Jordanian International playing for Knighton Park's second team, and is on 325, ten clear of Chris Rogers who was officially top of the averages with 95% having played at least the requisite number of matches.

Playing a full season would find Salameh much higher assuming the same unblemished record. Full top 10.

### **COUNTY MASTERS (300+)**

1. 325 Mo Salameh (KP).
2. 315 Chris Rogers (KP).
3. 304 Robin Pearce (LU).

### **LEAGUE MASTERS (250+)**

4. 298 Lara Whitton (KP).
5. 297 Gary Knights (LU).
6. 295 Ayush Buche (Uni).

7. 293 James Berry (KP).
8. 286 Adam Pettitt (Uni).
9. 286 Karen Smith (KP).
10. 284 Tony Smith (KP).

KP = Knighton Park, LU = Loughborough Unicorn, Uni = Unicorn.

**John Bowness.**