

Friday, 5th March 2010

Volleyball

Hibs secure top spot as Birkirkara close in on Flyers

Paola Hibs Candy secured top position in the women's Division One league last weekend after a fine win over Fleur de Lys. However, the real thriller of the programme at the Cottonera Sports Complex was the top-of-the-table Division Two clash between Birkirkara VC and Flyers Depiro II.

At the start of the play-offs, points will be halved so that the teams will begin the second phase of the championship closer to each other in the standings.

Hibs beat Fleur de Lys 3-0 (25-22, 25-15, 25-22).

This was an important win for the champs who have strengthened their position at the top of the standings. David Bonnici's girls started out in their usual manner, taking their opponents by storm.



Action from the women's Division One match between Paola Hibs Candy and Fleur de Lys.

Fleur de Lys withstood the early pressure to remain close to their opponents but then lost their rhythm in the second set, with Hibs opening a comfortable lead which they administered till the end of the set.

The third set was very similar to the opening one but Hibs were too strong for Fleur de Lys.

In Division Two, Birkirkara had the better of Flyers Depiro II 3-1(25-21, 25-21, 23-25, 26-24). This was the most exciting match of the weekend with the top two teams battling it out literally to the last point.

Flyers had obtained two victories at Birkirkara's expense before this match so it was vital for the latter to reduce the gap on their opponents prior to the play-offs. The contest was tight but Birkirkara held a slight edge in the first two sets to take a 2-0 lead.

Depiro did not give up though and pulled one back after taking the third set with the slimmest of margins. The fourth set could have gone either way but the Birkirkara girls kept their cool to secure three precious points.

In other matches from the women's Division Two, TGIF beat Mellieħa Bullets 3-1 (25-8, 23-25, 25-17, 25-17) and Phoenix went down to Paola U-18 0-3 (20-25, 18-25, 19-25).

Mellieħa finally managed to win their first set this year in their last match of the regular season as TGIF edged closer to Phoenix in the standings.

Paola found no difficulty to dismiss Phoenix's challenge. Alessio Muscat's team showed they were the stronger outfit on the day to qualify for the Promotion Pool along with Flyers Depiro II and Birkirkara VC.