



# Annual Review

## 2018/19





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*Editor's note: This review covers departmental and financial matters for the year to March 31, 2019. For competition and performance matters, obituaries and notable achievements, the period covered is the 2018/19 season.*



Sandra Deaton

“ We will continue to work hard on your behalf to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy and succeed in table tennis, wherever they play. We will also continue to be open and transparent in everything we do and to listen and respond to our members. ”

It has been my honour to lead Table Tennis England through five years of significant change during which the organisation has continued evolving into a highly professional National Governing Body in good standing both domestically and internationally.

I was equally honoured to have recently been appointed as Chairman for a further four-year term after an open and transparent application process, including robust interviews of a number of candidates, myself included.

The appointment – rather than the election – of a Chairman was one of the key governance changes which we were required to adopt in order to be compliant with the Government's Code for Sports Governance. After these changes were supported in 2017, we in turn committed to a wide-ranging Governance Review and this year we have continued to implement the recommendations of the Independent Review Panel which carried out that process.

Central to those recommendations was the creation of a new body – the Members' Advisory Group (MAG) – which provides strategic advice to the Board, as well as a channel for the table tennis community's views.

The 12 members of MAG met for the first time at our National Conference in March and you can read more about the group elsewhere in this review. I very much look forward to working with MAG and I know they will play a central role in developing our sport in the months and years ahead.

The creation of MAG and the fact that its 12 members are drawn from a broad cross-section of the sport, illustrates our commitment to listening to the voices of our membership and acting on their wishes where appropriate.

We have also maintained the principle of our membership being able to vote directly for three Board members and, at the time of writing, the election for the three Elected Deputy Chairmen is under way and they will take office after the AGM.

We are fortunate to be able to draw on the expertise of many talented people at Board level and through the rest of the governance structure, with a strong representation from within the sport alongside a smaller number of independent members. It means we have a wide-ranging skill-set within our governance structure, something I believe is vital for a modern National Governing Body to be able to thrive in an ever-changing sporting landscape.



The National Conference was a big success and will become a regular feature on the calendar

We constantly re-evaluate what we do and are currently looking at our Mission 2025 statement to ensure its priorities are still relevant – you can see an update on progress so far in this review, alongside all the departmental and other reports.

As you will see, it has been another busy year, including the launch of the TT Kidz initiative, a hugely successful national conference, the continued investment in clubs and leagues via our Be TT programme, a ticketing sell-out at the PG Mutual National Championships and plenty of big performances on the international stage by established and up-and-coming players. All that is not to mention the ongoing success of our mass participation programmes, which are financed by ring-fenced funding from Sport England and which continue to go from strength to strength.

We will continue to work hard on your behalf to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy and succeed in table

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tennis, wherever they play. We will also continue to be open and transparent in everything we do and to listen and respond to our members.

**International Matters**

I was honoured this year to be reappointed to chair the ETTU Youth Committee and in that capacity I attended the European Youth Championships in Cluj, Romania, which was one of the most well organised and best attended events in which I have been involved.

I also attended the European Under-21 Championships in Portugal early this year and it was a privilege to be present as Tin-Tin Ho flew the English flag when she won the doubles gold medal with her Austrian partner.

Events such as these expose our players to a high standard of play, experiencing the necessary level of performance that is required to compete at this level.

The European Championships were held in Alicante in September. Away from the field of play, there was a great deal of concentration on the political issues concerning the remuneration of the ETTU President. Both our Chief Executive Sara Sutcliffe and I attended the Congress where the president achieved a high proportion of the votes to stay in post and continue to work with the executive board to drive European table tennis.

There was also a motion passed to require the executive board to put a proposition to the International Federation AGM to consider the team World Championships returning to a maximum entry of 96.

We retain an influential presence on the ETTU committees, with Susie Hughes (Veterans), Simon Griew (Ranking), Mike Smith (Para) and now Paul Drinkhall (Athletes Commission) all playing important roles, while Sara remains an integral member of the constitutional group working towards the production of a new constitution to be voted upon at the AGM in Nantes in September.

The ITTF individual World Championships were held in Budapest in April. Sara and I attended the AGM and were delighted to receive the award for the Best World Cup Event on the back of our delivery of the Team World Cup in 2018.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the ITTF, much of my time was concentrated on trying to secure the best option for the European nations within the new qualification system and ensure as many as possible have the opportunity to reach the finals. Despite some concerns from the smaller nations, as of now the new World Championship format is maintained.

The ITTF Nominations Committee met to decide the members of the various ITTF committees. Sara remains on the Rules Committee and Tom Purcell has been appointed to the Umpires and Referees Committee.

In March, Sara, Simon Mills and myself met with the executive



**We were delighted to be presented with the award for Best World Cup Event at the ITTF's AGM in Budapest**

of the ITTF to discuss our vision for the 2026 celebration, when the ITTF marks its centenary with London as focal point as the city where it all started. Sara gave an outstanding presentation which was very well received and the next stage is to conduct a feasibility study with the ITTF.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our friends and colleagues in the International Table Tennis family for their support and respect they continue to show for English table tennis. I would also like to thank the UK Sport International Relations Fund for both their financial support, including funding Sara's travel to international meetings, and their continual guidance in the field of international relations.

**Thanks**

I mentioned earlier the expertise and knowledge we can draw on and I would like to thank all my Board colleagues for their support over the past year.

To that, I would like to add my personal thanks to all the Table Tennis England staff for their hard work and commitment in the last 12 months.

Those qualities of hard work, commitment and knowledge can be seen across our sport, from coaches and officials to parents and volunteers and in the committees which help us run the sport.

Our Pride of Table Tennis Awards give us a chance to formally honour a small number of these every year but we recognise that there are countless others who are equally worthy and I want to close by saying thank you to all of you. Our sport could not run without this army of amazing volunteers and, on behalf of everyone at Table Tennis England, thank you all very much.

take place at the Championships on Saturday 20th July.

The second important area of activity from a Commonwealth perspective has been the preparations in advance of the next Commonwealth Games which will take place in Birmingham in July/August 2022. Table tennis is now a core sport in the Games for the seven events; Men's and Women's Team, Men's and Women's singles, Men's and Women's doubles and mixed doubles.

The only doubt compared with the Gold Coast is for the Para events as it has not yet been decided if they will be included. The ITTF, together with Table Tennis England, have submitted a very strong proposition to the 2022 Organising Committee for Para Table Tennis Men's and Women's events to be added to the programme and we are awaiting a decision regarding this matter.

Alan Ransome OBE (Chairman, CTTF)

Following the highly successful table tennis event in the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast in the spring of 2018, from a Commonwealth Federation perspective the focus has moved to the next Commonwealth Championship which will take place in Cuttack in India between the 17th and 22nd July 2019.

The organisation which is being conducted by the Table Tennis Federation of India is well advanced and entries are coming in at the time of writing this report.

The Championship will have two sections; the team events, which will take place over the first 3-4 days and the individual events which will be played over the final three days.

Entries have already been received from a number of top countries including Singapore, India and of course England.

The AGM for the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation will



Sara Sutcliffe

“ Without the support of Sport England and now UK Sport we could not do what we do, but we are indebted also to the members who continue to support the work of the Governing Body through the membership fees, which provide vital funding for much of our work. ”

It is my pleasure to be writing my sixth Chief Executive's report for the Annual Review. As I reflect on the past year I have also taken some time to sit back and reflect on the journey of the last six years and to think about the exciting years ahead of us.

One year ago at the Annual Conference in 2018 we presented the detailed findings of the Independent Governance Review. A strong common thread that ran through all of the recommendations was the need to improve how we connect with the membership, improve two-way communication and how the membership voice can be more effectively heard and represented.

In the past 12 months we have appointed the Members' Advisory Group (MAG), designed to be a broad church representing all aspects of our membership and providing advice to the Board on strategic matters.

We held the first National Conference for a decade in Leicester at the end of March with more than 110 delegates from clubs and leagues and this was a fantastic opportunity to engage with those in the sport and discuss a wide variety of matters – as well as celebrating the contribution of our amazing volunteer army at the Pride of Table Tennis Awards. More recently, members of the Board and Senior Leadership Team have attended around 50 League and County AGMs.

We are halfway through a four-year funding cycle with Sport England. Our Be TT development programmes and our mass participation programmes, namely Ping and Loop, are all Sport England funded.

The development programmes are aimed primarily at supporting and retaining our existing core membership through helping to provide 'better experiences' (the 'b-e' in Be TT) in clubs and leagues. Our mass participation programmes are aimed at attracting new participants primarily in less structured or more social environments, taking table tennis to people in their communities and being innovative such as turning empty retail space into pop-up Ping Pong Parlours (shortlisted in the BT Sports Industry awards).

The exciting challenge is to connect the two halves as part of a continuum and we are increasingly hearing of people who are starting out in parlours or community-based 'bat and chat' sessions who are then in turn dipping their toes into (or back into!) joining a club or even a league.

This year has seen some exciting developments in our push to increase youth participation. Be TT grants were available to



**We have recently launched TT Kidz, aimed at getting 7-to-11-year-olds into the sport**

support junior leagues or shorter format leagues which we know appeal more to younger players and their parents as they take less time. We also launched our Young Ambassadors scheme to encourage and reward young volunteers.

The talent pathway was revamped with the launch of the '913' squad (aimed at 9-13 year olds) and the Hopes squad below that. The national coaches reported that the level of performance and the sense of competitiveness at the Cadet & Junior National Championships was higher this year than they had seen for a while.

Finally, we have just launched TT Kidz aimed at providing a fun and engaging entry level eight-week programme for 7-to-11-year-olds, delivered through both the club setting and also into primary schools in partnership with Premier Education Group.

For our top players it has been a year without a major multi-sport event, however it has been a year with a number of highlights on the table. Liam Pitchford reached a high of 14 in the world rankings, Paul Drinkhall won the Serbia Open, Tin-Tin Ho

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won a gold medal in girls' doubles at the European U21 Championship, Ross Wilson became para world champion in Class 8 and a number of other senior players (Maria Tsaptsinos, Sam Walker and Tom Jarvis) all reached personal career highs in the world rankings. Congratulations to them all.

We were delighted when, in December, UK Sport confirmed that we have been awarded the maximum £275,000 grant from the new Aspiration Fund to support the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games qualification campaign.

We are also very proud that Liam Pitchford chose to speak up about his challenges with mental health, becoming an ambassador for the Samaritans. Sport, like all aspects of society, is facing up to and opening up about the impact of mental health. We are pleased to still be partnering with Mind as to how we can use table tennis to help tackle mental health issues in society.

In the wider sports landscape there is a lot of change afoot. Domestically, Sport England, UK Sport, the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association and the Sport & Recreation Alliance have all appointed new Chief Executives this year. Mims Davis was also appointed as the Sports Minister, replacing Tracey Crouch. It is not unusual to see a fair amount of change 'mid-cycle'.

Internationally, the ITTF continues to drive forward its new strategy with increased focus on innovation, marketing and promotion of the sport. The ITTF is in increasing financial health thanks to considerable new sponsorship deals and improving the presentation of the sport. A number of decisions have been taken this year regarding the World Tour and the World Championships for the future.

These changes are not universally popular but it is understandable that the leadership of the ITTF has had to tackle the changing landscape and ensure that table tennis keeps pace with global developments. We have been having discussions with the ITTF and hope to be able to make some announcements of our own regarding hosting international table tennis events back in England on a regular basis soon.

The planning for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games is picking up pace. Supported by the ITTF, we have pitched for the inclusion of para table tennis to the sports programme and should hear the outcome of this bid soon. We have also met with the Birmingham 2022 leadership team and developed a close working relationship that will ensure that we are fully involved in the planning and execution of the table tennis programme.

It is always a great opportunity to host a major multi-sport event and it provides a backdrop for some of our initiatives such as the #beartoft campaign focused on training and qualifying a new cohort of younger and more female umpires.

Finally, the end of 2018 saw us move offices and realise the ambition of co-locating with our friends at Badminton England. The newly refurbished office space is home to a show table from the 2018 ITTF Team World Cup and it gets a lot of regular use.

Please do take the time to read through the rest of the Annual Review where you will find out more detail about the programmes we are delivering and the impact we, and all of you,



Above: The para podium at the last Commonwealth Games featured three British athletes - we are lobbying for para table tennis to be included at the 2022 Commonwealths in Birmingham; Below: The new Table Tennis England office which includes a table from the 2018 ITTF Team World Cup



are making to grow the sport of table tennis and embrace all that it can offer to society.

