

# ANNUAL REVIEW 2020 2021





## CONTENTS

2-3	Chairman's Report
4-5	Chief Executive's Report
6-7	Governance
7-8	Profile
9-12	Participation and Places
12-13	People
14-15	Performance
16-22	Competitions and Events
23	Notable Achievements
24-25	Awards and Thanks
26-27	Who's Who; International Matters
28-30	Finance
31	Obituaries

## OUR PARTNERS

We would like to record our appreciation to all those partner organisations which have worked with us over the last year:



**Editor's note:** Except where stated otherwise, this review covers departmental and financial matters for the year to March 31, 2021. For competition and performance matters, obituaries and notable achievements, the period covered is the 2020/21 season.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Sandra Deaton



When I wrote my introduction to this Review last year, we had been in lockdown for just a few weeks and not many of us could have envisaged the full impact the pandemic would have on communities all over the country, and indeed the world.

Our sport was no exception as clubs, leagues and social play stopped, national and local competitions were cancelled, rankings were suspended and initiatives such as Ping Pong Parlours and TT Kidz had to be halted for long periods.

A year on, the effects are still being felt, but there is great cause for optimism as restrictions are lifted and we return to our beloved sport.

And while the past year has taught us not to take anything for granted, I am certain the sport will continue to thrive, thanks to so many people who work so hard within it.

I would like to pay tribute to all the volunteers up and down the country who have, more than ever, done so much to keep their clubs together, reaching out to their members during lockdowns and ensuring players could return safely and with confidence when restrictions allowed.

The fact that we received more than 150 high-quality nominations for the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, including many in the new category of Lockdown Local Hero, shows just how much the table tennis family values those who work so hard at all levels to help others to enjoy and achieve in our sport.

I would also like to thank the Table Tennis England staff across all departments. Our daily work as a National Governing Body has continued throughout the pandemic and our staff worked hard to keep everyone in the sport up to date with the latest guidance, to provide support to clubs, leagues and individual members, to introduce table tennis to inactive members of society, to keep England squad training going online and in the hall when permitted, to organise dozens of webinars to help clubs and coaches improve their skills, to introduce TT Kidz sessions online and in schools . . . to name but a few. These and all our other activities are detailed in the pages of this Review.

By no means least, I want to say a massive thank you to our members for continuing to support our work, despite the uncertainty of the past year. We will continue to do all we can to repay your support by helping the sport to come back stronger from the pandemic.

At Board level our work also continued as, in common with the other areas of our governance, meetings were held virtually.

These meetings included the EGM which was called early this year to debate votes of no confidence in three Directors – Tony Catt, who made the proposals, Sara Sutcliffe and myself.

In the event, none of the motions was carried, but unfortunately there was a parting of the ways between Tony Catt and the Board a short while later.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Tony for the contribution he made during his time on the Board and also to stress that none



As covid restrictions have eased, we have had to get used to some new protocols during training sessions and competitions

**“The aim of the table tennis family must now be to work together to cement a stronger future for our sport at all levels as we continue to move out of the restrictions of the last year.”**



of the decisions taken by the Board during this period, including commissioning the Stockwell Report, were taken lightly, and strenuous efforts were made to avoid things getting to that point.

Our primary intention is always to serve the best interests of the sport and we all accept that there will sometimes be disagreements about how to do that. However, the job of any Board is to hear all views, come to decisions and to then abide by those decisions as a collective. Unfortunately, this was not possible and, once trust had been lost, there was an inevitable parting of the ways.

It was a difficult and challenging period for everyone on the Board, but the circumstances surrounding the EGM gave us an opportunity for reflection and a chance to weigh up how we can move forward with strengthened governance in the interests of all our members and stakeholders. Our members will have the chance to discuss and vote on a number of resolutions – proposed by the Board and by individual Company Members – at the upcoming AGM which are aimed at doing just that.

The aim of the table tennis family must now be to work together to cement a stronger future for our sport at all levels as we continue to move out of the restrictions of the last year. The Board remains committed to and focused on this. We are soon to undertake a full Board training day, one of the recommendations of a recent external Board evaluation, which will help us to work as a team towards our objectives. We are also planning a full-day strategy meeting to

review Mission 2025 in light of the experiences of the pandemic and the new Sport England 10-year strategy *Uniting The Movement*.

The Board is delighted to welcome Ritchie Venner to our number following the recent election. The Board was further strengthened by the appointments of Kwadjo Adjepong, Ray James and Emma Vickers after an open recruitment process. All four add to the expertise and range of experience among our Directors.

I would like to thank outgoing Directors Doug Livingstone, Dee Paterson and Mark Quartermaine for their contributions during their four-year terms and to thank all the Board members for their increased time commitments during a difficult year.

As I write this, adult indoor play has been possible in recent weeks, providing the opportunity for local leagues and competitions to start up again. Our first national events for more than a year are due to take place in the coming weeks and the Olympics and Paralympics are also on the horizon. Beyond that, we continue to work towards as normal a season as possible in 2021/22.

It will be a momentous season as we celebrate the centenary of the Association, which was 'born' on November 7th, 1921. We will soon be releasing details of a series of special events and projects to mark our first 100 years and hope that as many members as possible will be involved in some way.

Once again, thank you all and I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

This is certainly not the Chief Executive's report that I would have anticipated or wanted to write but I don't think many of us predicted the length and impact of this pandemic. It is certainly a test of resilience for all of society and for every individual and their personal support network. I hope that this Annual Review finds you and your families well and increasingly optimistic about the year ahead.

Other than for a brief spell in October and November, our office in Milton Keynes has remained closed, following Government guidance. I would like to pay credit to all our staff who have shown immense resilience in swapping seamlessly to their home working environments, even though it is far from ideal for most and we all missed the camaraderie and friendly, but competitive, table tennis in the office. We are also grateful to our landlord, Badminton England, for considerable rent holidays.

We were able to make use of the Government's Job Retention Scheme and are grateful that a number of colleagues agreed to be furloughed at various times in the year. We were not able to furlough staff who are funded through public money and we are therefore also grateful to all of them for their ongoing work through the year. My sincere thanks to the Senior Leadership team and all the staff. It is quite remarkably that in a year of so many uncertainties and moving parts we came through in a break-even financial position.

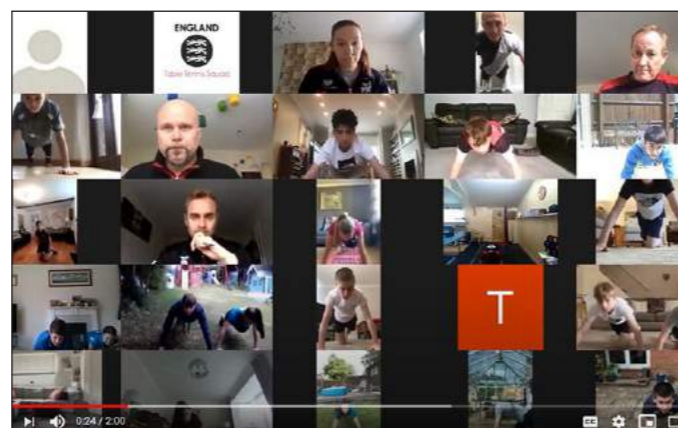
We all missed the interactions of the past year through table tennis, whether that was within teams, clubs and leagues or in social or community environments; we missed competing, officiating, volunteering and spectating at events up and down the country. The Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games were postponed. It has truly been a year like no other.

Like most membership based bodies and certainly other NGBs, we saw our membership numbers drop by almost half this season, with 54% of members returning even though the prospect of play was always far from certain. Thank you unreservedly for your support.

We will come back and, eventually, we will come back stronger. The year has given us time for some reflection and some learnings. It has also helped to make the case for innovation and change such as TT Fast Format – the message is not new, we have known for a long time that the length of matches, the inflexibility of the format or the timing of the whole season as had a negative impact on starting new, younger and female players. If leagues want to grow, or try a



Sara Sutcliffe



We have all become experts in online meetings in the past year

different approach, then there is now an adaptable format that helps you to do so.

The ongoing development of TT Leagues is providing a better, more tech-based and connected way of managing leagues and providing a better experience for the members using it. We will continue to embrace change, using technology and innovation



I joined the CEOs of several fellow NGBs as we supported the #SaveOurSports campaign. In all, more than 100 sport and physical activity organisations combined to urge the Government to provide a Sports Recovery Fund to support the sector

to help table tennis adapt to the future whilst building on and preserving the past.

There are going to be challenging times ahead. Many clubs and leagues are experiencing problems accessing venues to be able to return to playing and we still do not fully know the impact in terms of volunteers, coaches and players returning to the game. But in every challenge there is an opportunity which we will support the members to embrace. Clubs and leagues in need of new administrators and volunteers should approach their new players and their parents. There is plenty of research that shows how much people value volunteering and giving back to their community, especially following the year we have experienced. We will be launching a national volunteering campaign soon.

We have certainly all become masters at the art of Zoom, Teams and webinars in 2020/21. Whilst technology has opened up a new way of working which in many cases is incredibly beneficial, cutting down on travel costs and pollution and making more use of the day, it is important that we return to a healthy mix of virtual and physical meetings and gatherings.

The National Conference for clubs, leagues and volunteers was a brilliant day with practical and sometimes thought-provoking content, however we did all miss the personal interactions and networking that is so valuable. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of the Pride of Table Tennis Awards including our Local Lockdown Heroes, who were honoured during the Conference.

We have kept busy during the year. During the last year we have held 34 club webinars, 22 coaching webinars, assisted 63 table tennis organisations to access over £362,000 in Sport England support, carried out two member and participation surveys, sent out almost 4,000 'play at home' packs, delivered TT Kidz virtually, qualified 50 new tournament organisers and 16 L2 umpires virtually and carried out consultations on ranking, schools memberships, local league format, diversity and inclusion and British League to name a few.

The ground work has also been laid for committee structure reviews, a new website will be launched in the autumn, the competition review will get into full swing and there will be improvements in how we make information available in a concerted effort to improve the accountability and transparency of how and why decisions are made.

The work of MAG this year has led to some excellent examples of collaboration where we can combine the professional knowledge and experience of the staff, which is backed by insight and research from our own surveys and discussions and from partners such as Sport England, Active Alliance, TASS or UK Coaching, together with insight and recommendations from MAG. My thanks to Neil Hurford and the members of MAG for the advice they provide.

**“ We will come back and, eventually, we will come back stronger. The year has given us time for some reflections and some learnings. It has also helped to make the case for innovation and change. ”**

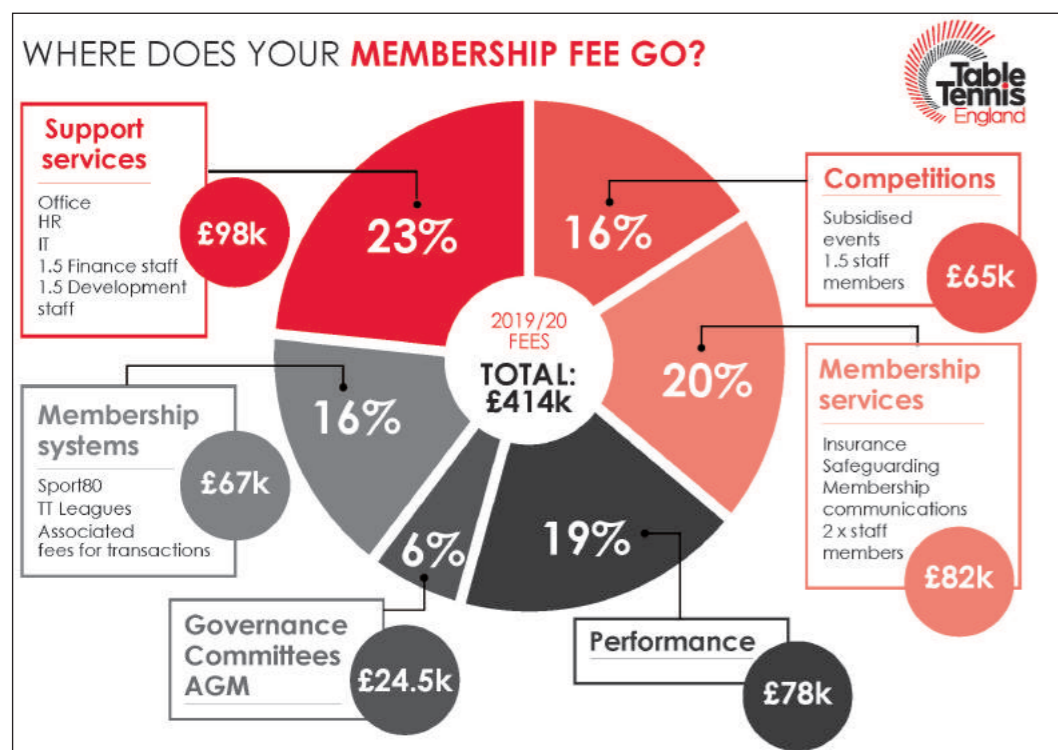
Likewise, National Council continues to provide sound advice and 'check and challenge' and my thanks to Estyn Williams and members of National Council.

