



Chief Executive's Report

19th June 2021

Paper: 9d

Introduction

This report covers the period from March until end May 2021.

As always 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. I will try not to repeat that detail and instead focus on the bigger picture and the stakeholder landscape.

The biggest excitement is of course the return to activity in clubs and competitions. As I write this report is it National Volunteer week and it is fair to say that the ability of clubs, leagues and competitions to restart is down to the hard work and dedication of all our volunteers. Thank you!

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate my thanks to the staff and the Board for all their support and hard work throughout this period.

Executive Report

The planning for the AGM is advanced and there will be lots of communications about how the day will work including practice sessions for the Mi-Voice voting system.

The Annual Conference will take place on a different day and we hope to announce the date very soon. It is likely to be in August and take place over Zoom on a midweek evening. The Annual Review will be published in good time and the opportunity to submit written questions and receive written answers will remain.

We have appointed Steve Joel, who many of you may know, as the Centenary Project Manager. Steve has been able to start with us from 1 June and we will plan for him to attend the September National Council meeting and present a full update on the plans.

The 20/21 audit has been completed and we have managed a break-even position despite significant challenges. Membership income remains the largest variable of income in our budgets and underpins important services we provide to the membership including insurance, ranking, marketing and communications as well as contribution to competitions, performance and talent development budgets. As referenced in March, the 21/22 budgets have been built based on the 20/21 membership levels to be conservative however the income will be closely monitored.



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Currently there has been a relatively low take up of the 50% discount and we are incredibly grateful to the members who continue to support the work of the Governing Body.

It is a shame that the National Conference and Pride of Table Tennis Awards have had to be delivered virtually this year. Thank you to the staff who have organised both and to all the presenters and those who are attending to make it a worthwhile event, with a heavy focus on diversity and inclusions. My personal congratulations to all our shortlisted candidates and winners of the Pride of Table Tennis Awards.

The Board has signed off the 21/22 Operations Plan and I am pleased to attach the summary of it for your information. It also includes a quarterly progress column which is presented to Board. We hope that the sharing of this level of operating detail is of value to you and helps to show the strategic priorities for this year and demonstrates the framework which underpins the Departmental Reports which are attached.

Sport England/UK Sport

Following the release by Sport England of its Uniting the Movement 10-year plan earlier this year (see March National Council report), UK Sport have now launched their 10-year plan. <https://www.uksport.gov.uk/about-us/strategic-plan>. Both of these strategies are important for the Board to consider, along with the insight of our own sport, as we start the process of reviewing Mission 2025 in the coming months.

The Home Nations have all signed the MOU for the establishment of the British Table Tennis Committee which includes a commitment within the first 12 months of this cycle to work on the re-establishment of a separate British Table Tennis entity for long term governance of the pathway and hopefully longer-term funding from UK Sport. This committee will have strong alignment with the Home Nation performance programmes including our own Talent and Performance Committee.

ITTF/ETTU/ WTT

Our discussions with World Table Tennis about hosting an event in England are now focused on late 2022 as they try to create a calendar which shares the events globally. Nine main events are earmarked for Europe.

We have announced with BPTT the bid to host the 2023 European Para Championships in Sheffield which has the financial backing of UK Sport.



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Commonwealth Games/Birmingham 2022

The qualification route for the Commonwealth Games is also full of uncertainty currently. As Host Nation this does not affect us but we are working to support the other Home Nations to get clarity. Whilst on the topic of the Birmingham Games, we are supporting the organising committee on the recruitment and training of sports specific volunteers. The list of home nation officials has also been submitted and we are waiting for feedback. However, it is disappointing that we understand that the equipment is going to be hired by the organising committee not bought as has always been the case. This unfortunately removes one of the usual legacies as the host association is usual involved in the distribution of the equipment afterwards.

There will be a window of opportunity for Table Tennis England members to purchase tickets to the table tennis competition ahead of general public release which is great news and we will be working to promote the opportunity to our members.

Finally on the topic of the Commonwealth Games it is concerning that there is currently no host for the 2026 event and media reports are talking of a much-reduced future for the Games to ensure it survives. We will use all our contacts to find out as much as we can and work with the ITTF and CTF to lobby for the future involvement of table tennis.



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Operations & Governance Report

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Paper: 9d

Information/Activities - Last Period

Most of the team continue to work from home although a few people in May have started to go back in the office for a few days a week, which is having a positive impact. Most team members are now back at work full time now and we look forward to the continued positivity around returning to the table.

