

Hemmings Hat-Trick Helps "A" Team To Second Victory

New Milton Table Tennis Club came up with two wins out of nine matches in the Bournemouth and District league, including a 7-3 from a rearrangement due to the snow a fortnight ago. The other win came from the A side who picked up only their second victory in the Premier this campaign. The other results were three draws and four defeats.

The A team of Alan Gordon, Steve Hemmings and Brian Vibert managed to haul themselves off the bottom of the Premier, albeit by games difference, with a terrific 7-3 home win over Bournemouth Sports D. Hemmings continues to impress in his first season at the highest level and came up with his fourth hat-trick of the campaign. Vibert bagged a brace, captain Gordon chipped in with the one win and Hemmings and Vibert won the doubles.

Div 1 saw the B team of Malcolm Floyd, Shaun Newcomb and Paul Bolter held to a 5-5 draw away against strugglers Bournemouth Sports E. Milton beat Bourne 8-2 at home in the first leg, but struggled a bit down at Chapel Gate. Newcomb repeated his first round brace but Bolter and captain Floyd could only pick up one apiece this time. The doubles were needed for the draw and the extra point and Floyd and Newcomb did the business in three straight ends.

In Div 2, the C team of Terry Jenvey, Roy Hobbs and James Lewis had to fight really hard for their point from a 3-7 defeat away against Ringwood A. Stand-in Lewis, who normally captains the E side in Div 3 proved his higher aspirations with his third brace at this level. Captain Jenvey chipped in with the one, but Hobbs just missed out on a personal consolation by losing to Ringwood's Mike Davies by 8-11 in the fifth end. Hobbs went 2-0 up against Chris Morgan in the last singles of the evening but again lost out over five ends.

Div 3 saw the D team of Malcolm Elliott, Bev Scott-Johns and Bill Page repeat their first round 5-5 draw against Bournemouth Sports K, this time at home at Mudeford Wood. Captain Scott-Johns won two out of three but Elliott and Page had to be content with one apiece. The doubles were required for the draw but the tricky Bourne pairing of John Crocket and Shu Q Ziang could sense victory as they went 2-1 up. However, Scott-Johns and Page recovered well to take the next two 11-6 and 11-5 to give their side a well-deserved draw.

Also in Div 3, the title-challenging E side of Gerard Redman, Peter Eke and Lewis Reading were surprisingly held to a 5-5 draw away against struggling Winton YMCA A. Redman and Eke bagged a brace each, but Reading came away empty handed after only just losing two of his games by 9-11 in the fifth ends. Again, the doubles were needed for the draw and Redman and Eke looked in control as they won the first two ends. However, the Winton pairing fought back to take the next two but Milton reassumed the initiative in the fifth to win it convincingly 11-3. The draw takes Milton up to 43 points, but they lost further ground on leaders Merton F (45 points) who beat Dorset Police 7-3.

In Div 4, the F team of John Parkhouse, Teddy Linsley and Max Doohan suffered a second 9-1 drubbing at the hands of league-leaders Merton G, this time away at Southbourne. Milton's blushes were spared by teenager Doohan who beat Merton's Paul Nelson, but only lost out to Andrew King over five ends. Milton could have so easily have come away with a point because in addition to Doohan's narrow loss, Parkhouse and Doohan only just lost the doubles by 9-11 in the fifth end.

Div 5 saw the G team of Keith Kensley, Malcolm Douglas and Rhys Jessop pick up a point from a 3-7 home defeat against Bournemouth Sports N, thanks to a brace from captain Douglas and one win from Kensley.

Also in Div 5, the H team had to squeeze in two matches including the fixture that was postponed because of the snow. First up was the scheduled home match against Nimrod D which the team of Danny Williams, Simon Daish and Michael Craddock lost 2-8. Williams and teenager Daish won Milton's singles and they only just missed out on a point by losing the doubles by 9-11 in the fifth and final end.

The H team was completely changed for the rearranged home fixture against new boys Breamore Batniks and this time Robert Saunders, Sandy Fagan and Richard Barrett beat the high-flying Batniks by 7-3. Season's new signing Saunders picked up his second hat-trick in only three outings and home-comers Sandy Fagan and Richard Barrett bagged a brace apiece. The doubles would have given maximum points, but it was not to be as Saunders and Fagan lost over four ends.