

ANNUAL REVIEW 2022 2023



TABLE
TENNIS
UNITED





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Partners



Chairperson



Sandra Deaton

As I wrote this, I fully expected it to be my final Chair's Report before my term of office comes to an end. However, while the search for a new Chair continues, I have agreed with the Board to extend my tenure until the appointment process is concluded.

I reflect on a year of change which will set the direction of travel for our sport for many years to come.

Our *Table Tennis United* strategy states our intentions and ambitions, setting out a series of pledges to make England *A Table Tennis Nation*.

We aim to build connections across the sport, inspire people to participate and remove the barriers which stop them, re-mould our performance pathway to inspire world and Olympic medal success and to shape ourselves as a high-performing organisation fit not just for today but for the future.

It is a bold strategy and we have already made good progress, publishing our Implementation Plan for the first year. You can read more about this, and all other aspects of our work, in the pages of this Review.

“Table Tennis United is a bold strategy and we have already made good progress, publishing our Implementation Plan for the first year.”

There have been a number of staff changes as we re-shape our team to deliver *Table Tennis United*, and I'd like to thank all those who have left the organisation for their hard work over the years.

Our new Area Network will allow us to build better connections within the existing table tennis community and to build new connections to extend that community.

I am delighted that we are also bringing more volunteers on to advisory committees to work alongside staff and Directors to help shape the delivery of *Table Tennis United*.

There have been changes at Board level, too. We welcomed a fourth Elected Director, Jos Kelly, to our ranks. Meanwhile, Emma Vickers left the Board to join the executive, where she will play a key role as Head of Pathway Development.

At the time of writing, we are in the midst of an election to replace Susie Venner as Elected Director – Susie, like me, has come to the end of her tenure and we offer our sincere appreciation of all her efforts over the years.

We have undertaken governance reforms which

Continued on page 4



I was honoured to be part of the Men's Singles awarding ceremony at the World Championships in South Africa recently

From Page 3

ensure we are compliant with the Code for Sports Governance, including the ability of the Board to set affiliation fees. This, crucially, enables us to secure ongoing public funding from Sport England and UK Sport.

We have also contributed to the establishment of a GB Table Tennis Board and I have served as the Table Tennis England Director on that Board.

Last Autumn, we joined the nation in mourning the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. She was our patron for her entire reign, having taken on the position on the death of her father, King George VI.

On behalf of the Association, I wrote to King Charles to express our profound sympathy, as well as our gratitude for everything the late Queen had contributed to our nation.

We received a letter from the King's Deputy Private Secretary to express the King's thanks. We understand that all royal patronages are currently being reviewed and await the outcome with great interest.

On the table, the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships continues to raise the bar year on year. This is of course made possible by the continued sponsorship of Mark Bates Ltd and China Taiping, for which we are very grateful. It is also driven by our dedicated and talented staff and volunteers.

When I walk into the David Ross Sports Village in Nottingham for the event, I'm so proud of the presentation, which attracts more spectators and provides a first-class streaming service for our table tennis family.

The event is blazing a trail for us to host major international competitions. Our major events strategy aims to bring the world's best table tennis players to this country to compete in front of packed crowds.

Central to this is our bid to host the 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships in London – 100 years after the city hosted the first ever Worlds. As I write this, we are preparing to present the bid to the ITTF later this year, with the support of UK Sport and the Mayor of London.

We aspire to host other major events, including WTT tournaments, in the near future – and we also look forward to the European Para Championships in Sheffield later this year.

Events like these are an important plank in the strategy to become *A Table Tennis Nation*. We saw at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games just how passionate English sports fans are, and we look forward to giving them the chance to watch elite table tennis on their doorsteps, securing new followers for table tennis as well as serving those already embedded in the sport.

Speaking of the Commonwealth Games, I would like to add my congratulations to all our medallists from last summer, particularly of course our champions, Jack Hunter-Spivey and Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall.

Over the coming few months, I will continue to serve our interests and those of the world game in my international roles, including as deputy chair of the ITTF Nominations Committee, a position to which I was appointed last year.

I will also continue to contribute to the London



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The King has asked me to send you his warm thanks for your kind message of sympathy following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

His Majesty is deeply touched that you should have thought of him at this time.

The King knows he can rely on your support as he takes forward his new duties and has asked me to send you his warmest wishes.

Matt Magee
Deputy Private Secretary to The King

Above: The letter we received from Buckingham Palace

Below: Members of the British Para Table Tennis Squad at the announcement that Sheffield will host the European Para Championships this year



2026 bid however I can.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board, the staff and the table tennis family for all your help and support during the last 12 months and I very much look forward to the year ahead as table tennis in England goes from strength to strength.

Chief Executive



Adrian Christy

The past 12 months has been a year of transition for Table Tennis England and at this stage, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Board, staff and many volunteers who have contributed to the change programme while also ensuring 'business as usual' took place so as to minimise the impact on the activities and services that the organisation provides.

The year focused largely on resetting the organisation which included the consultation, and construction, of a new strategy which repositioned the Purpose and Vision of Table Tennis England alongside a governance model that sought to provide a greater voice for the membership into the development of the organisation and an operating model to take table tennis to where people are at through the establishment of an Area Network.

In September, the Board approved *Table Tennis United* and the construction of our 'table tennis first' approach was born.

Alongside the strategy development, I have built a new team to drive forward our work and also to ensure Table Tennis England plays its part in the wider sporting sector.

The new team has constructed the Implementation Plan for year one, which is designed to provide clarity on the groundwork that is necessary to provide firm foundations for the future growth and success of table tennis in England, while also seeking to explore opportunities that can accelerate our objectives, including not just how we ensure there are no barriers to anyone wanting to get involved in table tennis, but that we proactively ensure our sport is welcoming, accessible and inclusive to all.

One area that I felt needed addressing was our ability to improve the communications with our membership, particularly from the Chief Executive's Office and Senior Leadership Team and I have been delighted with how the regular CEO Updates have been received. We have also established regular 'Question Time' sessions enabling the members to meet with the Board and SLT and to ask questions of us.

As we continue to provide a more open and transparent environment, the coming

"The potential for the growth of table tennis in England is one that should be seen as a very exciting opportunity . . . the year ahead will see us have a lot of fun as we start to implement *Table Tennis United*."



