

Star Performances Lift Gloom

For the second week in a row, the New Milton Table Tennis Club could only manage two wins out of eight matches in the Bournemouth and District league. The Club was given a lift however by some star performances in the lower divisions. Danny Williams, who only started playing in the league this season not only bagged his second hat-trick in Div 5 for his H team, but also stood in and spared the F team's blushes with the team's only singles win in Div 4. Fellow newcomer, the fourteen-year-old Rhys Jessop also played extremely well to win his first match for his G team in Div 5.

In the Premier, the A team of Alan Gordon, Steve Hemmings and Brian Vibert are now nine points from safety following their 2-8 home defeat by Merton B. They were so close to salvaging a point, but Hemmings who drew a rare blank just lost out to Merton's Sanja Clements 13-15 in the fifth end. Captain Alan Gordon and Brian Vibert won the singles and combined well for the doubles, but were outgunned in the fifth end.

Div 1 saw the B team of Shaun Newcomb, Malcolm Floyd and Paul Bolter hold Lynwood A to a 5-5 draw down at the Winton YMCA. Captain Floyd and Newcomb bagged a brace apiece and Bolter chipped in with the one win. The doubles were required for victory but Floyd and Newcomb lost 11-13 in the fifth end despite going 10-8 up with two match points.

In Div 2, the C team of Terry Jenvey, Mick Barry and Roy Hobbs lost 2-8 away against struggling Lynwood B. Captain Jenvey came up with the two wins for Milton who were unfortunate not to come away with a point from their endeavours. Hobbs only just lost out to Lynwood's Peter Collins 10-12 in the fifth and Barry lost to Robin Bradley 8-11 in the fifth. The point was still riding on the doubles but Jenvey and Hobbs lost out over five ends despite going 2-1 up.

Div 3 saw the D team of Malcolm Elliott, Bev Scott-Johns and Bill Page do their club mates in the E team a favour by taking a point off leaders Merton F in a 4-6 home defeat. Captain Scott-Johns led from the front with a terrific brace and Elliott and Page picked up one apiece. Elliott lost to Merton's John Doidge over five ends despite going 2-1 up but made amends by beating fellow veteran Deryk Thrower over four ends. The doubles were required for the draw but it was not to be as Scott-Johns and Page lost out over four ends.

Also in Div 3, the E team of James Lewis, Gerard Redman and Peter Eke moved to within one point of leaders Merton F with an 8-2 maximum points away victory over Bournemouth Sports L. Captain Lewis was in imperious form to land his tenth hat-trick of the campaign but Redman and Eke both fell victim to Bourne's Alistair Nelhams. The doubles were needed for the maximum four points and Lewis and Redman did the biz in three straight ends. After the match, Lewis commented that it was a fantastic team performance and was delighted that Eke was finding the form that he can produce in practice.

Div 4 saw the F team of John Parkhouse, Les Smith and stand-in Danny Williams put to the sword again by Ringwood B, this time by the heavier 1-9 defeat away at Greyfriars. It took Williams who was playing up from Div 5 to spare his side's blushes with a victory over Ringwood's captain Pat Baldwin.

Div 5 saw the G team of Malcolm Douglas, Paul Douglas and Rhys Jessop win only their third match of the campaign with a 6-4 home victory over Merton J. Captain Douglas and teenage son Paul bagged a brace apiece and fourteen-year-old Rhys Jessop got off the mark with his first ever win in the league. Jessop displayed great maturity to overcome fellow teenager Ben Hopson and is certainly benefiting from his coaching down at the Portchester School on Saturday mornings. The doubles were required for the victory and the father and son combo duly obliged.

Also in Div 5, the H team of Danny Williams, Fern Daish and Peter Daish did well to hold the high-flying Bournemouth Sports P to a 5-5 home draw. Williams played out of his skin to bag his second hat-trick of the campaign and Fern Daish chipped in with the one win. The doubles were needed for the draw and Williams combined efficiently with Fern Daish to take them in three straight ends.