

# TT Matchplay Back With a Bang

The Horsham Matchplay Table Tennis Nights process got underway at Collyer's Sixth Form in good style on Friday with 16 players taking part. Young and old, male and female, experienced and inexperienced were involved to quickly re-establish the fun and spirit that the nights have established a reputation for.

Format employed for the opening evening was a broad all-versus-all round-robin that encouraged players to engage as many matches as possible over the two hour duration. Where a mismatch of standards was brought together the less experienced player had the option to apply a handicap against their stronger opponent or request a 10-minute coaching session instead.

Some notable matches, performances and observations took place. Bobby Renaut's game has come on well from last season to this showing good shape on his forehand and backhand wings and registering a 3-0 win over Adrika Shibu as reward for his technical progress. One thing he could not manage however was to remove the smile from little Adrika's face, a girl with positive attitude to spare. It's only a matter of time before this spirit becomes represented by her results.

Brother Alrain looked a bit rusty and lost more than he won. Other brother Alain was more fluid but how that observation translated to his achievement will never be known because most of his results did not get transferred to the scoresheet. He wasn't the only offender on this front!

Oskar Crook inflicted one of Alrain's defeats but was edged out closely by Chris Goodyear and Matt McAlpine. Goodyear also took out McAlpine 2-1 when they met. Goodyear's only defeat came to organiser Ian Ford in straight sets but Ford was put in his place 2-1 each time by fellow supervisors Tat On Man and Luke Randis.

Jude Lane enjoyed some good wins but couldn't put a dent in the big beasts that he tried to hunt. His closest match came against Randis' son, Adrian, to whom he lost by the odd game in three.

Leon Lukose was as bright and breezy as ever even if he didn't quite find his range on his return to competitive action. The irrepressible Charlie Pembroke was back too; if points were awarded for self-belief he'd be in the world rankings. As it is he'll have to settle with the steady improvement he's making.

Steve Ledger is back in town too. He's got one of the best backhand flicks around but needs to develop some of his other shots to that level in order to make the next step up. He enjoyed but eventually lost 2-1 a particularly good game with left-hander Harry Llewellyn. Llewellyn was slightly disorientated by the tables being aligned to the width of the sports hall on this first outing as opposed to the length as normal. An alternative theory is that his hair is growing to a length where it obscures his vision momentarily as it wafts back and forth across his face.