

Table Tennis Summer League Results

Despite this allegedly being the "close season", the New Milton Table Tennis Club is currently involved in two summer leagues. All matches in the Bournemouth Sports Summer Tournament are played down at Chapel Gate and the matches in the Ringwood Summer League are all played up at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood. As the standard of teams in the Ringwood league does vary, a wide variety of New Milton players have been invited to play from across the divisions.

Bournemouth Sports Summer Tournament

With just two matches left to play in the Bournemouth Sports Summer Tournament, the New Milton side, led by captain Alan Gordon top the table following last week's 7-1 victory over Ian Mashford's team ("Ian's Army") which included two promising youngsters, David Roberts and Finn Morgan-Bayliss.

The New Milton side on this occasion was Alan Gordon, Shaun Newcomb and the first competitive outing for new summer signing Julie Smillie. Gordon and Newcomb put Milton on track with a 3-0 win in the first doubles against Mashford and Morgan-Bayliss. Julie Smillie then had to draw on her experience to beat the very talented Morgan-Bayliss 3-1 in the first singles match. The two captains battled the second of the singles with Milton's Gordon coming out the winner 3-0 over Mashford, having had a tight 15-13 second set. Newcomb then beat young David Roberts 3-1, the Bournemouth youngster showing he will be one to watch in the future.

Smillie's second match was against Mashford, a distinctly tricky opponent, even if one had not had such a long time away from table tennis. Mashford's long pimple barrage enabling him to take the first two sets before she had had time to work him out. In the third the tide turned though and Smillie took command, going on to win this and the fourth to set up a fifth set nail biter; unfortunately the cunning Mashford managed to get a big early lead, 5-1 at the change and despite hauling it back to 9-10, the last point slipped away from Smillie.

Newcomb almost had a shock as young Morgan-Bayliss forced their match to a fifth end, the youngster playing very intelligently against the pimples and spin combination, though Shaun's experience and a little good fortune sealed the win. Captain Gordon despatched young Roberts in straight sets to secure his own brace.

Smillie joined wheelchair-player Newcomb to play the second doubles against Mashford & Roberts and despite having no experience of the wheelchair doubles rules, she demonstrated her rekindled talents to combine well, New Milton winning 3-0 to end the evening at 7-1 overall.

New Milton players who have represented the club in previous rounds are Anita Pearce, Brian Vibert, James Lewis and Gerard Redman. Milton are sitting pretty at the top of the league with 18 out of a possible 20 points.

Ringwood Summer League

New Milton were not quite as successful in the Ringwood league, but they managed to pick up a point from a 4-6 defeat at the hands of the "Wednesday Morning Club". New Milton was represented by Terry Jenvey, Malcolm Douglas and Kelly Hooper on this occasion. The Wednesday Morning Club captained by Gordon White from the Merton club included two New Milton TTC players, Richard Barrett and Bev Scott-Johns who also play down at Merton on Wednesday mornings, hence the name. Jenvey beat club mates Scott-Johns and Barrett but lost to White over five ends. Kelly Hooper who hails from Branksome added two more to the tally by beating White and Barrett, but with Douglas drawing a blank, Milton were 4-5 down going into the doubles. Scott-Johns going against his conscience put himself up for the doubles with Gordon White to face Milton's Jenvey and Douglas who just lost out to go down 4-6 overall.

Other New Milton players who have represented their club in previous rounds are Brian Vibert, Shaun Newcomb, Paul Douglas, Gerard Redman, James Lewis, Lewis Reading, Peter Eke and John Parkhouse. New Milton at present are mid table in the eight team league with Merton A the team to catch.