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UK League Snooker Championship

The Thames Valley Snooker League represented Buckinghamshire and Berkshire counties competing in the UK League Snooker Championship at the South West Snooker Academy on 23-24 November *writes Darren Howard.*

The annual competition organised by UK Snooker League is now in its 5th year and included amateur players across all regions of England and Wales. The tournament was well supported with 16 counties competing in two divisions of 8 teams with the top two teams qualifying for the semi-final knock out stage.

The playing conditions were representative of professional standard with fast match play fine cloth and reactive cushions, tournament sized pockets and high quality lighting with seating galleries contributing to the match play pressure conditions. The Thames Valley side captained by Darren Howard, got off to a slow start in Division A adjusting to the match playing conditions but ended up winning 5 out of 7 matches with victories over Plymouth, Eccles, Gloucester, Coventry and East Dorset and finished in third place behind Preston and West Midlands who eventually met in the final. However 5 wins was enough for qualification in Division B with both Bideford and Southport also securing 5 wins.

Chesham player Eddie Barker topped the overall player's statistics for Thames Valley securing 6 wins and 1 loss with breaks of 59, 42, 34 and 34. In second place High Wycombe player Darren Howard won 4 matches with 3 losses including one black ball loss with a top break of 42. In joint third place, High Wycombe player Antony Denham and Maidenhead player Dylan Leary won 3 matches with 4 losses and in fifth place, High Wycombe player Emin Thorose won 1 match with 6 losses with a top break of 33. Eddie Barker finished in 5th place in the overall player rankings for Division A, with Darren Howard in 15th position, Dylan Leary in 23rd place, Antony Denham finishing in 28th spot and Emin Thorose ended up in 38th place.

The top break was awarded to Torbay player Alan Tunney who made a 104. Other breaks:

99, 90

2 x 70+

8 x 60+

4 x 50+

11 x 40+

7 x 30+

Division A winners and runners up, Preston and West Midlands made it to the final with West Midlands claiming the title with a 3-1 win.