Objectives against the Operation Plan for period:

1. Preparation for the AGM in July will be undertaken including virtual voting options
2. TT leagues continued development to be used by British League, National Comps, and working towards a licensing product with TT Wales
3. Board Guidance pack to be reviewed and developed
4. Election process for an elected director
5. Comms plans around AGM and propositions
6. Advertisement and recruitment of 3 appointed directors
7. Recruitment and Induction of new Marketing and Comms Manager
8. Undertake the Safeguarding annual evaluation to obtain at least a good outcome
9. Process new 15-month membership from 1st May
10. Undertake staff survey
11. Complete insurance renewal

Summary of Progress:

Preparation for the AGM in July will be undertaken including virtual voting options

AGM notice issued and all current deadlines have been met. Mi-Voice voting being used to ensure voting is instant as there are a significant amount of resolutions to be voted on. A trial was undertaken on the 18th May involving Standing orders committee, returning officer and TTE team to ensure process is clear and effective, all happy with the system and clear guidance to be issued to ensure its smooth use, which will include a couple of training sessions for those who would like it. Standing Orders Meeting on 19th May to discuss the management of the general meeting and its resolutions. AGM agenda and timetable to be sent 18th June 2021.

TT leagues continued development to be used by British League, National Comps, and working towards a licensing product with TT Wales

Development of the system continues and is on schedule to be utilised for British League and National Competitions. It is also being developed to replace Clubspark so that this is again a reduction in another different system.



Discussions continue with TT Wales who are just awaiting approval from their Board to use TT Leagues.

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/tt-leagues-huge-range-of-updates-announced/>

Board Guidance pack to be reviewed and developed

Full review has been undertaken and approved by the Governance and Risk Committee on the 6th May 2021 and is being used for the incumbent Board Directors and will be placed on the website when all documentation has been approved by the Board at the next Board Meeting

Election process for an elected director

This process started at the end of March and the final day of voting was the 11th May 2021. There were 3 candidates Michael Bishop, Darren Morgan & Ritchie Venner. Results were as highlighted below: -

Candidate	Number of voting emails	Number of vote units	Elected or not elected
Michael Bishop	31	71	Not Elected
Darren Morgan	16	41	Not Elected
Ritchie Venner	93	216	Elected

Comms plans around AGM and Resolutions

Communication has started in relation to the AGM and resolutions and information published can be found as below.

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/governance/agm/>

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/agm-resolutions-published/>

Discussions have started with National Councilors and a further meeting in June will see further discussions on the reasoning and the positioning of the Board against each resolution.

Advertisement and recruitment of 3 appointed directors

The advertising process has started for the 3 positions as Appointed Directors to start at the June Board Meeting, we have had 20 applicants and the Nominations Committee will shortlist and are looking to interview w/c 24th May.



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Recruitment and Induction of new Marketing and Comms Manager

Full recruitment and Induction of Hannah Holland has been undertaken. Hannah started with us on the 26th April and is currently getting up to speed on all the varying projects. Hannah joins us with a wealth of experience and was at Rounders NGB and also sits on the Board of Parkour UK

Undertake the Safeguarding annual evaluation to obtain at least a Good outcome

CPSU Framework meeting undertaken on 17th May, and initial feedback is very positive. Awaiting final report

Process new 15-month membership from 1st May

March 11th

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/membership-initiatives-to-help-everyone-get-back-playing/>

April 20th

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/membership-offers-to-help-everyone-get-back-playing/>

Also went in Over the Net on the 12th March, 23rd April, 30th April.

A direct mail was also sent to all members that had not renewed on 12th May.

Currently we have had: -

- Compete (Cadet & Junior) – 29
- Compete (Senior) – 118
- Compete Plus (Cadet & 19Junior) – 19
- Compete Plus (Senior) – 28

Undertake staff survey

The results have proved very positive against the staff survey in 2018 and all areas have improved and some significantly. We do need to take into account the fact that the past year all team members have been working from home and this will have improved a lot of the results with the added benefit of the flexibility that that brings. We have also made significant effort in engaging the team with all staff calls. We will ensure that as we slowly return to some normality, we continue the togetherness we have built up.

SLT will work on an action plan to continue the work we have been doing.

Complete insurance renewal

Tender document completed and sent to 6 providers to quote, this process should be completed by the end of June.



