

New Milton E Team Back On Top

New Milton Table Tennis Club slightly improved on last week's tally of two wins in the Bournemouth and District League with three wins and one draw but still four defeats.

One of the wins saw the E team storm back to the top of Div 3 with an emphatic 9-1 win over last week's leaders Nimrod B. In a fantastic improvement over their first round away draw, captain James Lewis and Gerard Redman recorded their third and second respective hat-tricks in a row and Lewis Reading bagged a brace. This classic "eight-pointer" brings Milton up to 35 points, leaving Nimrod still on 31 points.

Not such good news in the Premier, where the A team of Alan Gordon, Steve Hemmings and Brian Vibert lost for the second time against second-placed Bournemouth Sports B, this time by 1-9 at home. Hemmings avoided the dreaded whitewash by beating Bourne's Tressa Armitage but Vibert only just lost out to the rising starlet. He took the first two ends off her fairly comfortably but lost the next two 12-14 and 13-15 and then went down 5-11 in the fifth and final end.

In Div 1, the B team of Malcolm Floyd, Shaun Newcomb and Paul Bolter looked forward to their return match against Bournemouth Sports G as they beat them 7-3 at home in the first round. However Bourne fielded a stronger team this time around and Milton went down 2-8, with Bourne replacement Andy Hartnell joining Louie-La in a hat-trick. Newcomb and Bolter both beat Charlie Chan but captain Floyd suffered the dubious distinction of becoming the first player to lose to the much-improved Chan this season. The doubles were needed to salvage a point but Newcomb and Floyd lost out over four ends to return home empty handed.

Div 2 saw the club's draw specialists, the C team pick up their sixth draw in ten matches which is their third tie on the bounce. Captain Terry Jenvey only just missed out on his hat-trick by losing 10-12 in the fifth end against Bourne's Malcolm Cartwright. Mick Barry beat Cartwright but lost to Kam Wong over five ends to join his captain in a brace. Roy Hobbs joined his teammates in beating J-D Marshall who appeared to be having an off night after winning all three in the first fixture. The doubles would have brought victory and the extra point but Jenvey and Barry lost over five ends.

In the club's other Div 3 match, the D team lost 4-6 at home to Bournemouth Sports L having held them to a draw down at their place in the first round. Teenager Alex Everett-Bolter bagged a brace and Bill Page and Malcolm Elliott chipped in with one apiece. Fourth man Bev Scott-Johns joined with Bill Page in the doubles to try to force the draw, but they were blown away by the Bourne pairing in three straight ends.

Div 4 saw the F team of Les Smith, Brian Theaker and Ian Linney do the double over close rivals Merton H, this time with a 6-4 away win down at Southbourne. Ian Linney came up with his second hat-trick of the campaign, captain Les Smith bagged a brace and Brian Theaker finally got off the mark with his first win of the season. In fact Theaker was unlucky not to bag his own brace as he only just lost out to Merton's Alan Dufall by 10-12 in an exhausting five-ender.

The third of the club's wins came in Div 5 in the second of the local derbies between the G and H teams in which the H team came out on top again with a 8-2 win over their club mates. Newly registered Richard Barrett marked his season's debut with a hat-trick alongside Ted Linsley's third full house in as many games. Fellow teenager Andrew Daish came up with his second win in two appearances but lost out to G's Keith Kensley and David Plumb. G's 14-year-old Rhys Jessop is getting closer to that first win as he played well to take Linsley and Daish all the way to five ends. G were oh so close to taking a second point off H via the doubles again but Simon and Andrew Daish just pipped Plumb and Jessop by 11-9 in the fifth end.