Visit tabletennisunited.co.uk to download a copy of the strategy and watch the launch video

[Read the year one Implementation Plan](#)

year will see us establish regular meetings with the Company Members who again will have the ability to raise issues with the Board and SLT on matters that affect the successful operation of organisation.

Like all recipients of public funding in sport, Table Tennis England has an obligation, and responsibility, to comply with the various Codes and Assurance frameworks. In the past 12 months we have seen such compliance include a revision to the Code for Sports Governance, UK Anti-Doping and the introduction of Safeguarding Adults.

Looking Ahead

The potential for the growth of table tennis in England is one that should be seen as a very exciting opportunity.

As mentioned earlier, a lot of groundwork is done, we are building for the future and the year ahead will see us have a lot of fun as we start to implement *Table Tennis United* with a team full of energy.

That team extends way beyond our staff and into the thousands of clubs, leagues, volunteers, coaches, officials and players who make up the table tennis family and, by uniting and working together, we can look forward to seeing table tennis in this country thrive.

Over the next 12 months, we will establish real purpose to our participation by linking

schools better to clubs and coaches, players to more competition, talented athletes and coaches to our pathway.

We will redesign coach learning and development in table tennis with a greater emphasis on ongoing education and place-based learning as opposed to solely the qualification model.

We will seek to grow and engage our audiences, to reach a wider fanbase and better connect with those involved in table tennis, not just within the traditional/formal structures, but the tens of thousands of people who play the sport across the country.

We will seek to develop partnerships that can support our objectives, such as securing major international events including the staging of the World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026.

We will continue to reform our governance structures and processes, ensuring we are better placed to make swift and best informed decisions.

We will continue to explore our relevancy; conscious of the fast evolving world in which we operate, where there are numerous choices across society – table tennis cannot be exempt from such changes.

We will prepare thoroughly for Paris 2024 – a wonderful opportunity to showcase our talent and another step towards us building a world-class performance system.

Governance

Governance Statement

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
- 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.

At the 2022 AGM a number of resolutions were proposed to ensure our ongoing compliance with the Code for Sports Governance. These were:

- To ensure the Board is the ultimate decision-making body by being able to set the membership fees.
- That Elected Directors' skills would be reviewed by the Nominations Committee.
- The addition of diversity within the recruitment requirements, including the skills matrix.

There was also the addition of a fourth Elected Director.

The Code for Sports Governance also required the confirmation by the Board that Table Tennis England continued to comply with the original Code, which was assessed and approved. The Code has an additional seven requirements that must be complied with by December 2023. A number of those are already part of our ongoing reforms, including a People Plan, Welfare & Safety and Environmental Social Governance (ESG)

There were four scheduled Board meetings and one interim Board Meeting held during the year. Summaries of the Board Meetings are available on the website. The Board enjoyed a largely full attendance from Directors for its meetings.

In addition, every Board member has the opportunity to contribute to at least one of the Board Advisory Committees of Finance & Audit Committee, Governance & Risk Committee or Talent & Performance Committee, each of which meets in between the scheduled Board meetings.

As part of *Table Tennis United* and our Governance reforms we completed phase one of the review and implementation of a new Committee Structure, which has seen the introduction of Advisory Committees.

The process was progressed to recruit suitably qualified volunteers to be part of the five Advisory Committees, which are: Finance & Audit, Governance & Risk, Talent & Performance and the two new committees of Development and Competitions. The terms of reference for all these committees are available on the website.

This opened up the Board Advisory Committees to have volunteers from across the membership with the relevant skills and experience to enhance those of our volunteer Board Members and our relevant employed Head of Department to ensure we are not just effective but can go faster.



Richard Scruton presents Colin Clemett (right) with a memento to thank him for his service on the Rules Committee

[Click here to read more about this on our website](#)

An election for the new fourth Elected Director was undertaken, and Jos Kelly joined the Board in November 2022. Emma Vickers stood down from the Board at the end of March 2023 to take up the position of Head of Pathway Development for Table Tennis England.

Table Tennis United, Table Tennis England's new Strategy, was consulted on throughout this period and launched in October 2022 with the vision of a 'Table Tennis Nation' and its Purpose of 'Hosting generations of players at our table.'

National Council re-elected Estyn Williams as their Chair and they met virtually in January 2023 but in person in June and October 2022. The minutes are available on the website.

Committees

There was significant movement in our committee members of our Disciplinary Committee and our Appeals Panel and we thank all those long-standing members for their support over many years.

The new committee members bring a wealth of experience, and have helped review the regulations in these areas, to ensure our ongoing development of good governance across the organisation.

This year saw the Chair of Rules Committee, Colin Clemett, stand down.

UK Anti-Doping

A key requirement of our funding and participation is that we are required to conform to the UK Anti-Doping Framework.

An Annual Framework Assessment was completed, which provided evidence of our ongoing compliance. This was submitted, and confirmation has been received that we remain compliant.

This project included wide-ranging updates to

"We continue to work closely with Sport England to ensure we not only comply to the Code for Sports Governance but also to ensure that our organisation is fit for purpose with strong governance that is agile for the fast-paced industry we are in."

Safeguarding

Annual Framework Review

Annually in May, Table Tennis England is required to undertake a review process with the Child Protection in Sport Unit to ensure that we meet all the agreed levels as a National Governing Body relating to safeguarding. This includes training, communications, policies and procedures, adults at risk, managing cases, education and includes all of our staff, volunteers and players. Table Tennis England met all the required standards for 2022.

Training and Education

Over the course of the year the team has delivered two safeguarding training sessions to welfare officers, two individual club sessions, a full staff briefing and two sessions with our performance team, in addition to answering queries and offering advice to members, coaches, clubs and staff.

We have developed a relationship with High Speed Training and, as a result, are able to offer an [e-learning course on safeguarding and protecting children](#) which is free of charge to our members.

The Safeguarding and Disciplinary Manager also took part in a podcast for them alongside Paul Stewart, former England international and Safeguarding Trainer for the English Football League, discussing the importance of safeguarding in sport.

Policies and Procedures

All policies and procedures relating to safeguarding were reviewed and, where appropriate, updated in January. We have an [online form](#) for reporting safeguarding concerns.

Whyte Review

The Whyte Review was published earlier this year as a result of the historic concerns in British Gymnastics. The report has implications for all sports and so the safeguarding team reviewed the report and its recommendations, drawing up an action plan for table tennis.

