

To: Members of Table Tennis England

From: Sandra Deaton, Chair, Table Tennis England

In this newsletter:

- \* A year of change and our plans for the future
- \* Senior National Championships
- \* Ticket offers for WCPP
- \* Congratulations to . . .

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#### A year of change and now to the future

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As we approach the end of 2014, I have taken this opportunity to put into context some of the milestones of the last 12 months and outline some of our plans for table tennis in the future. The past year has been a period of unprecedented change for our sport and for us, as the National Governing Body.

There has been a radical shift in our internal structure and governance. I hope you will be able to take a few moments to read my end-of-year blog, which sets this in context and looks to the future.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/blog-its-been-a-year-of-radical-but-necessary-change/>

However, it is time to change emphasis from putting our own house in order, to focusing on the development and promotion of the sport in England. In my last newsletter I said that I would be setting out our plans for the next stage, and inviting you to help develop these. I want to start this now.

Key to our progress will be our members in the clubs and leagues around the country who are the bedrock of our competitive sport and will provide the impetus for future development.

Going forward this is going to be one of our top priorities and, in our first National Council meeting of next year, this will be the focus of debate and discussion. We want to hear the valuable experience and input of the National Councillors and, through them, our wider members . . . what you want and need from Table Tennis England.

We want a realistic and open debate about what we can do for you in the clubs and leagues around the country, and equally important, what you can do to help promote table tennis to a wider audience.

This is your chance to contribute to this debate as we begin to formulate our wider and long-term strategy. We want to look at club facilities, coaching opportunities and partnership solutions to providing leveraged funding and further support for the sport at all levels and ages.

Each county has a National Councillor who is invited to the meeting in January so please feed your views through him or her, or alternatively you can contact Table Tennis England on [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk) – please title your email ‘Clubs and Leagues’.

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#### Senior National Championships

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Entry forms are now available for the Senior National Championships from February 27 to March 1, 2015 which will be held at the Redbridge Sport and Leisure Centre in Essex.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/competitions/entry-forms/>

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#### Ticket offers for WCPP

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The World Championship of Ping Pong returns to Alexandra Palace, London on January 24 and 25, 20145 with 64 of the top sandpaper bat players in the world competing. Table Tennis England members can benefit from two reduced ticket offers.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/great-wcpp-offers-for-table-tennis-england-members/>

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Congratulations to . . .

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. . . Paul Drinkhall, who was the first English player to qualify for the ITTF Grand Finals since Carl Prean in the inaugural series in 1996. Paul was one of a field of only 16 players in the tournament in Bangkok. He lost a close match in the first round to Peng Tang of Hong Kong despite having the lead on two occasions.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/drinkhall-falls-at-first-hurdle-in-bangkok/>

. . . World Champion and GB Para table tennis player Will Bayley, who has won the Disability Sport award for an individual who has triumphed over a disability to excel in their chosen sport at the inaugural Daily Mirror and Sport England Pride of Sport Awards.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/featured-news/bayley-wins-pride-of-sport-award/>

. . . Our two leading men players who are both ranked in the top 50 players in the ITTF rankings. Paul Drinkhall reaches a career high at 45 following his run to the final of the Russian Open, and Liam Pitchford retains his top 50 place at number 49 and is number 9 on the under-21 list.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/drinkhall-breaks-into-the-worlds-top-50/>

. . . Tin-Tin Ho who reached the knockout stages of the World Junior Championship in Shanghai, before losing to Korea's Eunchoe Ji in the last 64.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/tin-tin-tops-group-after-two-wins/>

. . . to the 50-strong veterans party who recently played in the 20th International Veterans' Table Tennis Tournament. They brought several medals back from the week-long event in Kemer, Turkey, which was presented under the theme of Peace.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/east-meets-west-in-spirit-of-peace-at-veterans-event/>

I want to conclude by wishing our players, volunteers, coaches, staff, officials, partners and all the members of England's table tennis family a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2015.

Sandra Deaton  
Chair, Table Tennis England  
December 2014

(If you have any comments or queries relating to this newsletter, please send to [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk) – please do not 'reply' directly to the email address on this newsletter)