My thanks and gratitude to all of the staff, our Chairman Sandra Deaton, the Board and all our volunteers for your support, inspiration and commitment. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our sponsors PG Mutual and Butterfly as well as the key partners such as the Jack Petchey Foundation who help us to deliver our programmes.

Without the support of Sport England and now UK Sport we could not do what we do, but we are indebted also to the members who continue to support the work of the Governing Body through the membership fees, which provide vital funding for much of our work.

The Board is the ultimate decision-making body and exercises the powers of the organisation. The Board is responsible for: setting the strategy of the organisation; approving the long-term financial plan and annual budget; monitoring delivery of the operational plan, priorities and objectives; periodic review of the financial plan and performance against annual budget and periodic review of major risks and programmes.

Day to day management of Table Tennis England is delegated by the Board to the senior leadership team under the leadership of the Chief Executive. Financial authorities are in place for each level of the executive structure.

There were no changes to the Board during the past year. The Board met in full four times with an additional meeting in March specifically relating to the negotiations with TT365. Summaries of the full Board meetings are available on the website. The following directors attended all four full Board meetings: Sandra Deaton, Susie Hughes, Simon Griew, Doug Livingstone, Mike

Smith, Keith Thomas; and the following directors attended two or three: Andrew Nixon, Dee Paterson, Tom Purcell, Mark Quartermaine, Kelly Skeggs. In addition every Board member sits on at least one of the Finance and Audit Committee or the Governance and Risk Committee, each of which meets in between the Board meetings. The terms of reference for those two committees are available on the website. The details of all Board sub committees are listed on page 27.

In May Sandra Deaton was confirmed as the appointed Chairman for a further four year term, commencing after the 2019 AGM. During May and June the election process for three elected Deputy Chairmen was held, and they will also take office from the end of the AGM.

The National Council elected a new Chairman this year, Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire). The National Council met twice in September and February and the minutes are available on the website. The list of National Councillors is on page 26.

Profile



Left: Denise Payet films with the BBC for the Operation Ouch programme. Above: Cameras capture the action at the PG Mutual National Championships in Nottingham

We aim to build the image and profile of table tennis through our communications channels, including bringing the sport to the fans through television, the internet, in print and via other platforms. One vision is that "Everyone's talking about table tennis".

We continued to work with the BBC to bring more live coverage of table tennis to its online streaming service. This included the PG Mutual Senior National Championships, World Para Championships and European Championships, the former facilitated through our partnership with 1080 Media.

In addition, we again live-streamed coverage from the age group National Championships on Facebook and YouTube.

The Table Tennis England social media reach continues to grow and on May 31st, 2019, the number of followers was:

- Instagram: 8,302
- Facebook 18,648 (plus 17,555 likes)
- Twitter: 14,166

More than 300 media releases were sent out over the course of the 2018/19 season, directly resulting in online coverage with a reach of more than 22.5 million and worth more than £200,000

in advertising value equivalent (AVE), in addition to print coverage with a reach of 2 million and worth around £19,000 AVE (figures from our media monitoring service). The bulk of this coverage was in the regional media. The BBC website, which carried several articles, accounted for the majority of national coverage.

We periodically handle requests for media and personal appearances for England athletes. As a result of one of these, Denise Payet appeared in an episode of the BBC children's factual medical programme *Operation Ouch*, filmed at Ellenborough TTC, which focused on reaction time.

Other notable media segments included Will Bayley appearing on Chris Evans' BBC Radio 2 show on National Table Tennis Day, and a major interview by Liam Pitchford for *Esquire* magazine, in which he opened up about mental health issues.

Using the Dotmailer software, more than 1.3 million emails were sent to more than 150,000 different recipients during the year, including the weekly Over the Net newsletter. The open rate was 28% - the same as the industry benchmark, while the click-through rate was up from 6% to 7% this year, above the industry standard of 5%.

Mission 2025 sets out Table Tennis England’s aims and ambitions for the sport, from grassroots to elite, for the 10 years beginning in 2015. It outlines the work we plan to carry out in four key areas – Participation, Places, People and Performance – to improve and grow the sport. People and Places are known as the *enablers*, from which Participation and Performance will result. The Board monitors progress against an annual operating plan. Below is a summary of progress made against each strategic priority in the two years since the last Mission 2025 update was carried in the Annual Review of 2017.



**People**

**Increase the number of coaches, officials and volunteers**

- Level 1 coaching course revamped.
- Officials portal launched.
- Young Ambassadors scheme relaunched to recruit and reward young volunteers at club level. So far, 29 have signed up.
- Female Ambassadors scheme launched.
- National Conference launched on back of successful network of regional conferences.
- Introduction of Members’ Advisory Group, delivering on recommendation by the independent Governance Review.
- Introduction of three Elected Deputy Chairmen roles on Board, as recommended by the Independent Governance Review.
- Pride of Table Tennis Awards extended to include more categories, and celebration dinner held.
- Database of volunteers created on the back of hosting ITTF Team World Cup in London.

**Places**

**Increase the number of places to play**

- Ping Pong Parlours turn empty shopping centre units into opportunities to play. 37 Parlours opened by March 2019.
- Ping in the Community launched.
- Premier Club benefits package strengthened and Associate Clubs accreditation launched, broadening the database of clubs with which we work and communicate to more than 300.
- Table and Club Finder launched on website.
- Partnerships with Everyone Active, David Lloyd and Parkwood Leisure to facilitate play at their locations.
- Continued partnership with Jack Petchey Foundation enables table tennis in schools and youth clubs in London and Essex.
- Schools table packages provided to schools around the country.

**Performance**

**Improve performance**

- Hosted 2018 ITTF Team World Cup – men won bronze medal.
- Record medal haul at the Commonwealth Games 2018.
- 913 and Hopes Squad formed.
- National Championships qualifying tournament introduced.
- Highest world-ranked player since 1980 as Liam Pitchford reached No 14.
- Successfully bid for Aspiration Fund backing from UK Sport.
- Victories over Japan and Chinese Taipei en route to a quarter-final place at the 2018 World Championships.
- Tin-Tin Ho won European under-21 doubles gold in 2019.
- Paul Drinkhall won the ITTF Serbia Open in 2019.
- England men’s team into top 10 in world rankings (June 2019).
- Medals won by various athletes at ITTF World Junior events.

**Core objectives**

**Staff**

- Selected staff received media training.
- All staff attended inclusivity training session.
- Selected staff received mental health first aid training.

**Image and profile**

- Live coverage of National Championships on the BBC Sport website. Our relationship with the BBC has also resulted in live coverage of international events including the World Para Championships and European Championships.

- Ping Pong Parlours shortlisted in the BT Sport Industry Awards.

- National Table Tennis Day grows in profile and participation, including trending on Twitter.
- Awarded World Cup of the Year 2018 award by the ITTF.
- England represented on 8 ITTF and ETTU committees, enhancing our reputation and influence.

**Revenue**

- Development of wholly-owned TT Leagues system to avoid reliance on third-party suppliers.
- Sponsorship relationships with PG Mutual and Butterfly strengthened.
- Office move to shared premises at Badminton England realised savings.

**Participation**

**Increase regular participation**

- In its first two years, the Be TT programme funded more than 170 projects delivered by clubs and leagues, reaching on average 4,300 participants a week, around 1,200 of them female.
- Bat & Chat launched: 27 sessions engage more than 400 new participants over the age of 50.
- Short format leagues supported – 68 in last two years, engaging almost 1,000 individuals.
- Female programmes supported – 40 projects in last two years engaging well over 300 individuals.
- TT Kidz developed and launched to recruit more 7-to-11-year-olds into the sport. 35 clubs have signed up to deliver the initiative in 2019/20.
- Partnership agreed with Premier Education Group as official primary schools delivery partner.
- Partnership with Jack Petchey Foundation sees more than 430 tables donated to 130-plus schools, enabling more than 13,000 pupils to play.
- Since 2013, a total of 216 Satellite Clubs have been delivered, promoting school-club links and reaching around 11,000 young people.
- ESTTA merger brought schools table tennis provision under one umbrella.
- Membership Benefits Club: More partners added, providing our player members with additional tangible benefits.
- Ping! expansion saw more than 1.4 million table visits in 2018.
- Places to Play map added to the Ping! website.
- Introduction of new membership platform from July 2019 to make administration easier for individual members, coaches, officials and clubs.
- The Hub launched – an online platform home for workplace competition and rankings.



Total membership		
	17/18	18/19
Associate	16,030	19,122
Licensed	2,390	2,361
Player	23,521	23,169
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,941</b>	<b>44,652</b>
Membership by age		
Cadet	5,553	5,646
Junior	3,265	3,570
Senior	8,405	10,004
Veteran	24,718	25,432
Membership by age - Licensed		
Cadet	649	668
Junior	437	354
Senior	594	614
Veteran	710	725
Membership by age - Player		
Cadet	2,142	2,020
Junior	1,196	1,106
Senior	3,923	3,938
Veteran	16,260	16,105

\* figures as at 31.03.19

The four key focus areas for participation currently are:

- Raising awareness of opportunities to play and to develop the sport
- Providing an evolving and relevant offer for clubs and leagues
- Working with schools and young people
- Modernising practices and reducing the burden of administration, for example by introducing ClubSpark for clubs and moving schools affiliation online

**Membership**

The Table Tennis England membership stood at 44,652 on March 31, 2019, up from 41,941 on the same date in 2018, a rise of more than 6.4%

This is accounted for primarily by an increase in Associate members, while there are small decreases in Licensed members (-29) and Player members (-352).

The proportion of male to female members has remained relatively static. Closing the gap remains an important strategic objective. The Be TT programme and other initiatives seek in part to address this discrepancy. The highest proportion of female members is in the Licensed category at 18%, followed by Associate at 15% and Player at 9%.

Of our paid members, the majority of just under 15,000 (57%) join online and around 6,000 (23%) affiliate directly. The rest join through their club or league or by telephone to head office.

Work started this year on options to restructure the membership categories with an aim of ensuring the membership represents a wider cross-section of regular participants. We will complete the work in the coming year.

**2019 NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

- 100+ DELEGATES
- 2 DAYS
- 30+ CLUBS REPRESENTING 2,000+ PLAYERS
- 6 LEAGUES REPRESENTING 1,500+ PLAYERS
- 8 GUEST SPEAKERS
- 8 PRESENTATIONS
- PRIDE OF TABLE TENNIS AWARDS: 11 WINNERS
- 1 NEW PRODUCT LAUNCH
- 16 WORKSHOPS
- 8 NEW REFEREES TRAINED
- 1 MEETING OF MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY GROUP (MAG)
- 61 NET PROMOTER SCORE = EXCELLENT

**Clubs & Leagues**

Following a series of regional conferences, the feedback from attendees was that the networking opportunity was valuable and that they would like that to be extended to be able to meet clubs and leagues from across the country.

The National Conference took place in Leicester on March 30 and 31. It gave us an opportunity to share the work we are doing and let people know how they can get involved in a series of new initiatives.

TT Kidz was launched and The Pride of Table Tennis Awards dinner took place on the Saturday night, which included the new League of the Year category.

A total of 111 delegates attended on Saturday and 90 on Sunday and there were eight guest speakers and 27 staff members involved during the weekend.

Feedback from delegates was very positive, resulting a Net Promoter Score of 61 (on a scale of -100 to 100), with most valued areas including the venue and the content of the conference, the sharing of best practice and the opportunity to network.

The conference was heavily subsidised, with Premier Clubs paying just

£50 per place for two places or £75 for one, while leagues paid £75 per place. The cost per delegate to Table Tennis England was £170.

It is planned to hold another National Conference after the next round of regional conferences.

A total of 31 new satellite clubs were set up in the year to

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March 31, which have reached 861 11-to-25-year-olds. The Sport England target was 850. The focus was on women and girls (28% of participants were female); inactive young people; young people with disabilities; and providing opportunities in areas of social deprivation.

Satellite clubs are extensions of a community club hosted at a different venue, usually a school, and aim to bridge the gap between schools and clubs and make it easier for young people to get into table tennis by removing barriers to going straight into traditional clubs. The aim is to develop another 35 satellite clubs in the next 12 months.