Sport England Regional Club Welfare Officers

In response to the Whyte Review, Sport England is looking at how

Whyte Review	Table Tennis England Recommendation	6 months	12 months	24 months
1.	Ensuring that there is the right level of staff and volunteers with the expertise to be able to ensure the welfare and wellbeing of players. No change to the system of Club and League Welfare Officers reporting directly to the Safeguarding Team.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint and recruit a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead Continue to support and encourage all clubs to appoint welfare officers so that all Premier Clubs and Associate Clubs have a volunteer in place 			
2.	Mandatory training is in place for all coaches which needs to be extended to include technical officials and welfare officers.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Flowchart identifying all training and what is applicable to specific roles Free e-learning course identified with High Speed Training sport specific and suitable for all Time to Listen will be available for Welfare Officers 2023 			
3.	All performance staff currently required to undergo safeguarding training and updates on an annual basis with coaches holding coach licences			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual briefing sessions for parents/carers with under 18 players Chaperone Training to be introduced for all coaches and performance staff 'Pool' of females to be established to travel with the squads a chaperones Performance Administrator to attend safeguarding, chaperone and Time to Listen training 			
7.	Currently it is a recommendation for all clubs to have a complaints procedure in place			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make it a requirement for Premier Clubs Make it a requirement for Associate Clubs Provide advice and support to clubs re reporting low level concerns and the process 			
14.	Currently all clubs are asked to adopt the TTE safeguarding policies and procedures.			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce a 'mystery shopper' process to see how the policies are used and displayed Have a club checklist in place for safeguarding 			

it can better support governing bodies in terms of safeguarding. Currently, it is looking at piloting a programme of some 60 regional welfare officers, employed by them and sitting within the Active Partnerships, who will support the work of National Governing Bodies.

Table Tennis England is one of the organisations involved in the project and it is hoped that these new officers will provide a link with the TTE team of local welfare officers, supporting their training and delivery of safeguarding.



England Juniors take part in an anti-doping session with members of the Performance staff

competitions regulations, documentation and processes. A large element of this work is to ensure our athletes have the right level of training and education to be part of our performance programme and some additional administrative compliance elements for national competitions.

Sport England

We continue to work closely with our major funder to ensure we not only comply with the Code for Sports Governance but also to ensure

that our organisation is fit for purpose, with strong governance that is agile for the fast-paced industry we are in. A number of new requirements have been introduced to the Code in 2022. We have been working through these to ensure our ongoing compliance, and will continue to do so.

The AGM also approved for an additional Elected Director to be a member of the Board, which now allows for an employed CEO and a volunteer board, including an appointed Chair, four Elected Directors and six Appointed Directors.

Members' Advisory Group

MAG Report on Director Election and Appointment Processes (Feb 2023).pdf	PDF 188.2KB	↓
MAG Report-Clubs in British League (May 2022).pdf	PDF 229.3KB	↓
MAG Report-Transparency & Accountability (April 2022).pdf	PDF 268KB	↓
MAG-Report-Clubs-Development (May 2021).pdf	PDF 1.1MB	↓
MAG-Report-Coaching-Project (November 2019).pdf	PDF 254.4KB	↓
MAG-Report-Feedback-on-Performance (March 2021).pdf	PDF 413.1KB	↓
MAG-Report-Volunteer-Strategy (November 2020).pdf	PDF 229.4KB	↓
Membership Growth - Player Retention & Returners Final (September 2022).pdf	PDF 2.4MB	↓
Tournaments Draft Final Report (September 2022).pdf	PDF 293.4KB	↓

MAG reports (shown left) and the National Council archive can be found on the Table Tennis England document archive website. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code below to visit the site.



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

MAG has met on three occasions during the 2022/23 season. The main task at each of the meetings is to review our various projects. Details of the two projects completed in 2022/23 are as follows.

Cost-Effectiveness of Tournaments

The final report was presented to the Board in September. The report touches on a number of issues that are central to the Table Tennis England Competitions Review.

We have been pleased to note that although different views had been expressed about the Competitions Review and the future structure of TTE competitions, all sides are agreed that the MAG report on the Cost-Effectiveness of Tournaments had been a valuable and objective contribution to the debate.

Director Election and Appointment Processes

MAG had been asked to review the Director Election & Appointment processes with a view to seeing how they might be streamlined and ideally synchronised with the Annual General Meeting.

We formed a project team comprising MAG members, National Councillors and the TTE Returning Officer. The resulting report makes a number of recommendations for simplifying the election process, particularly the use of online voting via Mi-Voice and limiting the voting period to two weeks.

Aligning the appointment periods with the AGM cycle was found to be more challenging and we were not sure how it could be achieved without changing the Articles of Association.

We were also concerned that the team supporting the Returning Officer was not at full strength. We encourage volunteers to step forward to help out with this important role.

Both of these reports have been published on the MAG page of the Table Tennis England website. There are now nine MAG project reports on key strategic issues facing our sport.

In addition to our project work, MAG raises with the TTE Board key strategic issues which we know will be important to

the membership. Following the decision at the 2022 AGM that affiliation fees should be set by the Board, we emphasised to the Board the importance of them pro-actively engaging with the membership both on the structure and level of affiliation fees. We were pleased to see that as part of the series of webinars on the strategy reset that the Board was engaging with members on innovative and creative approaches to affiliation fees.

We continue to contribute to reviews commissioned by the Board. For example, as part of the consultation on the emerging recommendations of the Competition Review, an online discussion was held with the project lead for the Competition Review. MAG members fed-in their views on key elements that were still to be finalised, particularly in relation to proposals relating to County Championships, ELCC and strengthening competitions for Cadets and Juniors.

Sadly, Sandy Nash decided to stand-down from MAG this year. Sandy played in key role in the initial set-up of MAG and contributed to virtually all of our project work. All members of MAG join with me in thanking Sandy for the enormous contribution she made to the work of MAG over the last three years.

The creation of the new Advisory Committees of the Table Tennis England Board clearly has an impact on the role of MAG as a key source of strategic advice to the Board. We are in discussion with the Board on what is the appropriate role for MAG going forward.

Neil Hurford
Members' Advisory Group Chair



National Council

The Articles define National Council as a communication channel between the Board and the membership. The Code for Sports Governance requires TTE to be transparent and accountable, engage effectively with stakeholders and nurture internal democracy to qualify for public funding.