There have been some changes on the Board and we welcome Ritchie Venner, Dr Emma Vickers, Ray James and Kwadjo Adjepong whilst bidding farewell and thank you to Tony Catt, Mark Quartermaine, Doug Livingstone and Dee Paterson.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to the numerous volunteers who continue to work hard for and on behalf of the association, whether it is on a committee, at events, officiating, or in clubs, and indeed our own very hard-working Board who had to come to fore this year as we managed the unprecedented and fast moving covid-19 situation as well as other challenges.

Finally, 2021/22 is a year to look forward to with a lot of excitement. It is our Centenary and please keep an eye out for more information on how everyone up and down the country can get involved in helping to celebrate 100 years of English table tennis. I would like to thank Diane Webb and the other members of the archive committee for the work they have already done in the background to prepare for the Centenary.

And then at the end of the season, in July 2022, Birmingham plays host to the Commonwealth Games where there will be wall-to-wall table tennis action, able bodied and para, to follow and lots of medals to be won. We look forward to your vocal and engaged support as we cheer our athletes on.



We are always grateful for the support of our members, whose fees underpin much of our work, as this graphic shows.



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.

This year has been very difficult not only in the ongoing impacts of the coronavirus pandemic but the Board also experienced some significant challenges internally which culminated in an independent investigation into the behaviour of a director. The same director in turn instigated the calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 25 January including motions of no confidence in himself (For 52%, Against 48%), in the Chairman (For 17%, Against 83%) and the Chief Executive (For 10%, Against 90%). All Motions failed to reach the required threshold of 75 per cent.

The majority of the Board voted to remove Tony Catt as director in early March 2021, triggering an election. Ritchie Venner was elected as an Elected Director in May 2021.

The Board met virtually via Zoom for all of its meetings this year

due to the coronavirus pandemic. There were five scheduled Board meetings and a further five Extraordinary Board Meetings were held dealing with covid-19 related decisions and the issues relating to Tony Catt and/or the EGM. Summaries of the Board meetings are available on the website. 11 Board Directors (Sandra Deaton, Susie Venner, Don Parker, Mark Quartermaine, Doug Livingstone, Simon Griew, Tom Purcell, Dee Paterson, Steve Kemish, Priya Samuel and Sara Sutcliffe) attended all 10 meetings, with Tony Catt attending the six that he was entitled to attend.

In addition, every Board member sits on at least one of the Finance Committee or the Governance and Risk Committee, each of which meets in between the scheduled 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 the About Us section on the website.

Every four years, the Board undertakes an External Evaluation process. This was conducted by the governance manager at the Sport and Recreation Alliance and included six recommendations which the Board has accepted.

During this year, work has started on reviewing all committee Terms of Reference which is being undertaken in two phases, all of which will be available on the website.

National Council re-elected Estyn Williams as their Chairperson and they met virtually in June, October and January and the minutes are available on the website.

## Members' Advisory Group (MAG)

The role of the Members' Advisory Group (MAG) is to provide strategic and operational advice to the Table Tennis England Board on a broad range of issues relating to table tennis.

In the summer of 2020, we recruited an additional seven members. By increasing the number of members to 16, we have increased the diversity of our membership and provided a wider range of expertise.

Engaging with the table tennis community has been a key priority over the last year. We have engaged with about 150 members and volunteers at 15 online engagement sessions. Some of these have been as part of our project work, others have been to identify issues that are of concern to members and volunteers, whilst others have been to arise awareness of MAG and its activities amongst the table tennis community. Further details are provided in the full MAG Annual Report, which has been published on the Table Tennis England website.

The projects we have engaged in during the last year are as follows:

- Volunteers – volunteers are the backbone of our sport and the aim of this project was to develop a strategy for enhancing the volunteer experience. The report has been published on the website
- Clubs Development – we engaged with leading clubs to get their views on how they can be assisted in their development role. Thirty-nine clubs engaged in the process through four online discussion sessions. The



The Ask Us Anything online panel discussion

report will be submitted to the Board and we will be recommending the development of an action plan to take forward the issues identified.

- Reducing the Drop-out Rate for Players in the 18-22 Age Group – we are examining the reasons for the high level of drop-out of players in this age group. We will explore how this high drop-out rate can be reduced.
  - Transparency & Accountability – this project has recently got under way and is investigating how Table Tennis England and the Board can provide an effective level of transparency and accountability.
  - Diversity & Inclusion - Two members of MAG (Juliet Bertie and Stephen Bertie) are participating in this Table Tennis England-led initiative.
- Issues we have raised with the Board are:
- "Ask Us Anything" - MAG suggested to the Board that they take advantage of the popularity of table tennis discussion programmes on Facebook/YouTube to hold their own discussion programme to respond to issues of concern among members. The Board fully embraced this suggestion, resulting in the "Ask Us Anything" programme on Facebook.
  - Performance - MAG have suggested

to the Board that the interaction of the Performance team with players, coaches and parents could be improved. We discussed this issue in detail with the Performance Team. The resulting report and Action Plan have been published on the MAG pages of the website.

- Director Appointments – Ahead of the term completions for certain Appointed Directors, we suggested to the Board that such appointments should be re-advertised and be subject to open competition. We were pleased that the Board shared our view that making the appointments openly advertised was the appropriate approach.

Two MAG members, Steve Pratt and Steve Bertie, have joined the Nominations Committee.

Our sport faces a significant challenge in re-starting table tennis as we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic. Our main priority over the next 12 months will be assisting that process and ensuring that we not only build back, but build back better.

As all our meetings have been online, no costs have been incurred by Table Tennis England for the operation of MAG in 2020/21.

Neil Hurford

## National Council

Covid has changed all our lives. During the pandemic, National Council has met via Zoom. This is less easy than meeting face to face and gives no opportunity for networking, but it has shown us new ways of working, and some of these will be useful for the future. We publish our papers on the website, which means that councillors can use Zoom to discuss the agenda with their counties prior to the meeting.

We have established two select committees which meet online; one is looking at disability and the other at the constitution. We hope to return to face-to-face Council meetings shortly but we will allow councillors to take part electronically when they cannot attend in person; and will hold one of our four meetings each year entirely online.

Table Tennis England is a membership organisation and it must comply with the Code for Sports Governance to receive funding from Sport England. At the heart of the Code is the principle that organisations shall be transparent and accountable, engaging effectively with stakeholders and nurturing internal democracy. We believe we should appoint a greater proportion of directors from within table tennis. We have also asked the Board to be entirely transparent with Council and the membership unless there is a special reason for a particular matter to be confidential.

The Board paused its review of our strategy, Mission 2025, when covid struck, but expects to restart in June. National Council were closely involved when Mission 2025 was produced and we will wish to be fully involved in the review. We discussed the membership aspects of the strategy in December 2019 but the Board had not responded before the review was paused. Covid has caused a significant loss of membership. We believe greater emphasis on expanding membership will be crucial to a successful strategy.

Engagement with the directors and staff has increased. We have asked them to engage with us when work is sufficiently advanced to discuss its direction, but not so advanced that it is too

late to change course.

The development team has worked hard to explain to members how each twist and turn of government policy would affect leagues and clubs. It has provided extensive information on the website and the team leader has attended Council meetings. The team also gave us a thought-provoking presentation on new initiatives for leagues.

We also maintain an excellent relationship with MAG, who report their progress to us at each meeting. Similarly, we make our minutes and reports available to MAG (and the whole of the membership) on the website.

The Performance Team gave us a useful presentation in January. We want to ensure we develop the best possible pool of elite young players. We are concerned at the costs which elite juniors incur. We appreciate that funding is tight but we hope the Board and staff can find ways to reduce the financial burden which falls on young players' families.

The Board has commissioned a team to review the competition structure. This will be of intense interest to members and will be on the agenda for our June meeting. A major review of the ranking scheme is expected to conclude shortly. It involved two discussions with Council as well as with MAG and the wider membership. This is a good model for future reviews.

The Company's finances are complex and difficult to present in a way that helps meaningful discussion. The finance officer has improved the format of reports to Council. Much Sport England funding is tied to particular projects, which limits the room for manoeuvre.

The Board consulted us on the level of affiliation fees. We supported its view that fees should be frozen for 2021/22 and, following our comments, it has offered membership deals to encourage return to play after lockdown and delayed considering any increases for future years.

As the Chair of National Council, I would like to thank all councillors, directors and staff, in particular Jo Keay-Blyth and Vicky Wiegleb, for all their help during this difficult year.

Estyn Williams

## EGM

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) took place virtually on January 25, attended by 226 people. The EGM was called, in accordance with company law, because Company Members representing at least 5% of the membership requested it, following a call for support by Director Tony Catt.

There were three Special Resolutions on the agenda (requiring 75% of the vote to pass) and votes were cast as follows:

□ A vote of no confidence and instruction to the Board to remove from the Board – Anthony Catt, Elected Deputy Chair.

For: 23,340

Against: 21,789

Abstained: 1,851

Percentage in favour: 52%

□ A vote of no confidence and instruction to the Board to remove from office and from any other table tennis posts held domestically or internationally – Sandra Deaton, Chairman.

For: 7,609

Against: 35,928

Abstained: 3,443

Percentage in favour: 17%

□ A vote of no confidence and instruction to the Board to remove from office and from any other table tennis posts held domestically or internationally – Sara Sutcliffe MBE, CEO

Number of votes (excluding abstentions): 44,172

For: 4,581

Against: 39,591

Abstained: 2,808

Percentage in favour: 10%

Therefore, none of the Special Resolutions were passed.

## PROFILE AND COMMUNICATIONS



BATTS TTC in Harlow hosted a socially-distant filming session for TV reality show *The Only Way Is Essex*

The marketing and communications department has supported all areas of the organisation to maintain key communications throughout the pandemic, including providing covid-19 updates via website, direct emails, newsletters and social media.

In the year to March 31st, our continuously updated article at the top of our website homepage was viewed 83,549 times by more than 72,000 unique users.

In addition, there were 27,350 views of the Ready to Return homepage, by more than 21,286 unique users.

We sent several direct emails relating to covid-19 to our members and also continued our weekly Over the Net newsletter, which also contained numerous updates on the pandemic.

In total, 49 editions of Over the Net were sent in the year to March

continued on page 8



## PROFILE AND COMMUNICATIONS



England internationals Sam Walker and Lois Peake were the stars behind the new look for World Table Tennis, spending a day recording motion-capture footage to enable the creation of digital assets

from page 7

31, with a total number of 455,324 emails being opened.

In total, across our Dotdigital email platform, more than 1.8 million emails were sent to a total of 129,533 recipients.

These had an open rate of 51.99% (against an industry benchmark of 26.13%) and a unique click rate of 6.59% (industry benchmark 5.5%).

We also led or supported on a number of projects and campaigns, including:

- Launch of new membership categories
- Membership renewal
- Insurance that Supports our Sport (Mark Bates Ltd)
- Coaching benefits
- EGM and election communications
- Pride of Table Tennis Awards
- Play at Home
- #SaveOurSports
- England kit launch
- Ask us Anything

## Social media

The past year has seen huge growth in multiple areas of our social media presence; engagements across Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn have increased by 295%, 116% and 838% respectively. Engagements include likes, comments, shares, retweets, link clicks and other metrics which vary from platform to platform.