In response to feedback from clubs which wanted more benefits for Premier Club status, we were able to provide an extra £90 worth of benefits for a £20 increase in affiliation fee from £35 to £55. The £90 of extra benefits included the Conference and discounts on coaching and umpiring courses. Premier Club membership also opens doors to Be TT funding and the Satellite Club and Young Ambassador programmes.

The number of Associate Clubs rose from 103 to 137. This affiliation is designed for new or smaller clubs which want to keep in touch with us and unlock help in the areas of safeguarding, equality and constitutions. Alongside Premier Clubs, it means our database of clubs with which we work is now over 300.

There were 256 Leagues registered with Table Tennis England in 2018/19.

The Young Ambassador Programme incentivises young people aged 14-25 to volunteer in clubs, gaining personal skills, qualifications and vital experience to enhance their career prospects while helping to take the pressure off existing volunteers.

A total of 22 clubs and leagues signed up to the programme in year one with 25 Young Ambassadors (six of them female) logging more than 570 hours' volunteering between them.

Our partnership with Sport England Club Matters enabled us to develop a pilot workshop specifically for table tennis clubs on developing a business plan and the pilot in Fulbourn was attended by eight clubs.

## Be TT Programme

The focus of Be TT is to deliver better experiences across the sport, alongside improving member retention and experience.

Additionally, while our Player membership is relatively static, participation in the sport as a whole is growing. With the support of clubs and leagues, we are helping to create opportunities for those new participants who wish to move towards Player membership.

In year 2 of the scheme to March 31, 2019, 84 projects were funded (comprising 119 smaller projects known as interventions), which reached a weekly average of 1,856 participants – 595 (32%) of them female.

Be TT has enabled area staff to build strong relationships with the clubs and leagues involved in the projects and to enable them to better understand their membership trends and needs.

This insight informed the primary focus of the Year 2 projects and saw us work with leagues that had either low member



Paralympian Ash Facey Thompson at Kelmscott School in Walthamstow, one of the recipients of a table donation from the Jack Petchey Table Tennis Programme

retention rates or a low percentage of women and girls playing.

Leagues have been incredibly receptive to the support being offered and in trialling new initiatives including shorter format leagues.

Shorter Format leagues offer a different approach to running a traditional league and have been successful in engaging new audiences and offering more flexible playing opportunities.

The average age for a two-person league is 19 years younger and these leagues have 5% more females compared with a three-player league. A total of 68 shorter format league projects have been run in Year 1 and Year 2, engaging 989 individuals, 194 of them female.

Since Year 1, Be TT projects have run 40 successful female programmes and female membership retention is up from 79% to 84%. Overall retention in the sport has risen from 82% to 85%.

The Bat and Chat programme attached to Be TT has proved to be a success with 27 new clubs delivering Bat and Chat sessions engaging more than 400 new participants over the age of 50.

New programmes that have been developed this year and will be ready for clubs and leagues to deliver for 2019/20 include a Get Back to TT initiative, aimed at adults who used to play the sport, and TT Kidz.

TT Kidz is a brand new programme aimed at engaging more 7-to-11-year-olds in the sport in clubs and schools. At the time of writing, 35 clubs had signed up to deliver the initiative next season, following five pilot schemes in April and May.

## Schools

After 46 years of service to schools table tennis, latterly as Deputy Chairman of the Table Tennis England Schools Committee, John



A schools promotion day at Birley High School, Sheffield, run by Vulcan TTC under the Be TT Programme

## Community participation initiatives - what the players say

### Ping in the Community (3,528 participants)

- It provides a social environment which meets the needs of a cross section of ages. Bringing people of the local community together for a sporting lifestyle to enhance their health and wellbeing

- It has allowed me to spend more time with people in the village and socialise with others in the community. I also have ADHD, and struggle with concentration and anxiety. Table tennis – accessible locally, since I can't drive – engages me in a way that allows me to focus on something, work off some hyperactivity and assuage my anxiety

- I found sport difficult at school and this is the first time that I have found a sporting activity that I have really enjoyed

### Loop at Work (1,168 participants)

- I think Loop at Work is a brilliant way



Ping in the Community at Lyppard Hub in Worcester

to introduce table tennis to people who wouldn't normally have the opportunity

- It adds to our wider offer for health and wellbeing to the staff and encourages staff to get away from their desks all day

- More socialising and laughter in a quiet

area. Employees felt they had been given something for them

- Table tennis is great fun and encourages me to come away from my desk at break time. I play every single day without fail and I constantly recommend it to all my colleagues!

Arnold MBE stepped down from his position at the end of the 2017/18 season. As President of the English Schools Table Tennis Association (ESTTA), John was a figurehead of schools table tennis and continued to make an invaluable contribution after the merger of Table Tennis England and ESTTA in 2017. We wish him a very happy retirement.

David Maddison, who has been a prominent member of the Schools Committee in the last 12 months, accepted the role of Deputy Chairman alongside Richard Hudson.

Once again, the Schools Committee delivered successful team and individual events, sponsored by Butterfly, in which an estimated 10,000 pupils competed at local, zonal, regional and national levels. Our thanks go to Team Organiser Richard Hudson and Individual Organiser Gail Johns, plus the teams of volunteers who work with them, for their hard work in delivering these competitions. Thanks also to Steve Burge, who co-ordinates English representation at international competitions. The results of all these competitions can be found in the Competitions & Events section of this report.

Our partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation was extended into its ninth year in February 2019. In the last year,

more than 220 table tennis tables have been donated to 64 schools and youth clubs within London and Essex. These tables have directly benefited 7,100 young people and have allowed many schools to introduce table tennis into their school curriculum. The expectation from these donations is that by giving young people more opportunities to play it will in turn generate more young players to help grow our sport.

The Jack Petchey Schools Table Tennis competitions were once again staged – throughout the qualifying and final rounds for these competitions, more than 1,500 young participants competed, from the London and Essex area.

We also held a Girls-only Festival which saw students and young people from within London celebrate the sport on National Table Tennis Day. These girls had completed a six-week programme at their schools, learning the basic skills of table tennis whilst also giving them an opportunity to socialise and create new friendships.

In addition, 105 Schools Table Packages were sold via the Table Tennis England website.

## Community participation

Sport England provides ring-fenced funding for projects specifically delivered to very large numbers of the general public, such as Ping! and Ping Pong Parlours.

Ping! is now a year-round project, encompassing the outdoor tables, Ping Pong Parlours and Ping in the Community. This has helped to develop a wider social scene, with groups such as Battle of the Paddle in Bristol – who run a large corporate league – growing out of Ping!

In addition, councils and other local authorities are including tables at roadshow-type events and festivals, including the River Festival in Bedford.

This has resulted in greater opportunities to play – there were an estimated 1.4 million visits to outdoor tables during the summer months of Ping! 2018, well above the Sport England target of 750,000.



Mindful table tennis in Bedford

The Norwich Ping Pong Parlour, based in Castle Mall Shopping Centre, opened in October 2017 and has proved to be a great success.

The Parlour was originally opened on a three-month contract but is still going after 18 months and has four tables in constant use.

Norwich City TTC have worked closely with the parlour since its opening, with activities including a coaching day for young players; a robot challenge day in aid of charity; an Easter challenge during the school holidays; Bat and Chat sessions for over-55s every Tuesday.

Visitors to the parlour can be put in touch with both Norwich City and Wensum TTC and Stuart Laws from the former said more than 40 people had come to the club after playing at the parlour and had been either introduced to competitive play or helped to play socially at other venues.

He added: "Norwich City Table Tennis Club will be entering three teams in the Norwich League for the first time next season, with kit sponsored by the Castle Mall, and including players attracted



Participants in a Bat & Chat session at Castle Mall Ping Pong Parlour

from the parlour, so a pathway has been created. Around a dozen of our members have been involved in running events - including newly qualified coaches, giving them exposure to new players and how to put on fun imaginative sessions."

League chairman Shaun Parsley added: "Attrition of teams is a constant worry for the committee and it seems that clubs

like NCTTC and Wensum are pushing hard to fill the gap.

"The parlour highlights an inherent love for the game at grassroots levels and suggests that if we really want table tennis to be in the psyche of the public we need sustainable venues like this in the centre of cities. This and Ping! are great initiatives."

From page 11

There is a 'Places-to-play' map on the Ping! website, which features almost 900 tables, including Ping Pong Parlour tables and other available free of charge or for hire tables.

As of March 31, there were 37 Ping Pong Parlours open, up from 11 at the previous year-end. We have estimated more than one million visits, using footfall counter technology in one parlour showing 30,000 visits in 6 months. The majority of Parlours remain open beyond their initial six-week term, until the unit is needed as shop space again - and they often move to other units. It is rare to see them close completely.

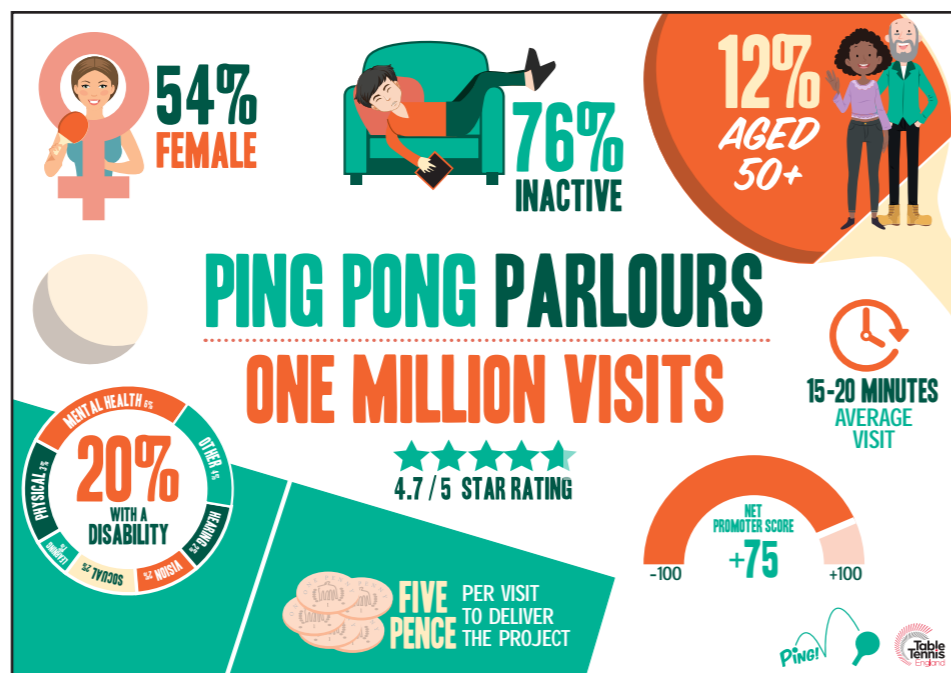
The engagement with clubs and leagues has been positive and there are good examples of coached activities run by clubs and other cross-promotion, such as Bat & Chat sessions, as can be seen by the example from Norwich above.

The initiative was shortlisted for the prestigious BT Sports Industry Awards.

Loop in the Community was rebranded as Ping in the Community and we have worked with organisations including Mencap, Sport in Mind, the Stroke Association, HM Prisons, Everyone Active and Leonard Cheshire, providing subsidised equipment to help them set up local groups.

We are also working alongside London Sport on a pilot programme which sees doctors able to prescribe exercise on Ping! tables.

The Loop at Work initiative saw the soft launch of The Ping Pong Hub, which 10 companies are helping us to pilot and develop. This is an online home for workplace competition and rankings and a place where colleagues can challenge each other



to games and run competitions. This was developed in response to demand from customers and funded by Sport England.

We are engaging with a broad range of partners, not just in the area of sport delivery but also in the areas of public health, social isolation and community regeneration.

Local police have used Ping! as a way to connect with young people and provide something positive for them to do - in Bishop's Stortford, officers hosted a Pong with Police event in their local Parlour.

Our workforce - coaches, officials and volunteers - are at the heart of our sport and our role is to ensure they are trained, supported and recognised, as well as to provide a pathway of qualifications for those who wish to progress their careers within coaching or officiating.

One of our strategic priorities is to increase the number of females in the sport and the women and girls' action plan was launched at the National Conference following a year of planning and consultation via a series of workshops and webinars.

The plan encompasses several elements, including the Female Ambassador programme and the Female Coaching Bursary to encourage women to take up coaching roles.

Coaching

In the last year, a total of 399 coaches completed a qualification, ranging from Level 1 to Level 4.

Eight new tutors qualified and can deliver our Session Coach (Level 1) and Lead Coach (Level 2) courses.