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Other areas completed this period

- Links to County websites added to the website
- Development of new dashboard organisation to further enhance our insight
- All Board Terms of Reference reviewed and agreed at Governance & Risk and final sign off at the June Board Meeting
- Final of the Sports Technology Awards where TT Leagues made it through to be a finalist, but unfortunately were beaten by Ticketmaster Sport Covid 19 Response
- Continued progression through the Board External Evaluation Action plan
- Launched the 50% discount for current members and pleasing to see that most members continue to support their NGB with 707 requesting the discount to date.
- Annual Returns process completed in house and results attached in Appendix 1 – I would request all National Councilor’s to contact leagues that have either not completed their annual return in the last 2 years to complete or inform us if they are no longer in operation and to also contact all leagues that do not have a company member representative to complete the LRCM forms on the website <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/governance/voting-information/>

<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>When</u>
Presentation by GY to be sent out with minutes	VW	Completed 14.5.21
SS to advise JK (Somerset) on age groups	SS	Completed (Neil Rogers)
Board Member to take AGM communication issues to Board	SV	3 rd June 2021

In Memoriam

Fred Lockwood: <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/obituary-veterans-world-champion-fred-lockwood/>

Eileen Allison: <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/obituary-eileen-allison-much-loved-referee/>



Marcomms

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Paper: 9d

As newly appointed Marketing and Communications Manager (since 26.04.21), this report is predominantly based on work carried out under the management of Lucy Franklin.

Objectives from Ops Plan (Q1)

- Development and delivery of new website and launch of brand refresh
- Migration over to new Data Services supplied by Winners, and delivery of new dashboards in time for new membership season
- Creation and implementation of 2021/22 membership renewal marcomms campaign with a focus on retention
- Launch partnership with Recast and work with them to promote the platform, but also provide feedback to them in relation to customer experience
- Creation, delivery and analysis of annual membership survey
- Deliver Sport England reporting and Impact report updates
- Support and creation of Return to Play campaign which links in with membership drive
- Support of Pride of Table Tennis Awards sponsorship, promotion and comms for the event including National Conference

Summary of Progress

- **Development and delivery of new website and launch of brand refresh**
Website. The wireframes have now been signed off, as has the homepage flat design. Remaining site design, CMS set up and web integrations are in progress.
Brand refresh. The brand refresh has been completed and implemented across all corporate communications, including an internal 'Our Brand' and tone of voice document presented to all staff to ensure consistency across all comms.
- **Migration over to new Data Services supplied by Winners, and delivery of new dashboards in time for new membership season**
Winners have started work on dashboards using data from Ticket Factory and Google Analytics. These have been presented to a small group of staff involved in this project and have been well received. First drafts of the main dashboards have been delayed due to capacity problems at Sport:80. Winners are confident that they can still deliver on time (end of June – when contract with Two Circles ends).



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- **Creation and implementation of 2021/22 membership renewal marcomms campaign with a focus on retention**

Two membership offers have been shared via email and on the website <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/membership/register-or-renew/our-new-membership-categories/>. Offer one encourages lapsed members to renew now and get up to three months membership for free. Offer two is for current members and enables them to apply to receive 50% off their membership for the 2021/2022 season. The membership renewal campaign is not in full swing yet but there is an understanding that communications regarding membership uptake and renewal need to be continued and plans put in place.

- **Launch partnership with Recast and work with them to promote the platform, but also provide feedback to them in relation to customer experience**

The launch took place on Thursday 13th May. We carried out a joint promotional launch with Recast, via targeted PR, email, social media and website comms. We have encouraged sign up to the free app using the referral link <https://share.recast.app/u/69b98?referrer=69b98> Further communications are being sent out to our membership and newsletter subscriber base to encourage the table tennis community to sign up if not yet done so. We are also requesting feedback from those who have already signed up. We are in the process of putting together a content planner.

- **Creation, delivery and analysis of annual membership survey**

We recently launched our annual membership survey, with additional questions included to better understand plans for returning to play and to gain the memberships' view on how we can do more to support opportunities for everyone to enjoy and achieve in table tennis. The survey was also open to non-members, where we hope to improve our grasp on barriers to participating and the necessary steps to re-engaging lapsed members.

- **Deliver Sport England reporting and Impact report updates**

Sport England reporting. This has been completed.

Impact report updates. First steps have been taken to update the Impact Report, but it has since been agreed that it is more appropriate to update in line with the Annual Review publication, which is published in July.

- **Support and creation of Return to Play campaign which links in with membership drive**

This is underway and Marcomms are working closely with the Development team. The campaign name has been changed to 'Return to the Table' with different themes/messaging running throughout. The overarching campaign will run from the 26th July – 26th September. There is the intention for this to link in with the membership drive.