Despite a fall in numbers on YouTube in terms of video views and watch hours, which we can attribute to lack of live events being streamed to the platform and less highlights content from competitions such as the National Championships, our social channels are in a strong position to build in the coming year.

Other highlights across social media in the past year include the introduction of 'Inside Team England' content, which takes a look behind the scenes of the senior squad and pathway players. Across Table Tennis England's main channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube) this series has generated 646,000 impressions, 14,480 engagements and nearly 300,000 video views.

Our number of followers as of 18th May 2021 was:

- Facebook: 22,026

- Instagram: 10,019
- Twitter: 15,685
- LinkedIn: 1,952
- YouTube: 10,634

## PR activity

Table Tennis England became one of the first organisations to partner with Recast, joining the likes of Champions League finalists Manchester City and golf's European Tour.

Recast is a multi-sport, subscription-free app which provides dynamic content including live sport, highlights and behind-the-scenes footage, to supporters.

We will provide footage which app users can watch for free – each view generates income to Table Tennis England to reinvest in the grassroots of the sport.

We also instigated partnerships with the LinQsport app and the British Esports Association, promoting the sport and Table Tennis England to new audiences.

While we continue to proactively engage with traditional and new media, the lack of international competition limits interest in our leading players, though Liam Pitchford appeared on BBC Sportsday in November ahead of the ITTF Finals and also recorded an interview for Channel 5 last summer.

Other high-profile media appearances included Sara Sutcliffe giving a wide-ranging interview on the BBC London Women's Sport Show and both the Daily Mail and Metro

newspapers carrying a feature on Falmouth TTC's Bat & Chat sessions. The online youth magazine bsporty featured TT Kidz.

The lack of domestic and international competitions also meant we sent out a far lower number of press releases than is the case in a 'normal' year.

Despite this, our media monitoring service showed that press releases sent by the department were picked up by national and regional media outlets with a combined reach of more than 91 million, generating coverage worth around £840,000 when measured by Advertising Value Equivalent – the amount it would have cost to buy the equivalent advertising space.

**Covid updates on our website have been viewed more than 156,000 times and we have sent 37 specific covid-related emails to our members during the pandemic**

## PARTICIPATION AND PLACES

Table Tennis England total membership stood at 17,698 as of March 31, 2021. This was down considerably from the figure of 30,072 at the end of the 2019/20 season because of the effects of the pandemic, as many members understandably chose not to renew in the light of uncertainty over how much play would be possible.

Around 55% of paying members (the Compete and Compete Plus categories) chose to renew.

Midway through the season, once it was apparent that no national competitions would take place, we offered refunds on the Compete Plus element of membership fees, which was taken up by around 140 members.

With restrictions easing from the spring onwards and competitions looking likely to return at all levels in 2021/22, we announced further offers and discounts on fees to help members.

While we anticipate a significant upturn in membership for 2021/22, we will continue to support and build confidence among members that they can return to play safely.

Total membership		
	19/20	20/21
Supporter	4,799	1,143
Club Play	n/a	2,899
Compete	22,905	12,343
Compete Plus	2,368	1,313
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,072</b>	<b>17,698</b>
Membership by age		
Cadet	3,715	1,428
Junior	760	1,134
Senior	5,626	2,174
Veteran	19,971	12,962
Membership by age - Compete Plus		
Cadet	595	288
Junior	436	259
Senior	579	288
Veteran	758	478
Membership by age - Compete		
Cadet	1,871	684
Junior	1,123	640
Senior	3,421	1,444
Veteran	16,040	9,575

## Clubs and Leagues

The number of PremierClubs remained stable in 2020/21, increasing by one from 170 to 171, demonstrating the value of support clubs felt they were provided with during the last 12 months. We have seen a slight decline in the number of Associate Clubs registered, from 219 in 2019/20 to 207 in 2021/22.

Our strategy for supporting clubs throughout the pandemic consisted of four key areas:

1. Providing clubs with up-to-date guidance and information
2. Identifying and supporting the most at-risk clubs
3. Helping clubs to stay connected

## Local League Package

League organisers and National Councillors have been providing us feedback on a proposed new playing format for the 2021/22 season.

Over the past four years, Be TT has supported short format leagues which have had some localised success in engaging more participants into local leagues. Recent feedback around league play has attributed drop-outs being caused by late finishes and unsuitable venues. This is especially prevalent for junior players and women, which in turn is causing a decline in the number of teams and individuals playing.



From summer 2021, there will be a new league package launched which includes branding and promotional material. The alternative playing format may be more appealing to existing and new players as well as league organisers

with the ultimate aim to future-proof the local league structure. There will also be a community offer launched in a second phase of the programme, to encourage those in social programmes to take their first step, or return, to a local league.

4. Helping clubs plan for the future

Within these areas, we carried out the following:

- Created a dedicated section of Return to Play guidance on the website, signposted from the homepage, ensuring that information is visible and accessible.
- Increased the regularity of Club Newsletters to monthly, rather than every other month, to ensure clubs receive the latest news, information and opportunities.
- Introduced three Club Support Officer roles with a national remit, each responsible for around 60 PremierClubs. This ensures all PremierClubs have a personal point of contact to whom they can reach out for support in a wide range of areas, including facilities, volunteering and all aspects of club management.
- Reached out to all PremierClubs directly and individually to understand their circumstances relating to returning to play, offering individualised support where required.
- Delivered a series of 29 webinars which attracted 769 bookings, and at time of writing, a further 3,500 views on YouTube. The recorded sessions are available for all to the view on the website.
- Provided assistance to clubs in their applications for Sport England funding. More than 60 Sport England awards have been made to table tennis clubs and organisations, totalling more than £380,000 investment to support returning to play. A dedicated Table Tennis England support page has also been developed to further assist clubs in their applications.
- In partnership with Sport England Club Matters, provided a series of eight Club Development Workshops throughout March 2021, attracting more than 100 bookings by representatives from 22 clubs and leagues. Topics varied from marketing and legal structures to financial sustainability and volunteer experience.
- Grown the number of clubs accessing an online club management tool. More than 80 clubs have registered to use the ClubSpark platform, enabling online payments, bookings and contact management.

## Be TT and covid activation funding support

To support clubs and leagues to re-start activity, we provided opportunities to access funding. All funding required a risk assessment and for sessions to follow covid-19 rules as well as abiding by national and local restrictions. A total of 77 clubs and leagues (69 clubs, eight leagues) and five coaches have received funding and support through either Be TT Year 4 funding in July 2020 or through the Covid Activation Fund launched in October.

Projects were supported to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies and *continued on page 10*



## PARTICIPATION AND PLACES

from page 9

to re-activate table tennis activity through programmes such as Bat and Chat and TT Kidz.

Tiered restrictions on indoor sporting activity meant there were limits on the sessions able to take place and the numbers attending, but those clubs and leagues which were able to offer activity reported great success in re-engaging existing members as well as welcoming new participants. Other clubs and leagues were due to make use of these grants when re-opening in April/May as lockdown 3.0 restrictions were lifted.

### Bat and Chat

Bat and Chat live resources were made available to support coaches and organisers to keep their participants active in the sport. These resources covered all necessary details on how to set up live sessions to offer participants table tennis in their homes, as well as ideas for the sessions and links to other organisations, such as Sport England and Age UK.

### National Conference

The National Club, Coach and Volunteering Conference, including the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, took place virtually on 5th June. Workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities were on the agenda, which was around the themes of building for the future and diversity, equality and inclusion.

A total of 111 delegates registered to attend and we are grateful to our Principal Partners Rocca Creative and Official Sponsors RJ Brand Design, TPF Sport, LinQsport and Sport80 for their support. We look forward to returning to an in-person National Conference in 2023, and intend to host regional conferences before then.

### Schools

In September 2020, we launched a new type of Table Tennis England membership aimed specifically at schools. The two tiers of membership – Schools Essential and Schools Plus – seek to grow the



Clubs were supported to purchase PPE and cleaning supplies

network of schools connected to Table Tennis England and ensure they are up to date with the latest news and opportunities to help them deliver table tennis to pupils.

Both the team and individual versions of the Butterfly National Schools Championships were cancelled because of the pandemic. In their place, a six-week TT Kidz Virtual Schools Championship was developed, consisting of a series of challenges for primary-age children. This was continuing at the time of writing.

It was decided to hold the finals of both the Butterfly National Individual and Team Competitions over the same weekend and at the same venue from 2022. This is easier logistically for organisers and schools with entries in both competitions, as well as preventing possible exam clashes by holding the individual finals earlier in the season.

Our partnership continues with the Jack Petchey Foundation and we have now been working together for more than 10 full years. The partnership grows and develops opportunities to young people to play and compete in London and Essex and while the competition element was halted during the pandemic, the table donation scheme continued and remains central to the programme. During Year 10 of the partnership, a total of 346 tables were delivered to 129 schools and youth clubs across London and Essex.

We have supported the Youth Sport Trust Active Recovery Hub, supporting children to get active as we emerge from restrictions. We provided play-at-home resources as well as video content for schools to deliver to their pupils.

TT Kidz for Schools was launched in September 2020, following a pilot earlier in the year, as reported in last year's Review.

The programme, which comes with easy-to-follow online resources, has been carefully designed to give primary schools the opportunity to access table tennis in an easy, cost-effective way and is ideal for children of all athletic ability. At the time of writing, 41 schools had purchased TT Kidz packs and started their journey.

### Community Participation

Over the last 10 years Table Tennis England's Ping! project has built a strong reputation to support people to lead active lifestyles by providing a range of opportunities to play table tennis in their communities, including outdoor public tables, Ping Pong Parlours and community and workplace-based projects. This work is delivered through Sport England funding which is ring-fenced for this purpose.

The pandemic of course impacted this work, with play suspended both indoors and out for much of the year. We worked hard to maintain our network of Ping! partners, emphasising the sport's accessibility, to ensure the project was well placed to continue as restrictions allowed. This included hosting eight Ping! partner support webinars for a host of local authorities, Active Partnerships and organisations from the care and charity sectors.

During Summer 2020, Ping! supported the installation of 19 new outdoor tables for parks and open spaces in Westminster, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Leicester, Worthing and Manchester. Over the course of 2020 and into 2021, despite the pandemic and restrictions in place, we have continued to grow our

continued on page 12

## TT Kidz



**“The boys have really enjoyed taking part and learning new skills. The Tuesday afternoon table tennis sessions gave them something to look forward to and a break from home-schooling”**

A TT Kidz Live session at Sir John Sherbrooke School (left); Above: a typical comment from a parent of children taking part in TT Kidz Live sessions at home

Below: Through our partnership with Rackets Cubed, TT Kidz kit bags were included in food parcels sent to families in areas of deprivation

Delivery of the TT Kidz programme has been severely impacted by restrictions and lockdowns, but we have continued a range of activity online for junior players, as well as launching the TT Kidz Awards and TT Kidz for Schools.

The TT Kidz team ran more than 30 live sessions during lockdowns, including virtual after-school clubs and summer camps, as well as TT Kidz Awards sessions, engaging more than 120 children and receiving great feedback from parents and teachers – school staff particularly valued having programmes which could be delivered in the classroom while schools had restrictions in place.

The TT Kidz Awards programme was launched in October 2020 and is designed to teach the basics of table tennis both on and off the table, progressively getting harder. It is a flexible programme which can be used by clubs, schools or even at home, with minimal equipment required.

The scheme consists of five stages, Stage 1 being entry level and Stage 5 the most challenging. Children earn 'pop badges' to celebrate their milestones and achievements along the way. Stages 1



and 2 are currently offered and have been given to TT Kidz clubs to help them keep participants active during the pandemic. Stages 3-5 are due to launch in 2021.

As well as live TT Kidz Awards sessions, the TT Kidz team also designed activities for use at home. All live sessions and play-at-home activities are available on the TT Kidz website.

