

Busy Bev Plays A Blinder!

It was a bit of a gloomy week for New Milton Table Tennis Club last week as they could only manage two wins out of their eight league matches. The two wins came in Div 3 as their D side beat Dorset Police and the E side continued their onslaught on the title with a 9-1 victory. Club secretary and D team captain Bev Scott-Johns had a busy week as he played for his D team and stood in for the C team in Div 2. He bagged a brace to inspire his D team to victory and also collected a good scalp in Div 2.

In the Premier, the A team of Steve Hemmings, Brian Vibert and stand-in Shaun Newcomb needed to beat Kinson A to move off the bottom, but they could only come away with a 5-5 draw. Hemmings and Vibert bagged a brace apiece and combined to win the doubles over five ends. Newcomb who normally plays in Div 1 was unlucky not to come away with a consolation as he just lost to Kinson's Umit Kaya 10-12 in the fifth end.

Div 1 saw the B team of Malcolm Floyd, Paul Bolter and Bob Fagan lose 4-6 at home to basement boys North Bournemouth B. The trio all beat North's John Eaton and Bolter added one more to the tally by also beating the big-hitting Max De Kment. For the third time this season Floyd's match against Allan Elcock went to expedite, but this time Floyd lost out over four ends having nicked the first end 13-11. The doubles were needed for the draw, but Floyd and Fagan were taken apart by Elcock and De Kment in three straight sets. All credit to North as they had only won one match all season up to now and Milton had beaten them 7-3 on their two previous encounters. Special praise is due to North's skipper Elcock whose canny expedite win over Floyd clinched his first hat-trick of the campaign.

The Club's other 4-6 defeat came in Div 2 as the C team of Terry Jenvey and stand-ins Bev Scott-Johns and Lewis Reading lost at home to Ringwood A. Jenvey put in a terrific captain's performance by bagging his third hat-trick of the campaign and Scott-Johns, playing up from Div 3, did exceedingly well to beat Ringwood's top player Adrian Mountain. The doubles were needed to force the draw but it wasn't to be as Jenvey and Scott-Johns lost out over five ends.

In Div 3, the D team of Bev Scott-Johns, Malcolm Elliott and Alex Everett-Bolter did the treble over rock-bottom Shamrock A, this time by 7-3 away at Cole Hill. The spoils were evenly divided as the trio bagged a brace apiece having all lost to Shamrock's Dave Stanbridge. Scott-Johns and Elliott both took Stanbridge all the way to five ends but Scott-Johns got the closer by just missing out by 10-12 in the first match of the evening. There was nothing on the doubles apart from games difference and Scott-Johns and teenager Everett-Bolter won in three straight sets.

The E team tightened their grip at the top of Div 3 by doing the treble over Dorset Police, this time with a 9-1 home win down at Mudeford Wood. Gerard Redman, Dave Sutton, who both scored hat-tricks, and Peter Eke demonstrated that they weren't missing their holidaying captain James Lewis at all as they put the Police to the sword. Rivals Merton F dropped a point against Bournemouth Sports K so Milton are now two points ahead Merton.

Div 4 saw the F team of Luke Dewey, John Parkhouse and Max Doohan lose heavily to Shamrock B for the second time this season, this time at home by 2-8. Dewey was unlucky not to get his side underway with a win in the first singles of the evening as he just lost out 9-11 in the fifth end against Shamrock's Tom Ball. Parkhouse and teenager Doohan went on to beat Ball and just missed out on rescuing a point by losing the doubles over five ends.

In Div 5, the G team of Keith Kensley, David Plumb and Sam Watkins lost 3-7 for the second time in a row against Shamrock D. The trio all beat Shamrock's Lori Rider which landed Milton their point. After the match, stand in skipper Kensley praised Watkins and teenager Plumb for their close five-setters against the highly-ranked Lawrie Phillips and David Lloyd respectively.

Also in Div 5, the H team of Danny Williams, and brothers Andrew & Simon Daish lost against Breamore Batniks for the first time this season with a 1-9 defeat in deepest darkest Breamore. Williams spared the blushes by beating Batnik Paul Fox and teenager Simon Daish also looked to have the measure of Fox as he took the first two ends but lost the next three to go home empty-handed.