



## **Chairman's Report: Sandra Deaton**

Despite the lifting of some lockdown restrictions it continues to remain difficult to get table tennis back on the field of play for the majority of our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members for all the extra hours they have put in to deal with the changing landscape of our sport over the last few months.

I would also like to thank Sara and her team for all they have done to stay in touch with the membership, provide guidance on the return to play, deal with the massive uncertainties around competition, support our talent pathway and elite athletes and consider all the financial implications on a reduced income. We have no way of knowing how the 20/21 season will materialise but every effort is being made to keep the sport on an even pathway.

Sara has been central to the lobbying of the government to lift restrictions on indoor facilities which would allow many of our grassroots organisations to consider returning to participation. We are also grateful to our principle stakeholders Sport England for supporting all sports to return to activity. This has not only been manifested in financial support but in high level dealings with the ultimate government bodies.

GB table tennis has also been well supported by UK Sport with the pathway to Tokyo 2021 being maintained. The global Covid 19 situation has affected all competitions at both ITTF and ETTU level with consistent event postponements. The World Championships in Korea have now been scheduled for the end of February 2021. This has meant that we have needed to consider an alternative date for our own National Championships. The World Table Tennis (WTT) are beginning to bring together an events calendar for 2021.

As I write this report the ITTF AGM will be held later today (September 28th) There has been several virtual workshops prior to the AGM.

The ETTU held their virtual Congress on September 15th. Central to this AGM was the election of the ETTU Executive Board. Although the new President and Deputy President were unopposed a secret vote on both positions took place. Mr Igor Levitin was elected as the new President of the ETTU. There were two candidates for the position of Vice President for Finances. I was duly elected taking 2/3rds of the votes. As anticipated, there was significant number of nominations for the other categories of the elections.

The necessity to hold a virtual AGM was indeed stepping into the unknown but the general conclusion was one of a successful event under very difficult circumstances. I would like to thank Jo and her team for the tremendous effort and organisation they undertook to make the AGM a professional concept.

The work of the Association to maximise the use of the virtual concepts to support, guide, instruct and communicate with our members through club, coaching and performance webinars has been greatly appreciated by the membership. The events department have worked closely with the Board to monitor the decisions on our competitions.

The use of social media as a means of communication has increased immensely over the period of the pandemic. We embraced this with the "Ask Us Anything" Facebook panel. This was very well received and we will continue to maximise this concept as a method of communication with the membership.



### **Table Tennis England**

Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK8 9LA  
T 01908 208860 E [help@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:help@tabletennisengland.co.uk)

[www.tabletennisengland.co.uk](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk)

Table Tennis England is a trading name of English Table Tennis Association Limited, registered in England at Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK8 9LA. Registered in England Company number 04268058