Each County Association elects a national councillor. The names of the councillors and a guide, *National Council – How it Works*, are published on the website. Council papers are published there about two weeks before each meeting so that members can tell councillors their views.

Since the pandemic, councillors can attend meetings online and most now do this. This saves travel and reduces costs but gives less opportunity to network with the Board and staff.

Strategy and finance

The arrival of the new CEO last year gave the Board fresh impetus. It has produced a new strategy, *Table Tennis United*, which National Council strongly supports, and a Year 1 Implementation Plan setting out priorities for 2023/24.

Devising a plan is the easy bit. The challenge is to achieve it. So, we are pleased that the Board is already taking the first steps to put the plan into practice.

We would encourage the Board to explain more about TTE's financial options and how it will determine the balance of spending between competing objectives. In the last few years, we have pressed the Board to appoint a director who is a qualified accountant. It is now advertising a vacancy on this basis.

Governance

The Year 1 Implementation Plan envisages further reform of governance structures and practices. There is a wide range of views amongst Council and the membership, so consultation will be particularly important.

As a first step the Board has appointed volunteers to key Board committees, which we welcome. We would also support widening company membership to include PremierClub representatives

Membership

The recent Sport England survey found that 370,000 adults play table tennis regularly. Yet our membership is only about 25,000. So, we are pleased that the Board has established a consultation process to review our membership structure and treat members more as customers.

Council has suggested three areas we hope the review panel will address:

- What more can we do to help clubs and leagues to recruit new members?
- How can we best channel those who sample our mass participation schemes, such as Ping!, towards local clubs and leagues?
- How can we best engage with the many local groups which are not currently affiliated, and encourage their players to join us?

Development

We are grateful to the new Head of Table Tennis Development, who broke into his holiday to explain the new Area network. The Board is to establish seven Local Organising Groups, each with a staff member leading development.

We would like return to the 10 regions we had before 2015, but we appreciate that we do not have finance for this at present. We support the proposal that each area should have a measurable development plan.

Table tennis can be played at almost any age. We support the Year 1 Implementation Plan priority to increase players aged under nine and have suggested the Board also looks at increasing

support for older age groups, for whom few other sports are suitable.

Competitions

The Board established a team to review the competitions structure in 2021. We were alarmed by its proposal to abolish the County Championships, which attract more than 200 mixed gender teams and 1,000 players of all ages without needing financial support from TTE. We are pleased that the Board has accepted our view.

We felt that the review team's other proposals could also be improved and appointed a sub-committee which produced alternatives. These are now being discussed with the Board's Competitions Committee.

As a learning point from the Competitions Review, we have suggested consensus on other reviews could be achieved more easily if Council and the membership were told all the options being considered and their advantages and disadvantages at a much earlier stage.

We also gave feedback on the 2023 National Championships which praised some aspects of their organisation and suggested how others could be improved.

Talent and Performance

Prior to 2021, we were critical of the arrangements for developing and funding our most promising young players. Things have improved since a Talent and Performance Committee was appointed to provide support and challenge.

The Year 1 Implementation Plan makes remodelling the pathway and performance programme a priority and we welcome the appointment of a new Head of Pathway Development.

Members Advisory Group (MAG)

We worked closely with the Members Advisory Group. A MAG member made a valuable contribution to our competitions sub-committee and MAG invited Council representatives to join them to consider how director elections and appointments could be streamlined.

Conclusion

After nine eventful years, Sandra Deaton is retiring as TTE Chair. Sandra leaves with our warmest thanks and best wishes for the future.

Earlier in the year we gave the Board our views on the personal qualities we would like the new Chair to possess. The future of the sport will be enhanced if the Board, staff and Council use their skills and experience to work together.

I would like to thank all councillors, Directors and staff, in particular Jo Keay-Blyth and Sue Wressell, for their help over the past year.

Estyn Williams

National Council Chair



Chief Executive's Team

Table Tennis England's membership total stood at 26,405 on March 31st, 2023, a 5.3% increase from the previous year.

We have seen a rise of 15% in Compete Plus and 2% in Compete membership from the previous year, demonstrating that participation in competitions is rising again.

Customer Service

There has been a 31.6% reduction in customer service tickets and telephone calls, which suggests that more members are using the online systems directly and becoming more familiar.

This has freed up staff time to help deliver *Table Tennis United* by improving our governance, cleansing our data and improving processes.

In August 2022 Table Tennis England partnered with Sign Live, which is an online British Sign Language (BSL) interpreting service. This was added to remove communication barriers and provide our deaf and hard of hearing members with the confidence in contacting us.

Only a few members have so far used this service, and we will be promoting the facility much more going forward.

Ranking

This season the National Cadet League, National Junior League and County Championships have used TT Leagues.

This has been a great success and from an organiser's perspective it has made running and promoting leagues a much easier process, while clubs can view team results and averages on their phone during and after the competition.

This has also helped the ranking team by reducing the time in entering individuals' results.

There has been an increase in Tournament Organisers requesting licence checks *before* events, this speeds up the entering process and minimises inaccuracies in the rankings.

TT Leagues

The development and growth of the TT Leagues league management system continues apace.

In the 2022/23 season, TT Leagues was used for the management of more than 200 competitions across 150 league websites. A wide range of new functionality was added to the system to streamline the operation of leagues and facilitate the management of results. Further developments are already under way ahead of the 2023/24 season.

Local League Applications

This remains the core role of TT Leagues. A range of new developments were added to the system. These include:

- Simplified approach to adding players to teams
- An alternative "wins-only" methodology for reserve management

Total Membership	20/21	21/22	22/23	Female	Male
Supporter	1,143	997	865	275	590
Club Play	2,899	3,531	4,188	1,046	3,142
Compete	12,343	18,193	18,635	1,521	17,114
Compete Plus	1,313	2,353	2,717	489	2,228
Total	17,698	25,074	26,405	3,331	23,074
Membership by Age					
Cadet	1,428	2,437	2,937	473	2,464
Junior	1,134	1,881	1,861	242	1,619
Senior	2,174	3,732	4,091	477	3,614
Veteran	12,962	17,024	17,514	2,139	15,375
Membership by age – Compete Plus					
Cadet	288	509	680	160	520
Junior	259	482	490	96	394
Senior	288	552	671	90	581
Veteran	478	810	876	143	733
Membership by age – Compete					
Cadet	684	1,133	1,315	145	1,170
Junior	640	1,140	1,132	109	1,023
Senior	1,444	2,668	2,802	262	2,540
Veteran	9,575	13,252	13,371	1,004	12,367

- Data downloads to aid league management
- Additional management options for the local leagues ranking system
- Facilitating the production of match reports
- Ability to run league competitions on county sites
- Information about "scratch sets" now available on public website

We have also been able to show how free Apps such as Google Calendar and Google Forms can be embedded into TT Leagues pages to provide access to a wider range of functionality, such as online entry for local tournaments and registration of teams and players for league play.

