

Daishes Add Dash To Table Tennis

New Milton Table Tennis Club could only manage two wins and one draw out of six matches in the Bournemouth and District league in a week that saw the club on both ends of 10-0 whitewashes. Two of the Daish brothers distinguished themselves by helping their H team to the 10-0 victory.

Div 5 saw the H team of Danny Williams and brothers Matthew and Simon Daish dish out an incredible 10-0 home whitewash over Shamrock D. Matthew celebrated his ninth birthday two days early with a hat-trick on his league debut and 14 year old Simon got his treble in only his second league appearance. Williams was also in devastating form to record his first hat-trick in only his third ever league outing. The brothers were given their head in the doubles which they won over five ends to complete the rout.

At the opposite end of the league, the A team were chafing at the bit after their first Premier win last week but had to take a back seat as they had a "bye" this week. Of the three teams just below them in the table, only Bournemouth Sports C could take advantage, with an 8-2 win over Merton A, so they dislodged Milton from fifth place.

In Div 1, the B team were missing regulars Shaun Newcomb and captain Malcolm Floyd, who were cheering England on at Wembley. Milton went down heavily 0-10 away against Broadstone A, who as luck would have it were able to put out their three top players for the first time this season. It was always going to be a big ask of Mick Barry and Lewis Reading who were manfully playing up from lower divisions alongside stand-in captain Bob Fagan, and so it proved as all games were over in three straight ends.

The club's second "bye" of the week came in Div 2 where the C team on nine points had to surrender third place to Merton D who beat Broadstone C by 7-3 to accrue ten points.

In Div 3, the E team of James Lewis, Dave Sutton and Gerard Redman clung on to the top-spot by beating close rivals Merton F in their own back yard by 6-4. Milton went 4-0 up but could only add two more to the tally despite an excellent hat-trick from captain Lewis. Sutton chipped in with two wins but Redman lost his 100% record and had to settle for just the one this week. There was nothing on the doubles apart from games difference which was fortunate as Lewis and Sutton lost in three straight ends.

Also in Div 3, the D team of Alex Everett-Bolter, Bev Scott-Johns and Malcolm Elliott did their E team stable mates a great favour by holding second-placed Nimrod A to a 5-5 home draw. Teenager Everett-Bolter played superb attacking table tennis to land his second hat-trick of the campaign, but captain Scott-Johns and Elliott had to be happy with one apiece. Milton could have still snatched victory through the doubles, but Scott-Johns and Elliott were outgunned by the Nimrod pairing to lose in three straight ends.

Div 4 saw the F team of Les Smith, John Parkhouse and Ian Linney lose for only the second time in the campaign, this time by 4-6 away against Nimrod C. Captain Smith drew a very rare blank, but Parkhouse and Linney bagged a brace apiece. Contender for comeback of the week just had to be Parkhouse in his match against Dave Eaton when he recovered from being 2-9 down in the fifth end to eventually take it 13-11. The doubles were needed for the draw and this looked on the cards as Parkhouse and Smith took the first two ends fairly comfortably. However, the Nimrod pairing composed themselves to snatch the third end 11-9 and saw the final two ends out 11-7 and 11-9.

Div 5 also saw the return of ex-Milton player Chris Courage to Mundeford Wood, but in the ranks of Nimrod D against the New Milton G side. Courage rubbed it in with a couple of wins to help Nimrod to an 8-2 victory, but Milton were worth at least a point. 14 year-old Rhys Jessop made his league debut and was unlucky not to kick off with a win as he only just lost out to Nimrod's Ben Dracass by 10-12 in the fifth end. Milton's seventeen-year-old Paul Douglas came up with his second brace of the campaign and paired up with Sam Watkins for the doubles. It looked pretty bleak as they lost the first two ends, but they played doggedly to take the third end 11-8 and snatch the fourth 13-11. And so it was all on the fifth end to rescue a point, but it was not to be as the Milton pairing went down 9-11.