

New Milton Table Tennis Players Through To Finals

There was a break in the Bournemouth and District Table Tennis League programme last week to hold the first of the two weeks of the Annual B&DTTA Individuals Championships. Seven players from the New Milton Club entered into the Singles events and two pairs entered the Men's Doubles event.

In a week of varying fortunes for Club members, Gerard Redman has made it through to the Div 3 final, and Shaun Newcomb & partner Brian Vibert have got through to the doubles final.

First up was the Div 1 event on Monday night where the B team's Shaun Newcomb was drawn into a group of three with two players from Bournemouth Sports. He lost to Louie La in three straight ends but beat Simon Marriner in four to go through as runner-up and face Merton's Patrick Hurley in the quarterfinal. Newcomb went 1-2 down but fought back to take the third 11-9, only to go down 8-11 in the fifth and final end, so that was the end of him.

On the same night, the H team's Richard Barrett and Danny Williams entered the Div 5 event. They were drawn into separate groups of three and both emerged as runners-up to proceed to the quarterfinals. Barrett was despatched over three ends by Bournemouth Sports' Seth Hemmingway, but Williams got the better of Bourne's Jo Kuzu in a five-ended thriller to go through to the semis. Milton have won the Div 5 title for the past two years and Williams had a chance of getting to the final as he took another player from Bournemouth Sports, Tom Martin all the way to five ends. It was not to be however as the Bourne teenager won the fifth by a convincing 11-5.

The following night saw the F team's Brian Theaker gamely enter the Div 4 event, but he was unable to emerge from a very strong group.

Wednesday night saw Bev Scott-Johns (D team) and Gerard Redman (E team) try their luck in the Div 3 event, where they were drawn into separate groups. Scott-Johns did well to beat the very steady John Dodwell (Merton) but lost to the other two players, so could proceed no further. Redman came runner-up of his group of three as he beat Dave Chapman (Merton) but lost to Rob Searle (Merton) to go through to the semi-final where he met Deryk Thrower, also from Merton. Redman did extremely well to see off the wily Thrower in four ends and will now face Searle again in the final.

Thursday night saw Richard Barrett, Shaun Newcomb, Bev Scott-Johns and B team captain Malcolm Floyd chance their arms in the Vets 40+ event. Floyd was drawn into a group of four with Barrett, but Newcomb and Scott-Johns were drawn into separate groups of four. Floyd got the ball rolling with victory over his Div 1 rival Max De Kment (North Bournemouth) and then went on to beat the other two players including Barrett to emerge winner of his group. Newcomb only lost to eventual group winner Danny Allen (Merton) so went through as runner-up. Scott-Johns beat Merton's Reinhard Lindner but lost to the other two so he troubled the umpires no further.

Newcomb beat De Kment over four ends to face Div 1 rival Ken Parradine (Bournemouth Sports) in the quarterfinal and also saw him off over four ends. The wheels came off the bus when Newcomb met Louie La in the semi-final. Louie took the first two ends, Newcomb clawed back the third 11-9, but it was only a temporary respite as Newcomb lost the fourth 6-11.

Floyd didn't get as far as the semi-finals as he was stopped by the Premier's wily veteran Danny Allen in their quarterfinal. Floyd surprised everybody, including himself, when he took the first end off Allen, but it was a forlorn hope as Floyd was put to the sword in the next three ends. At least Newcomb and Floyd can take some comfort from the fact that they lost to the eventual finalists.

Friday night saw Milton enter two pairs into the Men's Doubles event. Newcomb paired up with his Premier club mate Brian Vibert, and Redman teamed up with his Div 3 teammate James Lewis, winner of last year's Div 5 Individual title. They were drawn into separate groups and Newcomb & Vibert won their two games to go through as winners. Unfortunately, Redman & Lewis only won one of their three games so that was the end of the road for them. Newcomb & Vibert despatched Phil Hadley & Alistair Nelhams in three straight ends in their semi, so they will meet their pool victims Phil Beeden & Danny Allen in the final.

The Finals Night is at the Winton YMCA on Friday 26th February and the report will appear in next week's Advertiser.