There are now 18 Video Tutorials published on the Table Tennis England website. These facilitate the use of the system by League Administrators.

British League Applications

After successful implementation of the results management system in the 2021/22 season, ahead of the 2022/23 season a new online entry and payment system was developed.

This streamlined the entry process for Club Administrators. Subsequent to the online entry system, clubs were able to use an online ranking module to set and reset their ranking lists.

County Championships Applications

In the 2021/22 season, TT Leagues had been piloted alongside the manual spreadsheet system for results.

Having demonstrated the advantages of a web-based system, TT Leagues was the sole system used for results management in the 2022/23 season.

This worked well and all results of county matches had been published by early April – just 10 days after the last matches had been played.

TT Leagues was used "live" at all five County Championships Premier Weekends

for the management of results. Weekend organisers, players and county officials found the rapid access to results very helpful in promoting the smooth running of the weekend sessions.

National Cadet League/National Junior League Applications

This was the major development of TT Leagues in 2022/23. As expected, the diverse and flexible formats of the NCL/NJL competitions proved to be very challenging – certainly the most ambitious of the applications so far.

Nonetheless, with some creative re-thinking of the available formats, along with some essential reconfiguring of the system by the developer (Rocca Creative), the implementation proved to be successful.

All 16 host venues used the system, managing around 50 competitions by the end of the season. Many of the organisers were new to TT Leagues and required a fair degree of "hand-holding" to get them started. But they soon gained confidence and many were rapidly making full use of all the functionality of the system.

Further guidance will be provided ahead of the 2023/24 season to enable as many organisers as possible to exploit the capabilities of the system – particularly in relation to automatic fixture generation.

Future Developments

The main development ahead of the 2023/24 season is the development of new competition formats that will enable leagues to run their Divisional Cup and Handicap Competitions in TT Leagues.

Given the wide range of formats that are used by local leagues we will start with basic formats that have widespread use. These will then be refined to incorporate specific features requested by local leagues. The intention is that TT Leagues will be able to provide suitable formats to enable local leagues to manage their Closed Tournaments using the software.



Winners at the Pride of Table Tennis awards ceremony and, below, on court at the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships

Volunteering

The Pride of Table Tennis awards ceremony was held at the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships, supported by the University of Nottingham.

Winners in 15 categories were announced, who had been chosen by the national judging panel from more than 140 nominations received.

Johnathon Driscoll, who leads on the Pride of Table Tennis Awards, said: "It was fitting to showcase their outstanding efforts at our Flagship event in Nottingham.

"It's vital to honour and recognise the achievements of our heroes who go the extra mile to provide opportunities to many. We are truly indebted to them for their contributions to our sport.

"Thank you to the volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs, leagues, schools and organisations who step up each year to ensure table tennis is able to grow – without them, our great sport would not be the same."

The winners and runners-up were:

Male Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Stephen Longmoor

Runners-up: Henry Arthur, Colin Gower

Female Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Josephine Boyd

Runner-up: Po-Yee Tong

Young Male Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Tom Scard

Runner-up: Nicholas Walker

Young Female Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Mia Solomon

Partner of the Year

Winner: Sport in Mind

Runner-up: Sported

Technical Official of the Year

Winner: Dan Bullen

Runner-up: Sheila Walshe

PRIDE of place



League of the Year

Winner: Heathrow Table Tennis League

Level the Table Award

Winner: Juliet Bertie

Runner-up: Sally Hughes

Coach of the Year

Winner: Teresa Bennett

Runner-up: Dave Nouch

Inspirational Story of the Year

Winner: Amanda Worne

Special Panel Award

Winner: Sue Hayes

School of the Year

Winner: St Johns CE Primary School

Runner-up: Archbishop of Cranmer CE Primary School

Club of the Year

Winners: Continental Stars TTC and Worthing TTC

Contribution to Table Tennis

Winner: Jan Johns

Runner-up: Mike Pantin

Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner: Dennis & Margaret Calver

Runner-up: Mike Withyman

- Area auditing is helping to establish where volunteer roles are needed the most, and local support will be provided through our Area Manager network.

We will continue to promote national campaigns, such as the The Big Help Out and Volunteers' Week, to drive volunteer numbers.

Engagement Team



The Have a Go Zone at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

The Engagement Team was created in October 2022, bringing together the Business Development, Marketing-Communications and Insight functions.

A new post, Digital Engagement Manager, became part of the new team, which is aligned to the pledges set out in *Table Tennis United* concerning connecting with existing and new audiences.

Commonwealth Games, Birmingham

Investment from the Sport England B2022 Innovation and Digital Fund enabled the delivery of a fully staffed table tennis 'Have a Go Zone' at the NEC throughout the games, delivering some excellent fan engagement. A number of volunteers received training to deliver this experience for Commonwealth Games visitors, and we are thankful for their contributions.

Around 8,200 spectators, from seasoned players to people only just discovering the sport, visited the zone over the 10 days. An Interactive trail told visitors all about table tennis in England and engaged 284 participants who then joined an email marketing series, encouraging them to take up the sport. Equipment from the Zone was donated to local community groups.

The Sport England fund also enabled:

- Development of an online toolkit for clubs and partners wishing to deliver table tennis engagement activities throughout the Games. 737 organisations and individuals received the toolkit. 229 events were created.
- Further insight into the potential female table tennis market
- Work with an agency to deliver a women and girls' engagement campaign
- A Social Value research piece which can be used for securing additional future investment
- Development of our relationship with StreetTT which now exists in 24 cities across England, reaching new audiences through the project and their technology. A Data Share Agreement means we are building a new, more diverse audience segment that we engage through our digital plan. Street TT content from England has received 3 million views on YouTube and other social platforms
- Live streaming of 3 West Midlands based table tennis events in the lead up to the games
- Delivery of a competition with local schools to design Ping! table artwork for outdoor public tables and repair and update these facilities
- Support for *Sport Relief* in the delivery of celebrity table tennis as part of their TV show
- Extension of our relationship with our Data Partner, Winners (see below)

Data

Working with our Data Partner, Winners, we reviewed how our data

is acquired, stored, maintained and used across the organisation and created a centralised environment that merges multiple data sources and provides a Single Customer View.