The average number of coaches attending each Session Coach Level 1 course has risen from 10 to 17, following a number of changes which were made to the course last year and the completion rate is also higher. The percentage of qualified coaches who are female now stands at 18%.

The Teachers Award, which provides an introduction to table tennis for qualified or student teachers, with ideas of how to engage students through coaching fun activities and games, is proving popular and 239 teachers have completed it in the last year. Table Tennis Ireland purchased the content of the course from us and now use it as their teacher training programme.

Officials

Recruiting officials was identified as an organisational priority.

Four Level 1 Umpires' courses were held in London (Greenhouse), Birmingham, Accrington and Halton and 37 people attended in total.

A further three people completed the Level 2 (National Umpire) course. The progressions up the pathway from there are to Level 3 (International Umpire) and Level 4 (Blue Badge - elite international).

Our umpire training courses this year have been primarily aimed at under-25s and females, with the intention to create a bigger and more diverse group of umpires and to encourage younger people to make the step into officiating by making them more aware of the opportunities umpiring can bring.

Those who enrol on one of our Level 1 courses also have the added incentive of being mentored and trained to be able to step up to Level 2 in time for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, for which a diverse group of English officials will be appointed, under the #bepartofit initiative.

Two Level 2 Tournament Organiser courses were held, with 16 attendees, and a first ever Level 2 Referee (National Referee) course was held, with eight attendees. Level 1 Referee courses (Tournament Referee) are in the pipeline.

On the international front, we have supported a number of umpires to either achieve or maintain their Blue Badge status: Nico Caltabiano (who was awarded the status this year), Lyndon Griffiths (working towards Blue Badge status), David Edwards, Harry Jutle, John Mackey and Tom Purcell.

We launched the Officials Portal on the Table Tennis England website, providing a one-stop platform where officials can keep their career records up to date, find out about additional qualifications and let us know which competitions they are



officiating at. It also makes it easier for Table Tennis England and the Technical Officials Committee (TOC) to analyse officiating patterns and gain insight to help with planning competitions and officials' courses.

Among the features is an 'Officials Finder' where those running competitions can find umpires, tournament organisers and referees.

The platform runs alongside the Coaching Portal, so officials who are also coaches can keep both aspects of their careers up to date.

A total of 24 people completed our Leadership Award - the first step on the coaching, officiating or tournament organising administration ladder for young people assisting at table tennis clubs, after school clubs, youth centres or school holiday schemes. An additional 72 people took our Young Officials Award.

A total of 373 youngsters have this year completed the Junior Umpire Award which we offer to schools.



Volunteers

Our Young Ambassador scheme is now club-based rather than national and there are currently 29 Young Ambassadors around the country, taking on volunteering roles within clubs in the areas of coaching, officiating and committee representation. They log hours and receive awards based on the hours they complete.

The purpose of the scheme is both to give the youngsters experience of these important roles and to help take some pressure off long-standing volunteers.

Our Pride of Table Tennis Awards scheme, which honours volunteers in a number of categories, is covered elsewhere in this review. A total of 30 clubs awarded their own volunteer of the year awards, and we encourage all clubs to do this and thank their own key volunteers.



This has been a quieter year with no major team competitions, however our elite athletes have delivered some performances to be proud of and continue to work hard to improve all areas of their games.

Liam Pitchford continued his upward trajectory in the world rankings, hitting a career high of No 14 in May. He further illustrated his progress by delivering more consistent results and, on multiple occasions, putting together a sequence of victories against high-ranked opponents.

This enabled him to go deep into competitions, including ITTF World Tour semi-final appearances in both Austria and the Czech Republic, beating recent world No 1 players Ma Long and Dimitrij Ovtcharov on the way, among several other top names.

He reached the last 16 of the European Championships, being beaten by Timo Boll, who went on to win the title for the seventh time. However, the following month, Liam turned the tables to beat Boll at the Austrian Open tournament. Among his other accolades was a first qualification for the Europe Top 16.

Liam was also once again the Most Valuable Player at the Ultimate Table Tennis League in India, losing only one match and demonstrating his ability to put several wins together.

These performances, plus his form in the French Pro A League, saw him awarded a contract to play in the Japanese League from this autumn.

We were also very proud that Liam worked with Samaritans to help end the stigma of mental illness, and spoke movingly about his own battle to overcome depression. Liam also acknowledged the help he was given by Table Tennis England, in particular Ceri-Ann Davies, to work through those issues.

Paul Drinkhall won the Serbia Open men's singles title, his second World Tour event victory after the Spain Open in 2014 – and only the third by an English player since the World Tour began. Paul was also elected to the ETTU Athletes' Commission.

Other notable performances included Sam Walker reaching the quarter finals of the European Championships men's doubles, alongside Tobias Rasmussen of Denmark, the first English player to reach that stage since 1990.

Sam and Paul Drinkhall reached the last 16 of the doubles at the Qatar Open, one of the strongest World Tour events, where Sam also beat world No 29 Jin Ueda of Japan. Tom Jarvis reached a career high in the world rankings and reached the last 16 of the doubles at the Swedish Open alongside Kanak Jha of the USA.

On the women's side, Tin-Tin Ho became European Under-21 women's doubles champion, playing with Karoline Mischek of Austria and also reached the last 32 of the singles in the European

# BUTTERFLY

We would like to thank our **Official Clothing Supplier** Butterfly and also Tees Sport, the Butterfly partner in the British Isles, for their ongoing support.

Championships. Maria Tsaptsinos reached a career high of No 149 in May, and Mollie Patterson, still a Junior, finished 14th at the Senior Finlandia Open.

The England men's team qualified for the European Championships finals, which will be held in France in September.

Under the new qualification process, regardless of Stage 1 results, the teams would have had to play the Stage 2 qualifiers. Nevertheless, the men's two defeats to Serbia in Stage 1 were disappointing results, though the women won their group with some positive performances, especially in the victory away to Greece.

In Stage 2, the men finished top of their group, which also included Ukraine, Italy and Estonia, with three wins out of three. The women were up against Spain and Belgium and were defeated in both matches, a disappointing outcome but with a young team that will improve with time.

The England men's ranking remained high – they were ranked 10th on the June 2019 list – which resulted in qualification for the European Games in Minsk. Tin-Tin Ho and Charlotte Carey (Wales) also qualified to represent Team GB at the Games.

The team and individual performances on the men's side were also enough to secure investment from the UK Sport Aspiration Fund, which will support the men's team as they aim to secure qualification for Tokyo 2020.

In the youth ranks, Denise Payet and Ruby Chan both broke into the top 30 in Europe in their categories, while Chan won two gold and two silver medals at the Ghana Junior & Cadet Open.

There was a silver medal for Jasmin Wong at the Croatia Junior & Cadet Open and bronze medals for Denise Payet & Megan Gidney and for Ethan Walsh & James Smith at the Sweden Junior & Cadet Open. You can read more about this year's achievements on pages 22-23 of this review.

Clockwise from top left: Paul Drinkhall on top of the podium in Serbia; Liam Pitchford; the England squad at the Euro Minis; Sam Walker & Tobias Rasmussen; Maria Tsaptsinos. Far right: Ruby Chan

A Hopes tier was added to the 913 Squad this season. Our youth players now work towards gold, silver and bronze awards, a series of challenges which players have to complete in order to get into the squad and then continue to progress. These awards were developed by Alan Cooke and Matt Stanforth and impacts on what the player are doing in their own time and at home. Given the little time our coaches are able to spend with them, this has made a big difference in ensuring the players are able to work towards international standards at all times, not just in the squad setting.

We have reduced the core programme burden on players in the England Youth Squad and provided clarity concerning the benchmark standards they require to be considered for the programme. This includes a separation of the training squad from championships teams – players no longer have to be a part of the EYS to be considered for selection for competitions, though they are expected to hit the benchmarks laid down for physical, technical and mental criteria. This separation further means that squad membership is geared to improving as a player, whereas being selected for a team requires being able to deliver their best performance in a competition setting.

The decision was taken to close the National Centre of Excellence at Ackworth School due to insufficient players. We are pleased, however, that the school has committed to continue to deliver performance-focused table tennis itself.

### The following represented England

**Senior:** Charlotte Bardsley, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, David McBeath, Denise Payet, Liam Pitchford, Maria Tsaptsinos, Sam Walker

**Under-21:** Emily Bolton, Tin-Tin Ho

**Junior:** Charlotte Bardsley, Joe Clark, Megan Gidney, Denise Payet, Darcie Proud

**Cadet:** Mari Baldwin, Naphong Boonyaprapa, Ruby Chan, Rhys Davies, Erin Green, Amirul Hussain, Jamie Liu, Amy Marriott, Anaya Patel, Ben Piggott, Louis Price, Millie Rogove, Josh Weatherby, Jasmin Wong

**Hopes:** Maliha Baig, Bethany Ellis, Anna Green, Connor Green, Joseph Hunter, Isabelle Lacorte, Ollie Maric-Murray, Jakub Piwowar

### The following competed at ITTF tournaments

**Senior:** Andrew Baggaley, Emily Bolton, Matthew Daish, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, David McBeath, Liam Pitchford, Maria Tsaptsinos, Sam Walker

**Under-21:** Emily Bolton, Matthew Daish, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Maria Tsaptsinos.

**Junior:** Mari Baldwin, Charlotte Bardsley, Naphat Boonyaprapa, Naphong Boonyaprapa, Ruby Chan, Sam Chesterman, Joe Cope, Matthew Daish, Rhys Davies, Megan Gidney, Erin Green, Amirul Hussain, Amy Marriott, Mollie Patterson, Anaya Patel, Denise Payet, Ben Piggott, Louis Price, Thomas Rayner, Millie Rogove, Raquel Sao Pedro, Shayan Siraj, James Smith, Jie Fu Tham, Felix Thomis, Ethan Walsh, Josh Weatherby, Sam Wilson, Jasmin Wong

**Cadet:** Mari Baldwin, Naphong Boonyaprapa, Ruby Chan, Rhys Davies, Jake Grayson, Connor Green, Erin Green, Joseph Hunter, Amirul Hussain, Sienna Jetha, Jamie Liu, Amy Marriott, Anaya Patel, Ben Piggott, Louis Price, Darcie Proud, Thomas Rayner, Millie Rogove, Raquel Sao Pedro, Jie Fu Tham, Felix Thomis, Josh Weatherby, Jasmin Wong

**Hopes:** Connor Green, Joseph Hunter, Sienna Jetha

*\* Editor's note: The first list covers funded entries; the second list comprises self-funded entries*

### The following officials were selected for overseas events

Nico Caltabiano, Dave Cochrane, Lyndon Griffiths, Harry Jutle, John Mackey, Alex Mercer, Lynda Reid, Josh Reynolds, Derek Sidaway, Lester Smith, Alan Thomas

**Officiated at England internationals at home:** Neil Curtis, Lyndon Griffiths, Harry Jutle, Kim Mudge

### England results 2018/19

**European Championships Stage 1 Men**

Bosnia-Herzegovina 0 England 3  
England 1 Serbia 3  
**Women**  
Norway 1 England 3  
England 3 Greece 0

**Stage 2 Men**

England 3 Ukraine 2  
England 3 Estonia 0  
England 3 Italy 2  
**Women**  
England 0 Spain 3  
England 1 Belgium 3

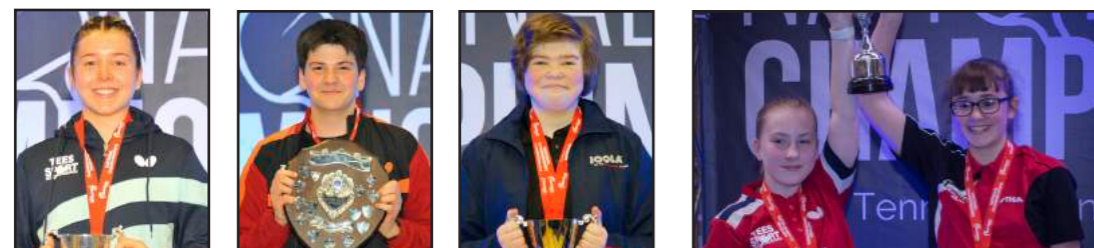


# PG Mutual NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Table Tennis England



Clockwise from left: women's singles champion Maria Tsaptsinos; mixed doubles winners Josh Bennett & Tin-Tin Ho; para champion Ashley Facey Thompson; Under-21 gold and silver medallists Tom Jarvis and Luke Savill; action from the men's doubles final won by Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall  
Main pic: Liam Pitchford



