

New Milton E Team Unbeaten Run Comes To An End

In a week of little Christmas cheer on the table tennis scene for the New Milton Club, they could only manage one win out of their eight matches in the Bournemouth and District league. The Club saw their E team lose their first league match and also their A team crash out of the Times and Directory Handicap Cup competition.

The E team of James Lewis, Lewis Reading and Peter Eke were toppled from the top of Div 3 in their first defeat of the season. This 4-6 defeat surprisingly came at the hands of Bournemouth Sports K who are languishing at third from bottom, although they did turn out a stronger side than the team that Milton beat 7-3 at home in the first round. Milton were unlucky not to come away from Chapel Gate with a draw as Lewis Reading only just lost 10-12 in the fifth end against Bourne's Shu Q Ziang, who got a hat-trick for her side. Captain James Lewis, who lost to Shu Q Liang 7-11 in the fifth end, bagged a brace and Peter Eke chipped in with the one having also lost to Shu over five ends. There was nothing on the doubles apart from games difference but Lewis and Eke combined well to win out over four ends.

The D team of Bev Scott-Johns, Malcolm Elliott and Max Doohan fared even worse in Div 3 by going down 1-9 away against Merton E in their second defeat against the Merton side. Milton's blushes were spared by captain Scott-Johns' victory over Andrew King who was playing up from Div 4. Teenager Max Doohan who was also playing up from Div 4 showed that he was clearly not fazed playing at the higher level by taking Merton's Stewart and Andrew King all the way to five ends.

In the headier heights of the Premier, the A team lost 4-6 for the second time this season against Merton A. Steve Hemmings avenged his first-round home duck with a sensational hat-trick away at Southbourne and captain Alan Gordon chipped in with the one win by beating Merton's Clayton Fitzpatrick. Milton's week got even worse as they went out of the Times and Directory Handicap Cup by losing their Round 2 match at home to fellow premier side Merton B. Milton weren't helped by the fact that they could only field two players because Brian Vibert was injured, so they started off with a three-game deficit. Captain Gordon beat Merton's Matthew Hanson but Steve Hemmings lost to Danny Allen and Mark Butler to finish the evening early at 1-5. Merton B go on to face New Milton B in Round 3 due to be played after Christmas.

Div 1 saw the B team of Shaun Newcomb, Paul Bolter and Malcolm Floyd receive a 1-9 thrashing at home to Merton C. Milton will consider that they were worth at least the point that they forced away at Southborne, but Bolter avoided the dreaded whitewash by beating Merton's Barry Kenward. Captain Floyd ended up with his second duck in a row but came close to bagging a brace. He lost over five ends to Kenward and was 10-6 up in the fifth end against teenager Patrick Hurley but proceeded to lose the next six points to go down 10-12.

In Div 2, the C team of Terry Jenvey, Mick Barry and Roy Hobbs went down 4-6 at home to Broadstone B despite the visitors turning up a player short. Captain Jenvey was the only Milton player to be able to add to the three game advantage by beating Stone's Brian Vincent in the final singles of the evening. The doubles were needed to repeat their first round away draw but Jenvey and Barry lost in three straight ends.

Milton's only win came in Div 4 where the F team of John Parkhouse, Max Doohan and Les Smith did the double over struggling Winton YMCA B with their second 9-1 victory over them, this time at home. Teenager Doohan was in devastating form to pick up his first hat-trick in the league and Parkhouse came up with his third treble of the campaign. In the doubles, the old guard of Parkhouse and captain Smith crushed the Winton pairing in three straight ends.

In Div 5, the G team of Paul Douglas, David Plumb and Malcolm Douglas lost for the second time against the high-flying Breamore Batniks, this time by 2-8 away at Hulse Hall. Captain Malcolm Douglas led from the front to bag his second brace of the campaign, but teenage son Paul was unlucky to come away empty handed by losing 9-11 in the fifth end against Breamore's Pete White. Fellow teenager David Plumb played well to take the first two ends off Breamore's Paul Fox but lost the next three to miss out on a personal consolation. The doubles were needed for a repeat point from the Batniks and this looked on the cards as the two teenagers took the first end, but it was not to be as they lost the next three ends.

The H team of Danny Williams, Richard Barrett and Teddy Linsley fared no better in Div 5 as they had their own 2-8 defeat at home to the table-topping Bournemouth Sports R, which was a bit of a disappointment as they held them to a draw down at Chapel Gate. Teenager Linsley won Milton's only singles by beating Bourne's Tom Martin and he and Williams played well together to take the doubles over five ends.