

Excellent Cup Start For New Milton Table Tennis Players

There were no league matches in the Bournemouth and District Table Tennis league last week as the week was given over to the Preliminary and First Rounds of the Times and Directory Handicap Cup competition. New Milton Table Tennis Club entered two teams in the competition this year and they both emerged winners of their matches in the first round.

The A team who usually play in Div 1 won 5-4 at home against Winton YMCA C who play in Div 5. The handicapping proved just about right as it took Milton the final game to take the match. The games are "31 up", best of 3, with no doubles and the relative handicaps show the hurdle that Milton had to overcome to take the victory, ie Terry Jenvey (+12), Steve Hemmings (+5), Alan Gordon (+6) facing Winton's Duncan Feltham (+26), Alistair Feltham (+25) and Max De Kment (+24).

Both Hemmings and captain Gordon won their first two matches, but Hemmings lost out to De Kment and Gordon went down against Duncan Feltham. Jenvey lost his first two matches but beat Alistair Feltham 33-31 in a three-ended cliffhanger in the last game of the evening to snatch the victory.

The B team (Div 2) had to play away against Div 1's Bournemouth Sports F and could have expected an easier evening than their teammates as the opposition turned up a player short. The handicapping was a lot closer reflecting only the one division difference, ie Shaun Newcomb (+12), Bob Fagan (+15), Malcolm Floyd (+14) compared to Bourne's Ken Parradine (+12) and Barry Kenward (+10).

However, it still took Milton the seventh game to seal victory at 5-2 as Newcomb and Fagan added to the three-match advantage by both beating Kenward, but Newcomb and Floyd lost to Parradine. It was decided to play the remaining two matches and the trend continued with Fagan losing to Parradine and captain Floyd beating Kenward to conclude the proceedings at 6-3.

Both New Milton teams therefore proceed to the second round which will be played week commencing 8th December.