



Questions raised by Neil LeMilliere:

Q: Venue Costs: I note the mention of this in the CEO report. It continues to be the major concern for Kent, their and my leagues, teams, clubs, and players; with only reduced numbers able to use both practice and match facilities. Any updated advice other than running two player leagues which also will not work financially for most if not all of them? Ping tables obviously will not work during the evenings and I am not aware of any parlours in Central London or any in Kent other than the one in Chatham?

A: We are keen to speak to all clubs and leagues to explore alternative opportunities to enable club and/or league play to return safely, with every club and league having various nuances, it is probably best to pick up this on a call for specific advice in your area. Please let us know if it would be helpful to arrange this.

Q: Website: Work starts imminently and by Christmas the majority of the work should be done. Is it still on track to complete the majority of work by Christmas?

A: We have made some great progress in relation to the new website. The website is planned to be launched Q1 of 2021. This timeline has not changed, and we will be continuing to carry out the work required to meet this deadline. We will continue to update on the project accordingly and by Christmas there will be a large amount of the work done, however more will be required into the new year.

Note: There was an issue with the redirect, but this has now been rectified and thank you for bringing to our attention

REPORTS

Q: Mass: Lucy Franklin report. It always surprises me that they no linking up between the various initiatives that TTE organise and their Leagues/Clubs/Members in the areas that these things are happening in. The new partnership with Ping! Westminster and CIC (Community Integrated Care) is a case in point. The LB&CSTTL's main area of play is in the Westminster/Victoria area and yet the first we know of this is from this report. We really need to start to be more joined up going forward once the pandemic restrictions have eased if necessary.

A: Both stories that are referenced have been included in our direct member communication of Over the Net. They are also available on our website for any person to consume. As our CIC partnership progresses, we will have more stories and information to share amongst our membership base. Westminster is a very new partnership and the announcement acts as a catalyst for club and league involvement now that a base of play is starting to emerge. We will continue to communicate as our partnerships build to our different audience through the most appropriate channels. We are also scrutinising the way we engage with a place or partner to ensure alignment between traditional and non-traditional TT settings are and a clear route to continuing to play is highlighted. We are constantly in review of our communications across the business and how we align across all departments. This includes determining ways of which we promote a cross section of stories to share with our membership base. The Mass and Core team, have been regularly liaising since the Summer to understand work areas, share any streams of work that dovetail and ensure that there is no duplication.



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Q: Similarly, Ping Pong Parlours. I cannot think of a better area to have one of these than the centre of London but there is only one inside the M25 and that is nowhere near the centre but rather in Walton-on-Thames. There are hundreds of suitable spaces in Central London, has any work been done to identify somewhere or do we wait for them to come to us? In addition, there is just one in the whole of Kent so the same applies to there. This is surely the perfect time when everyone is struggling to afford the normal venues.

A: There has been a substantial amount of work behind the scenes contacting shopping centres around the country (those that are open) to understand their current position in light of COVID-19. There have been three Parlours that have been able to reopen, however understandably we need to understand the sensitivities of each centre's position due to the pandemic. We are very slowly seeing an increase in the interest in Parlours again with another one opening on Monday (Stoke) and another couple committed to open again after half term depending on the R rate level. It is worth noting that consumer behaviour is changing in relation to shopping centres from pre-Covid they were more of a social hub, attracting large numbers to meet up in a social setting and play. However, feedback we have received is that now people are visiting shopping centres to shop, not socialise. This is however presenting more of an opportunity to clubs/coaches to use them as a base which is something that we are investigating.

Q: MAG Report, did the 33 counties that did not take up the offer of an on-line discussion indicate why they hadn't and, if so, was there any common theme that could be identified? Is it possible to know which counties did take up the offer? I note the consistent theme from the six that did was that TTE and the Board need to improve communication and engagement and would concur with that from a Kent perspective although of course we didn't take up the offer. I note the continuing offer and will feed that back to Kent.

A: **From Neil Hurford, Chair of MAG:**

Replies were received from about 12 counties. No replies were received from the remaining 27 counties. Eight counties expressed interest in meeting for an online discussion. Six meetings were arranged with Hertfordshire, Sussex, South Yorkshire, Yorkshire, Dorset, and Cleveland. A meeting has been arranged with Buckinghamshire for early November. Northumberland have expressed interest in arranging a meeting – but we have not yet been able to arrange a date.

Feedback from the six participating counties has been positive. We have captured all the suggestions for ideas for our future work programme and a report will be published in due course.

In terms of the others who replied – one reported no interest from their leagues or committee. Three reported interest from one or two people. I judged that this was not sufficient to make a MAG meeting viable. I toyed with the idea of arranging a meeting which "pooled" the interest from several counties, but this proved impractical to arrange. Though most of those who expressed interest have been invited to a similar MAG engagement discussion, eg the forthcoming one with members of the TTE Advisory Network.