We worked with local groups to provide 850 TT Kidz kit bags to some of those hit hardest by the pandemic. In partnership with Rackets Cubed, a charity which

provides sport, education and food in areas of deprivation, we introduced table tennis to hundreds of young people in some of the most deprived areas in England, as well as supplying TT Kidz kit bags to eight primary schools in areas of high deprivation. These schools had strong club links, enabling the children to carry on table tennis once restrictions lifted.

In February 2021 we also provided free TT Kidz kit to community groups, enabling children to join live zoom coaching sessions and try the sport for the first time.





## PARTICIPATION AND PLACES



from page 10

Ping! partner network and welcomed new Ping! towns and cities to the programme, including Ping! Sheffield, Darlington, Warrington, Solihull, Royal Borough of Greenwich (London), South Oxon DC & Vale of White Horse DC. A total of 22 partner projects will welcome people back to community tables from Spring 2021 – setting the scene for an exciting Summer of Ping!

During the first lockdown, we worked with existing partners (Ping! Leicester & Ping! Liverpool) to support families to be active at home, by distributing play-at-home kits to target groups in areas of deprivation. Working with guidance from Sport England, we later extended these pilot areas and re-directed funding to support those more negatively affected by covid-19 when compared with the wider population, including LSEG and BAME communities and those with long-term health conditions or disabilities. Through the two phases of kit distribution, we provided 3,800 kits across 13 towns and cities.

Despite the restrictions, we have continued to engage and support new Ping in the Community projects. Since March 2020 we have supported 45 new projects, ranging from indoor tables in community halls and youth groups to outdoor table tennis on parish council-owned recreation grounds. Projects spread across the country from rurally isolated areas to inner city areas of multiple deprivation.

We also worked towards a partnership with Parkinson's TT UK which aims to promote and enable more opportunities for players with Parkinson's to engage in the sport and, for those who wish to do so, feel comfortable to progress through to competitive play.

We partnered with Community Integrated Care (CIC), one of the UK's biggest and most successful social care charities, to pilot the use of table tennis in a range of settings – from specialist dementia care homes and learning disability supported living services, to utilising the game in mental health talking therapies. We provided play-at-home packs to almost 200 care services.

CIC developed [www.caretoplay.co.uk](http://www.caretoplay.co.uk), a unique series of short films designed for people who provide care and support, giving them the skills, confidence and understanding to promote table tennis.

### Ping Pong Parlours

This project was hit hard by the pandemic, resulting in most of our parlours being closed for the entire year. Towards the end of the summer of 2020, six parlours were able to reopen, providing opportunities for people to play at a time when venues were extremely limited. We know of club players who were able to use these facilities and local coaches who took the opportunity to run one-to-one coaching sessions from them, creating a new potential link between mass participation and clubs.

Despite this success, further lockdowns meant we had to rebuild again and as an incentive to shopping centres, we introduced a 20% discount offer, which has seen a huge increase in interest, from both existing and new shopping centres. At the time of writing, we have eight parlours ready to re-open, the most since the pandemic began, and we believe it is only a matter of time before the number of parlours returns to the pre-pandemic level and, with the inevitable increase in empty units, perhaps exceeds it.

## PEOPLE

Investing in people is one of the key pillars of our *Mission 2025* strategy. Our investment includes creating pathways for coaches and officials to develop their careers, and providing them with support structures as they do so.

We also ensure that volunteers are welcomed into the sport and that their dedication and commitment is recognised through the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, which are covered elsewhere in this Review.

The pandemic has of course presented challenges, but we have continued to work extensively to support the sport's workforce.

### Coaching

Although we have been unable to run any Level 1 Session Coach or Level 2 Lead Coach course in the past year, we have worked with PremierClubs to put in place plans for a two-year cycle of coaching courses, which will be allocated to venues across the country to increase accessibility to both new and current coaches.

We will prioritise the completion of outstanding courses and release a list of new courses as the summer continues, while remaining flexible and adapting delivery of courses if necessary as we place safety and quality at the centre of our coach education programme.

Our Level 3 Head Coach course has continued to run, with two cohorts of coaches, in partnership with the University of Gloucestershire. We have run a series of webinars and face-to-face delivery is planned to resume in July. A total of 12 candidates are nearing completion of the course and a further 13 have started their journey through the course in 2021.

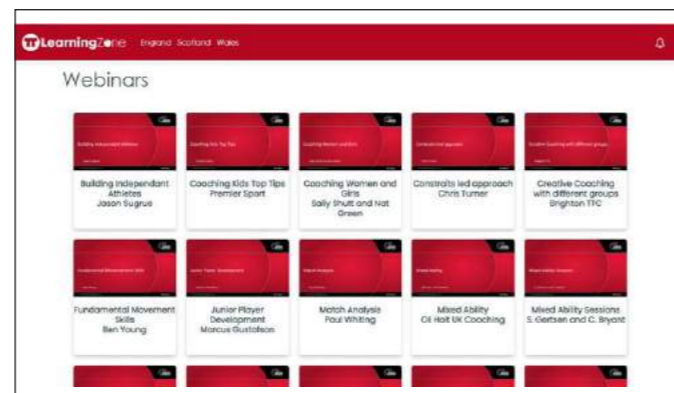
Having completed development of the Level 1 Session Coach qualification, as reported last year, we have turned our attention to the development of the Level 2 Lead Coach qualification. Coaching and Education Officer Craig Bryant has been re-developing this course and it is intended to launch it in September.

Our work to help qualified coaches develop their skills has continued despite the restrictions. From the start of the first lockdown to the time of writing, we ran 22 webinars, with a total of 1,396 participants at an average of 63 per webinar. Hosting webinars have allowed to share insight, good practice and coaching theories from within the sport and from external partners. A big thank you to all deliverers, including our internal table tennis specialists and our external partners UK Coaching, Premier Education and the England Institute of Sport.

We launched a mentoring scheme to enable coaches to connect with expert table tennis coaches. The mentors come from various coaching backgrounds and offer a specialist set of skills which they can draw on to support mentees with their development.

Our licensed coaches can now access a number of benefits and learning opportunities thanks to our work with external partners.

This includes TTFit, an app which offers various functions for coaches, such as session planners for players and squads, statistics



A screenshot from the TT Learning Zone



50 Level 2 Tournament Organisers and 16 Level 2 umpires qualified as a result of our online courses

The new officials' uniforms will fully implemented for the 2021/22 season, including a female design

modules and a Coach-Player Portal, which gives the player and coach the ability to easily communicate and set important aspects of their game.

We have also worked with UK Coaching and SAS International to provide further resources for coaches at discounted rates.

The TT Learning Zone, launched during lockdown, is the new online hub for all our learning resources. Licensed Coaches can access supporting material for coaching courses, as well as workshops and webinars and other material to aid and support their careers. We will continue to develop this area.

Since the first lockdown, we have seen a decline in the number of Coach Licence-holders from 644 in March 2020 to 520 in March 2021, a drop of around 19%. However, as restrictions have begun to ease at the time of writing, numbers are again picking up. We anticipate this trend continuing and we will continue to promote the benefits of the licence to both coaches and participants.

### People Education

Our online Disability Awareness Training module was launched in February. This aims to provide information to support individuals and organisations to feel more confident working with Disabled People in a table tennis setting, while meeting their individual needs. It includes sections on coaching, classification, competitions and communication.

Aimed at clubs, leagues and counties, coaches and individual volunteers, a total of 45 people had signed up at the time of writing.

In addition, the online TT Activator Award, which is for coaches and volunteers who are looking to start their coaching journey and/ or to support within sessions, will be launched in the autumn.

### Technical Officials

We have had to adapt the delivery of our courses and CPD during the pandemic, shifting to online delivery and use of the TT Learning Zone, which houses resources for officiating courses and the support of Technical Officials.

This method means we have been able to continue to prepare

umpires for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. We have received 37 applications for 20 places.

Despite the challenges, a total of 16 Level 2 umpires qualified in the last year. A total of 33 umpires are waiting for a practical session to be able to complete their Level 1 qualification. 14 umpires attended Para CPD Training, which is required for them to officiate at para competitions. Eight referees are currently waiting to take their Level 2 examination.

The new umpire and referee uniforms, introduced in the weeks immediately before the first lockdown, will be fully implemented for 2021/22 season, including a female version.

Our Level 2 Tournament Organiser course was held online for the first time and a total of 50 Tournament Organisers qualified at that level, the most we have had in a single season. The course included an examination, which delegates emailed for marking by Karen Tonge MBE, our training and development co-ordinator.

Making up for the lack of competitions, the Technical Officials Committee hosted an online get-together and update session for officials, which was attended by 80 officials.

### Volunteering

The Young Ambassador programme continues to seek to provide meaningful volunteering experiences for young people aged 14-25, and offer Clubs a helping hand.

A further 10 Young Ambassadors have signed up to the programme, taking the total to 38 actively logging their volunteering hours in Clubs across the Country.

A total of 156 nominations were received for this year's Pride of Table Tennis Awards, which celebrate and honour the fantastic contributions that have been made in such challenging times. Two new categories were introduced this year - Lockdown Local Hero and School of the Year.

Local winners were announced in January, followed by Regional winners in February. The National winners were announced at a virtual award ceremony as part of the National Club, Coach and Volunteer Conference in June, as covered in the Awards and Thanks section of this Review.



## PERFORMANCE

With the majority of activity, both in competition settings and in the training hall, curtailed by the pandemic, the challenge for athletes at all levels was to find ways to adapt their training regimes to keep their fitness and skills as sharp as possible – and for the performance team to provide the significant support needed to make this happen.

After the initial months of lockdown, the senior players who were part of the Tokyo Olympics and/or Birmingham Commonwealth Games journeys were able to resume group training, initially at the National Badminton Centre in Milton Keynes and later at the University of Nottingham.

This small cohort of athletes worked under covid protocols and these proved robust, with only one positive test reported – which was asymptomatic and was prevented from spreading to other members of the squad and therefore had no further impact.

Our thanks go to the University of Nottingham and the National Badminton Centre for working with us to provide a covid-safe working environment.

Given the limitations on international travel, the athlete cohort trained among themselves and with appropriate available sparing partners, and made light of the restrictions by undertaking some great work alongside coaches Alan Cooke, Gavin Evans and Kelly Sibley. While the lack of international competition opportunities was a negative, on the positive side, the squad was able to work together far more than they would in a normal year.

We were able to confirm Gavin and Kelly in post through to Birmingham 2022 thanks to Sport England funding for the Commonwealth Games cycle.

The limited international calendar did give some opportunities for senior England players, and Liam Pitchford was part of the ITTF's #Restart series in China, which comprised the Men's World Cup and ITTF Finals, as well as the inaugural World Table Tennis (WTT) event.

Liam deserves huge credit for qualifying for the World Cup and ITTF Finals, a rare feat for English players. He and Gavin had an extensive quarantine period before the competitions, which represented his first matches for eight months. Although not at his best, he was able to compete well and can be pleased with a lot of his play, losing 4-3 to Ovtcharov in the World Cup knockout stage, having won his group. And although his ITTF Finals defeat to world No 6 Hugo Calderano was a disappointment, he then picked up a good win and a close defeat in the WTT event.

March and April saw Paul Drinkhall, Sam Walker and Tin-Tin Ho return to competition alongside Liam in a series of



The new Butterfly England kit was due to be launched at the 2020 World Championships, but was instead launched virtually with a socially-distanced photoshoot involving Liam Pitchford and members of the England Junior Squad (above).

We are delighted with the striking design, featuring the cross of St George, and look forward to being able to wear the kit in competition.

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.

# BUTTERFLY

### The following represented Great Britain

**Olympic qualifying tournaments:** Charlotte Carey, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho (world and European), Liam Pitchford (world), Sam Walker (European)

### The following represented England

**ITTF Men's World Cup:** Liam Pitchford

**ITTF Finals:** Liam Pitchford

**European Championships:** Charlotte Bardsley, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Sam Walker

### The following competed at ITTF/WTT tournaments

**Senior:** Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

events in Doha. All were short of match practice and Liam was further hampered by a thumb injury, while Sam unfortunately was injured in his first match. The players showed improvement with matches, notably Paul beating the Japanese national champion Mizuki Oikawa.

