

New Milton Take Title in Bournemouth Summer League

The team from the New Milton Table Tennis Club could not be caught in the Bournemouth Sports Summer Tournament, even before the final week's fixtures were played.

The team, led again by captain Alan Gordon, forced a draw against "Dave's Outlaws", one of five teams from the host club. Although the title was already Milton's, the Outlaws sought to sour the celebrations by fielding a very strong side.

In the opening doubles, Milton's Shaun Newcomb and new signing Julie Smillie went two sets up against the Dave Law and Ken Parradine combo, before the experienced pair fought back to take first blood 3-2 to the Bourne side. The pressure was maintained in the singles with Parradine winning both his singles in straight sets against first Smillie and then Newcomb. Law also beat Smillie, albeit in a close four set game.

Newcomb recorded one singles win by beating the Bournemouth side's third player, Nolan George in straight sets but it was Alan Gordon, playing like a true captain who was Milton's anchor man, winning both his singles against Law and George and combining well with Newcomb to take the final doubles game of the evening, all without dropping a set.

Following this hard fought draw, the New Milton side whose campaign can only be described as a vintage performance, being unbeaten all summer, collected their most merited and much appreciated spoils; a presentation of wines donated by Bournemouth Sports Table Tennis Club's Chairman, Colin Bryson.

New Milton did not fare quite so well in the Ringwood Summer League as they lost 3-7 against Merton B to end up fifth out of eight teams, just behind their tormentors on the night, Merton B.

Milton's captain James Lewis drew a rare blank as did Peter Eke, but Gerard Redman bagged an excellent brace by beating Merton's Chris Hill and Barry Kenward. The Milton trio all struggled against Merton's Adam Elcock, and Lewis and James had five-setters against Hill and Kenward also without reward. The evening ended on a more positive note as Redman and Eke won the doubles to make it 3-7.

This year's winners of the Ringwood Summer League were Merton A, who dedicated their title to Deryk Thrower, a Merton stalwart of many years who sadly passed away in early August.