

## **Newsletter 4: Funding | Chairman | Management | Competitions**

**To: Members of the English Table Tennis Association**

**From: Sara Sutcliffe, Chief Executive Officer of the ETTA**

In this newsletter:

- New funding from Sport England
- Chairman of ETTA
- New premises, new management team
- Developments
- Competitions

The first few weeks of this year have been mixed with emotions at the ETTA. First, as I am sure you will have heard by now, our Chairman Andy Seward passed away suddenly on January 15. A few days later we received the good news from Sport England that we had made sufficient progress in our governance, structure and organisation that we merited further financial investment in the future.

It was this landmark decision which Andy had worked so hard towards. In his six months as Chairman, he led his team to initiate and implement the change and reform which would guarantee the future of the sport. Our pleasure at hearing this good news was tempered by the sadness that Andy did not see the results of his efforts. He has left a lasting legacy to table tennis in this country and will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.

A vote of confidence in table tennis

<http://etta.co.uk/news/etta-receives-vote-of-confidence-from-sport-england/>

Obituary: Andy Seward, Chairman of the ETTA

<http://etta.co.uk/news/etta-chairman-andy-sewards-obituary/>

### **Election**

Andy's death means that the ETTA must seek a new Chairman. That process is now underway. Counties and Leagues have two weeks to nominate a candidate, after which, if it is contested, there will be an election.

### **New premises, new posts**

Next month (March) sees the start of the second phase of change. We are moving to a new head office in Milton Keynes and have streamlined the structure of the organisation with the creation of four new departments and four new senior managers to oversee them. This will enable us to concentrate on delivering participation and performance to existing and future table tennis players.

This work will not happen overnight and we still have many challenges to face. I am pleased to have accepted the post of CEO on a permanent basis and am looking forward to working with our new team and volunteers to make table tennis a success story in England.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/new-senior-management-team-at-etta/>

## **Developments**

In the last newsletter, we referred to the creation of four new areas which would replace the existing nine regions in terms of the staff base for their work of grass-roots development, participation and coaching. This would allow us to make better use of our resources with bigger teams offering support across a wider area. Work is already under way within these new areas. Meetings have taken place to look at the strategies of these new teams in identifying development and coach education. Regions continue to play a very important role within the areas not least through the work of Regional Committees. We are also working with our valued volunteers within the existing regions to maintain the momentum of regional coaching and competition.

Part of our new approach is the creation of four Talent Development Centres (as reported last time). We are working in partnership with four clubs, providing coaching, a development structure and facilities to identify and nurture new talent. These are up and running now and we will continue reporting back as we seek out and develop the talent of the future.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/talent-development-centres-announced/>

An increase in funding by UK Sport for Para Table Tennis has provided a significant boost for the GB Para Table Tennis Team, rewarding its recent successes and also recognising the potential within the squad.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/gb-para-squad-receive-uk-sport-funding-boost/>

Schools in and around London have received a boost with a new grant from the Jack Petchey Foundation which will provide more than 200 new tables for school children to learn and develop their table tennis skills.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/etta-receives-new-grant-to-extend-jack-petchey-project/>

## **Competition news**

The race for Commonwealth Games places in Glasgow 2014 began in earnest in with nine English players starting their 2014 international campaigns at the Hungarian Open in Szombathely. Andrew Baggaley fared best among the men with a place in the last 16, while Kelly Sibley made the last 32 in the women's event.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/baggaley-pick-of-the-crop-at-hungarian-open/>

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The premier domestic event, the English Senior National Table Tennis Championship, will take place at Ponds Forge International Sports Centre, Sheffield from February 28 - March 2, 2014, with several of the top players in England participating. Tickets are available in advance.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/ticket-information-for-senior-national-championships/>

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The entry forms are available for this season's English League Cup Competition - the Wilmott Cup (Men), JM Rose Bowl (Women), Carter Cup (Junior Boys) and Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls). All entries must be endorsed by a Local League.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/english-leagues-cup-competition-entries/>

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The ETTA publishes, and regularly updates, a calendar of tournaments and events through to June 2015.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/latest-etta-calendar/>

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Sara Sutcliffe, CEO ETTA

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