

Champion Week For Table Tennis Team

New Milton Table Tennis Club had a bittersweet week in the last week of the Bournemouth and District league as they won three, drew two and lost two of their seven matches. The winning E team were crowned champions of Div 3, but the C team are relegated to Div 3 and the A team ended up bottom of the Premier.

The E team of James Lewis, Gerard Redman and Peter Eke were celebrating last week as they became champions of Div 3, the second year running that a New Milton side has lifted the title. They only needed a point against Merton E because fellow challengers Merton F lost 3-7 against Bournemouth Sports L earlier in the week. However, Milton did it in style with an 8-2 maximum-pointer, courtesy of hat-tricks from captain Lewis and Redman, their 16th trebles of the campaign. The much-improved Eke had to be content with just the one win this week and watched Lewis and Redman combine well to take the doubles in three straight ends.

The D team of Alex Everett-Bolter, Bev Scott-Johns and Bill Page came up with an 8-2 victory of their own in Div 3 as they did the treble over Winton YMCA A who have ended up second from bottom. Teenager Everett-Bolter finished off the season on a high note with a hat-trick, and captain Scott-Johns and Bill Page bagged a brace apiece. Everett-Bolter and veteran Page combined clinically for the doubles to blow away the YMCA pairing in three straight ends to go out on a high.

Up in Div 1, the B team of Shaun Newcomb, Malcolm Floyd and Bob Fagan finished their campaign on a bit of a low note as they received a 0-10 drubbing away against runners-up Bransgore A. Captain Floyd came the closest to sparing the blushes as he went 2-0 up against Gore's Colin Milton. Floyd lost the third end 9-11, however, but was 10-8 up in the fourth with two match points. However, he eventually lost it 10-12 and got taken apart in the fifth to lose 3-11. The doubles gave the last chance for redemption as Newcomb and Floyd have a good track record, but they found the Gore pairing too strong and lost out over four ends.

In Div 2, the C team of Terry Jenvey, Mick Barry and Roy Hobbs will change places with the promoted E side in Div 3 as the C's could only manage a draw away against bottom-placed Broadstone C. Their fate however was no longer in their own hands as Lynwood B had already taken a point off Bransgore B in a 3-7 defeat to leave Milton stranded at second from bottom. Broadstone turned up a player short and captain Jenvey added to the three-game advantage by winning the first singles, so it looked as though Milton might get something out of the evening at least. It was not to be however as only Hobbs was able to add to the tally to repeat his captain's victory over Joyce Coop. Jenvey and Hobbs went on to lose the doubles over four ends despite winning the first end.

Div 4 saw the F team of John Parkhouse, Les Smith and stand-in Malcolm Douglas reverse their previous result against Winton YMCA C with a 6-4 victory down at the YMCA. Parkhouse got back to winning ways with a brace and captain Smith chipped in with the one win. Man of the match just had to be Malcolm Douglas who usually captains for the G side in Div 5. He was not fazed by the move upwards and joined Parkhouse in an excellent brace. The doubles were needed for victory and Douglas rested on his laurels to watch Parkhouse and Smith deliver the goods.

In Div 5, the G team of Peter Scott, Sam Watkins and Malcolm Douglas lost for the first time against struggling Shamrock C in a 4-6 home defeat. Watkins played out of his skin to land his second brace of his maiden season, teenager Scott came up with his first win of the season and captain Douglas also added one to the tally. The doubles would have forced the draw but Douglas and Watkins got off to an inauspicious start by losing the first two ends. However, they rallied in the third to wrest it 16-14 and won the fourth 11-9 to set up the decider. They ran out of steam a bit in the fifth however to lose 6-11 so had to settle for the point.

The H team of Danny Williams and teenage brothers Simon & Andrew Daish fared slightly better in Div 5 with a 5-5 draw at home to Merton J. It was a strange evening as Williams got the ball rolling by winning the first singles, but then Milton went on to lose the next five games to go 1-5 behind. It must be said that younger brother Simon Daish was unfortunate indeed to lose to Merton's Mark Smith 13-15 in the fifth end of a fascinating encounter. In a remarkable about-turn in which Milton won the next four games, the trio each won their remaining singles and Williams and Andrew Daish took the doubles in three straight ends.

Up in the headier heights of the Premier, the A team had a bye, but were consigned to the bottom as Bournemouth Sports D took a point off Kinson A to swap places with Milton.