

To: Members of Table Tennis England

From: Sandra Deaton, Chair, Table Tennis England

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(As always, I'll summarise the news and then provide a link to more information on each topic)

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#### Senior National Championships

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The recent Senior National Championships was a resounding success - on and off the table. The final between eventual winner Liam Pitchford and Paul Drinkhall went to the absolute wire and had the crowd gasping, cheering and holding their breath on several occasions. It was wonderful to see two of the world's top 50 players in action for our premier domestic trophy. Paul and Liam also combined to take the Men's Doubles title for the third successive year. It was also great to watch so many of our younger players challenging and pushing our established internationals.

Kelly Sibley took her fifth national title in the women's final, while her 16-year-old opponent Tin-Tin Ho took home three titles (Women's Doubles with Maria Tsapsinos; Women's Under-21s, and mixed doubles with Men's Under-21 winner, Sam Walker). Michael O'Driscoll won the veteran men's title and Jane Vickers took the veteran ladies.

Off-the-table, I must pay personal thanks and tribute to the staff at Table Tennis England and our many volunteers and officials who all played a part in producing an excellent National Championships. There was a great willingness to help and a wonderful team spirit, which always had the players and spectators as the focus of the event.

Everyone who was there will remember the occasion, and for those who were unable to attend, we hope you caught some of the action on our live-stream. The communications team set up a special area of the website to detail all the results and information.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/nationals>

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#### Volunteers

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One of the highlights of the year is our chance to recognise the fantastic work which is done by our army of table tennis volunteers. We know without you there would not be our competitions, tournaments, leagues and clubs. Every year we present the Volunteer Awards, which honour the dedicated work of unsung heroes from the grassroots of our sport. Although they identify a number of special individuals, these awards are also a thank you to the thousands of volunteers around the country.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/to-our-fantastic-volunteers-thanks-a-million/>

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#### British League

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The final league places are being decided in the British and National League disciplines. The Junior Boys' title went to Ormesby, who played out a thrilling 3-3 draw with London Academy to take the crown, whilst Burton Uxbridge defeated title rivals Ellenborough 4-2 for the Girls' title. Ormsey ladies also took their championship in convincing style in the Premier Division of the Women's British League. Full results of all British and National League competitions are on the website.

<https://www.tabletennis365.com/britishleague>

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#### Cadet Masters

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The Cadet Masters is a great weekend which gives our top youngsters an opportunity to test themselves against the best in the country. It is organised in groups of 12 boys and girls and played in a round-robin format. This provides a weekend of top competition in tournament conditions where the winners have to maintain their standard throughout the two days. It is great mental and physical preparation for the major events which lie ahead for these talented young players. Congratulations to all 24 players who took part, and especially to Alex Ramsden and Kate Cheer who took the Boys' and Girls' Cadet Masters titles.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/ramsdn-and-cheer-are-final-cadet-masters-champs/>

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### Talent Development Centre in Bristol

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The next Talent Development Centre is ready to open in Bristol with a remit to concentrate on the Under-14 level and look for youngsters starting the sport from the age of seven upwards. The remit of these new TDCs is to find, identify and nurture table tennis talent at the earliest opportunity as part of the performance pathway to elite players.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/tdc-ready-to-find-elite-players-of-tomorrow>

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### Plastic balls

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We have received a number of requests for clarification on the use of plastic balls in competition from next season and have produced a guide to answer some points raised. We hope this will help. We know that this is not universally popular, but this is a change which will be implemented throughout the world-wide table tennis community and it is our responsibility as a sport national governing body to ensure our players are able to compete on a level playing field at home and abroad.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/plastic-balls-your-questions-answered-2>

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### English Leagues Cup Competitions

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The English Leagues Cup Competitions are some of our most established and prestigious team events. It is your chance to match your skills against rival leagues in a national competition. Closing date is Monday, March 16, for all competitions, namely the Wilmott Cup (Men's), JM Rose Bowl (Women's), Carter Cup (Junior Boys) and Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls).

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/closing-date-extended-for-english-leagues-cup/>

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### Elsie Carrington

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Elsie Carrington, one of England's great players and coaches, recently passed away. She was an inspiration to generations of players. Our condolences to her family and friends.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/obituary-elsie-carrington-a-great-character/>

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### Congratulations to . . .

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. . . Tin-Tin Ho, who was named Young Sports Person of the Year at the inaugural Lycamobile British Ethnic Diversity Sports Awards.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/awards-delight-for-young-star-tin-tin-ho>

. . . Danny Reed and Alice Loveridge who are the BUCS (Universities and Colleges) table tennis champions for 2015. <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/reed-and-loveridge-are-top-of-the-bucs>

. . . Helshan Weerasinghe and Tom Jarvis who performed above their seeding to reach the semi-finals of the Junior Boys' Doubles at the Italian Cadet and Junior Open. <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/tom-and-helshan-lose-out-to-top-seeds-in-semis>

. . . Long-time volunteers, Paul Bovett and John Mullis, who were honoured at the Torch Trophy Trust Awards, which recognise outstanding achievement by hardworking volunteers in sport. <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/volunteers-given-the-red-carpet-treatment>

. . . Maria Tsaptsinos and Tin-Tin Ho who had an excellent run at the Czech Junior Open to finish runners-up in the final of the Girls' Doubles. <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/tin-tin-and-maria-beaten-in-final-after-great-run>

Best wishes  
Sandra Deaton  
Chair, Table Tennis England  
March 2015

(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)