In the World Olympic qualifying tournament, Liam, Paul and Tin-Tin were joined by Charlotte Carey of Wales in the GB squad. Liam performed well in reaching the final, winning his semi-final 14-12 in the deciding game in a match which took a lot out of him physically and mentally, which doubtless contributed to his defeat in the final.

With Liam qualifying for the Olympics by

virtue of his world ranking, Sam joined the other three GB players for the European qualifiers. At this tournament, Charlotte reached the first-stage quarter-finals, losing a close match 4-3, while Paul reached the stage 2 semi-finals and a subsequent third-place play-off, losing both.

The inconsistent results are a reflection that the UK had greater restrictions on travel than many other countries, preventing our players competing for their clubs in league matches and gaining meaningful match practice. Athletes from many other countries were not so restricted. It is therefore positive that Liam and Paul in particular were able to compete well despite this, although there is no



Members of the DiSE programme after they were able to return to training under covid restrictions

escaping the fact that the final results were disappointing.

Liam fully deserves to have qualified for his third Olympics via the rankings, as does Paul – competing in three Games is something only one GB athlete has previously achieved. Tin-Tin became GB's first female qualifier (as distinct from host nation athlete) since 1996. All three are due huge credit for their hard work in achieving these feats.

With the younger pathway players, much of our focus in the last year was on maintaining and trying to strengthen the connection between our coaching staff and pathway players, keeping the young players engaged and enabling them to adapt to conditions and continue to improve their games.

This was complicated by the fact the players were all in different situations – some had tables at home, others had no equipment at all other than bats and balls, and some had no suitable practice partners. We tried to access equipment for players to use at home where we could.

While challenging, the restrictions also provided opportunities. One which worked particularly well was building a greater connection between the youth squads and the senior England players, with the senior players giving a lot of their time, leading online fitness sessions and sharing their knowledge and experiences during online Q&A sessions with the younger squads.

We also had the opportunity to put together fitness videos for the squads, as well as covering goal-setting, deliberate practice and other key areas of performance. As well as group sessions online, we held individual meetings with players, parents and coaches to help them develop their knowledge of performance table tennis.

When we were able to return to the hall in between the first two lockdowns in 2020, and as restrictions eased this year, we anticipated that the standard would have dropped – however, the players reported

We have held more than 300 sessions for the junior squads, in the hall or via Zoom, covering physical and mental fitness, nutrition and other areas

We were delighted to return to funding as UK Sport (UKS) announced a £1.35 million Progression Funding Award to Table Tennis England to administer on behalf of British table tennis through to the Paris 2024 Olympics.



It is exciting to work with our colleagues in the Home Nations to grow and develop athletes for the future, and we are working to a number of UKS targets, primary of which is to develop a cohort of athletes to 'Academy' standard during this four-year cycle – that standard equating to being 6-8 years out from achieving an Olympic podium place. We will be exploring opportunities in all Olympic table tennis events. Other targets concern developing a clear GB pathway and developing the coaches to support that pathway.

Alongside this system-building investment, we continue to work with UK Sport to explore other funding opportunities for athletes who can challenge for medals in 2024.



Tin-Tin Ho competes for Great Britain at the European Olympic qualification tournament in Portugal

back physically stronger and mentally focused, which was a massive positive, and they and the parents quickly adapted to the necessary covid protocols. The return after the third lockdown was easier to manage, with bubbles of 15 rather than the bubbles of six permitted after the first lockdown.

The challenge now is around preparations for the resumption of competitions. We have run a number of internal competitions, and the two Nationals scheduled for July will help preparations for the European Youth Championships. We have amended the selection procedure for those championships to include direct selection based on performance history, internal

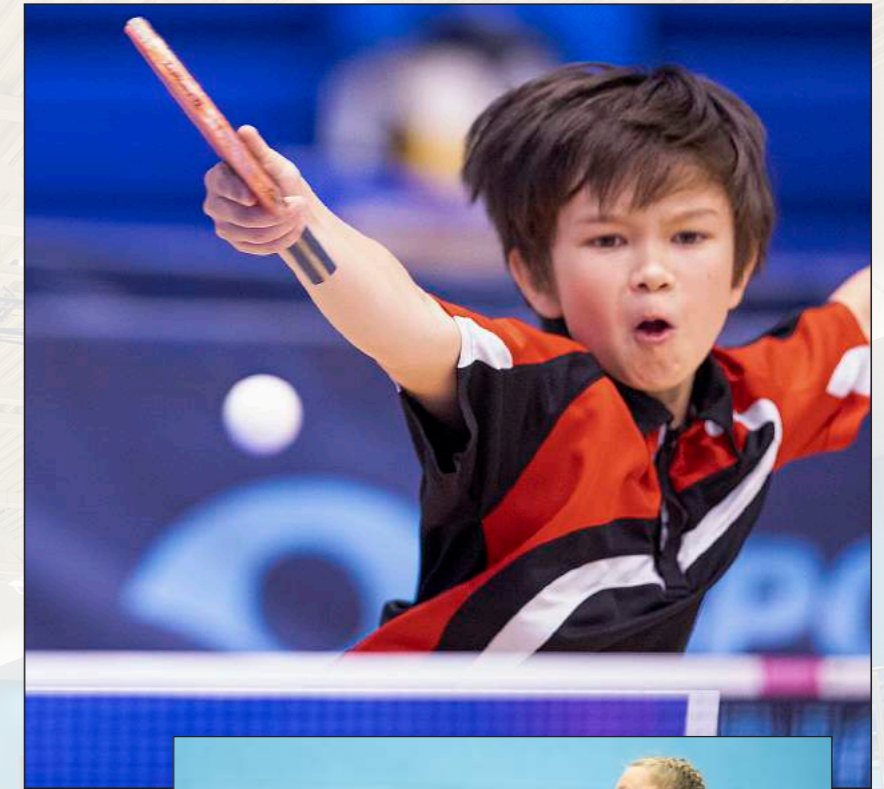
play-offs and wildcards, with the intention to select a full team in all categories.

The DiSE programme for over-16s in further education continued to be fully funded by Sport England and the Department for Education. The first cohort of athletes are coming to the end of their two-year course at the time of writing, with a 95% pass rate. Another 12 students will take up places for the new academic year.

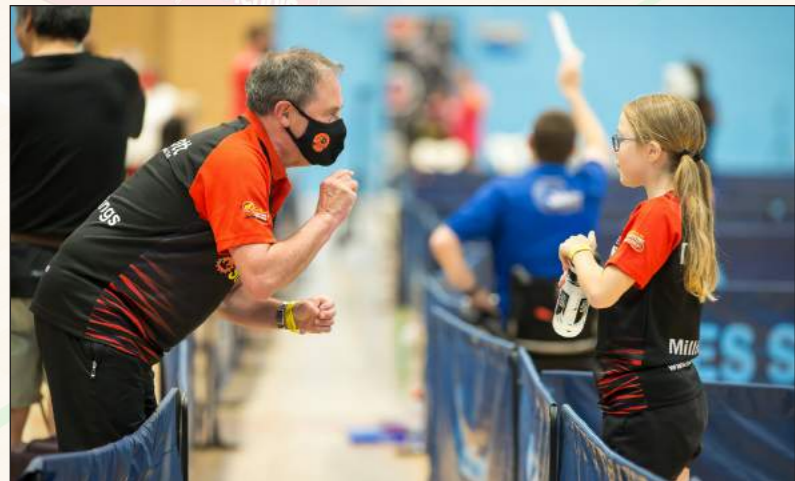
We helped to secure Backing the Best funding of £5,000 each for 10 pathway athletes and nominated a further eight for SportsAid grants. We continue to help all pathway athletes to find funding opportunities.



COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



Photos from the Mark Bates Ltd U10-U13 and Cadet & Junior National Championships. Clockwise from top left: Lewis Wu; the Cadet Boys' final between Joseph Hunter and Aaron Yuk Shing Geung; Euan Hacking; Brooke Morris; Jonabel Taguibao; Joshua Bruce and coach John Dennison; Coach Paul Jennings and Millie Noble; umpires keep a close eye on the proceedings  
See pages 20-21 for results and more photos





## COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS

The majority of national events and competitions were cancelled in the 2020/21 season because of the pandemic, continuing a shutdown which began in March 2020 and therefore encompassed more than a year of tournaments.

This included our flagship Mark Bates Ltd National Championships – both the Senior National Championships Qualifiers and the final tournament were called off – as well as all age groups of the British League, National Cadet and National Junior Leagues, six Grand Prix events, the Inter-Regional Finals and the English Leagues Cup Competitions (ELCC).

As restrictions lifted, we were able to stage the Junior National Cup at Halton TTC and the season's final Grand Prix in Gloucester on their original dates.

We were also delighted to be able to reschedule the Mark Bates Ltd Cadet & Junior National Championships and the Mark Bates Ltd U10-U13 National Championships on successive weekends at the start of July. As well as providing profile to Mark Bates Ltd, the event sponsors, it also allowed players in those age groups to compete for honours when it looked likely for a long time that this would not be possible.

In the case of the Junior event, we decided to open this up to Under-19s, allowing final year players who had missed last season's competition the chance to 'sign off' from the Junior age group. This decision also reflected the move to extend the Junior age group to Under-19s permanently from the start of the 2021/22 season, in line with the International Table Tennis Day (ITTF) and European Table Tennis Union (ETTU). This decision was made following open membership consultation and feedback from key event organisers.

The majority of sanctioned events were also cancelled, though a small number were able to take place during the easing of restrictions last summer. We are also aware of a small number of club tournaments, closed events and local leagues which took place. We would like to thank those organisers who managed to stage events while abiding by the ever-shifting Government guidance.

With no national events, two of the five staff in the department have worked throughout the pandemic, with the rest on furlough or, in the case of the British League Executive Officer, a position left unrecruited.

A silver lining has been the opportunity to reinforce our positive relationships with venues and we have kept up ongoing dialogue with a number of them. Some, such as Derby Arena and Aldersley, have been repurposed for covid-related activity during the past year but continue to engage in helpful dialogue with us. It is



Paul Drinkhall competes at a WTT event in Qatar. We have undertaken feasibility studies to host a WTT event in England



pleasing to report that we are ahead of the curve when it comes to making practical arrangements for national events for next season – not just with venues but in terms of accommodation and logistics.

Staff have also been busy with a number of other projects. The most prominent of these have been the rankings project and the competitions review, both of which have made good progress.

The first round of membership consultations regarding modifications to the rankings system was concluded last summer and a second phase concentrating on specific aspects of the system was carried out during the winter. While the pandemic has caused final implementation to be put back until the 2022/23 season, it is intended to test the new system in parallel with the current one during 2021/22.

The competition review steering group

has been appointed and begun work on a root-and-branch review, which will include further membership consultation. We will continue to keep members updated on these projects via our website and communications.

In addition, a new strategy for British League was launched last summer and we look forward to the chance to implement it in the coming season.

New Terms of Reference were established for the Tournament Approval Panel (TAP), County Championships Committee and Ranking Policy group. More on this can be found in the Governance section of this review.

We have continued to invest in our TT Leagues and TT Memberships (Sport:80) platforms, for the long-term benefit of the sport. This includes developing the functionality to transition all national leagues on to TT Leagues, starting with moving the British League wholesale from the 2021/22 season. We will also be piloting National Cadet League, National Junior League and County Championships on TT Leagues in the coming season, with a view to transitioning in full in 2022/23.

These developments will enable us to provide a better 'user journey' and

experience for players, organisers and officials as well as hosting all results, fixtures, tables and other statistics on one platform.

In TT Memberships, we have developed the functionality for online tournament sanctioning and entry, making it easier for tournament organisers and committees to run tournaments and for players to enter them. We will release more information about this on our website and in our communications before the new season.

We have held constructive dialogue with World Table Tennis (WTT) and undertaken multiple feasibility studies to host a WTT event in England. While this will not prove possible in 2021, we continue to work towards hosting a series of events from 2022 onwards.

A bid in conjunction with British Para Table Tennis to host the 2023 Para World Championships in Sheffield will now go forward to the ITTF. We have also begun the consultation process to host the 2026 World Championships in London.