We have also developed a framework for our Data Management Strategy which will help to guide us on our journey to becoming a data-driven organisation.

Insight

Our insight function continues to provide understanding of lived experiences in the sport.

Research within the last season has included membership, coach and club surveys, and monitoring and evaluation of Ping! programmes and TT Kidz, to help continue improving user experiences of these initiatives. We will ensure that the table tennis community are given wider opportunities in future to give their feedback.

TTE.TV

In October 2022, a test phase of TTE.TV was launched and a part-time TTE.TV Content Creator was recruited to lead on the creation of live and 'on-demand' content from English table tennis.

There were some early technical issues and bugs with the platform, but these were largely overcome and by the end of March 2023, TTE.TV successfully live streamed the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships, with 2,500 subscribers to the channel.

The SBL Premier League has also been live-streamed all season by the clubs, as well as the European Championships Stage 1 (qualifying) matches and the age group Nationals.

There are some further platform developments that are required and venue connectivity continues to cause some issues when we are live-streaming on TTE.TV, however the direction of travel and level of audience engagement is encouraging and our commitment to the channel remains at the forefront of our engagement strategy and linked with our membership proposition.

Events

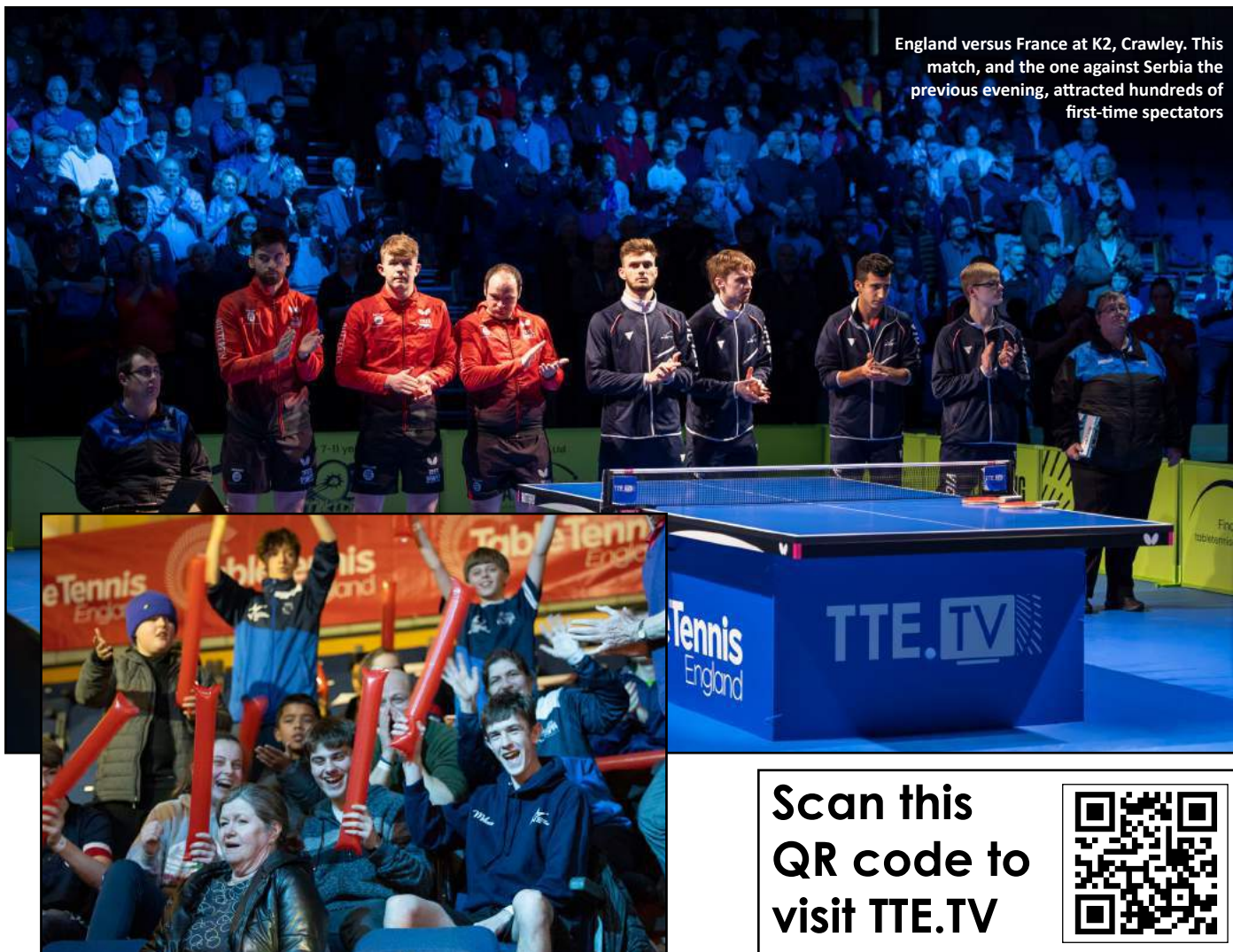
The delivery of the European matches in January 2023 enabled a much wider audience to be reached and engaged, with 881 people buying or receiving tickets to the matches. An estimated 50% of these spectators were attending live table tennis for the first time.

More than 1,500 people watched on TTE.TV, with an estimated 10% of these not members of Table Tennis England currently.

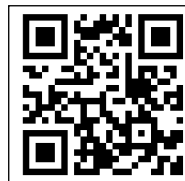
Website sessions over the two days of the events were up by nearly 30% and there were 2,729 first-time visitors to the homepage, with engagement across all social channels increasing during this period.

The Mark Bates Senior National Championships in March 2023 saw a record number of spectators at the University of Nottingham across the three days, with more than 1,000 adults and children enjoying all the action.

