

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Chief Executive's Report

Author: Sara Sutcliffe

#### Introduction

1. This report covers the last three months of activity, since March 2020.
2. Attached to this report you will find departmental reports covering current activity, future activity and some of the challenges that the staff are facing in delivery of their programmes. This format was well received at the last National Council as it is important to understand the constraints as well as the positive progress.
3. We are obviously in an unprecedented time of disruption and the reports will give you more information in that regard.

#### Executive Report

4. The Covid-19 crisis has obviously affected every aspect of life. All organised table tennis activity has ceased and all competitions cancelled since mid-March. The Olympic and Paralympic Games have been postponed by 12 months. The office has been closed with staff working from home and those that we could have been furloughed i.e. not publicly funded roles. This has involved huge change and upheaval for all our staff and I pay them all credit for how they have embraced and managed this change.
5. Zoom has become a way of life for all of us and I thank National Council for adapting too. The AGM will also be held over Zoom and more information will shortly be available about how this will work but it will be different (as a virtual meeting with 100+ participants isn't easy to manage) so we are asking for your co-operation and understanding.
6. All AGM propositions were withdrawn which removed the need for an expensive and complex live weighted voting system. Instead for the items that need approval we will be using the simple polling function on Zoom. The Board has not considered how it will take forward its withdrawn propositions in the future and it is focusing on the immediate issues in hand.
7. The Board has been meeting every 2-3 weeks by Zoom and dealing with various matters as they arise. We have utilised various channels of communication for

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Period Covered: March- June

disseminating decisions and messages including the website, direct emails, webinars etc. We appreciate the 1800+ members who responded to our survey looking into attitudes to returning to play as this provides useful insight.

8. Throughout the crisis we have stayed closely linked to Sport England, UK Sport and other partners. Sport England have provided strong leadership in the sector, quickly providing grant advances to aid NGBs with cash flow, launching the community emergency fund which numerous table tennis clubs have benefited from, and also providing security for a 5<sup>th</sup> year of funding (i.e. extending the current 4 year cycle and confirming the same level of funding in 20-21 for 21-22).
9. However, we are facing a very real risk to our revenue as the new membership year arrives. A significant drop in revenue due to delayed/cancelled membership will have an impact on staffing and programme resources. The Board and Finance Committee are working closely with staff to identify savings in Q1 and Q2 but we must not be complacent. The communications team will be working hard to explain why membership renewals are so important. Your help in supporting this messaging is appreciated.
10. We are planning for the competition season to start on time (otherwise if we don't plan it won't happen) but we have a clear plan in place for go/no-go decisions on a modular basis and refund policies.
11. The Development team have been working very hard to keep on top of the changing Government advice and working closely with bodies such as Sport England, UK Active and the Sport and Recreation Alliance to ensure our Ready to Return guidance and advice is up to date and consistent with other indoor sports. It is an ever-evolving situation and will continue to be updated regularly. Common to several sports we have the issue of when venues and facilities will be available again.
12. Finally, throughout this period we have continued to refine the Mission 2025 strategy, a draft of which is presented to you. Whilst the intention was to publish it this summer in the current circumstances it is best to leave it as a consultation draft until we know and understand the full impact of the Covid 19 crisis. We hope that towards the end of the year we will be able to launch it afresh. We will still be presenting the draft to the AGM/Annual Conference.

Sara Sutcliffe

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Operations and Governance

Author: Joanna Keay-Blyth

### Information/Activities - Last Period

This period has been challenging as we closed down the offices and prepared everyone to work from home and managed to continue all support elements of the organisation.

We have embraced the use of Zoom and all meetings internally and externally have worked well. We also furloughed some of the team to minimise the financial impact that this period will have on us.

### Safeguarding

The Board undertook Safeguarding Training by the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) and Table Tennis England were assessed by the CPSU in their annual Safeguarding Framework Meeting.

**Membership Review** – over the last 9 months we have been undertaking a membership review and we presented this to National Councillors on a call following the cancellation of the physical meeting. Below you can see the new membership categories we will be introducing for the 20/21 season.