- **Support of Pride of Table Tennis Awards sponsorship, promotion and comms for the event including National Conference**

We are creating the Pride of Table Tennis virtual awards ceremony by carrying out direct filming, collating other footage and editing together the final video. The film will be shown during the Conference and also simultaneously shown 'as live' on Facebook. We are liaising with sponsors to ensure they receive the value set out in the sponsorship deck. We are also creating support literature to be sent out to Conference attendees and promoting the Conference and the Pride of Table Tennis Awards on our channels.

Digital Reporting – please see Appendix 1_digital reporting Feb - April Challenges/Roadblocks

With Lucy leaving and me new in post, there has been a slight delay on the collation of content for the new website, as I am the lead on this project and I have been getting up to speed with my new role and other marketing activities. There may also be some adjustment for the team getting used to a new line manager; however, I hope I can make this a smooth transition for them.

Additional Items outside of the annual plans

- Since March 1, 90+ articles have been published on the TTE website which include but not limited to:
 - Covid updates
 - Membership offers launch
 - Olympic qualifiers reporting (also media releases)
 - Announcements on resumption of national events
 - Pride of Table Tennis Awards
- Ongoing support delivering e-newsletters, clubs, schools, OTN and service emails to Company Members etc.
- Work on the Annual Review to be reported in Q2 report
- Other marketing support: Election of Elected Director; AGM resolutions; membership survey; Pride of Table Tennis awards ceremony; National Conference; club webinars; TT Kidz Championships; Safeguarding section refresh; liaising with Birmingham 2022 media team ahead of Commonwealth Games and Team GB media team ahead of Olympics; International Women's Day; Mental Health Week.
- As table tennis activity resumes, we are keen to generate more news stories and case studies which focus on positive return to play experiences. New case study collection templates are now in place to collect richer content for these.
- To develop a better understanding for club capacity to increase and improve playing opportunities for juniors and adults, the creation of a survey is in progress and expected to launch towards the beginning of Summer.
- Over the coming months, we will be working with select leagues to survey their members about playing preferences. The insight gained from this work will help guide the creation of a fast-format league system.
- Evaluation processes are being finalised for the next TT Kidz cycle.



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- Through collaboration with TASS, research into playing experiences and drop-off among W&Gs aged 18-30 years has been conducted and reported back. This insight will now be used to help shape playing experiences for W&Gs, and aspects of talent programmes, to better support female athletes on the pathway.
- In-house focus groups have been completed to capture lived experiences and views about D&I in table tennis among W&Gs, as well as ethnically diverse communities, disability groups and LSEG communities. Findings from these, supported by learnings from the Membership Satisfaction Survey 2021, will be used to help reshape the Diversity Action Plan.
- A fourth phase of targeted work with Ping! partners, where home table tennis kits were distributed to key target groups, has been completed and evaluation of this is in progress.



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Appendix 1: Digital reporting

Summary: Please note the period of these metrics is **from 1 February 2021 to 30 April 2021** and compare to the quarter before (1 November to 31 January).

Social media, email and website:

Channel	Followers	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement Rate
Facebook	19,802	949.4K	59K	7.05%
Twitter	15,684	453.9K	5.14K	1.9%
Instagram	9,988	217.8K	7.8K	7.27%
LinkedIn	1899	29.5K	2.1K	7.07%
YouTube	10,625	493.1K	4.4K	6.26%
Total	57,998 (+2.9%)	2.14M (+25.8%)	78.4 (+7.4%)	5.83% (+8%)

Emails Sent	Unique Opens	Open Rate	Link Clicks
35 (-20%)	147,133 (+17.5%)	42.5% (-21.8%)	50,128 (+34%)

Total Sessions	Total Page Views	Bounce Rate	Time on page
158,109 (+12.6%)	331,717 (+15%)	64.11% (+1%)	01:50 (+5.6%)

This quarter built on the previous success and maintained growth across social media platforms. The increase in impressions and engagements continue to impress despite it being lockdown. Implementation of 'Inside Team England' content continues to perform exceptionally well – especially Tin-Tin Ho content which received nearly 100,000 video views on Facebook. For emails, there was a decrease in the number sent which we attribute to the previous quarter being heavy on EGM comms. Despite the decrease, unique opens and link clicks drastically improved which is a testament to creating more engaging content for our audience. Despite the open rate dropping from the previous quarter, 42.5% is considerably higher than the all-industry average of 18%.