We continue to work with the organisers of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, in the areas of arena management, sport presentation and technical specifications, as well as provision of technical officials, as covered elsewhere in this Review.

## Junior category extension explained

From the start of the 2021/22 season, the Junior age group will change from Under-18 to Under-19, in line with the ITTF and ETTU age groups. A Junior will be defined as any individual under 19 years old on December 31 every season.

This will affect Table Tennis England memberships and all regulated events including leagues, tournaments including 1\*, 2\* and 4\* events and national competitions from August 1st 2021.

A new under-17 category will be considered for the Mark Bates Ltd Cadet & Junior National Championships in 2021/22 and a new under-17 ranking category is expected to be introduced.

Appropriate changes will be made in the regulations, TT Memberships (Sport:80) and the rankings system.

The change will also be reflected in the performance pathway, with the England Junior Squad becoming an under-19 squad from the 2021/22 season.

The Cadet category remains at under-15.

## Mike Watts Achievement Awards



This award is presented to the boy and girl with the greatest improvement in ratings points between August 1 and July 31 each year. The winners for 2019/20 were Bethany Ellis and Joseph Hunter.

Both Bethany and Joseph went on to win the respective Cadet singles titles at the Mark Bates Ltd Cadet & Junior National Championships in July.





## COMPETITIONS AND EVENTS



Champions from the Mark Bates Ltd U10-U13 and Cadet & Junior National Championships, clockwise from top left: Maxim Stevens, Charlotte Bardsley, Ralph Pattison, Sienna Jetha, Alyssa Nguyen, Teagan Khazal, Kacper Piwowar



Junior National Cup champions Louis Price and Mollie Patterson

Three national competitions were able to be held in June and July as restrictions eased, though stringent covid protocols applied.

The first event was the Junior National Cup, held at Halton TTC. The Mark Bates Ltd U10-U13 National Championships were held at the University of Warwick on the first weekend in July, followed by the Cadet & Junior edition of the Nationals at the same venue the following weekend.

Although the Cadet & Junior championships were affected by withdrawals due to positive tests and self-isolation requirements, with the Junior Boys' event particularly affected, the competitions were keenly contested as the first national champions in any age group since Match 2020 were crowned.

### Mark Bates Ltd Cadet & Junior National Championships

University of Warwick, July 2021

Junior Boys' Singles: Maxim Stevens (Ng)

Junior Girls' Singles: Charlotte Bardsley (St)

Cadet Boys' Singles: Joseph Hunter (Mi)

Cadet Girls' Singles: Bethany Ellis (La)

### Mark Bates Ltd U10-U13 National Championships

University of Warwick, July 2021

Under-10 Boys: Teagan Khazal (Mi)

Under-10 Girls: Alyssa Nguyen (Dv)

Under-11 Boys: Kacper Piwowar (Dv)

Under-11 Girls: Alyssa Nguyen (Dv)

Under-12 Boys: Kacper Piwowar (Dv)

Under-12 Girls: Sienna Jetha (He)

Under-13 Boys: Ralph Pattison (E)

Under-13 Girls: Sienna Jetha (He)

*\*No doubles played at either National Championships due to covid protocols.*

### Junior National Cup

Halton TTC, June 2021

Boys: 1 Louis Price, 2 Ben Piggott, 3 Joe Cope, 4 Connor Green, 5 Amirul Hussain, 6 Josh Weatherby, 7 Olly Cornish, 8 Rhys Davies, 9 Maxim Stevens, 10 Robert Pelc, 11 David Gofton\*.

*\*withdrew after 7 rounds due to injury*

Girls: 1 Mollie Patterson, 2 Anaya Patel, 3 Mari Baldwin, 4 Millie Rogove, 5 Scarlett Anders, 6 Jasmin Wong, 7 Amy Marriott, 8 Gemma Kerr, 9 Erin Green, 10 Samadhi Udamulla, 11 Lois Perryman, 12 Anna Green.





## RETURN TO PLAY



Table tennis clubs returning to play (clockwise from top left): Cippenham, Blackpool, Cheltenham, Nailsworth Phoenix, Halton, Continental Stars, Nomads, Stilton

We have held more than 200 one-to-one support calls with representatives of clubs and leagues to support return to play



## NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS



Liam Pitchford makes a dramatic entrance at the Men's World Cup, where he won his group and was narrowly beaten by Germany's Dimitrij Ovtcharov in the last 16

- Table Tennis England Chairman Sandra Deaton was elected to the key role of Vice-President of Finance on the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) Executive Board. Simon Grew is deputy chair of the rankings committee, Susie Venner is part of the veterans' committee, Karen Tonge MBE is deputy chair of the para committee, Matt Stanforth is a member of the inaugural coaches' committee.
- Additionally, Sandra was reappointed to the influential International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Nominations Committee.
- Table Tennis England Chief Executive Sara Sutcliffe was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020.
- Table tennis coach John Mapletoft, from Grantham, was awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours 2021.
- Table Tennis England's TT Leagues platform, developed alongside Rocca Creative, was shortlisted for the Best Operations, Commerce and Event Management Technology category at the 2021 Sports Technology Awards.
- Liam Pitchford won his group to reach the last 16 of the Men's World Cup.
- Liam Pitchford qualified for the ITTF Finals, the first English player to do so since Paul Drinkhall in 2014.
- Paralympian Kim Daybell, who stepped away from sport this year to serve on the frontline of the NHS during the coronavirus pandemic, was one of three winners of The National Lottery Spirit of Sport award.
- Emily Bolton was part of the Saint Quentinois squad which reached the semi-finals of the women's Champions League.
- Liam Pitchford reached the Champions League semi-finals with his club UMMC. Sam Walker reached the quarter-finals with Hennebont.
- Former world veterans' champion Pam Butcher MBE was shortlisted for an Active Ager Award.
- Ping Pong Fight Club's Ade Leigh was shortlisted in the Pivot category in the Great British Entrepreneur Awards.
- At the Sport Business Awards 2020, Table Tennis England partners Jockey Club Services was named winner in the Best Business Serving Sport category and also picked up the bronze medal in the Best Professional Services in Sport section. The ITTF Foundation won the bronze medal in the Best Sports Governing Body Initiative for its Parkinson's World Championships project. The Foundation was also shortlisted in the Coronavirus Innovation Award – Communication; the Coronavirus Innovation Award – Compassion; and the Best Club CSR or Community Scheme category for its Slum Ping Pong initiative, but it missed out on the prizes in those categories. Another Table Tennis England partner, Rackets Cubed, was shortlisted in the Best Sports Charity (or best use of sport by a charity) category.
- Andrew Baggaley reached the final of the Ping Pong Masters, Chris Doran reached the semi-finals.
- England men's coach Gavin Evans was among the first cohort of 26 coaches from Olympic and Paralympic sports in the new High-Performance Coach Apprenticeship (HiCAP) programme launched by UK Sport in April 2021.



Emily Bolton (left) with the St Quentinois squad at the Champions League semi-final; Above: TT Leagues and Ping Pong Fight Club were shortlisted for industry awards



# AWARDS AND THANKS

## Honours bestowed on members at AGM

Each year, individuals are honoured at the Annual General Meeting, receiving awards or honorary positions which reflect the service they have given to the sport, in many cases amounting to many years of dedication and commitment. The following were honoured at the 2020 AGM:

### Honorary Life Members

Stuart Sherlock  
Keith Thomas

### Vice-Presidents

Simon Griew  
Brian Jackson  
Jan Johns  
John Mapletoft BEM  
Gary Wood

### Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement

Alan Ransome OBE

### Malcolm Scott Award

Jo Keay-Blyth

### Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy

John Spiers

### Ivor Montagu Award

David Goulden

### AK Vint Staff Award

Johnathon Driscoll

### Victor Barna Award

Liam Pitchford

### Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved

### England Player of the Year Award

Tom Jarvis



Liam Pitchford and (inset) Tom Jarvis

### Re-elected as Vice-Presidents for 2020-23

Dave Berriman, Pat Chatwin, Brian Davison, John Hilton, Richard B Hudson, Alan Hydes, Vanda Jones, Jim Kenny, Sheila King, Dorothy Macfarlane, Ken Mathews, Carole Moore, Valerie Murdoch, Mike Payne, Ken Phillips, Erica Preat, Tom Purcell, Jose Ransome, Lynda Reid, Jackie Sands, Carol Seward, Matthew Syed, Ken Tonge, Graham Trimming, Ron Washington, June Watts, Estyn Williams.

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

### Tom Blunn Fund

None awarded

### Ivor Montagu Junior Fund

Olly Cornish

### Maurice Goldstein Awards

Minimum of 10 years' continual service either as an elected officer or official of a County Association, Local League or Premier Club. Must have made a significant contribution to the administration of the sport at County, League or Premier Club level.

Dave Green (Loughborough)  
Sue Merican (Middlesex)  
Mike Turner (Lancashire)  
Henry Rawcliffe (Lancashire)



Stuart Sherlock



Keith Thomas



Simon Griew



Brian Jackson



Jan Johns



John Mapletoft BEM



Gary Wood



Alan Ransome OBE



Jo Keay-Blyth



John Spiers



Dave Goulden



Johnathon Driscoll

## Pride of Table Tennis Awards

More than 150 nominations were made for the awards this year, including in the new categories of Lockdown Local Hero and School of the Year.

Awards were presented at local and regional levels, and the national winners were announced in a virtual ceremony during the online National Conference in June.

The winners and runners-up were:

### Contribution to Table Tennis

**Winner:** Hans Soova BEM; **runners-up:** David Green, Ronald Hedley, Keith Wilson

### Volunteer of the Year

**Winner:** Gordon Gatheral; **runners-up:** Craig Dring, David May, Peter Wilson

### Young Volunteer of the Year

**Winner:** Josh Amanor; **runners-up:** Jack Cross, Katie Hicks, Thomas Ray

### Lockdown Local Hero

**Joint winners:** Sally Maddison, Natasha Moura; **runner-up:** David Brown

### Lockdown Local Hero (organisation)

**Winner:** Brighton TTC

### Inclusivity Award

**Winner:** Community Integrated Card – Central Support Services; **runner-up:** Keith McIntosh

### Coach of the Year

**Winner:** Mark Mitchell; **runners-up:** Rik Gonzalez, Ajay Naik

### Technical Official of the Year

**Winner:** Simon Morgan

### Inspirational Story of the Year

**Winner:** Kim Daybell; **runner-up:** Bethany Ellis

### Club of the Year

**Winner:** Goodwin TTC; **runner-up:** Bath St Marine TTC

### League of the Year

**Winner:** Leicester & District League; **runner-up:** Plymouth League

### Partner of the Year

**Winner:** Jack Foundation; **runners-up:** Grafton/Cambridge City Council, Halton Borough Council

### School of the Year

**Winner:** Christchurch Primary; **runners-up:** St Edwards Catholic Primary, Sir John Sherbrooke Primary



Pride winners (clockwise from above) Goodwin TTC, Kim Daybell, Natasha Moura and Gordon Gatheral





# WHO'S WHO (AS AT 31.03.21)

**President:** Jill Parker MBE

**Hon Past President:** Doreen Stannard

## Board Members

**Chairman:** Sandra Deaton

**Elected Directors:** Don Parker, Susie Venner, one post vacant

**Chief Executive:** Sara Sutcliffe

Appointed Directors: Simon Griew, Steve Kemish\*, Doug Livingstone, Dee Paterson\*, Tom Purcell, Mark Quartermaine\*, Priya Samuel\*

\* denotes independent directors

## Honorary Life Members

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

## Vice-Presidents

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

## Members' Advisory Group

John Andrews, Phil Ashleigh, Juliet Bertie, Steve Bertie, Kevin Buddell, Jo Green, Neil Hurford (Chairman), John Mackey, David Maddison, Liam McTiernan, Dean Nabarro, Sandy Nash, Steve Pratt, Steve Randerson, Stuart Sherlock, Dan Simms