SUPPORT	JUST PLAY	CLUB PLAY	COMPETE (PLAYER MEMBER)	COMPETE PLUS (LICENCE)	TRIAL MEMBERSHIP
<p><b>Designed for:</b> Non-players</p> <p><b>Key features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First-to-know news updates</li><li>• Priority access/discounts to tickets</li><li>• Member-only competitions</li><li>• <b>FREE</b></li></ul>	<p><b>Designed for:</b> Beginners</p> <p><b>Key features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beginner's content to improve their game</li><li>• Priority access/discounts to tickets</li><li>• Member-only competitions</li><li>• <b>FREE</b></li></ul>	<p><b>Designed for:</b> Club &amp; other developing players</p> <p><b>Key features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public liability insurance – England-only</li><li>• Exclusive members-only content, incl. coaching videos, equipment advice, competitions &amp; member discounts</li><li>• <b>FREE 2020/21 Season Only</b></li></ul>	<p><b>Designed for:</b> League players &amp; those entering lower level national comps</p> <p><b>Key features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to play in affiliated leagues &amp; lower level national competitions</li><li>• Public liability &amp; personal accident insurance – <b>UK-only</b> eligibility</li><li>• Rankings &amp; ratings eligibility</li><li>• Exclusive members-only content, incl. coaching videos, equipment advice, competitions &amp; member discounts</li><li>• <b>£16 ADULTS</b></li><li>• <b>£8 CHILDREN</b></li></ul>	<p><b>Designed for:</b> League players, 2* national comps and above, elite pathway</p> <p><b>Key features:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to play in affiliated leagues &amp; higher level national competitions / BL</li><li>• Public liability &amp; personal accident insurance – <b>worldwide</b></li><li>• Rankings &amp; ratings eligibility</li><li>• Eligible to be selected to represent Team England</li><li>• Exclusive members-only content, incl. coaching videos, equipment advice, competitions &amp; member discounts</li><li>• <b>£38 ADULTS</b></li><li>• <b>£19 CHILDREN</b></li></ul>	<p>We are also proposing to introduce a trial membership for the 2020/21 season. This will be a three month membership that costs £8 and is only available to first-time members, or lapsed members who haven't had a membership for five+ years. It cannot be purchased more than once. We are initially looking to trial a summer league membership, for May-July. However, we will then consider whether it can be made available all year from the 2021/22 season, with an auto-upgrade to a full compete membership (additional £12) at the end of the 90 days, unless the subscription has been cancelled.</p>

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Period Covered: March- June

**TT Leagues** – We worked hard to ensure leagues could manage the early closure of the current season and guidance was released to aid our Leagues to complete this. We also completed pilots to be able to deliver County Championships for the over 60's and NJL and these have worked well with minimal development required to be able to deliver this for the new season.

### Information/Activities – Current/Future

**TT Memberships** – All outstanding results and queries have been completed and the final ranking run has now been completed. The Ranking Policy Group will meet to discuss the details of closing down the season and preparing for the new season.

Preparation for renewals on the 1<sup>st</sup> August continue to progress as normal as we hope and plan to start the season to schedule.

**TT Leagues** – Version 1.6.0 released at the end May has added significant enhancement and bug fixes to the system, details can be found on the link below.

[https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/positive-feedback-as-tt-leagues-updated/?utm\\_campaign=1751485\\_Over%20the%20Net%20-%20May%2029%2C%202020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Table%20Tennis%20England&TTID\\_Auto=202127&dm\\_i=38NL,11JGD,6Q13SX,3Z6SN,1](https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/positive-feedback-as-tt-leagues-updated/?utm_campaign=1751485_Over%20the%20Net%20-%20May%2029%2C%202020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Table%20Tennis%20England&TTID_Auto=202127&dm_i=38NL,11JGD,6Q13SX,3Z6SN,1)

Future development looking at dashboards and local league ranking for the new season.

**AGM** – It has been confirmed that the AGM will be held virtually this year due to Coronavirus, in light of this and the challenges the country are facing the Board decided to remove all propositions, therefore affiliation fees will remain the same but the categories will move to the new categories. Details of joining instructions will be sent nearer the time but will require pre-registration.

**Elections** – Elections are taking place to appoint the vacant position on the Board for an Elected Director and there are 2 candidates who are currently being voted for by the company members. Results will be announced at the end of June.

