

## Table Tennis England - Chairman's Newsletter (16): July 2015

To: Members of Table Tennis England

From: Sandra Deaton, Chairman, Table Tennis England

### **Elections**

It has been a few months since I last sent an email newsletter to our members. There have been elections for the positions of Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer at Table Tennis England and so, to a certain extent, we were in a position where direct communication with members was difficult during the election period.

However, that is now over and I am very pleased that our team of myself (Chairman), Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman), and Keith Thomas (Treasurer) were re-elected with a significant majority. Our thanks to everyone who took the time to vote for all the candidates.

In summary, our position was that we had spent the past two years regaining the confidence and support of our financial partners and supporters, and now that phase had been achieved, we were ready to move forward to promote and develop our sport for the next four years. We asked the leagues and counties to support us with that task and we are grateful they did.

Some of those priorities were already underway and others will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Facilities**

We have launched our Facility grant schemes which will support clubs and leagues in installing more tables, developing their facility or extending or building a new facility. We also now have the Ability Club Support Scheme to help clubs encourage more disabled people to join their club; and Loop at work, to help workplaces launch table tennis in the office. These are just a few of the initiatives which are being developed at the moment and there will be more to follow.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/new-projects-and-funding-to-boost-clubs-and-workplaces/>

### **Reviews**

We are conducting a number of reviews of particular areas and aspects of table tennis. These involve co-ordinating with our senior management team, Board members and experienced and knowledgeable volunteers in order to go forward in the best direction for players and all the table tennis family.

**Membership:** We have also been undertaking detailed research and reviews of what we do and how this impacts our members. Our review of the membership structure is ongoing, and membership fees are being frozen at their current levels for 2015/16 season. The exception to this is Associate membership, which is payable by individuals who do not take part in organised competitions, and is a criteria of Premier Clubs that they must affiliate all members at least at Associate level. We have abolished the Associate membership fee which has been seen as a possible barrier to membership, helping clubs and the sport grow as a whole. We will be involving our members more in this process in the coming months.

**Competition:** The first stage of the Competition Review has been completed and is now being implemented. This will include new formats for our three National Championships and increased number of local and regional tournaments. The Senior British League Premier will also move to home and away fixtures in the season 2016/7.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/competition-review-points-up-changes-to-nationals/>

**Voting:** The Voting Review is ongoing with the final recommendation to the 2016 AGM. The cut-off date for feedback to the draft paper was June 2015 and there will be a review meeting in the next few months.

### **Around the Table**

We have started a new series on the website called 'Around the Table'. Each week, this throws light on a different aspect of the work Table Tennis England is doing to support and promote table tennis around the country. The first reports in the series include priority zones; clubs and disability; communications; England Youth Squad; and facilities.

See more details here:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/about-tte/around-the-table/>

### **National Table Tennis Day**

As part of our promotion of table tennis we are holding the second National Table Tennis Day on Thursday, July 16. Clubs, leagues, sports venues and all table tennis players are being encouraged to use the day as a focus to promote our sport. There are already some creative initiatives under way and we hope as many people as possible will take part.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/tabletennisday-a-day-to-remember/>

### **Young and old**

A couple of the most popular events among our young players – and certainly some of the largest – are the school team and individual championships organised by ESTTA.

Congratulations to all the schools who were represented, and our young winners. And thanks to John Arnold and his team at ESTTA for all the work this put into this event.

At the other end of the age spectrum were our veteran players – more than 90 visited the city of the midnight sun, Tampere, in Finland, for the European Veterans' Table Tennis Championships.

Particular congratulations to Pam Butcher, a double gold medallist in the O/85s singles and doubles.

### **Participation**

Good news to see that the number of people playing table tennis regularly is on the increase, according to the latest Active People Survey released by Sport England.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/active-people-shows-rise-in-table-tennis-participation/>

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### **Congratulations to**

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. . . Chris Doran and Karina Le Fevre who were crowned 2014-15 Grand Prix champions at the season finale tournament in London.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/milwain-and-matsubuchi-take-london-crowns/>

. . . World Para Champion Will Bayley who has become the first Paralympian to be inducted into the Hall of Champions at the English Institute of Sport.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/star-bayley-proud-to-join-hall-of-champions/>

. . . our young competitors and winners in the Jack Petchey London Schools' Table Tennis individual finals. The commitment and generosity of Mr Petchey has ensured not only do increasing numbers of children play and enjoy table tennis, but there are better and more accessible facilities throughout the capital.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/smith-leads-roll-of-honour-on-jack-petchey-finals-day/>

. . . Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford on their performances at the European Games in Baku. Paul made the semi-finals, losing to top seed Dimitrij Ovtcharov of Germany. Liam was eliminated in the quarter-finals. Both Liam and Paul have now returned to the top 50 in the world.

. . . to all our singles and doubles medallists in the European Veterans' Table Tennis Championships in Tampere, Finland

Best wishes

Sandra Deaton

Chairman, Table Tennis England

July 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)