

## **Bleak Week For Table Tennis Players**

**New Milton Table Tennis Club could only manage to win two matches out of eight in the Bournemouth and District League last week, although one of the wins came at the expense of one of the Club's teams in a local derby.**

Div 3 saw the first of the three local derbies between the D and E teams, which the E team just shaded by 6-4. The unbeaten E team who sit at the top of the division are five places higher than their stable mates but they were given a good run for their money. Both captains led from the front with the E's skipper James Lewis recording his fourth hat-trick of the campaign and D's Bev Scott-Johns bagging an excellent brace. Dave Sutton came up with two more for the E team and D's Alex Everett-Bolter and Malcolm Elliott chipped in with the one apiece by both beating Peter Eke. In an evening of some magnificent tennis, it was a shame that somebody had to lose, but Scott-Johns and Elliott were outgunned in the doubles by Lewis and Sutton to go down in three straight ends.

Further up the league in the Premier, the A team of Alan Gordon, Steve Hemmings and Brian Bickell suffered their worst defeat of the campaign when they were thrashed 1-9 at home by high-flyers Bournemouth Sports A. Hemmings spared the blushes by beating Bourne's Eric Buckley and Bickell also came close to a consolation but just lost out to Buckley 10-12 in the fifth end.

Div 1 saw the B team of Shaun Newcomb, James Lewis and Bob Fagan take a point off title challengers Kinson B in a 3-7 away defeat. It looked pretty bleak for the visitors as they lost the first four matches but Bob Fagan got the ball rolling by beating Kinson's Sean McLean in the fifth match. James Lewis was not fazed by playing up two divisions whilst standing in for captain Malcolm Floyd and directly followed Fagan's victory with a win over wily veteran Harold Feltham. Lewis had previously given star player Richard Davies a bit of a scare but lost out 6-11 in the fifth end. Newcomb also went on to beat Feltham to secure the precious point.

In Div 2, the C team of Terry Jenvey, Mick Barry and Roy Hobbs lost 4-6 for the second week in a row, this time away against Merton D. Milton were 1-6 down after the seventh match but then the trio recovered superbly to take their final singles and the doubles.

In Div 4, the F team of John Parkhouse, Max Doohan and Les Smith came up with the club's second 6-4 victory of the week in their away match against North Bournemouth C. Milton were gifted three games as North turned up a player short and Parkhouse added to the advantage by beating both players present. Teenager Doohan chipped in with the one but captain Smith only just missed out by losing 8-11 to North's Les Whittaker in the fifth end.

Div 5 saw the struggling G team of Keith Kensley, Josh Harris and Sam Watkins lose their third match in a row, this week going down 2-8 at home to Bournemouth Sports P. The evening got off to a good start when Kensley and teenager Harris won the first two singles matches, but that proved to be Milton's high-water mark as the team went on to lose the next eight matches including the doubles.

The H team are faring better in Div 5 at around mid-place and managed to take a point off Bournemouth Sports N in a 3-7 home defeat. Danny Williams and teenager Simon Daish both beat Bourne's Wendy Hall to land the only singles victories of the evening, so the point was riding on the doubles. Bourne were equally determined not to concede the point and this was reflected in a high scoring match that was level at 2-2, but Williams and Daish edged it by 12-10 in the fifth and final end. The evening saw Daish's 11 year old brother Peter make his league debut and showed great promise. He went down 3-11, 3-11 in the first two ends of his first ever competitive singles but showed great maturity to come back to take the third 11-7, but eventually lost 6-11 in the fourth. Certainly one to watch for the future.