### Challenges/Issues

1. Covid 19 has caused significant challenges that the teams are working through to ensure we support our clubs, leagues and counties through this difficult time.
2. Furloughing of teams has been necessary to minimise our financial exposure during this uncertain time.

### Actions from National Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019

No actions from March Meeting as the physical meeting was cancelled due to Covid 19 outbreak and a zoom meeting was held with some National Councillors.

## **CEO Report & Departmental Reports**

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### **In Memoriam**

Charlie Childs – Board Member

Ronnie Allcock, Bobby Raybould, Peter Shead - England internationals

Geoff Scruton - International umpire

John Burtenshaw – Vice President of the Association

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Performance Update

Author: Simon Mills

### Information/Activities - Last Period

- Covid impact dominates the news and all performance activities are currently on hold
- Return to training phase one and two are being explored with a limited return planned in June. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-phased-return-of-sport-and-recreation>
- Players and staff have been very busy engaging with the table tennis membership through webinars and online training sessions;
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/eat-with-team-england-marias-authentic-pasta/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/question-time-with-liam-pitchford/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/eat-with-team-england-payets-perfect-practice-porridge/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/pauls-insights-plus-your-chance-to-quiz-liam/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/young-england-athletes-make-most-of-lockdown/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/maria-joins-tt-kidz-afterschool-club-sign-up-now/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/be-ready-to-return-with-our-exercise-routine/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/watch-tin-tin-perform-her-lockdown-song/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/club-webinar-engaging-talented-athletes/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/sign-up-for-coaching-webinar-with-alan-cooke/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/look-after-your-mental-health-says-liam/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/youth-development-webinar-for-coaches/>
  - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/athletes-welcome-olympics-delay/>
  - Liam returns to WR top 15; <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/liam-back-into-worlds-top-15/>

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Information/Activities – Current/Future

- UK Sport funding application submitted for phase one- feedback received and moving to stage a revised stage two.
- Funding for Commonwealth Games 2022 preparation from Sport England has been applied for.
- Funding for year five for talent has been applied for.
- World Tour events and World Championships events continue to be delayed- unlikely now before Q4 2020 or Q1 2021 for World Championships;  
<https://www.ittf.com/2020/06/04/ittf-executive-committee-june-update-covid-19/>
- World Table Tennis event communications continue and the Board and Executive are exploring how and what we bid if an underwrite from the ITTF is possible.
- Nine Backing the Best places were awarded to Table Tennis players- this provides TTE with £5k per player per annum to support their training and competition programmes.
- Ten TASS places have been awarded. These provide Sports Science and Medicine support to the players.
- DISE places across all sports were oversubscribed and most have been reduced, TTE from 15-12 and are now open;  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/applications-open-for-diploma-in-sporting-excellence/> . This provides each player with additional training support through a preferred provider of further education, 16-19 years old. The players also gain a qualification that can be used to support their UCAS applications.
- All international selections will be reviewed once the return to competition is known.

Squad selections have also been delayed;

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/england-squad-applications-deadline-extended/>

### Challenges/Issues

The issues continue:

- Return to training
- Olympic qualification impact
- Future funding for the Olympic players

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Competitions & Events Update

Author: Neil Rogers

#### Information/Activities - Last Period

- Since the last National Council mtg: VBL wk2, the Senior National Championships, and JBL wk2 all took place successfully prior to the impact of COVID-19
- However, COVID-19 has resulted in [events being cancelled through the busiest part of the year](#), as follows:

March	April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grand Prix #3</li><li>• Cadet National Cup</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U12 National Cup</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cadet/ Jnr National Champs</li><li>• Inter-Regional Finals</li><li>• Grand Prix #4</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• U10-13 National Champs</li><li>• Jnr National Cup</li><li>• Grand Prix #5</li></ul>