From left: Denise Payet, Ethan Walsh, Mari Baldwin, Katie Bates & Saskia Key

**Senior Nationals**  
**University of Nottingham,**  
**March 2019**

- Men's singles**  
Liam Pitchford
- Women's singles**  
Maria Tsaptsinos
- Men's doubles**  
Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford
- Women's doubles**  
Tin-Tin Ho & Maria Tsaptsinos
- Mixed doubles**  
Josh Bennett & Tin-Tin Ho
- Under-21 men's singles**  
Tom Jarvis
- Under-21 women's singles**  
Tin-Tin Ho
- Para Class 7-10**  
Ash Facey Thompson
- Swaythling Club International Fair Play Award**  
Tom Jarvis

**Cadet & Junior Nationals**  
**University of Nottingham,**  
**May 2019**

- Junior boys' singles**  
Ethan Walsh
- Junior girls' singles**  
Denise Payet
- Junior boys' doubles**  
Naphat Boonyaprapa & Sam Wilson
- Junior girls' doubles**  
Denise Payet & Mollie Patterson
- Junior mixed doubles**  
Ethan Walsh & Charlotte Bardsley
- Cadet boys' singles**  
Thomas Rayner
- Cadet girls' singles**  
Mari Baldwin
- Cadet boys' doubles**  
Naphong Boonyaprapa & Rhys Davies
- Cadet girls' doubles**  
Erin Green & Helena Dicken

**U10-U13 Nationals**  
**Wolverhampton, June 2019**

- Under-10 boys' singles**  
Kacper Piwowar
- Under-10 girls' singles**  
Sienna Jetha
- Under-11 boys' singles**  
Ralph Pattison
- Under-11 girls' singles**  
Mia Longman
- Under-12 boys' singles**  
Ollie Maric-Murray
- Under-12 girls' singles**  
Maliha Baig
- Under-13 boys' singles**  
Connor Green
- Under-13 girls' singles**  
Anna Green
- Under-13 boys' doubles**  
Jakub Piwowar & Ollie Maric-Murray
- Under-13 girls' doubles**  
Saskia Key & Katie Bates



We would like to thank our National Championships sponsor PG Mutual for their ongoing support.

PG Mutual is a not-for-profit organisation which provides income protection insurance if you are unable to work due to illness or injury.

As part of the sponsorship, Table Tennis England members can access their Income Protection Plus policy at advantageous rates.

For more details, please visit [tabletennisengland.co.uk/PGMutual/](http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/PGMutual/)



Table Tennis England | Senior Nationals



The provision of a well-structured competition and events programme to support players on the pathway as well as regular competitive players is a core function of the National Governing Body. This section focuses on the events delivered by Table Tennis England, but the calendar is supported by more than 250 other approved competitions and tournaments which are delivered primarily by clubs.

No major events were hosted this year, though England international matches for the European Championships were hosted at Medway Park (men's and women's stage 1) and by BATTs TTC in Harlow (women's stage 2).

The PG Mutual National Championships returned to the David Ross Sports Village at the University of Nottingham. The venue provides excellent all-round spectator and player experience. Tickets sold out on both the Saturday and the Sunday and once again the latter stages of the event were shown live on the BBC Sport website.

Responding to player feedback, we hosted a first ever Nationals Qualifying Tournament, in Preston, with a total of around 70 players participating, despite unavoidable calendar clashes. Feedback from the players was very positive. The opportunity to qualify for the National Championships and the playing format were particularly well received. The tournament will continue and has a date reserved in the calendar next season, which does not clash with any other relevant events.

The National Cups continued to travel around the country, with Corby Smash, Blackpool TTC and Joola Plymouth the hosts this season. We will continue to give clubs the opportunity to host these events – a prospectus can be found on our website for those interested.

The Inter-Regional Championships (U11, U13 and Cadet) were delivered in all 10 regions and culminated in the Inter-Regional Finals, held at Hatfield and with more than 150 players competing. We are working with the regions to iron out any issues as the competition is highly valued by players who wish to represent their regions.

The Grand Prix circuit was revamped for this season, with a reduction in the number of main Grand Prix events from eight to five and the overall series prizemoney reprofiled to provide greater prizemoney at the individual events and across all Bands.

This was in response to player feedback and has been well received by the vast majority of players.

Some venues proved more popular than others and we do continually review Grand Prix locations. Venue and equipment costs – together with prize money – remain the biggest financial commitments and the Grand Prix series continues to require subsidy, which may not be sustainable in the long run.

As well as the competitions delivered directly by our team, we also support the delivery of the Butterfly Schools Competitions (team and individual), the English Leagues Cup Competitions, the Jack Petchey London and Essex Competitions (team and individual), the National Junior League and National Cadet League and the County Championships.

We would like to place on record our gratitude for the hard work of many volunteers who make these competitions possible, including as lead organisers: Richard J Hudson (Butterfly Schools Team), Gail Johns (Butterfly Schools Individual), Mike Smith (ELCC), Mike Atkinson (NJL & NCL) and Dave Goulden (County Championships), plus all the volunteer teams who work with them.

In addition, many thanks to all the referees and umpires who have given their time and commitment to ensure competitions run smoothly.

The Tournament Approval Panel, headed by Harvey Webb and supported by a committee, continues to do an excellent job in a challenging role as the calendar continues to grow each season with more and more tournaments approved.

We have been working with our partner Sport:80 on online tournament entry and validation, which will be tested locally prior to a national roll-out.

## British League

The Senior British League Premier Division was in its third year of the home and away format and continues to attract quality players and provide exciting matches.

The Veterans' British League and Women's British League had new organisers in Trevor Vincent and Jim Kenny (assisted by Simon Price) respectively, who have all done sterling jobs. The VBL continued to be a very popular competition, with a short waiting list of teams wishing to join. It is hoped to be able to add



Clockwise from far left: Thomas Rayner celebrates winning the Cadet Boys' Singles national title; Jakub Piwowar at the Inter-Regional Finals; The Ormesby squad is presented with the British League Premier trophy by Table Tennis England Board member Tom Purcell; Veterans' British League men's champions The Musketeers; VBL women's champions Market Rasen; Women's British League champions YHL & UON; Junior British League boys champions Cliffdale Chandlers Grantham College; JBL girls champions London Academy

another women's division, subject to interest. The WBL saw three new teams enter, and further expansion is anticipated.

The Junior British League remains one of the biggest and most popular competitions on our calendar. Richard and Brenda Hudson have retired from their role as JBL organisers and we would like to thank them for the dedication they have brought to the roles. Indeed, all areas of the British League would not run without the commitment and expertise of a number of volunteers. We would like to thank them all for their continued efforts and will continue to support them in their roles.

The Board decided to make a change to the Chairmanship of the British League Committee for the next season, with Chris Dangerfield handing over to Neil Rogers (Head of Competitions and Events). We would like to place on record our appreciation for the commitment that Chris gave to the British League over many years, a sentiment we are sure is echoed by all those who play in it. We would also like to thank Gary Wood, Malcolm Macfarlane and Alan Ransome for their sustained commitment to the British League.

### Roll of honour Senior British League

- Premier Division:** Ormesby
- Championship:** Whitworth Academy
- National A-1:** Archway Peterborough
- National A-2:** London Academy
- National B-1:** Barrow Tornadoes
- National B-2:** Tabletennisdaily
- National B-3:** Wensum
- National B-4:** Ellenborough
- National C-1:** Loughborough Unicorn
- National C-2:** Somerset Sabres
- National C-3:** Ormesby IV
- National C-4:** Archway Peterborough II
- National C-5:** Haywards Heath
- National C-6:** Joola Plymouth III
- National C-7:** Dartfordians

### Women's British League

- Premier Division:** YHL & UON
- Division 1:** Knighton Park
- Division 2:** Drumchapel Glasgow



# Competitions and events

- Division 3: Fusion II
- Division 4: Joola Plymouth
- Division 5A: Dun Laoire
- Division 5B: NETTS

## Junior British League

- Premier Boys: Clifedale Chandlers Grantham College
- Premier Girls: London Academy
- Division 1 Boys: XLNT Draycott II
- Division 1 Girls: XLNT Draycott II
- Division 2A Boys: Ormesby B
- Division 2B Boys: Colebridge
- Division 2 Girls: Brighton
- Division 3A Boys: Dublin B
- Division 3B Boys: Cardiff City B
- Division 3 Girls: Woodfield
- Division 4A Boys: Bishop Auckland
- Division 4B Boys: Halton II

## Veterans' British League

- Premier Men: The Musketeers
- Premier Women: Market Rasen
- Division 1A Men: Norwich
- Division 1B Men: The Rams
- Division 1A Women: Wheelers Fusion of ladies
- Division 2A Men: St Georges
- Division 2B Men: Bribar Failand
- Division 2A Women: Foresters
- Division 3A Men: Norton Commandos
- Division 3B Men: Ashford
- Division 4A Men: Nailsworth Phoenix
- Division 4B Men: Sycamore Zigabytes

## County Championships

A total of 234 teams entered the championships: Cadets (-2); Junior (0); Seniors (+2); Veterans (-1) & Over 60s (+2), which was an increase of 1 team from the previous year. Three teams withdrew from the championships during the season, one each from the Cadet, Junior & Veteran divisions.

The only change in the formation of the Divisions was that the Over-60s included three sections in Division 1 – as a result, three teams would be relegated from the Premier Division for the 2019/20 season, as agreed at the County Championships Conference in 2018.

In the Senior Premier Division, the champions were Sussex for the fourth year running and in the Veteran Premier Division, the champions were Nottinghamshire for the third year running.

In both the Cadet & Junior Premier Divisions, Lancashire were champions, whilst in the Over-60's Premier Division, the champions were Essex for the seventh time since its inception back in the 2001/2 season.

No fewer than 13 teams had 100% win records in their sections, including the Senior Premier Division winners, Sussex. The others were: Cadets – Surrey 1 (1A) and Derbyshire (2B); Juniors – Cheshire 1 (1A); Surrey 1 (1B); Gloucestershire (2B) and Surrey 2 (2B); Seniors – Norfolk (2A) and Buckinghamshire (2B); Veterans – Cambridgeshire 1 (2B), Devonshire (2B); Over-60s – Durham (1A) and Kent (1C).

Three divisions were decided on games countback in Cadet 2A, Junior Premier and Over 60's 1B with two teams in each being tied on equal points.

There were several issues with Counties playing ineligible players, due to the Counties failing to register and rank new players during the season in accordance with the Regulations. One such case resulted in one County team, having won their division, being penalised as a result of playing ineligible players.

### Roll of honour

#### Cadets

- Premier Division: Lancashire 1
- Division 1A: Surrey 1



Above: Essex Over-60s; Below: Lancashire Cadets



- Division 1B: Staffordshire
- Division 2A: Buckinghamshire
- Division 2B: Derbyshire

#### Juniors

- Premier: Lancashire 1
- Division 1A: Cheshire 1
- Division 1B: Surrey
- Division 2A: Durham 2
- Division 2B: Gloucestershire
- Division 2C: Surrey 2

#### Seniors

- Premier: Sussex 1
- Division 1A: Northumberland
- Division 1B: Berkshire
- Division 2A: Norfolk
- Division 2B: Buckinghamshire

#### Veterans

- Premier: Nottinghamshire 1
- Division 1A: Worcestershire 1
- Division 1B: Berkshire 1
- Division 2A: Derbyshire
- Division 2B: Cambridgeshire 1
- Division 2C: Middlesex 2
- Division 2D: Devonshire 1
- Division 3A: Northamptonshire 2
- Division 3B: Berkshire 2
- Division 3C: Buckinghamshire 2
- Division 3D: Wiltshire 2

#### Over-60s

- Premier: Essex 1
- Division 1A: Durham
- Division 1B: Gloucestershire
- Division 1C: Kent 1

## National Cups

- Under-12 Boys: 1 Ollie Maric-Murray, 2 Ralph Pattison, 3 Joseph Cooper, 4 Lennon Maughan, 5 Francesco Bonato, 6 Joseph



Above: Players wait for the trophy presentations at the Butterfly School Team Championships; Inset: Joseph Hee won the Under-16 Boys event at the Butterfly School Individual Championships for the third successive year; Below: Under-12 National Cup winners Ollie Maric-Murray and Maliha Baig



The Mike Watts Achievement Awards, presented to the boy and girl with the greatest improvement in ratings points between August 1 and July 31 each year, went to Millie Rogove and Callum McRae in 2017/18.