England versus France at K2, Crawley. This match, and the one against Serbia the previous evening, attracted hundreds of first-time spectators



Scan this QR code to visit TTE.TV



A total of 2,069 viewers tuned in on TTE.TV over the course of the weekend to watch the live coverage, consuming nearly 5,000 hours of action between them. 424 people tuned in to watch the first ever *Rewind* show, which reviewed all the action from the event and went live on TTE.TV in the week after the event.

For the first time, we have implemented our own ticketing sales solution, giving us more control and sight of ticket sales to events such as these.

Membership scheme review

The membership was consulted on some potential changes to the TTE membership scheme through a series of webinar discussions and a follow-up survey.

The consultation created some useful discussion and has helped to further develop thinking about the importance of establishing a highly valued membership scheme.

Further work is now being done to scope and develop a new membership scheme for the 24/25 season.

Media appearances

From time to time, we instigate or facilitate appearances on national media. In the past 12 months, these have included:

- Tin-Tin Ho featured on the BBC website discussing disordered eating
- Cadet champion Ralph Pattison appeared on the Helen Skelton show on BBC 5 Live during the Mark Bates Ltd Cadet, U17 & Junior National Championships
- CEO Adrian Christy guested on the *Unofficial Partner* sports business podcast alongside Mike Emery, CEO of our TTE.TV partners, Joymo
- Gavin Evans was interviewed live on BBC radio ahead of the England matches in Crawley against Serbia and France

We also hosted a media day prior to the Commonwealth Games, which was well attended by broadcast media, as well as enabling gold medallists Jack Hunter-Spivey and Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall to meet the media afterwards via the *Celebrating Victory* programme.

Website and social media

Visitors to the Table Tennis England website were up 17.2% to 415,220 year-on-year, building on the launch of the new website in early 2022. Of these, the number of new users was up 15.93% and the number of total sessions up 9% to more than 933,000. The number of female users visiting the website rose by 4.19% to 34,688%

The introduction of the table finder feature was a success, with the page receiving 45,525 unique views in the 12 months to March 31.

The Table Tennis England website is regularly updated, and efforts to increase the visibility and representation of Women & Girls across our website has been supported by a photographic partnership.

On social media, the Facebook total reach rose by 14.7% year-on-year to just over 6.8 million. Twitter saw a 5% increase in followers to 17,120 and a total of 601,000 impressions. On Instagram, we have 13,000 followers, an 8.9% increase. There was an 8.2% increase in profile views to 35,949.

Looking ahead

In the year ahead, we will work on building our digital capability – increasing engagement with audiences, reducing churn, and acquiring new fans, members and participants.

We will deliver personalised communications and engagement based on an individual's preferences and interests.

We will work to produce and host more content on TTE.TV and improve production values.

We will continue to scope a new Membership Scheme for the 2024/25 season.

Table Tennis Development Team



The Prince and Princess of Wales visited a Bat & Chat session in Falmouth

In February 2023, the new Area Manager team started their roles. They will play a critical role in developing the new Area Networks and support the table tennis community locally.

Club Development

The 2022/2023 season saw 519 clubs affiliated to Table Tennis England, an increase from 439 on 2021/2022.

This is significant as it enables us to have a greater reach into the sport and to provide a greater range of support across the country. It also enables us to signpost and link our casual players into settings we know are safe and provide a high-quality offer.

In October, we announced a partnership with easyfundraising to bring an easy, accessible and continual way to raise funds for table tennis clubs across the country. easyfundraising gives clubs the chance to fundraise effortlessly through online shopping via an app, donation reminder or website with more than 7,000 brands. There are currently 37 clubs signed up to receive funding from the platform.

TT Clubs is a support package that provides clubs with website designs and IT support which will help them to manage the administration of participants and competitions, streamlining a time-consuming role. To date, 93 clubs are using TT Clubs.

Level the Table

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is a crucial element to developing the sport and achieving parity across communities and demographics.

The priority for the Level the Table grant scheme was focused around increasing the number of women and girls taking part in the sport.

The grant funded 32 projects across England which prioritised women and girls' participation and were developed in a range of spaces including clubs, youth clubs, community groups and schools.

So far, 3,254 people have participated in these funded projects, of which 43% of participants were female. Of these participants, 32% have become Table Tennis England members.

TT Kidz

TT Kidz aims to provide a fun, inspiring and engaging first experience of table tennis for 7-11 year olds. Now in its third year, we are starting to see players becoming full club members, embedded in the table tennis community.

The Autumn 2022 phase was the biggest yet, with 383 participants taking part in 40 programmes delivered by 33 clubs nationally. 16 clubs were brand new to delivery this year.

In support of our gender parity goal, we supported eight girls-only sessions, which resulted in the highest number of girls ever participating in the programme.

Of the 383 participants, 32.5% were girls and 27.5% were from ethnically diverse communities.

Clubs have reported increased junior members as a result of the programme, enhanced links with local primary schools, and new adult members through TT Kidz parents joining.

Survey headlines include:

- 96% of parents said their child found the sessions fun
- 99% of parents believe the sessions are suitable for different abilities
- 85% said their child has, or would like to, become a club member
- 93% of children want to continue playing table tennis
- Overall net promoter score of +70 (above +50 is considered excellent)

In April, we teamed up with Wiltshire County Council, the British Olympic Foundation and British Judo to deliver an Olympic-themed programme as part of the Government-funded Holiday activity fund. More than 300 children picked up a table tennis bat during the programme and took part in a series of TT Kidz themed activities delivered by local coaches and supported by the Area Manager team.

The TT Kidz project continues to evolve, with a pilot currently under way to test a simplified TT Kidz offer for four-to-six-year-olds.

Jack Petchey Foundation

We have been delighted to receive continued support from the Jack Petchey Foundation for the Year 12 Jack Petchey table tennis project which continues to provide opportunities for young people across London and Essex to play, compete and lead.

The year 11 project concluded in July 2022, with the following outcomes:

- 208 tables delivered to 77 schools across London & Essex
- 26 tables delivered to 13 youth organisations in London & Essex
- 962 participants in the Schools Team Championships for Zone 7, and 576 players participating in the Individual qualifier events
- 103 young people trained as young leaders
- 122 girls benefitting from 6-8 weeks coaching from a Licenced Table Tennis Coach
- 74 girls attended girls-only festivals

It is estimated that more than 14,800 young people benefitted from the year 11 programme.

Ping!