- Additionally, the following leagues have been concluded at an incomplete stage:
  - SBL Premier Division, Championship, Divisions A-C (12)
  - 1x County Champs Cadet division + 1x County Champs Junior division
  - 4x NCL divisions + 1x NJL division
- Lastly, a large number of regional events, and external/ sanctioned events (projected at 100+), have been cancelled in the March – July window
- A detailed review process of the [Mark Bates Ltd. Senior National Championships](#) has taken place; an Executive Summary follows:
  1. Generally, very positive feedback, notably including layout and visual impact (which showed the largest gains in both the player and spectator feedback)
  2. Introduction of (ITTF) [live scoring, displays and website-feed](#) a significant step-change
  3. Level of entries very close to capacity – much better than in recent years, and attributed to success and momentum of separate Qualifying event
  4. Wheelchair event successfully integrated for the first time in several years
  5. Significant progression achieved in recruitment/ support/ deployment of event volunteers
  6. Consistency of venue allowed for year-on-year gains in planning/ relationship/ delivery
  7. A new sponsor has resulted in increased annual partner income, on a 5yr basis. This was in many ways an ‘11<sup>th</sup> hour’ agreement, but appears to have been successful and valued on both sides
  8. Whilst not a result of planning or delivery, we were blessed with some excellent games of table tennis, which also assisted with atmosphere!

The headline quantitative feedback from the player/ officials and spectator/ guest surveys follows:

- **EVERY** player/ official’s metric (9) was a **positive** shift, with an increase from an average 6.5 to **8.0** out of 10
- **EVERY** guest/ spectator metric (15) was a **positive** shift, with an increase in ‘overall experience’ from 7.1 to **8.6** out of 10.

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Information/Activities – Current/Future

- Table Tennis England are continuing to plan for a full season. However, we recognise that the situation will evolve and it is likely we may have to adapt our plans. We will continue to communicate with clubs, leagues and individual members as the current restrictions are eased and a way forward for sport becomes clearer.  
Consequently, in-principle arrangements for 25+ key events in season 20/21 are being actively progressed (venues, accommodation, prospectus, equipment tenders, referee appointments, umpire appointments etc)
- Following an open process, the University of Central Lancashire in Preston will host the ETTU men's European Championships 2020-2021 Stage 1A/ Group 2/ Round 1 versus ESP on Tuesday 13 October 2020. UCLAN are providing the venue free of charge for the 2-day duration
- Following a competitive tender process, *Butterfly by Tees Sports* have been appointed as the Table Tennis England Official Ball Supplier, and also the SBL Official Ball Supplier **<not yet formally announced; check website>**
- British League continues to be area of priority work and focus, with multiple threads being actively progressed simultaneously, including:
  - Ground-up re-write of [pre-season information suite](#) (Invitation Letter + Entry Form + Club Ranking Form + Player Registration Form + Final Tables)
  - Ground-up re-write of the SBL Premier Division club guidance document
  - Review and re-write of BL regulations (all sections)
  - Functionality developments and improvements for the BL fixtures and results platform
  - Revision of approach to Umpire appointments in collaboration with TOC
- The [Rankings consultation](#) has concluded, with initial findings and next steps agreed by Board, and a report written as part of feedback to the membership **<to be published w/c 15 June; check website>**
- The [British League Strategy consultation](#) has concluded. A brief strategy has been agreed by the working group and the British League Committee, and was also submitted to Board. This has now been [launched and communicated to the membership](#)
- An outline project brief for a Competitions Review has been considered and agreed by the Heads of Dep't within the Sport Directorate, and subsequently also agreed by Board. Further details will be available in due course.

### Challenges/Issues

- Please see above relating to activity impacted by COVID-19
- A significant amount of time has been invested in supporting Board to consider and test specific scenarios relating [conclusion of incomplete leagues](#)
- As a consequence of cancelled activity April-June due to COVID-19, a full reforecasting of the '20/21 budget has taken place

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Period Covered: March- June

- Detailed scenario planning and budgetary impact analysis has been undertaken based on the risk of cancellations/ delays to the beginning of next season.