- Dennison, 7 Cameron Driver, 8 Louis Cheung-Turner, 9 Eduard Lakatos, 10 Abraham Earl Sellado
- Under-12 Girls: 1 Maliha Baig, 2 Rachael Iles, 3 Bethany Ellis, 4 Sienna Jetha, 5 Connie Dumelow, 6 Emily Cheung, 7 Mia Longman, 8 Jessica Morris, 9 Chui-Que Wong, 10 Sophie Ackred
- Cadet Boys: 1 Rhys Davies, 2 Louis Price, 3 Thomas Rayner, 4 Naphong Boonyaprapa, 5 Ben Piggott, 6 Connor Green, 7 Jie Fu Tham, 8 Felix Thomis, 9 Ollie Maric-Murray, 10 Bertie Kelly
- Cadet Girls: 1 Ruby Chan, 2 Anaya Patel, 3 Millie Rogove, 4 Mari Baldwin, 5 Erin Green, 6 Amy Marriott, 7 Scarlett Anders, 8 Kirsty Maull, 9 Helena Dicken, 10 Amillia Baker
- Junior Boys: 1 Ethan Walsh, 2 Joe Cope, 3 Shayan Siraj, 4 Sam Wilson, 5 Naphat Boonyaprapa, 6 Max Stevens, 7 James Smith, 8 Amirul Hussain, 9 Josh Weatherby, 10 Peter Smallcombe
- Junior Girls: 1 Charlotte Bardsley, 2 Denise Payet, 3 Mollie Patterson, 4 Ruby Chan, 5 Megan Gidney, 6 Mari Baldwin, 7 Jasmin Wong, 8 Darcie Proud, 9 Tiana Dennison, 10 Gemma Kerr

## Inter-Regional Finals

#### Team

- Cadet Boys: South West
- Cadet Girls: East
- Under-13 Boys: East Midlands
- Under-13 Girls: South East
- Under-11 Boys: East
- Under-11 Girls: London

#### Individual

- Cadet Boys: Toby Ellis (NW)
- Cadet Girls: Megan Jones (WM)
- Under-13 Boys: Dan Jones (WM)
- Under-13 Girls: Evelyn Pace (SE)
- Under-11 Boys: Kacper Piwowar (SW)
- Under-11 Girls: Mia Lakhani (L)
- Tonge Trophy (overall positions): 1 East, 2 South West, 3 East Midlands, 4 South East, 5 West Midlands, 6 North West, 7 London, 8 Yorkshire, 9 North East, 10 Southern.



## English Leagues Cup Competitions

- Wilmott Cup: North Herts
- JM Rose Bowl: Plymouth
- Carter Cup: Nottingham
- Bromfield Trophy: Loughborough

## NCL and NJL

A total of 242 teams played in the National Cadet League in 2018/19, down slightly on 248 in the previous season.

In the National Junior League, the figure was 176 teams, down from 204 in the previous season, the result of losing London Academy as a venue due to calendar clashes. We are working to avoid these next season.

## Butterfly School Team Championships

- Under-19 Boys: Grantham College
- Under-19 Girls: Grantham College
- Under-16 Boys: Tanbridge House School, Horsham
- Under-16 Girls: Charles Read Academy, Grantham
- Under-13 Boys: St Mary's College, Hull
- Under-13 Girls: Ripley St Thomas High School, Lancaster
- Under-11 Boys: Earls Hall Primary School, Westcliff on Sea
- Under-11 Girls: Redlands Primary & Nursery School, Worksop

## Butterfly School Individual Championships

- Under-19 Boys: Ethan Walsh
- Under-19 Girls: Charlotte Bardsley
- Under-16 Boys: Joseph Hee
- Under-16 Girls: Sandy Choong
- Under-13 Boys: Connor Green
- Under-13 Girls: Maliha Baig
- Under-11 Boys: Jakub Piwowar
- Under-11 Girls: Sienna Jetha



- Paul Drinkhall was elected to the ETTU Athletes' Commission.
- Table Tennis England was presented with the award for Best World Cup Event 2018 by the ITTF at the AGM.
- The Ping Pong Parlours initiative was shortlisted in the BT Sports Business Awards.
- Harvey Webb became Deputy President and Richard Scruton became Treasurer of the Swaythling Club International.
- Former ESTTA President John Arnold MBE was presented with the Emeritus Award by the Sport & Recreation Alliance.
- Nico Caltabiano became a Blue Badge international umpire.
- Former Paralympic champion Neil Robinson, who is now an integral part of the British Para Table Tennis coaching team, was presented with an Honorary Fellowship by Bridgend College in recognition of his service to Great Britain, Wales and Bridgend.

### Performance - Senior

- Tin-Tin Ho became European Under-21 champion in the women's doubles, alongside Karoline Mischek of Austria.
- Liam Pitchford reached a career high of No 14 in the world - the highest England ranking since 1980.
- Paul Drinkhall won the Men's Singles at the Serbia Open - his second World Tour victory and only the third by an English player.
- Liam Pitchford was named Most Valuable Player in the Ultimate Table Tennis league in India for the second year in succession.
- Liam Pitchford beat Ma Long at the Bulgaria Open.
- Liam Pitchford reached the semi-finals of the Czech Open, beating Dimitrij Ovtcharov on the way.
- Sam Walker reached the quarter-finals of the men's doubles at the European

Championships, alongside Tobias Rasmussen of Denmark. He was the first English athlete to reach that stage since Des Douglas and Alan Cooke in 1990.

- Harry Fairchild, Andrew Tonkin and Chris O'Flinn won team bronze at the Down's Syndrome World Championships in Madeira. Harry also won doubles and singles bronze.
- Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall reached the semi-finals of the Swedish Open.
- Liam Pitchford reached the semi-finals of the Austrian Open (Platinum), beating world No 3 Timo Boll in the quarter-finals.
- Liam Pitchford played a key role as his club Hennebont won the ETTU Cup for the first time.
- Andrew Baggaley won the World Championship of Ping Pong for a third time.
- Maria Tsaptsinos won the TASS Star of the Year award.

### Performance - Youth

- Jasmin Wong won Cadet team silver at the Croatia Junior & Cadet Open alongside Hana Arapovic and Hanna Loncarevic of Croatia.
- James Smith & Ethan Walsh won bronze medals in the Junior Boys' Doubles at the Swedish Junior



& Cadet Open. Denise Payet & Megan Gidney won bronze in the Junior Girls' Doubles.

- Ruby Chan won Cadet Girls' Team and Cadet Girls' Doubles gold at the Ghana Junior & Cadet Open, alongside Ananya Chande of India. The pair also won Junior Girls' Doubles silver. Chan took silver in the Cadet Girls' Singles.
- England boys (Naphong Boonyaprapa, Rhys Davies, Ben Piggott, Louis Price) won team gold at the Cadet 6 Nations. The girls' squad (Mari Baldwin, Erin Green, Amy Marriott, Millie Rogove) won silver. Boonyaprapa and Baldwin won silver in their respective individual competitions.
- England won the boys' team (Joseph Cooper, Francesco Bonato, Louis Cheung Turner and Ralph Pattison) and girls' team (Sienna Jetha, Chloe Kay, Jessica Morris and Sophie Ackred) events at the Primary Schools Home International. Francesco Bonato won the boys' singles, Joseph Cooper took the silver and Ralph Pattison bronze. Chloe Kay won the girls' consolation singles.

- Rhys Davies won the consolation singles in the Cadet Boys' category at



the French Junior & Cadet Open. Ben Piggott was runner-up.

- Thomas Rayner won the Cadet Boys' consolation singles at the Spanish Junior & Cadet Open. Louis Price was runner-up.

### Performance - Para

- Ross Wilson (men's class 8) won gold at the World Para Championships in Slovenia. Fliss Pickard and Tom Matthews won bronzes.
- Kim Daybell (men's class 10), Megan Shackleton (women's class 4) and Josh Stacey (men's class 9) all took gold in the singles events at the PTT Czech Open in Ostrava. Ashley Facey Thompson (men's class 9) and Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5) took silver and Aaron McKibbin (men's class 8) and Fliss Pickard (women's class 6) bronze.
- In the team events, Daybell, Facey Thompson and Stacey won gold in the men's class 10 event, Pickard and her Swedish partner Caisa Stadler won silver in the women's class 6-7 event and Craig Allen combined with Barnabas Retter from Hungary to take bronze in men's class 9.
- Josh Stacey (men's class 9) and Lucie Bouron (women's class 1-3) took silver at the PTT Spanish Open in Almeria and Dan Bullen picked up bronze in men's class 5. Bouron added a team silver in women's class 1-4 and Billy Shilton (men's class 8) and Martin Perry (men's class 6) took bronze medals.
- Will Bayley (men's class 7) and Rob Davies (men's class 1) took gold at the Lignano Master Open. Josh Stacey took silver in men's class 9 and Megan Shackleton (women's class 4), Fliss Pickard (women's class 6), Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5), David Wetherill (men's class 6), Martin Perry (men's class 6) and Kim Daybell (men's class 10) all won bronze.
- In the team events, there was gold for Kim Daybell, Ashley Facey Thompson and Josh Stacey in men's class 10, Paul Karabardak,



Clockwise from top left: Ross Wilson wins the World Para Championships; WCPP champion Andrew Baggaley; the GB squad at the Down's Syndrome World Championships; the England Cadet 6 Nations squad; Nico Caltabiano; John Arnold MBE with the Earl of Wessex; European U21 champion Tin-Tin Ho with her partner Karoline Mischek

Martin Perry and David Wetherill in men's class 6 and Jack Hunter-Spivey with German Jeorg Didion in men's class 5. Will Bayley and Billy Shilton took silver in men's class 8.

- Martin Perry and Jack Stockdale took bronze medals in the men's class 6 and men's class 10 singles respectively at the PTT Costa Brava Open in Platja D'Aro, Spain.
- At the PTT Slovenia Open, Will Bayley (men's class 7) won gold and there were silvers for Paul Karabardak (men's class 6) and bronzes for Rob Davies (men's class 1), Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5), Ross Wilson (men's class 8), Aaron McKibbin (men's class 8) and Josh Stacey (men's class 9).
- In the team events, Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5 with Norway's Tommy Urhaug) and Kim Daybell (men's class 10 with Filip Radovic from Montenegro) won silver and Sue Gilroy and Megan Shackleton (women's class 4), Will Bayley (men's class 7 with the German Jochen Wollmert), Aaron McKibbin, Billy Shilton and Ross Wilson (men's class



8), Ashley Facey Thompson and Josh Stacey (men's class 9) all won bronze.

- At the ITTF Polish Para Open, Fliss Pickard (women's class 6) and Billy Shilton (men's class 8) won individual silver; Martin Perry (men's class 6), Aaron McKibbin (men's class 8), Ashley Facey Thompson and Josh Stacey (men's class 9) won individual bronze; Aaron McKibbin and Shilton won team gold in men's class 8 and Pickard took silver in women's class 6 with Norway's Merethe Tveiten.
- At the Para Copa Cristina Hoffmann in Mexico, there were singles medals for Lucie Bouron (gold, women's class 2-3), Dan Bullen (silver, men's class 5), Cellan Hall (bronze, men's class 5), Martin Perry (bronze, men's class 6) and Noel Thomas (bronze, men's class 2). Bouron added a team gold alongside Tamara Leonelli Leonelli of Chile. Team medals were also won by Bullen & Hall (men's class 4-5), Perry & Alex Bland (men's class 6-7), Ryan Henry & Chile's Jaime Jara Hernandez (men's class 8) and Craig Allen & Japan's Hayuma Abe (men's class 9).



Above: The winners at the Pride of Table Tennis Awards ceremony; Below: Dave and Jenny Evans received a special presentation during the PG Mutual National Championships in recognition of their years of voluntary service

Left: The Inspirational Story of the Year went to Philip Batchelor, the subject of a moving video about how table tennis has helped his fight against Parkinson's Disease. You can read more and watch the video at this link: <https://bit.ly/2UdtSxX>



**Pride of Table Tennis Awards**

The annual Pride of Table Tennis Awards seek to honour the volunteers, officials, coaches and personalities who are the heartbeat of our sport and ensure that countless thousands of people have the opportunity to play, enjoy and achieve in table tennis.

