

Latest TT Matchplay Night is Small But Beautiful

What the latest Friday TT matchplay night lacked in quantity it made up in high quality and fine spirit at Collyer's in the latest meeting of it. Inevitably very cold weather, allied to the threat of snow, worries about roads in rural feeder area and the prospect of National Junior and Cadet Leagues in Brighton next day contributed to the moderate turnout but well done to those who kept the ping fires burning.

A 'Super Grid' was employed and gave less experienced participants a choice of handicaps to impose on their opponent, one or all of conferring a points advantage on themselves, enforcing wrong hand play and requesting the use of a mini or a mini-mini bat, the average lollipop stick having a bigger surface area than the mini-mini and certainly capable of generating more spin. Less experienced players could also request 10 minutes of coaching from a more senior player, a rule which all stronger players obliged without a second thought. Strong and positive club cultures are made from giving and taking within their communities.

Organiser Ian Ford was subjected to various constraints but still managed to prevail in straight sets across all his matches, despite some close deuce-set battles notably with James Anderson and Aalrin Shibu. Well he's like that! Co-Organiser and Horsham TTC Chairman, Tat On-Man, is the embodiment of rights and responsibilities within the group although he still hasn't managed to get Ford to cough up a defeat between the two this season. However hope springs eternal.

The Shibu family entourage formed 30% of the night's attendance. Aalrin came out on top of the three with 38% this time, leaving Alain a Brother Beyond on 20%. Little sis Adrika managed to take out big gun Chris Goodier in straight sets with a variety of restraints including a straight-jacket, however yet again she emerged first in the charm and smiling stakes.

Back to the drawing board for Tanbridge topspinner Steve Ledger as he drew a blank from seven encounters, confounding the analysts who are commenting his positive technique is starting to come together. He's got plenty of time and opportunity to get back on the wagon. Jude Lane is another one for whom persistence is starting to play dividends. He won two on the night and whilst his forehand can be a bit stiff at times, at other times it can be a deadly weapon.

Chris Goodier combines shots of beauty with a hint of teenage angst and tonight was no exception although Adrika Shibu had his summer and Alain Shibu played his best match of the night against him, albeit finishing up on the receiving end of a five-set thriller.

And well done to another plucky character Leon Lukose, winning against four of his five challengers, carrying ping handicaps, and only succumbing to Goodier in a match that went into a fifth set.

RESULTS

	Aalrin Shibu	James Anderson	Steve Ledger	Tat On Man	Jude Lane	Ian Ford	Leon Lukose	Adrika Shibu	Chris Goodier	Alain Shibu	OVERALL
Aalrin Shibu		3-1	1-0	0-3	1-3	0-3	2-3	2-1	3-1	Coaching	W3/L5=38% 6 th
James Anderson			3-1	0-3	3-0	0-3	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	3-0	W3/L3=50% 5 th
Steve Ledger				0-3	0-3	Coaching	2-3	Coaching	0-3	0-3	W0/L7=0% 10 th
Tat On Man					Coaching	0-3	Coaching	Coaching	Coaching	3-0	W4/L1=80% 2 nd =
Jude Lane						0-3	1-3	Coaching	0-3	Coaching	W2/L4=33% 7 th

Ian Ford		Coaching	3-0	1-0	3-0	W7/L0=100% 1 st
Leon Lukose			3-1	2-3	Coaching	W4/L1=80% 2 nd =
Adrika Shibu				3-0	Coaching	W1/L3=25% 8 th
Chris Goodier					3-2	W4/L3=57% 4 th
Alain Shibu						W1/L4=20% 9 th