

## **Mixed Fortunes For New Milton Table Tennis Club**

**With the first round of matches in the Bournemouth and District League now out of the way, the latest league tables portray the mixed fortunes of the New Milton Table Tennis Club. The Club entered eight teams into the league, two more than last season.**

The Club's success story comes in Div 3 where the E team are only one point off the top spot. Regulars James Lewis (captain) and Gerard Redman were playing in Div 5 last season and are certainly unfazed by the leap upwards and have only lost two and three games respectively. The E team have full bragging rights over their stable mates in the D team as the "E's" shaded the first of their local derbies by 6-4.

The D team are not faring quite so well in Div 3 and are currently lying sixth out of ten teams. Captain Bev Scott-Johns has considerably upped his game from last year and on an improved average of 56% is only just below teenager Alex Everett-Bolter who is on 57%. Star player, the unbeaten Clive Pitts has only managed two matches so far this season leaving Milton to wonder what might have been if he was fully available.

Looking down a division to Div 4, the F team have done very well to sit at mid table. John Parkhouse has been a revelation as he has now managed to convert his brilliant practice night form to the league and has only lost three out of seventeen matches.

Milton also have two teams in Div 5 and currently the mid-placed H team claim bragging rights over the G team who are bottom. However, the G team are showing promise having won their last match and only just missed out on a point from their previous two matches. New recruit Sam Watkins battled away without reward in his first three matches for the G team, but kept the faith to come up trumps in his last match when he won all of his games. The Club use both teams to blood their youngsters and the Daish boys have started promisingly for the H team. The H team won the first of the local derbies by 7-3, but the G side were a player short that time so they hope to turn the tables next time with a full complement.

In the opposite end of the league, the newly promoted A team are finding life difficult in the Premier and at third from bottom are only kept away from the relegation zone by games difference. However, Brian Vibert and Steve Hemmings who were playing in Div 1 last season both have the very creditable average of 50% in the premier.

In Div 1, the promoted B team are also third from bottom but are currently six points clear of Bournemouth Sports E. Captain Malcolm Floyd has risen to the challenge of the higher division and his Div 1 playing average of 53% is only just lower than his last year's 59% in Div 2.

In Div 2, the C team are currently the club's draw specialists having drawn four out of their eight matches. This in conjunction with their two wins has helped them to fourth spot in the table.

**The Club has benefited from a number of new recruits this season, but are always on the lookout for new players. Any readers interested in playing competitively or just for a bit of fun should contact Club Secretary Bev Scott-Johns on 01425 619552.**