

Good Singles Night For Table Tennis Players

There was a very good turnout for the Scratch Singles event, the last in the series of this year's New Milton Table Tennis Club's annual tournaments. The 19 players were drawn into three groups of five and one of four for the first round robin. The club's top players in attendance, Brian Vibert, Steve Hemmings, Terry Jenvey and Shaun Newcomb were seeded into each of the four groups to ensure that they didn't face each other in the early rounds.

The formbook remained untroubled as Vibert, Hemmings, Jenvey and Newcomb all won their groups to go through to the quarterfinals. In the first group of five, Mick Barry (Div 3) only lost to eventual group winner Vibert (Div 1) to stake his place in the quarterfinal. The second group of five also saw Malcolm Floyd (Div 2) only drop one match to the eventual group winner Hemmings (Div 1). In the final quintet James Lewis (Div 5) beat eventual group winner Terry Jenvey (Div 1), but lost out to Ian Linney (Div 3) so had to be content as runner-up through sets difference.

Newcomb (Div 2) emerged unbeaten to win his group of four, but did it the hard way by only beating his old nemesis Bob Fagan (Div 2) 12-10 in the third and final end. This was the only game dropped by Fagan who went through to the quarterfinals as runner-up.

The quarterfinals saw the formbook upset as Barry (Div 3) performed a "smash and grab" over Div 1's Jenvey, by nicking the match 13-11 in the fifth and final end. Vibert saw off Lewis in three straight ends to stake his place in the semis and Hemmings was similarly untroubled by Fagan in their quarterfinal. The match of the evening just had to be the tussle between Div 2 teammates Newcomb and Floyd. Newcomb took the first end 11-9, but Floyd nicked the second and third ends both by 12-10. Newcomb got back in the game to take the fourth end 11-8 to set up an enthralling finale which drew gasps from the crowd of onlookers (who were waiting to pack up and go home). It was nip and tuck most of the way with some fascinating exchanges, but Floyd managed to pull away to win the match 11-7.

In the semis to be played later, Floyd will have another bash at Hemmings, and Vibert will seek to avenge Div 1 teammate Jenvey in his semi against Barry. The finals are scheduled for Monday 6th July at Mudeford Wood Community Centre and all spectators are welcome. For further details, please contact Club Secretary Bev Scott-Johns on 01425 619552.