## National Councillors

**Avon:** David Hockney

**Bedfordshire:** Alex Murdoch

**Berkshire:** Peter Charters

**Buckinghamshire:** Susan Hayes

**Cambridgeshire:** Brian Freer

**Cheshire:** Karen Tonge MBE

**Cleveland:** Alan Ransome OBE

**Cornwall:** Kevin Fudge

**Derbyshire:** John Cowell

**Devonshire:** Andrew Millman

**Dorset:** Reinhard Lindner

**Durham:** Allan Thompson

**Essex:** Phil Ashleigh

**Gloucestershire:** David Adamson

**Hampshire:** Ken Macleod

**Herefordshire:** Harmesh (Harry) Jutle

**Hertfordshire:** David Edwards

**Isle of Wight:** Tim Giles

**Kent:** Neil Le Milliere

**Lancashire:** Jim Bolton

**Leicestershire:** Shirley Pickering

**Lincolnshire:** George Tyler

**Middlesex:** Tony Dias

**Norfolk:** Trevor Vincent

**Northamptonshire:** Ivor Jones

**Northumberland:** Gareth Pearson

**Nottinghamshire:** Malcolm Allsop

**Oxfordshire:** Neil Hurford

**Shropshire:** Chris Dangerfield

**Somerset:** Jos Kelly

**South Yorkshire:** James Kenny

**Staffordshire:** Awaiting appointment

**Suffolk:** Awaiting appointment

**Surrey:** Margot Fraser

**Sussex:** Jim Skinner

**Warwickshire:** Estyn Williams (Chairman)

**Wiltshire:** Charles Noel 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, Victoria Wieggleb

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

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

**Returning Officer and Scrutineers:** Returning Officer Caroline Williams; Scrutineers Paul Nichols; Jim Palmer (two posts vacant)

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

**Talent, Performance and Events British League Committee:** Chairman Neil Rogers; Secretary Gary Wood; Susie Venner (Board); Jim Kenny (Women's British League);

Malcolm Macfarlane (Senior British League); Carol Miles; Alan Ransome OBE (Calendar); Vacant (Veterans' British League)

**Sub-Committees - Senior British League:** Chairman Neil Rogers; Secretary Gary Wood; Administrators Malcolm Macfarlane; Alan Ransome OBE; Referee Stuart Sherlock.

**Junior British League:** Administrator Vacant; Referee Brian Jackson

**Veterans' British League:** Administrator Vacant; Referee Dave Goulden; Assistant Referee John Mackey

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

**Press and Publicity:** Press Officer Wilf Reeve; Photographers Melvyn Lovegrove, Chris Rayner

**County Championships Committee:** Chairman Stan Clarke; Secretary/Administrator Dave Goulden; Assistant Administrators: Juniors/Cadets Lynda Reid; Seniors Ken Eliot; Veterans Dave Goulden; Over-60s Neil Hurford; Premier Weekend Organisers: Senior/Junior Tony Dias; Cadets/Veterans Vacant; Over-60s Neil Hurford; Publicity Officer Stan Clarke; Referee Brian Jackson; Deputy Referee Margot Fraser; Carol Miles

**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 David Maddison; Deputy Chairman Richard J Hudson (also Team Championships Organiser); 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 Brian Jackson; Secretary Dave Cochrane; Tom Purcell (Board rep); David Edwards; Harry Jutle; Joanna Outhwaite; Karen Tonge MBE (training & development co-ordinator); Greg Yarnall; Chris Newton; Dan Bullen; Lyndsey Simpson

**Specialist Panels - Referee Review and Examination:** Stuart Sherlock; Brian Jackson; Karen Tonge MBE; **Tournament Management Officials:** Stuart Sherlock; Brian Jackson; Secretary Dave Cochrane; Carol Miles; **Tournament Organisers:** Stuart Sherlock; Carol Miles; **Umpire Selection:** Harry Jutle (Secretary Foreign Competitions); David Edwards (Secretary Domestic Competitions); Lynda Reid; Margot Fraser; Johanna Outhwaite; Chris Newton; **2022 Commonwealth Games Umpire Selection:** Stuart Sherlock; Chris Newton; Margot Fraser

**Special Adviser:** Colin Clemett

**Tournament Approval Panel:** Chairman Gail Johns; Secretary John Mackey; Brian Jackson (TOC rep); Carol Miles (competitions dept

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF), like many global organisations, has experienced a very difficult 12 months as a result of the pandemic. Many of the major international events and championships have been cancelled or postponed.

Despite the difficulties, the ITTF launched World Table Tennis (WTT). This is a separate commercial and event organisation licensed to the Governing Body to deliver a very ambitious competition programme.

Through the success of increased financial support, a small number WTT events have taken place, showcasing a high level of presentation and increased financial support for the players. The pandemic has restricted the number of WTT events but those which have taken place demonstrate the future experiences we can expect from the global calendar.

The ITTF 2020 AGM was held virtually and here it was clear the move to the ambitious WTT programme had raised some difficult issues with the traditional events organisers feeling sidelined. There must be continual consultation at every level with Continents and Member Associations to discuss the calendar, ranking points, and flexibility on logistical and financial support.

Politically, it has also been a difficult time for the international organisation. The lack of physical meetings, the financial strain and continual uncertainty I feel sure will have contributed to the internal difficulties of the governance structure. However, at the AGM in November the ITTF will hold elections for the President, the Executive Committee and the committee chairs and members.

The ITTF Nominations Committee, of which I am a member, has had considerable input into the guidance information for the electoral and appointment rules and eligibility which will accompany the nominations applications to support the member associations. At the June board meeting there was a discussion and agreement on Table Tennis England's nominations.

The European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) has also experienced a difficult year as the pandemic resulted in many competitions being postponed. The elections held at the Congress in September 2020 resulted in a new President, Mr Igor Levitin from Russia,



## International Matters

and some newly appointed members to the Executive Board. Mr Pedro Moura from Portugal was elected as the Deputy President and I was elected as the Vice President for Finance.

Since this time, the ETTU has expanded its departmental structure to include a marketing manager, resulting in a significant increase in sponsorship. These levels of financial support budgeted in the 2021 accounts are centred around the core of the organisation, the financial input into events and club competition as well as an increased income for development.

There has been financial support for rebranding, resulting in a new logo, work towards increased exposure within social media as well as marketing activity to increase the visual exposure at European level.

The adaptation of the format of some of the club competitions allowed these to be held in late 2020, followed by the European Olympic qualification in April this year. The increased financial support has given the Association the

ability to support the required covid criteria and ensure the events take place in a safe and healthy environment.

The ETTU Executive Board has been determined to build a strong relationship with the ITTF and be central to all discussions which affect the European member associations. This has resulted in a combined working group of ITTF executive committee members and staff, ETTU executive board members and staff and some European national representatives. These discussions are ongoing and are centred around the global calendar, the ranking format and the value of the continental programme.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the International Relationship team at UK Sport for their continual guidance and financial support to help us to maintain our input within the global sports structure. I also hope that we can cautiously look forward to once again experience play at continental and international level.

SANDRA DEATON

rep); Mike Atkinson; Kate Hughes; Stuart Sherlock; Margaret Welch; Gary Whyman

## Regional Structure

**Regional Forum**  
Chairman Vacant; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; Regional Chairmen: East Brian Davison; East Midlands Shirley Pickering; London Vacant; North East Alan Ransome OBE; North West Karen Tonge MBE; South Mike Atkinson; 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

Individual Advisers – As required

## Focus Groups

Focus Groups may be set up as needed

## Board Committees and Groups

**Standing Committees**  
**Finance & Audit:** Chairman Doug Livingstone; Secretary Sam Garey; Sandra Deaton; Dee Paterson, Tom Purcell; Sara Sutcliffe; Steve Kemish

**Governance & Risk:** Chairman Mark Quartermaine; Secretary Victoria Wieggleb; Sandra Deaton; Simon Griew; Susie Venner; Sara Sutcliffe; Jo Keay-Blyth; Don Parker; Priya Samuel

**Nominations Committee:** Chairman Sandra Deaton; Secretary Sara Sutcliffe; Susie Venner; Dee Paterson; Mark Quartermaine; Don Parker; Steve Kemish; Priya Samuel

**Remuneration Committee:** Sandra Deaton; Mark Quartermaine; Doug Livingstone  
**Case Management Group (Safeguarding):** Sara Sutcliffe; Joanna Keay-Blyth; Tom Purcell; Judy Rogers; Victoria Wieggleb  
**Process Review Group:** Joanna Keay-Blyth;

Simon Griew; Mike Smith; Priya Samuel (Others as required)

**Honours:** Chairman Sandra Deaton; Secretary Victoria Wieggleb; Jill Parker MBE; Richard Scruton; Mike Smith; Doreen Stannard; Tom Purcell

**Network:** Chairman Tom Purcell; Secretary Joanna Keay-Blyth; Sandra Deaton; Susie Venner; Sara Sutcliffe

**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; **Coaches Committee:** Matt Stanforth; **Para TT Committee:** Karen Tonge MBE (Deputy Chair); **Ranking Committee:** Simon Griew (Deputy Chair); **Veterans Committee:** Susie Venner



# FINANCIAL REPORTS

The year 2020/21 is the final year of the 2017/21 Sport England Funding Cycle, in which we received £1,907,740 from Sport England to support back office, core, mass market, clubs and talent.

Sport England provided a degree of funding flexibility to adapt to the continuing evolving situation that covid-19 presented within the year. The flexibility provided had to meet the two immediate priorities: supporting the sector to ensure it comes through this period in as strong a position as possible and to keep the nation moving, by encouraging and facilitating people to stay active.

Table Tennis England on behalf of British Table Tennis also received an Aspiration Fund grant from UK Sport to help the teams and athletes to realise our ambitions for Tokyo 2020.

We are once again grateful to the Jack Petchey Foundation for their support of the Children and Young People Programme, which has such a positive impact in London and Essex.

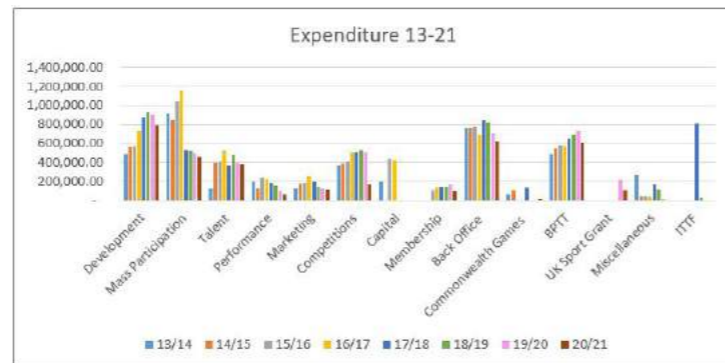
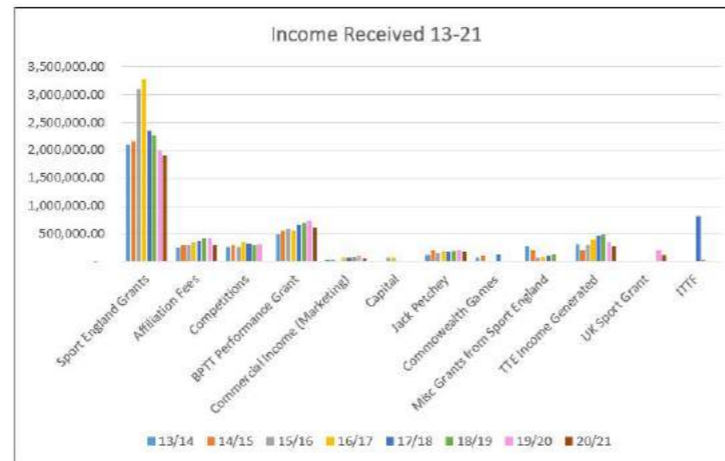
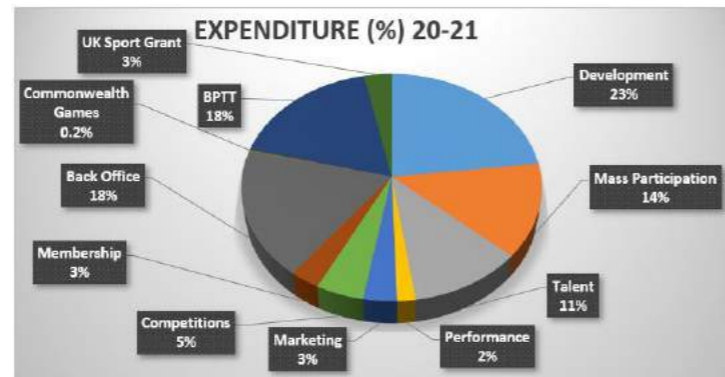
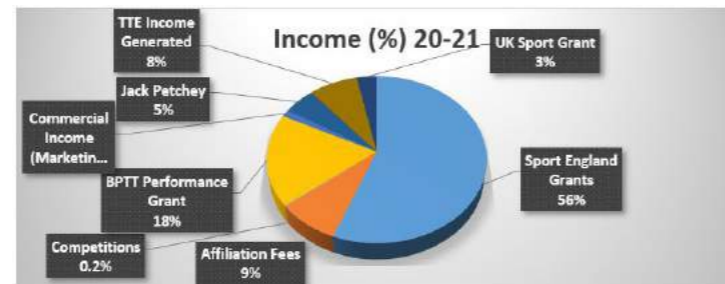
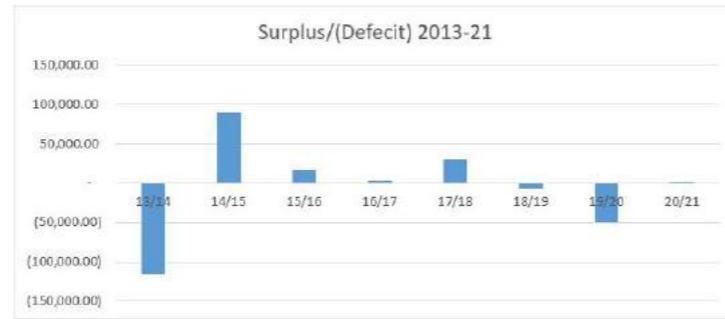
We saw a reduction in other income and expenditure in the year due to covid-19 restrictions. This included competitions and courses, as well as savings from rent, staff expenses and holding virtual committee meetings. Although we did have increased legal and governance costs in the year.

