

Excellent Cup Start For New Milton Table Tennis Players

New Milton Table Tennis Club got off to a superb start in the Times & Directory Handicap Cup by winning all of their matches except one. The B team especially excelled themselves by winning their preliminary round and then went on to win their Round 1 match in the same week.

There were no league matches in the Bournemouth and District League last week as the week was given over to the Preliminary and First Rounds of the Times & Directory Handicap Cup. The Cup provides an interesting diversion from the league programme in that it enables teams across all divisions to be drawn against each other in a handicapped competition, with no doubles. Milton have entered seven out of their eight teams into this year's competition.

The Div 1 B team of Malcolm Floyd, Paul Bolter and Shaun Newcomb got the week off to a rip-roaring start by beating Winton YMCA A (Div 3) at their place by 5-3 in the preliminary round. Paul Bolter was replaced by Rob Fagan as they went on to face another Div 3 team Merton E and came away from Southbourne with a 6-3 victory. Newcomb deserves a pat on the back for helping his side on their way with hat-tricks in both matches.

The premier's A team of Alan Gordon, Brian Vibert and Steve Hemmings were given a good run for their money by Div 4's Bournemouth Sports M as the match was level at 4-4 down at Bournemouth. Last man Hemmings on a handicap of +5 overcame a deficit of 17 to beat Bourne's Robin Thomas (+22) to land the victory.

The Club's only defeat came in the match between the C team (Div 2) and Merton F (Div 3) where Terry Jenvey, Mick Barry and Roy Hobbs lost 4-5 down at Mudeford Wood. At least they have another bite at the cherry because first-round losers go on to compete for the "Plate".

The Div 4 F team of John Parkhouse, Les Smith and Ian Linney visited Bournemouth Sports P (Div 5) and came away with a 5-4 victory courtesy of a hat-trick from Linney. Bourne went 3-1 up but Milton went on to win the next four games to snatch victory.

The H team of Danny Williams, Matthew Daish and Fern Daish (Div 5) faced Div 2's Bournemouth Sports J at home, but the visitors turned up a man short. Fern Daish added to the three game advantage by beating both players who turned up and Williams also beat Bourne's Dave Law to make it a 6-3 victory.

The league programme returns to normal next week and the next round of Cup matches takes place week commencing 7th December.