

Chairman's Newsletter (18): October 2015

To: Members of Table Tennis England

From: Sandra Deaton, Chairman, Table Tennis England

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The opening months of the 2015/16 season have brought a considerable burst of table tennis activity on the domestic and international front.

**European Championships**

It was encouraging to see some excellent individual performances in the recent European Championships in Ekaterinburg, Russia.

Liam Pitchford reached the last 16 before losing to eventual winner and world No. 5 Dimitrij Ovtcharov. Liam put up a more than credible performance against Europe's top player - including a 30 shot rally, which is becoming something of a YouTube sensation - before going down 4-2.

Liam & Paul Drinkhall also had three match points for a quarter-final place in the men's doubles, but unfortunately were beaten 16-14 in the deciding set.

Our men and women finished in 20th and 22nd position respectively in the team events. Our players are confident that they can learn from this event and use the experience to improve and go on to greater achievements:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/pitchford-i-can-take-a-lot-from-ovtcharov-clash/>

**Para Table Tennis European Championships**

Still on the international front, Rob Davies overcame a heavy cold and the world No 1 Jean-Francois Ducay from France to retain his men's class one title at the ITTF Para Table Tennis European Championships in Vejle, Denmark.

Will Bayley took silver in the men's class 7 and there were bronze medals for Tom Matthews (men's class 1), Paul Karabardak, David Wetherill (both men's class 6) and Billy Shilton (men's class 7): <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/davies-digs-deep-to-retain-european-title/>

**Membership benefits**

We are always looking for additional benefits for our members on the table and in their other activities. We have recently tied up with Fred Olsen cruise liners to offer a 10 per cent discount deal, on all cruises. This follows a recent tie-up with Intercontinental Hotel Group for discounts on breaks or accommodation during tournaments.

You can read more about the benefits of Table Tennis England membership here:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/membership/benefits/>

It is the last week of the discounted offer on Xushaofa balls for our members. Table Tennis England members can claim an extra five per cent discount on plastic balls they purchase through the [tabletennis.deals](http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/official-ball-supplier-provides-membership-deals/) website until the end of October.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/official-ball-supplier-provides-membership-deals/>

While we are on the subject of membership, please can I remind everyone that Associate Membership is free this year. And as all benefits can be enjoyed by our Associate Members as well as playing members, it really does make sense to join us!

And remember, PremierClubs are required to register all their players as at least Associate members. We've made this even easier for clubs by producing a spreadsheet which can be downloaded from this link: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/register-your-clubs-associate-members-the-easy-way/>

### **European Hall of Fame**

We are pleased to see England's table tennis legends Jill Parker and Johnny Leach honoured as inaugural inductees into the European Table Tennis Hall of Fame:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/england-legends-named-in-europes-hall-of-fame/>

### **New initiatives**

It is being increasingly shown that table tennis has the potential to have a positive impact on people's lives in a therapeutic capacity, as well as general health and fitness.

We are passionate about promoting and involving our sport at all levels and in all areas where it can benefit the quality of people's lives.

Recently we have become involved in an initiative to use table tennis to help those suffering from mental health issues: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/were-backing-sports-mental-health-charter/>

We have also launched the Disability Table Grant Scheme to help more disabled people get into table tennis: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/disability-players-helped-to-get-on-to-the-table/>

### **Stephen Sutton - a remarkable young man**

Last year the country was moved by the incredible fund-raising efforts of teenager Stephen Sutton who lost his own struggle with cancer in May 2014. Stephen was also an enthusiastic table tennis player, and his legacy continues to inspire others at his former school, which the donation of a table in his memory: <http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/tables-continue-stephens-inspirational-legacy/>

### **And finally . . .**

Our England players have unveiled their new bespoke kit, which will be worn in tournaments across the world for the next two years. The traditional three leopards which have been the symbol of English table tennis down the years feature prominently in the design provided by Table Tennis England's Official Clothing Supplier Butterfly.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/proudly-presenting-our-new-england-kit/>

Good luck to everyone taking part in the World Record attempt for the most people controlling a table tennis ball on a table tennis bat for 10 seconds without dropping it. The current world record is 250 people and Aerobic Table Tennis and Pink Pong have teamed up

to attempt to beat it this weekend (Oct 24) at Wigan Youth Zone. Players and participants are invited to help them smash the record. Click here to find out more:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/your-chance-to-join-world-record-attempt/>

If you know any outstanding volunteers or anyone who has made an outstanding contribution to the grassroots of our sport why not nominate them for a Torch Trophy trust Award?

The awards are in their 53<sup>rd</sup> year and will recognise 20 volunteers from across the sporting world at a reception attended by a member of the Royal Family.

Last year, table tennis was honoured to have two recipients – Paul Bovett and John Mullis. Let's see if we can repeat or even exceed that feat this year!

You can download a nomination form here: <http://torchtrophytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/TTT-Nomination-form-BLOCKS.docx>