

## OSKAR'S NIGHT AT THE MATCHPLAY

Following last week's excellent opener the TT Matchplay night took another step forward with 19 people attending in the second week. Players were split into three ability/experience tiers of round-robin play and some great games ensued.

The results card in the upper group was completed incorrectly preventing any meaningful summary from being given so a few match highlights instead. Oskar Crook was clearly on form with his name appearing three times in the winner column, two of them coming in ultra-tight encounters, one against Alain Shibu 11-7 in the fifth set and another 13-11 in the decider against an opponent who will have to remain nameless.

Tat On-Man imposed his usual supervisory authority on proceedings at the top winning his first four encounters in straight sets but in his last match of the night against Chris Goodyear he met much stronger resistance, going to two sets all before time was called on the evening.

Matt McAlpine scored good wins over Shibu and Rahil Rehman-Furs, the latter by deuce in the fifth. Rehman-Furs condemned Shibu to wooden spoon carrying duties with a 3-1 sets victory.

In the lower group four young guns played each other. Leon Lukose came out on top courtesy of a 2-1 sets win over main challenger Bobby Barnes. Charlie Pembroke beat Adrika Shibu in straight sets to take third spot. All four benefitted from close coaching support in between matches from coaches Luke Randis and Ian Ford. Lukose provided excellent focus to improve his forehand, Shibu delighted in hitting some fantastic topspins once her backswing was put right, Barnes is starting to look like an excellent left-handed prospect and Pembroke worked hard too and even talked less!

The middle group was the most populous with seven players. Aalrin Shibu was in much improved form compared to last week accumulating four wins until Adrian Randis beat him narrowly in the fifth set. Jude Lane also scored four wins until adult in the pack Bilal Rehman-Furs took him in hand. Randis finished on four too.

Steve Ledger and first-timer Rowan Smith both competed well but found things tough on the results side. However they've both got the kind of positive attitude to come back stronger in future weeks. Smith got the better of Ledger when the two met and was only denied a win over Rehman-Furs at the death by a deuce defeat in the fifth set. Wales connected boyo Harry Llewellyn scored his only win on the night against Smith; he tends to hit some great left-handed shots but needs to develop greater consistency.