A total of 54% of members from 2019/20 continued to support the organisation by renewing their membership in 2020/21. Even with this support, it did mean that membership income received was significantly lower in the year, by more than £180,000. This also has an impact on the 2021/22 financial year, as the membership year runs from August to July.

As the membership income funds various areas of the organisation, including some staff posts, we were able to utilise the Governments' Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. We claimed £108,838 from the scheme between April and the year end, without which we would have recorded a deficit for the year, instead of reporting a small surplus of £1,502. A detailed Income and Expenditure account is attached to this report. A copy of the Audited accounts are available on our website.

We continue to monitor the financial impact of the pandemic on the organisation, with the biggest risk in 2021/22 still coming from a drop in membership renewals.

**Samantha Garey**  
Head of Finance and IT



## English Table Tennis Association Ltd

### Income and Expenditure

for the year ending 31st March 2021

### Talent & Performance

Talent & Infrastructure  
Commonwealth Games  
Performance

### Development

BeTT Delivery  
Clubs  
Children & Young People  
ESTT  
Satellite Clubs  
Disability  
Officiating  
Volunteers  
Coaching

### MASS

MASS Market

### Marketing & Communications

Competitions  
Sponsorship  
Marketing & Communications

### Operations

Meetings  
Staff Costs  
Membership Costs  
Other Core Costs

Sport England  
Affiliation Fees  
Ranking & Tournament Levies  
Bank Interest  
Other Income  
HMRC CJRS

### Other

BPTT Performance Grant  
Other Grants  
Regions

### (Surplus)/Deficit

	2021			2020		
Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure (Net Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure (Net Income)	
Talent & Performance	381,683	15,000	366,683	393,641	10,000	383,641
	6,066	6,066	0	-	-	0
	60,721	24,520	36,201	95,471	17,126	78,345
	448,470	45,586	402,884	489,112	27,126	461,986
Development	369,048	35,010	334,038	346,670	46,910	299,760
	125,566	8,041	117,525	81,470	-	81,470
	177,419	174,305	3,114	202,252	197,747	4,505
	1,380	822	558	34,859	24,064	10,795
	21,500		21,500	48,500	-	48,500
	1,671		1,671	3,762	-	3,762
	370		370	19,411	1,110	18,301
	2,237		2,237	2,242	-	2,242
	88,752	19,075	69,677	159,951	108,085	51,866
	787,943	237,253	550,690	899,117	377,916	521,201
MASS Market	456,038	50,897	405,141	502,696	71,156	431,540
	456,038	50,897	405,141	502,696	71,156	431,540
Marketing & Communications	160,805	6,544	154,261	508,745	313,097	195,648
			0		41,667	(41,667)
	112,595	45,620	66,975	120,252	52,208	68,044
	273,400	52,164	221,236	628,997	406,972	222,025
Operations	10,108		10,108	52,581		52,581
	300,236		300,236	309,152		309,152
	99,662		99,662	163,898		163,898
	314,246		314,246	339,434		339,434
Sport England	1,907,741	(1,907,741)		1,987,879	(1,987,879)	
Affiliation Fees	286,846	(286,846)		414,293	(414,293)	
Ranking & Tournament Levies	422	(422)		51,111	(51,111)	
Bank Interest	747	(747)		1,174	(1,174)	
Other Income	1,112	(1,112)		3,158	(3,158)	
HMRC CJRS	108,838	(108,838)				
	724,252	2,305,706	(1,581,454)	865,065	2,457,615	(1,592,550)
Other	609,818	609,818	0	729,992	729,992	0
	109,713	109,713	0	211,664	211,664	0
			0	6,671	1,241	5,430
	719,531	719,531	0	948,327	942,897	5,430
(Surplus)/Deficit	3,409,634	3,411,137	(1,503)	4,333,314	4,283,682	49,632



## Notes to Income and Expenditure Report

### For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

- Note 1 The Jack Petchey Foundation Grant is included in Income. The grant has been matched against related expenditure.
- Note 2 British Para Table Tennis (BPTT) 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 BPTT 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 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Intangible assets	5	32,779	39,330
Tangible assets	6	22,025	24,906
		54,804	64,236
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	7	36,490	56,666
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	8	52,076	123,468
Cash at bank and in hand	9	1,089,543	780,021
		1,178,109	960,155
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(798,329)	(591,309)
<b>Net current assets</b>		379,780	368,846
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		434,584	433,082
<b>Net assets</b>		434,584	433,082
<b>Reserves</b>			
Testimonial funds		32,257	32,257
Income and expenditure account		402,327	400,825
		434,584	433,082

## IN MEMORIAM

**Chester Barnes:** Described as ‘the George Best of table tennis’, Chester was one of the most recognisable sportspeople in England in the 60s and 70s.

He first became national Men’s Singles champion in 1963 at the age of just 15 – still the youngest ever winner – defeating five England Internationals on the way to the title: Terry Densham, Jeff Ingber, Michael Thornhill, David Creamer and, in the final, Alan Rhodes.

He made his senior England debut the same year and a string of honours followed, including a further four national titles, while he rose to a high of No 16 in the world rankings in 1967.

There was controversy too, as Chester was known for giving forthright interviews to the press, even in his younger days. This led to conflict with, among others, national selectors and meant he was not rewarded with as many international appearances as perhaps he merited.

And although there was huge success domestically at the Nationals and various English Open events, plus an unbeaten record in the four years he played at the Quadrangular (Home Nations) Tournament, he never quite reached his potential on the top stage.

Chester played in the (World Championships) Swaythling Cup team in 1963, 1965, 1967 and 1969 with a highest finish of sixth in 1969. In the individual events, Chester never finished above the round of 32 in the Singles although with Denis Neale the pair were quarter-finalists in 1967 in the Men’s Doubles.

It was a similar story in the European Championships playing in the team event in 1964 (eighth), 1966 (sixth) and 1970 (seventh). Chester only reached a high of the round of 16 in the Men’s Singles in 1964 and 1966 although he did get as far as the quarter-finals in the Men’s Doubles, again with Denis Neale, and was runner-up in the Mixed Doubles with Mary Wright in 1966.

The last of his Nationals singles titles came in 1974, and he also claimed five Men’s Doubles titles and two Mixed Doubles titles. It was later in 1974 that his career began to fizzle out, and he announced his retirement in April 1975.

That was not the end of his sporting achievement though, as he went on to enjoy dozens of memorable moments as assistant to the great racehorse trainer Martin Pipe.

**Geof Bax:** Veterans’ world champion, who stood on top of the podium at the World Veterans’ Championships in Stockholm in 2012, winning gold in the MS80 category. It was one of a collection of medals on the world and European stages, including doubles gold at the Worlds in New Zealand two years later, claiming the WD80 category



Above: Geof Bax on the podium; below: Heather Masters; right: Chester Barnes



alongside German partner Gunter Kraus. He was a bronze medallist in the MS85 class at the Europeans in 2017. As well as his huge success on the table, Geof was also a Level 1 Umpire. He was also seen on national TV as one of the stars of a National Lottery promotional advert at Christmas 2015.

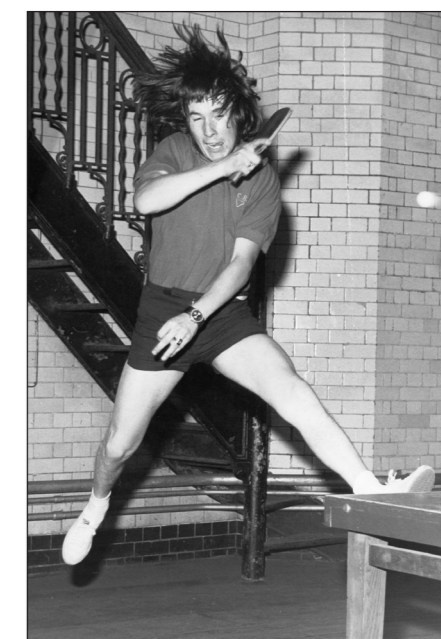
**Peter Williams:** England international Peter first started playing table tennis in Hatfield where he lived with his parents and sister, Judy, who too went on to become an England International and English Women’s Singles National Champion before playing for the Netherlands.

The call for his first senior international came when he was 21, playing with Chester Barnes and Connie Warren against Israel on 21st October 1968 in Southgate, London. The team won 9-0 with all of the team winning all their three singles matches.

Further England caps were in the pipeline as Peter was selected for a tour of Ireland. However, disaster struck during a county match on 16th November 1968. Unaware he had broken his foot during the match, Peter carried on playing and didn’t get any treatment until 10 days later. The damage led to a slipped disc at the base of his spine and he was never able to fully train again.

**Heather Masters:** International umpire who umpired at the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977 and later became the first female umpire to be given the honour of umpiring the Men’s Singles final at an English Open.

She was selected to umpire at several other international events including two Commonwealth Championships, the Scottish Open, Belgian Open and Welsh Open. A defensive player who became county champion of Berkshire and



Oxfordshire, Heather was married to John Masters, himself a top international umpire.

**Fred Lockwood:** Multiple world and European veterans’ medallist, with four golds among his total of 17 medals.

Appeared alongside Geof Bax in the National Lottery advert in 2015.

**Gerald Gurney:** Table Tennis England Vice-President and table tennis historian and collector. Played table tennis for both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Founder General Secretary of English Schools’ Table Tennis Association (ESTTA) and later Chairman, President and first Life Member.

**Eileen Allison:** National Referee and National Umpire who played at Many World and European Veteran Championships.

**Bob Stannard:** Husband of Hon Past President Doreen Stannard.

**Graeme Sopp:** International umpire and President of North West Kent League.

**Tony Lillicrapp:** former Leicestershire Chairman, National Councillor and Leicester and District League Secretary.

*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

Edited by Paul Stimpson

Photographs courtesy of Michael Loveder, Melvyn Lovegrove, Alan Man, Trevor Parsons, Stephen Pover, Chris Rayner, Diane Webb, ITTF

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen  
President: Jill Parker MBE  
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English Table Tennis Association Ltd  
Registered in England and Wales No 4268058

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