For the website, there was positive improvement from previous quarter. Coronavirus updates still proved to be the most popular draw to the website, but also competition pages probably in preparation for lockdown easing. The Chester Barned obituary also received nearly 5,000 page views and was the 6th most visited page on our website during this quarter.

Definitions:

Followers are the number of people that follow the specific channel. This also includes number of people who like the TTE page on Facebook.

Impressions are the number of times your content is displayed, no matter if it was clicked or not. However, an impression means that content was delivered to someone's feed. A viewer doesn't have to engage with the post in order for it to count as an impression.

Engagement and Engagement rates

- **Facebook:** [Facebook](#) measures engagements by likes, reactions, comments, shares, and some clicks on links, photos, or videos. Engagement rates on Facebook are measured by engaged users, not total engagements; if someone likes and comments on the post, that counts as two engagements, but one engaged user. Total engaged users are divided by the post's reach to find the engagement rate.
- **Twitter:** [Twitter](#) engagements are measured by retweets, replies, follows, favourites, tweet expansion, or clicks on links, hashtags, embedded media, the username, or the profile picture. Engagement rates are calculated by adding all of these engagements up and dividing by total impressions.
- **Instagram:** [Instagram](#) defines engagements as likes, comments, and saves on a post. There are a few [ways to calculate Instagram engagement rates](#), and some Instagram users include or omit other factors like shares. To calculate an engagement rate, Instagram takes these metrics and divides by the total impressions.
- **YouTube:** number of clicks, divided by the number of thumbnail impressions
- **LinkedIn:** LinkedIn calculates update engagement rate by adding the number of interactions, clicks, and new followers acquired, divided by the number of impressions the post receives.

Emails sent: total number of emails sent across the reporting period.

Unique opens: A unique open is how many people have opened your email.

Open rate: The percentage of the total number of subscribers who opened an email campaign.

Link clicks: number of clicks on a link, button or downloadable document in the email.

Total sessions: Sessions in Google Analytics are defined as the total number of visits to your site — including both new and repeat visits.

Total Page Views: A page view is an instance of a page being loaded (or reloaded) in a browser. Page views is a metric defined as the total number of pages viewed.

Bounce Rate: Bounce rate is single-page sessions divided by all sessions, or the percentage of all sessions on your site in which users viewed only a single page and triggered only a single request to the Analytics server. (Basically, it shows how much people are just viewing one page and then exiting the website without interacting with any other content)

Time on page: This is the average amount of time a user spends on a page.

Development & Volunteering

19th June 2021

Paper: 9d



Information/Activities - Last Period

TT Kidz:

- Chris Turner (previously in the Performance team) has now started as the Youth Participation Lead, following Colette Gooding moving on to the ECB
- Clubs can now apply to be part of the next phase of 8-week programmes, which will commence in October

The National Club, Volunteer and Coach conference will take place on Saturday 5th June, with two key themes:

- Diversity & Inclusion
- Planning for the Future

Pride of Table Tennis awards will be presented during the National Club, Volunteer and Coach conference on the 5th June

A virtual schools' championships have been taking place throughout May

A membership survey was conducted in April, results will be published and shared shortly

Over the past few months, we have been working closely with TASS to conduct research with female players between 18-30 years of age. A series of recommendations have come out of this, which are currently being considered by various teams across the organisation.

Adult participation – work continues on the development of a new local league product (TT Fast Format), that is being designed to help re-invigorate local league activity through an exciting and shorter format set up.

Diversity and Inclusion – an update will be provided during the June Board meeting

Commonwealth Games 2022 – An organisational legacy plan has been built for the Birmingham Comm Games, which has three key themes:

- **Connection with communities** - Within priority areas/locations; connect with public, partners, member clubs and leagues to support with activation and emphasise TT's ability to support community development and social integration and raise aspirations.
- **Positive new experiences** - Strengthen connections with community and meet any latent demand, by providing programmes to support wide range of need, enabling more people to lead active lives through positive TT experiences.
- **Inspire legacy and sustain** - Sustained activity & opportunities for engaged communities, partners and volunteer workforce to continue to thrive post games. Extract insight which uses pre, during and post insight from the Games for aspiring networks to model against



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Covid-19 response

- TTE staff have supported SE funding bids with 50 awards having been made to table tennis clubs and organisations, totaling over £360k investment. This puts table tennis in the top 10% of awards and funding granted, higher than other sports including Athletics, Swimming and Badminton. <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/sport-england-funding-success-for-table-tennis-clubs/>
- A Return to the Table campaign is being developed that will run between 26th July and 26th September to help build confidence, motivation and passion to return to playing, coaching, volunteering or officiating.

