

Best Year Ever For New Milton Table Tennis Club

In a well-attended AGM of the New Milton Table Tennis Club held at the Mudeford Wood Community Centre, Club Secretary Bev Scott-Johns reported that the club had completed what must rank as its best ever season in the Bournemouth and District Table Tennis League.

The A team were runners-up in Div 1 and were promoted to the Premier League, and the C and F teams were champions of Div 3 and Div 5 respectively. The E team came a very creditable fifth in Div 4 following their promotion from Div 5 last year, the D team secured another year in Div 3 despite missing players due to injury and the B team came a very respectable fourth in Div 2.

Adding to the league successes, the F team's James Lewis won the Bournemouth and District Div 5 Individuals Title, which is the second year running that this was won by a New Milton player. James has had an incredible first year in the league and he was unbeaten all season. He has also taken on the roles of League Coaching Officer and New Milton Club's Welfare Officer and this was all recognised when he was awarded the Club's Doris Marshall Memorial Plate as Club Person of the Year.

The B team's Malcolm Floyd also did fantastically well in the Bournemouth and District Annual Tournaments to make it through to the Div 2 Individuals final, but lost out to former club-mate Geoff Ware.

The Club also entered two teams into the Times and Directory Handicap Cup Competition this season and both the A and B teams made it all the way through to the semi-finals before being knocked out.

In his report, Scott-Johns also paid tribute once again to Shaun Newcomb, the club's only wheelchair player who has had another brilliant year. In addition to successes in national disabled competitions and local "able-bodied" leagues, Shaun was also honoured with the ETTA's Equality Award, the New Forest Sports Council's Senior Disability Award and was one of three nominees for the Hampshire Disabled Sportsman of the Year award. Shaun was also elected Vice Chairman of the British Table Tennis Association for people with Disabilities and also sits on their Technical Services Group and on the Selection Sub-Committee as well as serving on the ETTA's Equality and Child Protection committees. A very busy Shaun has just successfully completed his UK Coaching Course (Level 2) and in September he will be the assistant team manager for the England disabled table tennis team at the UK School Games in Cardiff. Shaun is also the driving force behind securing bigger premises and improved coaching facilities for the New Milton Club and was confirmed as Club Development Officer at the AGM.

New Milton are the third biggest club in the league with six teams entered last season. The Club is not content to rest on its laurels however and plans to enter eight teams into the league next season, including the A team making a well-deserved return to the Premier after a two-year absence. Record attendances at practice nights have prompted the Club to look for bigger premises and the Club is actively working towards this.

The Club has a good presence on the Bournemouth and District Table Tennis Association's Executive Committee with four members now serving. Club Treasurer Malcolm Floyd, who was returned as League Results Secretary, and long-serving committee member Brian Theaker are now joined by Club Secretary Bev Scott-Johns and James Lewis who is now the League Coaching Officer. Floyd was also honoured at the Association's recent AGM by being unanimously elected in as a Vice President.

Club Treasurer Malcolm Floyd presented the Club Accounts which showed a healthy financial position but recommended an increase in match fees from £2 to £3 per night. This was to help finance new club equipment as part of the club's expansion plans and the proposal was accepted.

The club's officers were re-elected unopposed en bloc, Chairman: Bob Fagan, Secretary: Bev Scott-Johns, Treasurer: Malcolm Floyd. Ian Linney stood down from the committee due to work commitments and was replaced by Brian Vibert, new member James Lewis was elected as Welfare Officer and existing member Shaun Newcomb was elected as Development Officer. The other committee members remain Alex Everett-Bolter (Junior Representative), Kevin Harris and Dave Sutton.

The presentation of the New Milton Annual Tournament trophies also took place that night ie:-

Scratch Singles: Brian Vibert, Runner-Up Steve Hemmings.

Handicap Singles: Simon Daish, Runner-Up Gerard Redman.

Vets (Over 40s): Bob Fagan, Runner-Up John Parkhouse.

Under 40s: Ted Linsley, Runner-Up Max Doohan.

Juniors: Max Doohan, Runner-Up Ted Linsley.

Doubles: Shaun Newcomb & Terry Jenvey, Runners-Up Fern Daish & Simon Daish.

Doris Marshall Memorial Plate (Club Person of the Year): James Lewis.

All in all, the Club can look back on a remarkable season and looks forward with optimism to the new one. Any reader interested in playing competitively or just for a bit of fun should contact Bev Scott-Johns on 01425 619552.