

Cup Run Ends For New Milton Table Tennis Club

A Team

In the second of the Times and Directory Handicap Cup semi-finals involving a New Milton side, the A team hoped to do better than the B side who recently lost their semi-final against Bournemouth Sports N.

The A team faced their Div 1 fellows Merton B and the handicaps reflected their joint Div 1 status ie Milton's Steve Hemmings (+5), Alan Gordon (+6) and Terry Jenvey (+12) versus Merton's Michael Robertson (+12), Danny Allen (+9) and Matthew King (+13).

Milton got off to a good start as Hemmings overcame the differential to beat Robertson 2-1, but captain Gordon then lost to Allen 1-2 to level the match at 1-1. Milton then went 1-3 behind as Jenvey lost to King 1-2 and Gordon lost to Robertson also by 1-2. Next up, Hemmings beat King 2-0 and then Jenvey beat Allen 2-1 to bring parity at 3-3.

In the seventh game, Gordon found the 7 point gap against King a bridge too far and went down 0-2 to leave Jenvey needing to beat Robertson to save the match (so no pressure there then!). All of the previous games were "best of three" but as Jenvey and Robertson were on the same handicap, there was a "scratch" start and best of five. Jenvey had already lost to Robertson in the league and unfortunately tonight was to be no different, although Jenvey narrowly lost the third end 10-12 to go out in three straight ends.

So the A side went down 3-5, which was the same scoreline as their already exited B side, leaving Div 1's Merton B to play Div 4's Bournemouth Sports N in the Cup Final.

B Team

Three weeks previously, the B team of Shaun Newcomb, Bob Fagan and Malcolm Floyd lost their semi-final against Bournemouth Sports N. It was always going to be a difficult evening as the handicapping reflected the two divisions difference ie Newcomb (+12), Fagan (+15) and Floyd (+14) facing the Div 4 side's Steve Joyce (+23), Bayrem Kuzu (+21) and Robin Thomas (+22). It was very "nip and tuck" and was level at 3-3 by the sixth game with Floyd having beaten Joyce but losing to Kuzu, Fagan beating Thomas but losing to Joyce and Newcomb also beating Thomas but losing to Kuzu. Kuzu provided the key as he completed his hat-trick to beat Fagan and make it 4-3 to Bourne. Fagan had done well to take the second end off Kuzu, but lost the third 29-31 with Kuzu benefiting from a wicked "edge" in the final stages. Floyd needed to beat Thomas to keep Milton in it but lost the first end heavily by 21-31. He caught up with him in the second at 30-30 but went on to lose the next two deuce points and thus lose the match. Although there was nothing on it, Joyce sportingly played the remaining game against Newcomb, which the latter won in three, leaving Milton to reflect on what might have been.