

## Mixed Bag For Table Tennis Players

**The New Milton Table Tennis Club could only manage two wins out of eight in the Bournemouth and District League last week, but took comfort from two more draws and in salvaging a point from each of the four defeats.**

In the Premier, the A team of Steve Hemmings, Brian Vibert and Brian Bickell came close to holding Merton A to a draw but went down 4-6 at home. Vibert got back to winning ways with a brace after last week's duck and it was Hemming's turn to draw a rare blank this week. Hemmings was unfortunate not to join Bickell in a consolation as he only just lost to Merton's Clayton Fitzpatrick 11-13 in the fifth end of a topsy-turvy encounter. There was nothing on the doubles as it happened but Vibert and Hemmings combined clinically to take them in three straight ends.

Div 1 saw the B team of Shaun Newcomb, Bob Fagan and Malcolm Floyd snatch a well-deserved point from a 3-7 defeat away against Merton C. Captain Floyd was relieved to come up with his first win this season having joined Newcomb in a victory over Merton's Barry Kenward. Floyd even came close to bagging a brace but lost out to left-hander Ian Robertson 8-11 in the fifth end of a very tough match. The doubles were needed for the precious point and Newcomb and Floyd duly obliged in three straight ends.

In Div 2, the C team came up with a 5-5 draw for the second week running, this time away to Broadstone B. Captain Terry Jenvey put in a terrific performance to come up with a brace, as did James Lewis who was playing up from Div 3. Roy Hobbs only just missed out on a win by losing two matches over five ends but gained some consolation by combining well with his captain to take the doubles in three straight ends to force the draw.

Div 3 saw the D team of Alex Everett-Bolter, Bev Scott-Johns and Malcolm Elliott suffer their first defeat of the campaign by going down 4-6 at home to Merton E. The first five matches went all the way to five ends but Milton only came out on top in one of them when captain Scott-Johns got the better of Merton's Rob Searle. Teenager Everett-Bolter got very close to Searle in the first match of the evening but was pipped to the post at 10-12. Scott-Johns added to his tally by beating Stewart King and Everett-Bolter beat John Dodwell in the last singles of the night. There was nothing on the doubles as the point had already been secured, but Scott-Johns and Elliott took them in three straight ends.

Also in Div 3, the E team were without their captain James Lewis for the first time but managed to beat Bournemouth Sports K at home by 7-3. Gerard Redman remained unbeaten to come up with his second hat-trick of the campaign, Lewis Reading grabbed a couple and Dave Sutton chipped in with the one win. There was nothing on the doubles but the Bourne pairing were out for revenge and took the first two ends by 11-8. However, Redman and Reading recovered well to take the next three ends and win the game.

In Div 4, the F team of Les Smith, John Parkhouse and Ian Linney demolished Winton YMCA B in their own backyard by 9-1. Making his first appearance for his team, captain Smith got his campaign off to an excellent start with a hat-trick. Parkhouse followed suit with his second hat trick in two weeks and Linney bagged a brace. Again, there was nothing on the doubles as the maximum four points were already in the bag and Parkhouse and Linney did further damage over four ends.

Div 5 saw the G team snatch another point in their second 3-7 defeat in a row, this time at home to new boys on the block Breamore Batniks. Stand-in captain Keith Kensley marked his league debut with a win and Paul Douglas got his campaign under way with a superb brace. Kensley gave teenagers Paul Douglas and Peter Scott their head in the doubles and they did well to win the third end having lost the first two. However, the Breamore pairing took the fourth to win the game although this had no bearing on the points tally.

Also in Div 5, the H team welcomed Sandy Fagan back after a two-year break from table tennis, and she marked her return with a magnificent brace. In a 5-5 draw away against Bournemouth Sports R she was oh so close in joining teenager Teddy Linsley in a hat trick but lost out to Bourne's Tom Martin 10-12 in the fifth end. The doubles would have brought victory and this looked to be on the cards as Fagan and Linsley took the first two ends. However they narrowly lost the third 13-15 and then saw the match slip from their grasp in the final two ends.