Enablers, positive impacts:

- We have recently gone out for a Diversity, Inclusion and Volunteering role, which should increase our capacity across these areas and support implementation of the Diversity and Inclusion strategy.
- Club and coach engagement remains high across webinars and one to one contact, we continue to receive lots of contact with clubs looking to get back running again and utilise participation programmes, such as TT Kidz, Bat and Chat etc.
- We have been approached by Sport England for table tennis to feature in a new Return to Play film being released on the 17th May, which was filmed at Moberly TTC in West London. The Bat and Chat programme will also feature in the grassroot sport pull out in the Daily Mail and Metro papers, which SE lead on the development of.
- The recent more flexible Return to Play guidelines that includes unlimited group sizes (i.e., no bubbles), gives clubs much greater opportunity to re-start play again.



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Competitions & Events

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Information/Activities - Last Period

- Following the Gov't roadmap out of lockdown, sanctioned Cadet and Junior events at 1* level restarted from 12 April, with Senior competition also resuming as from 17 May
- The change to Junior age-group eligibility (U19) has been consulted upon and agreed, and is now scheduled for implementation across event eligibility, memberships, rankings and national squads [Junior category extended to under-19— Table Tennis England](#)
- Discussions and feasibility exercises related to short-notice hosting opportunities for WTT events in late-2021 remained ongoing, frequent and time-consuming, and ultimately proved non-viable in fast-changing international calendar. Nonetheless this remained a valuable process as we build towards bids for WTT events in the 2022-2025 window. Alongside this, we are actively supporting and engaging in the UK Sport -funded feasibility study being undertaken by external consultants for the ITTF World Championships and Para World Championships 2026

Information/Activities – Current/Future

- We are currently planning and preparing for a full calendar of events in Season 21/22
- Departmental staffing/ capacity remains at 40% standard levels – however, we have recently appointed the British League Executive Officer for a planned mid-June start, and the Competitions & Events Officer is scheduled to return from furlough in June/ July, which will bring us back to 80%. The remaining vacant post is anticipated to be recruited for an October start.
- The Junior National Cup is going ahead under COVID protocols and will be the first TTE national event in over 12 months [Junior National Cup will go ahead!— Table Tennis England](#)
- Grand Prix 7 (Gloucester) will also go ahead, shortly after COVID protocols are due to cease on 21 June, and represents the last event of the season on the normal calendar [Ready for a Grand reunion!— Table Tennis England](#)
- The Mark Bates Ltd U10-13s National Championships, and Mark Bates Ltd Cadet & Junior National Championships, have been rescheduled from earlier in the season and will be held under the new U19 eligibility and prior to the European Youth Championships [Age-group Nationals back on the calendar this summer!— Table Tennis England and Green light for U10-U13 Nationals!— Table Tennis England](#)
- The Competitions Review is underway, and a Steering Group and Project Team have been formed to support this process. The first step of the review is in the final stages (detailed competition mapping), and the subsequent step (external insight) has also started. A presentation on the project brief, goals, process and progress will be delivered to the National Conference and to the National Council meeting in June



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- The Rankings Project remains ongoing. Regrettably, the withdrawal of the volunteer undertaking critical statistical analysis underpinning the next stage of the project has resulted in an unforeseen delay. As requested by Finance Committee, a cost-free alternative has successfully been established, with UK Sport (arguably a preferable approach) – a brief has now been agreed, and we anticipate the modelling and simulation process will begin shortly. The disruption means that the testing and refinement of a new system is now anticipated to run January to July '22, rather than for a full season duration
- Regular development work to spec and build the required functionality to transition British League fixtures and results onto TTE's TT Leagues platform is nearing completion. This project remains on target for season 21/22, and introductions/ pilots are being established with the relevant Committees for specific divisions of NCL, NJL and County Championships events
- The TASS research project on women and girls (led by the Development Dep't) has resulted in some robust insight and recommendations that will now be considered against potential short-term/ low-impact changes to the competition programme, and also fed into the Competition Review (for longer-term and more substantive changes)
- The development of functionality for online Tournament Sanctioning and online Tournament Entry/ Payment via the Sport:80 membership portal remains ongoing and has been a hugely complex and detailed undertaking. An initial trial is currently live – and going well! - with the Junior National Cup event, and a 2nd concurrent pilot with the Cadet & Junior National Championships has also been launched, prior to wider roll-out for season 21/22

Challenges/Issues

- See above