

Top of the Class, Ware- produces a Matt finish.

Poole based England Junior International; Matt Ware took the gold medal at the "Jarvis Horsham TTC Super 16" on Sunday 10th August. The Greenway School in Horsham was the venue for the second in the series of Invitation events, held by the Sussex club, organised and run superbly by Rory Scott and Ian Ford.

There were varying standards of players taking part from number one England veteran Abdul Wuraola, to county level players and four local junior competitors.

The format of play allowed all players to get 4 quality matches, with an end result of a placings list. This proved to be a winning formula!

Top seed Matt Ware, kicked off with comfortable wins over Fawzi Yousif, Simon Dilkes and then a 3-1 victory over Adam Laws to set up a final confrontation with 2nd seed Abdul Wuraola, who had also breezed through to the final gaining 3 straight victories.

There were notable achievements from eleven year old Helshan Weerasinghe who for his efforts was rewarded with the prize for best performance.

Third and fourth seeds respectively, Mark Butler and Adam Laws fought out their last contest against one another to determine the 3rd spot and it looked on the cards that Butler would be the likelier to take the bronze, going two sets to one up. Mark had his chances to close out the match, however Laws, to his credit kept his nerve to grind away a 3-2 result to take 3rd spot.

With the stage set, and extra space allowed for the final match, it was the young pretender Ware, facing the experience of Wuraola to decide the title.

Ware got off to an early lead in the first set and looked likely to get in the first blow at 10-6 up, however Abdul conjured up some tight returns and fierce counter attacking play, to take the first leg 12-10.

Matt then found his top form to nose in front in the next three legs with some incredible strong topspin attacking play, forcing Wuraola back from the table, to take the Horsham Super 16 title, 10-12, 11-8, 11-8, 11-9.

All who were present on the night agreed that it was a most successful evening of top drawer table tennis, played in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, in very good conditions, and organised extremely well.