This year, more than 70 nominations were received from the table tennis family, in a range of categories including clubs, coaches, volunteers and officials - and the new category of League of the Year.

A judging panel selected the shortlist, and the winners were revealed at the awards ceremony at the 2019 National Club, Coach and Volunteer Conference.

The award winners were:

**Contribution to Table Tennis**  
Don Evans

**Volunteer of the Year**  
Anne Borrowdale

**Young Volunteer of the Year**  
Jordan Abbott

**Coach of the Year**  
Graham Coupe

**Technical Official of the Year**  
Jim Kenny

**Inclusivity Award**  
Hassan Ahmadi

**Club of the Year**  
Portishead TTC

**League of the Year**  
Weymouth & District TTL

**Partner of the Year**  
Jones Lang LaSalle

**Inspirational Story of the Year**

Philip Batchelor

**Ping! Personality of the Year**

Derek Seager

**Honours bestowed on members at AGM**

Individuals are also honoured at the Annual General Meeting each year. Many of those who receive awards or are appointed to honorary positions have given a lifetime of dedication in service of the sport.

The following were honoured at the 2018 Annual General Meeting:

**Vice-Presidents**

- Brian Freer
- David Goulden
- David Hockney
- Don Parker
- Judy Rogers
- Sally Shutt
- Keith Thomas

**Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award**

John Arnold MBE

**Malcolm Scott Award**

Susie Hughes

**Leslie Forrest Memorial Award**

Peter Wilkinson

**Ivor Montagu Award**

Caroline Williams

**AK Vint Staff Award**

Claire Brockwell

**Victor Barna Award**

Liam Pitchford

**Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved**

**England Player of the Year Award**

Tom Jarvis

**Special Award**

Mark Taffler (for his contribution to the staging of the ITTF Team World Cup)

**Re-elected as VPs for 2018-21**

Malcolm Allsop, Leslie Allwood, Mike Atkinson, John Burtenshaw, Barry Chapman, Jim Clegg, Alan Cooke, Colin Davison, Desmond Douglas MBE, David Edwards, Colin Hyland, Christopher Jaques, Nick Jarvis, Gail Johns, Ann Jones CBE, Brian Lamerton, Christine Lewis, Philip Lewis MBE, Jia Yi Liu, Ken Marchant, Derrick Marples, Denis Neale, Doreen Nightingale, Sir Jack Petchey CBE, Graham Rogerson, Brian Skinner, Gill Smith, Peter Taylor, Geoff Twiss, Diane Webb

• We also support officials and young players through funds which help them meet the cost of travelling abroad:

**Tom Blunn Fund**

The following officials received grants:

- Harry Jutle
- Alan Thomas

**Ivor Montagu Junior Fund**

The following received grants:

- Bethany Ellis
- Sam Wilson

**Maurice Goldstein Awards**

Barry Crook (Preston); Lindsey Dare (Norwich); Marcus Hookham (Castleford & Pontefract); Dennis Shaw (Castleford & Pontefract)



Brian Freer



David Goulden



David Hockney



Don Parker



Judy Rogers



Sally Shutt



Keith Thomas



John Arnold MBE



Susie Hughes



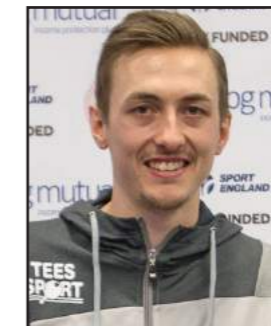
Peter Wilkinson



Caroline Williams



Claire Brockwell



Liam Pitchford



Tom Jarvis



Mark Taffler

**President:** Jill Parker MBE  
**Hon Past President:** Doreen Stannard

## Board Members

**Chairman:** Sandra Deaton  
**Deputy Chairman:** Susie Hughes  
**Treasurer:** Keith Thomas  
**Chief Executive:** Sara Sutcliffe  
 Simon Griew, Doug Livingstone, Andrew Nixon, Dee Paterson, Tom Purcell, Mark Quartermaine, Kelly Skeggs, Mike Smith

## Honorary Life Members

Peter Bradley, Peter Charters, Martin Clark, Stan Clarke, Colin Clemett, Aubrey Drapkin, Peter Hillier, Mike Holt, Laurie Landry, Alex Murdoch, Alan Ransome OBE, Richard Scruton, Les Smith, Mike Smith, Doreen Stannard, Karen Tonge MBE, Harvey Webb, John Wright, Richard Yule

## Vice-Presidents

Malcolm Allsop, Leslie Allwood, John Arnold MBE, Mike Atkinson, Dave Berriman, John Blackband, John Burtenshaw, Barry Chapman, Pat Chatwin, Keith Childs, Jim Clegg, Alan Cooke, Brian Davison, Colin Davison, Paul Day, Sandra Deaton, Desmond Douglas MBE, David Edwards, Ken Eliot, Dave Evans, Ken Field, Margot Fraser, Brian Freer, Stuart Gibbs, David Goulden, Barry Granger, Diccon Gray, Gerald Gurney, John Hilton, David Hockney, Brenda Hudson, Richard B Hudson, Richard J Hudson, Alan Hydes, Colin Hyland, Martin Ireland, Christopher Jaques, Nick Jarvis, Diana Jermyn, Gail Johns, Ann Jones CBE, Vanda Jones, Jim Kenny, Sheila King, Brian Lamerton, Christine Lewis, Philip Lewis MBE, Jia Yi Liu, Dorothy Macfarlane, Malcolm Macfarlane, Derrick Marples, Ian Marshall, Ken Matthews, Carole Moore, Ken Muhr, Valerie Murdoch, Denis Neale, Jeff Neslen, Doreen Nightingale, Don Parker, Mike Payne, Sir Jack Petchey CBE, Ken Phillips, Len Pilfold, Rosemary Ponting, Erica Preat, Tom Purcell, Jose Ransome, Lynda Reid, Judy Rogers, Graham Rogerson, Jackie Sands, Derek Schofield, Carol Seward, Eileen Shaler, Stuart Sherlock, Sally Shutt, Rob Sinclair, Brian Skinner, Mick Strode, Matthew Syed, Geoff Taylor, Peter Taylor, Keith Thomas, Ken Tonge, Graham Trimming, Geoff Twiss, George Tyler, Ron Washington, June Watts JP, Diane Webb, Estyn Williams

## Members' Advisory Group

Craig Bryant, Kevin Buddell, Jo Green, Neil Hurford, Brian Kean, David Maddison, Dean Nabarro, Sandy Nash, Raj Patel, Steve Pratt, Stuart Sherlock, Dan Simms

## National Councillors

**Avon:** David Hockney  
**Bedfordshire:** Alex Murdoch  
**Berkshire:** Michael Mitcham  
**Buckinghamshire:** Susan Hayes  
**Cambridgeshire:** Brian Freer  
**Cheshire:** Karen Tonge MBE  
**Cleveland:** Alan Ransome OBE  
**Cornwall:** Diana Jermyn  
**Derbyshire:** John Cowell

**Devonshire:** Andrew Millman  
**Dorset:** Reinhard Lindner  
**Durham:** Allan Thompson  
**Essex:** Phil Ashleigh  
**Gloucestershire:** Les Smith  
**Hampshire:** David Turner  
**Herefordshire:** Harry Jutle  
**Hertfordshire:** David Edwards  
**Isle of Wight:** Martin Dove  
**Kent:** Neil Le Milliere  
**Lancashire:** Geoff Rushton  
**Leicestershire:** Shirley Pickering  
**Lincolnshire:** George Tyler  
**Middlesex:** Tony Dias  
**Norfolk:** Trevor Vincent  
**Northamptonshire:** Vacant  
**Northumberland:** Gareth Pearson  
**Nottinghamshire:** Malcolm Allsop  
**Oxfordshire:** Neil Hurford  
**Shropshire:** Chris Dangerfield (Chairman)  
**Somerset:** Ian Hooper  
**South Yorkshire:** Robert Loxley  
**Staffordshire:** Clifford Bell  
**Suffolk:** Brian Davison  
**Surrey:** Margot Fraser  
**Sussex:** Tony Catt  
**Warwickshire:** Estyn Williams  
**Wiltshire:** Charles Sewell  
**Worcestershire:** Martin Clark  
**Yorkshire:** Richard B Hudson

## Support & Advisory Network Operations

**Archives, Museum and Records Committee:** Chairman Diane Webb; Secretary Rob Sinclair; Colin Clemett, Ken Eliot, Sandra Pelizzoni

**Board of Appeal:** Chairman Graeme McPherson QC; Deputy Chairmen Christopher Quinlan QC, Murray Rosen QC; Clerk Nigel Gibson-Birch; Secretary Sandra Pelizzoni; Katherine Apps; Mike Bishop; Angus Bujalski; Ashley Cukier; Alan Darfi; Gary Whyman

**Disciplinary Committee:** Chairman Estyn Williams; Secretary Sandra Pelizzoni; Phil Ashleigh; Ken Field; Richard Habgood; Craig Milner; Margot Fraser; Investigator Judy Rogers

**Returning Officer and Scrutineers:** Returning Officer Caroline Williams; Scrutineers Angela Bowness; John Bowness; Paul Nichols; Jim Palmer

**Rules Committee:** Chairman Colin Clemett; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; David Adams; Lynda Reid; Estyn Williams

## Talent, Performance and Events

**British League Committee:** Chairmen Chris Dangerfield (part), Neil Rogers (part); Secretary Gary Wood; Brenda Hudson, Richard B Hudson (Junior British League); Susie Hughes (Board); Jim Kenny (Women's British League); Malcolm Macfarlane (Senior British League); Carol Miles; Alan Ransome OBE (Calendar); Trevor Vincent (Veterans' British League)

**Sub-Committees - Senior British League:** Chairmen Chris Dangerfield (part), Neil

Rogers (part); Secretary Gary Wood; Administrator Malcolm Macfarlane; Alan Ransome OBE; Referee Stuart Sherlock.  
**Junior British League:** Joint Administrators Brenda Hudson; Richard B Hudson  
**Veterans' British League:** Administrator Trevor Vincent; Referee Cliff Bell; Assistant Referee John Mackey

**Women's British League:** Administrator Jim Kenny; Referee Karen Tonge MBE.

**Press and Publicity:** Press Officer Matt Shaw; Photographers Melvyn Lovegrove, Chris Rayner

**County Championships Committee:** Chairman Stan Clarke; Secretary/Administrator Dave Goulden; Assistant Administrator (Junior/Cadets) Lynda Reid; Assistant Administrator (Senior/Veterans'/Over 60's) Ken Eliot; Premier Weekend Organiser (Senior/Junior) Lucy Power; Premier Weekend Organiser (Cadets/Over 60's/Veterans')/Publicity Officer Barry Snowden; Alex Mercer; Referee Brian Jackson; Deputy Referee Margot Fraser

**English Leagues Cup Competitions Committee:** Chairman Mike Smith; Secretary Brenda Hudson; Referee Jim Kenny; Deputy Referee Richard B Hudson; Alex Mercer  
**National Cadet and National Junior Leagues Committee:** Chairman Mike Atkinson; Carol Miles

**Schools Committee:** Chairman Mike Smith; Deputy Chairmen Richard J Hudson (also Team Championships Organiser), David Maddison; Secretary Sharon Evans; Keegan Barstow; Claire Brockwell; Steve Burge (Internationals and Selection Organiser); Maria Ingles; Gail Johns (Individual Championships Organiser); Charlotte Spencer; Greg Yarnall

**Technical Officials Committee:** Chairman Stuart Sherlock; Secretary John Mackey; David Edwards; Brian Jackson; Harry Jutle; Joanna Outhwaite; Karen Tonge MBE; Greg Yarnall

**Specialist Panels - Referee Review:** Stuart Sherlock; Steve Smith; Karen Tonge MBE;

**Tournament Management Officials:** Stuart Sherlock; John Mackey; Carol Miles;  
**Tournament Organisers:** Stuart Sherlock; Carol Miles; **Training and Development:** Karen Tonge MBE; David Edwards; John Mackey; **Umpire Selection:** Harry Jutle (Secretary Foreign Competitions); David Edwards (Secretary Domestic Competitions); Margot Fraser; Lynda Reid  
**Special Adviser:** Colin Clemett

**Tournament Approval Panel:** Chairman Harvey Webb; Secretary Di Jermyn; Mike Atkinson; Simon Price; Karen Tonge MBE (TOC); Carol Miles; Margaret Welch; Gary Whyman