At the National Council meeting, I reminded Councillors that the offer of a meeting remained on the table. But there have not been any subsequent takers. We would be delighted to arrange a meeting with Kent.



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The low response from Counties contrasts markedly with the other engagement activities we have organised. Response rate has been over 90% and participation rate over 80%. Indeed, we have had people who have heard about these engagement activities contacting me directly asking if they can be invited to them. We have always said yes.

Q: Incidentally am I right in saying that Table Tennis England is still our trading Name and the Company Name is still ETTA?

A: The legal company name is ETTA Ltd and the trading name is Table Tennis England.

Q: If so then we probably need to keep control of the old website URL www.etta.co.uk which when you type it in to your browser is no longer responding to anyone – probably until we or someone else buys it. It should still be re-directing to the new website I would have thought. The last time it is currently shown as responding is 21 Aug 2019 though it could have been much later than that.

A: The domain of etta.co.uk is still registered to the original owner until Dec 2021, which means that we will not have any risk in someone else buying the domain. We are currently investigating about what has happened with redirection to the Table Tennis England website and will have this fixed in due course.

I have just looked at the Board Meeting Summary and there are a number of typos that could do with being corrected and they don't read very well in a few places.

In the report it mentions the Covid restrictions and I have noticed there is one area where we are unclear in our instructions. Where a bubble of X are playing and staying on one table it I think says individuals can make up their mind whether they wear a mask whilst waiting for their turn to play as there is no definitive advice from Government. I suspect this is because those responsible for the Government guidance do not appreciate the way that bubbles work on a practice table or in a match scenario. I really think we should go back to government and explain how they work and ask for definitive guidance.

A: We are in regular communication with Sport England, who in turn, work closely with DCMS and all sports do feed in their various nuances as appropriate. Our current advice on face masks is 'Face masks to be worn when not playing and by anyone else that enters the facility that is not playing, i.e. parent/carer. There is no guidance from Government about wearing face coverings in between exercise but Government guidance states that face masks do not have to be worn when to avoid harm or injury, or the risk of harm or injury, to yourself or others - including if it would negatively impact on your ability to exercise or participate in a strenuous activity. Players would be expected to where a face covering if they believe after exercising that wearing a face covering would not unduly affect their recovery and not put you at risk of harm or injury.'

Questions raised by Alan Ransome:

I understand that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport have been asking national governing bodies for their



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proposals and requests for funding due to the current situation with the Covid-19 virus and that these requests were required to be submitted by Wednesday of last week.

Can you please provide details of the Table Tennis England submission to DCMS and report on how it has been received and any other information that you may have would also be welcome.

At the same time, your development staff were very helpful in providing support for clubs who were able to take advantage of funding from the government to assist with costs relating to the virus in the period up to 31st July. Those costs are still being incurred by clubs who are doing their best to provide table tennis for their members and other people who want to play over this period. The costs from the opening day of the 25th July for clubs have been substantial including the loss of income caused by the restrictions, the costs of cleaning and protection which are required by the regulations promoted by Table Tennis England and other costs unspecified here.

Can you please provide an update for the prospects for financial support for the second half of the year from the government for these clubs?

Response from Sara Sutcliffe CEO:

We have been in close contact with Sport England and to a lesser extent UK Sport and DCMS reporting on the financial impact of the pandemic. Whilst there was a fund available in the summer it was for critical need only, to support those NGBs that were facing extreme financial crisis. For various reasons we did not fall into that category – as the membership year did not start until 1 August, we were not able to demonstrate the impact of reduced membership. Likewise, we do have reasonable financial reserves. Finally, with the Sport England flexibility we have been able to de-ringfence some money from certain areas like Mass to shore up central operations. We did respond to a request for information from DCMS this week regarding events that usually benefit from spectator revenue and the impact.

We have been encouraged to continue to share information regarding the financial impact of the crisis and respond whenever data is sought. However, it has also been made clear that any further top up support will only be to help an NGB facing critical need, not just as a substitute for lost revenue. Like all businesses we are expected to cut our cloth accordingly first and several NGBs are in the sad process of making significant redundancies at the moment.

We are also a signatory and active member of the Sports Recovery Fund campaign which you will see more about in the coming weeks. This is a sector wide campaign to lobby Government for a recovery fund for sport – from professional clubs and spectator sports down to grassroots and shoring up the leisure centres and other providers too. Whilst there is no guarantee of outcome, we will need to mobilise the table tennis family to lobby MPs, support social media campaigns etc.

We understand that Sport England are considering further small grants to assist grassroots clubs but there is no firm information on that yet. As soon as we become aware, we will of course let you know.



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