

Good Wins For Table Tennis Players

The resumption of the Bournemouth and District Table Tennis league programme following the Christmas break was severely disrupted by the bad weather. However, the New Milton Club got off fairly lightly because the majority of their matches were scheduled for the early part of the week before the bad weather really set in. Consequently, only two out of their eight matches had to be postponed and the Club won three and lost three. Two of those wins were 9-1 maximum pointers from the Div 3 teams.

In the Premier league, the A team of Alan Gordon, Steve Hemmings and Brian Vibert suffered a mirror-image reversal of their first round 7-3 victory over basement boys Kinson A by going down 3-7 at home. Kinson fielded a much stronger side this time round but Vibert still managed a repeat of his first round brace and Hemmings chipped in with the one win. Milton have a bye next week so if Kinson pick up an unlikely point against leaders Bournemouth Sports B they would consign Milton to the bottom as only games difference currently separates the two strugglers.

Div 1 saw the B team of Shaun Newcomb, Rob Fagan and Malcolm Floyd repeat their first round 7-3 victory over rock bottom North Bournemouth B, this time in North's own backyard. Newcomb put on a brilliant show to record his first league hat-trick of the campaign, Fagan bagged an excellent brace but captain Floyd had to be content with just the one win after his first round treble. In freezing conditions, Floyd's game against North's Allan Elcock went to expedite for the second time, but Floyd emerged the winner in three straight ends once again.

In Div 3, the D team of Malcolm Elliott, Bev Scott-Johns and Clive Pitts did the double over basement boys Shamrock A, this time by the more emphatic 9-1 at home. Captain Scott-Johns led from the front with his first hat-trick of the campaign, Pitts came up with his fourth full house and Elliott bagged a brace.

Also in Div 3, the E side of James Lewis, Peter Eke and Gerard Redman climbed back to the top of the division with a 9-1 victory over Dorset Police down at the Divisional Police HQ at Ferndown. Though the score looks a comfortable win, both Lewis and Redman had to come back from 0-2 down in a couple of their matches. Eke managed to recompose himself after letting slip a 10-6 lead in the third over Police's Dave Read to come back to take the game in the fourth end. This maximum points win means that Milton displaced rivals Merton F who dropped a point with a less emphatic 7-3 win over Bournemouth Sports K.

Buoyed up by this terrific win in the league, the E side looked forward to their Times and Directory "Plate" match at home to the Premier's Bournemouth Sports D at the end of the week. Milton, with Dave Sutton replacing captain Lewis, went 1-3 down but hauled it back to parity at 3 all when Eke and Sutton beat Bourne's Su West and Jai-Xi Liang respectively. Unfortunately Redman, who had initially got his side underway by beating Jai-Xi Liang, went on to lose to Su West, and Sutton fell victim to Wei-Jun Liang to bow out of the competition at 3-5. This proved to be the Milton club's last hurrah in the Times and Directory competition as their other six sides had been knocked out in previous rounds.

In Div 4, the F team (John Parkhouse, Les Smith and Richard Barrett) were thrashed 1-9 away against Shamrock B. With all three losing their singles matches, the dreaded whitewash was avoided when captain Smith and Parkhouse beat the Shamrock pairing in the doubles over five ends. Shamrock failed to show up for the first round match at Mudeford Wood leaving Milton to feel retrospectively grateful for small mercies.

Div 5 saw the G team of Malcolm Douglas, Sam Watkins and Josh Harris suffer a reversal of their 7-3 first round away victory over Shamrock D with a 3-7 defeat at home. Captain Douglas led from the front again with his third brace in a row, the only other win coming from teenager Josh Harris. Watkins looked to be well on his way when he won his first end against Shamrock's Lori Ryder by 11-4 but eventually lost out 7-11 in the fifth and final end.