## Regional Structure

**Regional Forum**  
 Chairman Susie Hughes; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; Regional Chairmen: East Brian Davison; East Midlands Shirley Pickering;

London TBA; North East Colin Davison; North West Karen Tonge MBE; South David Turner; South East Kim Mudge; South West Jos Kelly; West Midlands Martin Clayton; Yorkshire Bokmun Chan. Board Representatives: Sandra Deaton, Sara Sutcliffe. Good Standing Representatives: Karen Tonge MBE (BPTT); Mike Smith (BUCS); Jan Johns (VETTS). Senior staff: Simon Mills; Greg Yarnall

## Regional Committees

Regional Chairman (appointed by Board); Vice-Chairman; Secretary; Treasurer; Coaching Co-ordinator; Competitions Co-ordinator; (elected by Regional Committee), County elected Representatives: minimum 1, maximum 3 including preferably National Councillor or Deputy National Councillor and Coaching Officer; Good Standing Representatives: BPTT, BUCS, VETTS (appointed by their Organisation); Table Tennis England Area Development Lead or representative (invited)

## Advisory - Individual Advisers

**Operations**  
**Membership:** John Cowell; Russell Sutcliffe;  
**Sponsorship:** Ray James

## Sport

**Development and Volunteering**  
**Adult Dan Liness; Disability:** Shaun Newcomb; **Universities:** Mike Payne;  
**Volunteering** Graham Frankel  
**Talent, Performance and Events**  
**Performance:** Kevin Satchell; **Ranking:** Malcolm Macfarlane; **Selection:** Danny Reed **Grand Prix:** David Evans; **National Championships:** Stuart Sherlock; **Major Events:** Mike Holt; Stuart Sherlock  
 Other Individual Advisers may be appointed as needed

## Focus Groups

Focus Groups may be set up as needed

## Board Committees and Groups

### Standing Committees

**Finance & Audit:** Chairman Keith Thomas; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; Sandra Deaton; Doug Livingstone, Dee Paterson, Tom Purcell; Kelly Skeggs; Sara Sutcliffe; Sam Garey

**Governance & Risk:** Chairman Mark Quartermaine; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; Sandra Deaton; Simon Griew; Susie Hughes; Andrew Nixon; Mike Smith; Sara Sutcliffe  
**Nominations Committee:** Chairman Sandra Deaton; Secretary Sara Sutcliffe; Susie Hughes; Andrew Nixon; Dee Paterson; Mark Quartermaine; Observer Keith Thomas

**Remuneration Committee:** Sandra Deaton; Mark Quartermaine; Keith Thomas

**Child Protection Group:** Sara Sutcliffe; Joanna Keay-Blyth; Tom Purcell; Judy Rogers; Kelly Skeggs

**Procurement Group:** Ian Sidgwick; Caroline Williams; Peter Wilson

**Process Review Group:** Joanna Keay-Blyth; Simon Griew; Mike Smith

**Honours:** Chairman Sandra Deaton; Secretary Sandra Pelizzoni; Jill Parker MBE; Richard Scruton; Mike Smith; Doreen Stannard



The formation of a Members' Advisory Group (MAG) was the main recommendation of the Independent Review Panel on Governance. The Review recognised the need to improve the advice available to the Board and to ensure effective two-way engagement between the Board and the wider table tennis community. This would create a more effective, robust organisation that would be better placed to face the challenges of developing table tennis into the future.

Accordingly, MAG has been established as a source of strategic and operational advice to the Board on a broad range of issues relating to table tennis. The advice that MAG provides to the Board is based in part on the knowledge and expertise of the individual Members. However, this advice also draws on input from the wider table tennis community or reflects the views of the table tennis community.

Members of MAG come from all parts of the table tennis community – including players, clubs, leagues & counties, coaches, umpires and schools. They were appointed through an open, transparent application process. Their names are listed on this page.

MAG has met twice since its formation. This first meeting was primarily to facilitate introductions and to set some working parameters. The Group was keen to adopt a project-based approach. The second meeting started setting the groundwork for the operation of the Group and discussed both the first and subsequent projects.

- **Ranking/Rating Project** – MAG has been asked by the Board to consider the TTE National Ranking system and has particularly been asked to initially look at the principles against which any future system should be measured and to provide feedback to the Board on what does and what doesn't work well about the current system. A project sub-team has been set up to undertake the review and preliminary work has begun on this through individual connections and via a new MAG Facebook group.

- **Future Projects** – topics that The Board has indicated may become future projects include Competition Review Strategy and Volunteering Strategy.

Active engagement with the table tennis community is seen as important to the success of MAG and this will be developed as part of future projects. A web page has now been set up on the Table Tennis England website so that all members can be updated regularly on MAG's activities. In addition, a MAG Facebook Group has been set up.

**Network:** Chairman Mike Smith; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; Sandra Deaton; Susie Hughes; Sara Sutcliffe; Keith Thomas.

**Network Review Group:** Chairman Estyn Williams; Graham Frankel; Harvey Webb  
**General Meeting Committee**

**Standing Orders Committee:** David Hockney; Neil Le Milliere; June Watts

## International Representation

**English members of ITTF committees**  
**Nominations Committee:** Sandra Deaton;  
**Rules Committee:** Sara Sutcliffe; **Umpires & Referees Committee:** Tom Purcell

**English members of ETTU committees**  
**Athletes Commission:** Paul Drinkhall; **Audit Commission:** Keith Thomas; **Technical Committee:** Stuart Sherlock; **Ranking Committee:** Simon Griew; **Umpires & Referees Committee:** Karen Tonge MBE

**Youth Committee:** Sandra Deaton (Chairwoman); **Veterans Committee:** Susie Hughes; **Para TT Committee:** Mike Smith

**The 100 Club, which was formed in 1966 as the brainchild of the then Treasurer, Tom Blunn, has been wound up. The purpose of the Club was to provide a social side of table tennis for partners and others. Functions had been arranged once a year in recent years.**

**The last dinner was in 2008 and, after much thought, the Committee felt the time had come to wind up the Club as numbers have declined.**

**Table Tennis England would like to acknowledge the work of the 100 Club committee members over the years. These include Doreen Stannard, who had held the role of secretary since 1977, Aubrey Drapkin, treasurer since 1982, and Mike Holt (chairman) and Rob Sinclair (social chairman).**



**Notes to Income and Expenditure Report**

**For the Year Ended 31 March 2019**

- Note 1 The Jack Petchey Foundation Grant is included in Income in 2018. The grant has been matched against related expenditure.
- Note 2 The British Para Table Tennis Association (BPTTA) is the governing body for performance of UK table tennis for people with disabilities and is funded by UK Sport. As the Lead Nation, the ETTA has been authorised through a service level agreement, approved by UK Sport to administer the funds and reports directly to UK Sport and the BPTTA Performance Monitoring Group.
- Note 3 Ten regional committees operate around the country under the auspices of English Table Tennis Association Limited. All income and expenditure of the Regions is included in the income and expenditure account. The net funds of Regions are included in the Balance Sheet.

**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION LIMITED**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER:04268058**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 31 MARCH 2019**

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	5	39,684	32,105
		<u>39,684</u>	<u>32,105</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	6	1,169	3,493
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	7	169,623	431,908
Cash at bank and in hand	8	948,184	988,354
		<u>1,118,976</u>	<u>1,423,755</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(675,946)	(966,387)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>443,030</u>	<u>457,368</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>482,714</u>	<u>489,473</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>482,714</u>	<u>489,473</u>
<b>Reserves</b>			
Testimonial funds		32,257	32,682
Income and expenditure account		450,457	456,791
		<u>482,714</u>	<u>489,473</u>

**Michael Close:** A Table Tennis England Honorary Life Member who gave a huge commitment to table tennis over his lifetime as a player, coach and administrator.

Michael started playing competitively in 1946 and went on to represent the RAF during his National Service, where he played with Johnny Leach and Jack Carrington.

He was most associated with the Wembley & Harrow League winning 27 League Closed Championship titles as a player and coaching for an extraordinary 53 years from 1953-2006.

He held the ETTA Level 4 Coaching Qualification and also gained his County Umpires badge in 1983.

He was league Chairman from 1981-2006, President from 2006 and on the Management Committee continuously from 1954, attending every AGM until 2017.

Table Tennis England made Michael a Vice-President in 2000 and an Honorary Life Member in 2016.

At the time of his death, Michael was still actively involved at League, County and National level and was in post as Middlesex Chairman and National Councillor and as President of the Wembley & Harrow League.



Clockwise from top left: Gill Smith, Margaret Fry, Pat Archdale during a tournament in Israel and Michael Close with Table Tennis England Honorary Past President Doreen Stannard

**Ken Marchant:** A National Councillor and Vice-President, Ken became a member of the Wellingborough & District League Committee in 1946 and was still serving 72 years later, since 2004 as Chairman.

He served on the Northants County Association since 1967, from 1988 as County Chairman. In 1967 he also became a National Councillor. He resigned in 2013 after 46 years, making him the longest ever serving Councillor at that time.

**Gill Smith:** A stalwart of the British League and a Table Tennis England Vice-President, Gill was known to thousands through her roles as Administrator and Organiser of the Veterans' British League and referee of the Women's British League.

Her career with the British League stretched back some 25 years, beginning as part of the VBL administrative team, going on to run the results service and taking over as Organiser from 1997, a role she held until 2018. She had retired as WBL Referee at the end of 2014/15.

As an official, Gill qualified as a County Umpire in 1989 and a National Umpire in 2001. She was a Tournament Referee from 1991 and a National Referee from 2001.

Gill was presented with the Ivor Montagu Award in 2007 and became a Vice-President in 2015.

**Michael (Micky) Thornhill:** Former England international and a founder member of the Swaythling Club International in 1967.

Made his senior England debut in March 1950 and played in five World Championships, gaining fourth place in the Swaythling Cup in 1951. In the Men's Singles

he twice reached the last 16 and a similar position was also reached in the Mixed Doubles with Peggy Franks in 1951. In the English Open in 1960, he won the Men's Doubles with Johnny Leach, an achievement the pair emulated at the first English National Championships in 1960.

**Margaret Hiorns (nee Fry):** Former England international Margaret was an English Open semi-finalist and played at two World Championships.

She made her debut against Scotland in December 1951 and played in two World Championships, in 1954 and 1955, and reached the last 32 in the Women's Singles in 1955, the Women's Doubles with Pam Mortimer in 1954 and the Mixed Doubles with Ron Crayden in 1955.

At the English Open, her best result was reaching the semi-final of the Women's Doubles in March 1950 with Joan Crosby.

She was a member of the National Executive Committee from 1960-64 and served on several ETTA committees.

**Alan Shepherd:** International Umpire (qualifying in 1975) and a National Referee. He officiated at the World Championships on home soil in 1977 and 1997.

Served on the Board of Appeal from 1994-2001 and 2004-2016 and was awarded the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy in 1979 and the ETTA Merit Award in 1985.

**John Freeman:** Table Tennis England Vice-President and Chairman of the Board of Appeal from 1994 to 2015.

A member of the Tournaments Committee from 1973 to 1987, he received the Merit

Award (now the Maurice Goldstein Award) in 1989 and a Special Award in 2013. Berkshire TTA President and an International Umpire (qualifying in 1974).

**Pat Archdale:** International Umpire and Table Tennis England Vice-President. National Councillor for Cornwall (1978-88 and 1999-2003).

**Colin Dyke:** Table Tennis England Vice-President, Berkshire County Treasurer and National Councillor.

**Cyril Villers MBE:** Table Tennis England Vice-President; also a Vice-President of English Schools' Table Tennis Association (ESTTA).

**Gordon Sanders:** Chairman of Leicestershire Table Tennis Association and a former National Councillor for Leicestershire.

**Derek Tremayne:** Former ETTA General Secretary and Vice-President; Organised a major tour of the UK by the Chinese Team in 1972.

*Editor's note: We remember here those with honorary appointments or who gave international service as a player, official or coach. Full obituaries were published on the Table Tennis England website. We are indebted to Diane Webb for her help with compiling obituaries. We also remember at National Council meetings all those members of the table tennis family who passed away in the last year. Please notify us of the passing of any individuals so they may be remembered in this way.*



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## Acknowledgements

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President: Jill Parker MBE  
Chairman: Sandra Deaton  
Deputy Chairman: Susie Hughes  
Treasurer: Keith Thomas FCA

Company Secretary: Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive)

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