

Joy Of Six For Table Tennis Club

New Milton Table Tennis Club had their best week in the Bournemouth and District League so far this campaign by winning six out of eight matches and drawing two. Gratifyingly, their A and G teams both recorded their first wins after struggling in the opening three weeks.

The newly promoted A team of Steve Hemmings, Brian Vibert and Brian Bickell finally got off the mark in the Premier with a 7-3 away win against Kinson A. Hemmings played out of his skin to land his first hat-trick of the season, Vibert bagged a brace and Bickell chipped in with the one win. Vibert and Hemmings combined well to take the doubles, but by then the three points were already in the bag.

Div 1 saw the B team pick up their second victory of the campaign with a 7-3 home win over North Bournemouth B thanks to hat-tricks from Paul Bolter and Malcolm Floyd. Captain Floyd had to work really hard to land his treble as he just beat the big-hitting Max De Kment 12-10 in the fifth end of a tense encounter. Floyd's match against Allan Elcock was noteworthy through the invocation of the rarely applied "Expedite" rule, which is designed to speed up slow matches. This had the desired effect and Floyd won the match in three straight ends. The doubles would have brought maximum points and this looked on the cards as Floyd and Shaun Newcomb took the first end fairly comfortably. However, they lost their way after that and lost the next three ends to reflect on what might have been.

In Div 2, the C team are becoming the club's draw specialists with their third draw in a row, this week being held 5-5 at home by Ringwood A. Mick Barry and Roy Hobbs bagged a brace apiece but captain Terry Jenvey had to be content with just the one win this week. The doubles were needed for the win and the extra point but Barry and Hobbs lost out over three straight ends.

Div 3 saw the E team of James Lewis, Gerard Redman and Peter Eke climb to the top of the table with an excellent 8-2 home win over Dorset Police. Redman remained unbeaten to join his captain Lewis in a hat trick, but Eke lost out to Police's Paul Grevatt so had to be content with the pair. There was nothing on the doubles as the maximum points were in the bag. However the Police duo refused to lie down and die and beat Lewis and Eke over five ends to restore some pride.

Also in Div 3, the D team of Bev Scott-Johns, Bill Page and Clive Pitts came back from their trip to Shamrock A with a 7-3 victory. Milton were unfortunate not to come away with maximum points as Page only just lost to Shamrock's Paul Allen by 12-14 in the fifth end of a very close encounter. Pitts kicked off his season with an emphatic hat-trick, not even dropping an end in the process, Captain Scott-Johns won two and Page had to settle for the one win again. There was nothing on the doubles, but Scott-Johns and Pitts combined efficiently to take them over four ends.

In Div 4, the F team of Les Smith, Angela Farmer and Brian Theaker were gifted four points when Shamrock B failed to turn up at Mudeford Wood Community Centre. This brings Milton up to 12 points and within touching distance of leaders Merton G (14 points) who surprisingly dropped a point against North Bmth C.

Div 5 saw the G team of David Plumb, Josh Harris and Keith Kensley claim their first win of the campaign with a 7-3 away victory over Shamrock D. Teenagers Harris and Plumb joined stand-in captain Kensley in a brace as they all lost out to Shamrock's Lawrie Phillips, who played a blinder. Kensley paired up with Harris for the doubles which they won over four ends.

Also in Div 5, the H team did well to hold Breamore Batniks to an away 5-5 draw despite turning up a player short. Sandy Fagan and Danny Williams were not fazed at all by the initial deficit and managed to win two apiece. They needed the doubles to force the draw and did the business over four ends to be delighted to come away with two precious points.