



## Revival and Growth at Matchpoint TTC

Themes: children and young people, workforce



Matchpoint table tennis club (formerly Hullbridge table tennis club) began in the 1980s, however the club struggled to be sustainable leading up to 2020. After the pandemic full time coach Liam Squirrell was approached to help revive the club, with support from Debbie Oneill the pair have successfully turned the club around and have set their sights on increasing the number of juniors at their club.

After being approached to help revive the club, full time table tennis coach Liam met Debbie, who was looking for somewhere to play the sport. Since joining the club Debbie has become a key driver in supporting the club and has also completed her Level 1 coaching course in the summer of 2023.

The club needed to find a new venue and sought support from Table Tennis England to purchase new equipment and re-brand under Matchpoint TTC. The club hosts three sessions during a weekday, supporting Under 11s, Juniors (age 12-17) and Seniors to play the game and receive coaching.

Table Tennis England's support in providing new equipment has enabled them to start sessions for their youngest members, as well as attracting new members and juniors to their club. In addition, the club received a Level the Table grant which allowed them to run an 8-week programme for Women and Girls, which resulted in a new female member to their club.

Liam and Debbie aim to grow the number of under 11's in the club and continue to build the clubs profile in the local area.

*"It's had a massive impact for us, it's allowed us to continue to provide opportunities for our juniors. We are a table tennis family, all our juniors feel safe and comfortable within our club. We have juniors come to us for various reasons, we are extremely proud of how they have all come together, support each other and are committed to their club".*

*Liam Squirrell  
Matchpoint Table Tennis Club*