[A national position on cancellations and refunds has been proposed to and agreed by Board in order to provide a roadmap for internal decisions and advance notification for members](#)

- COVID-19 has had a sizeable impact on Departmental staffing, and we have been running at between 20-30% capacity since mid-March; at the time of writing:
  - 1 member of staff is furloughed as part of the job retention scheme
  - Recruitment has been suspended for the Events & Competitions Administrator until October
  - Recruitment has been suspended for the new BL Executive Officer role until at least June
  - 1 member of staff was on a 50% working pattern for 3 months to use legitimately accrued TOIL and annual leave

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Mass Update

Author: Keely Armitt

#### Information/Activities - Last Period

- COVID-19 'Lockdown' meant that all Mass Market activity and programmes were temporarily suspended in March. On 15<sup>th</sup> May we were able to work with partners to make a large percentage of our network of outdoor public tables available again and issued guidance in line with the governments on how to safely play outdoors.
- We have created a draft 'new world' strategy that we are beginning to implement sections of, particularly around *TT at Home* and very localised infrastructure building and activation, working with partners to target identified priority groups who are becoming even more isolated by the pandemic - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/taking-table-tennis-to-the-isolated-and-inactive/>
- We are investing additional time into the creation of relevant content for a wider customer base and have recently launched a recreational player 'Over the Net' e-newsletter that contains some of the main OTN content but also some tailored content too. We have a mailing list of about 5,000 that this goes to and are carefully analysing what content is appealing to shape future engagement which will be important when we launch our new Just Play membership category next year.

#### Challenges/Issues

- Our Business Membership is ready to launch and was due to go live on 1<sup>st</sup> April, but sadly this is now on hold until companies resume a more normal way of working. The model we have developed gives businesses a one-year membership when they purchased our Loop at Work product
- Disappointingly, the Ping Pong Parlour Activator pilot project that was due to launch in April is delayed as a result of COVID-19, potentially indefinitely. The pilot was going to be a key area of work to test social competition, gather important insight and build a closer relationship with our customers. All Parlours are of course currently closed and there is a significant question mark above over when they will open again. We are therefore repurposing the financial resource that had been allocated to this project.

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Marketing and Communications Update

Author: Lucy Franklin

#### Membership

##### New membership categories

- Due to COVID-19 we have had to review and ensure our new membership categories that will be introduced this coming season are still relevant in terms of pricing and offerings.
- Creation of communications strategy developed to ensure we educate all of our current members on the changes, ensuring they are clear on which category would best suit their needs.
- Communications channels used to provide this information will be focused on digital, which includes email marketing, website updates and across our social media channels with promotion beginning mid-June.

#### Membership survey

We have all results back from our annual membership survey. Marketing and Communications are now working with the core team to analyse findings and feedback, which will be communicated by the end of June.

- **Website:**
  - In-depth analysis completed on three suppliers who submitted tenders
  - Appointed preferred supplier to undertake technical scope document and draft site map
- **Brand**
  - Working on a brand refresh which will assist us with website look and feel - creation of new assets that we can utilise when creating digital and non-digital assets
- **Commercial:**
  - Working closely with Mark Bates Ltd. on a marketing and communications plan to promote our partnership
- **Return to table tennis**
  - Provide on-going Marketing and Communications support across the business to ensure all players, members and fans are aware of our staged approach of getting back to playing the sport.
- **Communications:**
  - Annual Review work progressing, with design stage continuing and will be ready to distribute late June.
  - We have continued to generate good media coverage for the sport, including national media coverage. This included an article about the boom of table tennis during lockdown, which was distributed by the Press Association, and was carried by

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Period Covered: March- June

almost 600 other regional and national media platforms including Sky News, BT Sport and the Daily Mail Website reaching a combined audience of more than 150 million, according to our media monitoring service. To have purchased equivalent advertising space would have cost almost £1.5 million.

- Ongoing coverage of table tennis news and creation of weekly newsletter, bi-monthly club newsletter and quarterly schools' newsletter
- **COVID19 comms:** work in this area continues to be fast-moving and a large volume of communications have gone out across all touchpoints. We will continue to ensure members and stakeholders are updated.
- **COVID19 content:** we have been producing and promoting content for a wide range of audiences throughout the lockdown, including regular Team England takeovers, webinars for coaches, umpires, clubs and members and a fitness video with Alan Cooke. We also created a Play at Home page to capitalize on the increasing amount of people taking up table tennis during the lockdown. Linked to this, we worked with the Mass Participation team to form a partnership with Sport England for a competition giveaway of 60 instant ping pong packs. This was a hugely successful campaign with over 35,000 visits to the page on Table Tennis England's website. We will evaluate the success of this partnership in the coming weeks to understand the level of engagement with those who signed up.
- **Ongoing Marketing and Communications Support** - continue to offer marcomms support to departments for products including: TT Leagues, club affiliation, membership renewals and school programs

### Challenges/Issues

- Website continues to be an issue and our priority is to ensure we address this and options are being reviewed to ensure its ongoing performance in the interim before the new website can be launched.

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Period Covered: March- June



### Development & Volunteering Update

Author: Greg Yarnell

#### Information/Activities - Last Period

- TT Kidz:
  - Two rounds of TT Kidz have now taken place with:
    - 65 programmes running
    - 750 young people taking part in their 8-week programme
    - Excellent feedback received by participants
  - Applications for clubs to run in phase 3 in October are now open (dependent on whether possible due to Covid-19).  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/sign-up-to-get-tt-kidz-in-your-club/>
  - TT Kidz after school club has been running throughout lockdown, with attendees peaking at over 60 participants and regularly engaging approximately 30 participants each week. <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/organisers/bett/sign-up-for-live-tt-kidz-afterschool-club/>
- There have been eighteen TT Kidz schools' pilots running between January and March, with TT Kidz for schools due to be launched in April 2020, which has now been pushed back to September 2020, due to Covid 19.
- The female ambassador programme has re-opened following the successful engagement of 18 female ambassadors in the first 12 months  
<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/its-green-for-go-for-ambassador-erin/>
- There have been weekly coaching and club webinars running covering a variety of topics, engaging over 200 different clubs and people. These have been really positively received, to date there have been 12 club webinars and 11 coach webinars
- The Be TT programme was launched for year four with funding applications now open, focus this year is on the following areas:
  - Female participation
  - U11 participation through TT Kidz
  - Shorter format leagues
  - Supporting clubs returning to activity following the lockdown period
- The National Schools Team Final went ahead as planned towards the end of March, but unfortunately the National Schools Individual Finals, Home Countries Primary and Senior Schools Internationals were all cancelled.

#### Information/Activities – Current/Future

- At the start of the lockdown period, staff members rang round every Premier Club to 'check in' and understand the challenges they may be having and to better understand what support might be helpful
- There have been 27 clubs awarded funding from our partner Sport England, totalling a sum of over £80,000 to support clubs through the Coronavirus period

## CEO Report & Departmental Reports

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020



Period Covered: March- June

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/sport-england-fund-helps-table-tennis-clubs/>

- The team have been preparing various advice, guidance and template documents to assist clubs and leagues in returning to the sport when safe to do so, more information can be found here <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/clubs/clubs-guidance/ready-to-return/>
- The Pride of Table Tennis awards will re-open for nominations towards the end of June and include two new categories, School of the Year and Local Lockdown Hero (a one-off award, hopefully)
- We have had a Ready to return player survey open for the past couple of weeks, which has gathered over 1800 responses. You will find a report from the findings of this survey attached separately.
- We will continue to engage with coaches, clubs and leagues up and down the country through our series of webinars and will be on hand to support clubs and leagues over the phone with advice and guidance on an individual basis
- The Jack Petchey table donation scheme has continued, despite the challenging times, with over 150 school applications. The team are currently reviewing these applications, this year there has been a focus on girls' participation.

### Challenges/Issues

- The current landscape makes it challenging to plan ahead with regards to Be TT and TT Kidz programmes. However, we continue to move forward and have opened applications in both of these areas from clubs and leagues, hoping that the green light is given to get the season going as soon as physically possible.
- Five of the team are currently furloughed, which slows the progress of some of our projects and programmes, but the team continue to work hard across all areas to pick up additional responsibilities to enable us to support clubs, leagues, volunteers, coaches and officials at this time.
- Ambitions of providing a diverse workforce for the Commonwealth Games 2022 continue to advance at pace, however the current lockdown situation has slowed down the support and qualification of gaining valuable experience and completing qualifications. The team have detailed plans in place to enable umpires to continue their journey towards Birmingham 2022, despite the challenging times we are currently in.
- Coaching and officiating courses were postponed when the lockdown hit and it is still unknown as to when we will be able to re-organise these courses, but we are working proactively with candidates completing any online learning they can in the meantime.