Ping Pong Parlours have continued to grow as we have come out of the pandemic. We currently have 17 open and more are planned to open over the next year. Ping Pong Parlour footfall in 2022/2023 measured at just over 350,000 participants across all our parlours. There have also been 31 tables donated to local table tennis settings as a result of the Ping Pong Parlour initiative.



Scan this QR code for more information about TT Kidz!



Left: Autumn 2022 saw the biggest phase yet of TT Kidz, including a number of girls-only programmes. We are seeing children 'graduating' from TT Kidz to club membership

Above: Ping Pong Parlours continue to grow

More than 100 Ping in the Community programmes were set up, which have led to Bat and Chat and other community-based initiatives being developed, using table tennis as the driver.

The partnership with the Stroke Association also saw 15 groups get 'play at home' packs funded through the Ping in the Community programme, strengthening the relationship we have with the charity.

B2022 SE Investment

The below are some key statistics and information from the Birmingham 2022 Legacy programme, supported by Sport England investment. So far delivery has seen:

- Festival/Roadshow programme across eight events/sites July-September 2022
- NEC Have a Go Zone experienced 8,200 footfall (August 2022); 284 participants joined the interactive trail
- Birmingham 2022 outdoor table footfall was 141,861 in the three months before the Games and 153,921 in the three months immediately post-Games. To boost popularity of public tables across the region, we launched a 'design a table' competition which saw entries from across the area
- 17 West Midlands-based community groups were supported through table tennis equipment packages and resources to host new table tennis activity
- Three new Ping Pong Parlours were opened, celebrating the arrival of the Commonwealth Games through our 'Time to Play' programme

Partnerships

Our initial trial partnership with Sported saw three community hubs created, and to date 265 young people from under-served communities in Birmingham have engaged on a regular basis each week. These have become sustainable and this is a partnership being developed and expanded for 2023/2024 to other parts of the country.

The Sport in Mind partnership supported those experiencing challenges with mental health. 2022/23 saw the delivery of more than 300 hours of table tennis sessions across eight different counties.

Weekly sessions which are free for anyone 17+ years old have supported more than 200 individuals who are struggling with their mental health and used table tennis as a tool to help aid recovery.

The StreetTT partnership engaged social audiences and focused on diverse communities and female audiences. There were 523 participation events involving 1,429 players, of whom 42.5% were female. It also generated 62 moderators and 255 telegram members along with 2,611,824 content views on social media.

Table Tennis England support enabled improved functionality of the app, and promotion. StreetTT was nominated for the London Sport Awards 2023.

The partnership with Parkinson's UK provided two webinars to clubs and community groups on how to deliver table tennis to People with Parkinson's. This resulted in Parkinson's UK investing £5,000 into a grant scheme for table tennis clubs. This rolls out in 2023/24.

The partnership with Peterborough MUMs UK, a group tackling loneliness in women, saw 14 sessions since January 2023, with 210 attendances (footfall) and a commitment of 380 volunteering hours.

We also recently completed a research project with Women in Sport, to better understand how to engage women going through midlife and menopause in table tennis. Drawing on the findings from this research, we are working on an action plan to support this cohort, who account for about a third of our female members.

Worthing Table Tennis Club, with *Level the Table* support, hosted a 1* female-only tournament which saw 61 female entries from across England. Several more female-only competitions have been held around the country in 2022/23, with more already on the calendar for 2023/24. Female-only coaching courses are also planned.

Looking ahead

Our priorities for the next year are to establish our Area Networks, including appointing Chairs to each of the Area Local Organising Groups and populating these groups with local people who understand and support table tennis locally. We will also have Local Delivery Plans in place for each Area which will highlight the key activities for each Area.

Our team of Area Managers will support clubs on the main issues identified and work proactively to support around funding, facilities, volunteers and other identified needs. We will also ensure the table tennis community get to hear and see the work undertaken by the Area Managers.

We will recognise our fantastic volunteers.

We are also committed to growing the number of under-nines participating in the sport, working with clubs, schools and local community groups to deliver TT Kidz as a route into the sport.

We will have an action plan established to grow the number of active officials in the sport and to develop existing ones further.

We will grow the number of Ping Pong Parlours open and active in local towns and ensure there are opportunities for the local table tennis community to engage proactively in these where they wish to. This will include creating activation opportunities for at least one Parlour in each of the seven Areas.

Competitions

British League entries have increased in every section and gender, from 297 to 332 teams overall, a 12% year-on-year growth.

This includes:

- Senior (SBL): up from 104 to 121 teams
- Junior (JBL): up from 80 to 91 teams
- Women's (WBL): up from 34 to 40 teams
- Veterans' (VBL): up from 90 to 93 teams

As with VBL last season, a second venue has been introduced for JBL – our thanks to Draycott & Long Eaton TTC (men's Divisions 5A and 5B, VBL) and Nottingham TTC (boy's Divisions 8 and 9, JBL).

A new event was inaugurated and launched - the SBL Premier Cup competition, which took place at BATTs, Harlow, in June 2023 - a team knockout competition for the very best teams as a season finale and showcase. Congratulations to the host club, who won the first competition and lifted the trophy. Our gratitude goes to Cliff Carder, who donated the trophy.

Five Grand Prix events took place this season, an increase from four in 2021/22. All events with capacity to do so showed an increase in the number of entrants, with Women & Girls entries up significantly (35% like-for-like).

The Restricted Singles format for 21-to-30-year-olds has proven more popular than the open doubles format it replaced, attracting more than twice as many entries.

After an absence of nearly four years, we hosted home legs for the ETTU European Team Championships, with England facing Serbia and France in Men's Qualifiers Stage 1 Group A3 matches, on successive evenings in January at K2 in Crawley.

Following agreement of the Competition Review Phase I by Board on May 27, 2022, Phase II was subsequently agreed by Board on December 7, 2022, including the overall competition model and event formats.

New functionality has been developed and launched in the TT Leagues platform for online league entry and payment, and for team roster management. This has been used for all British League sections this season, providing a more effective interface and process for all competing teams

All remaining national leagues transitioned to the TT Leagues platform this season, including NCL/ NJL and County Championships. This means that fixtures, results, player stats and tables for all TTE national leagues are hosted in one place, and this has additionally streamlined the ranking result processes for national leagues.

All remaining national tournaments transitioned to online tournament entry/ payment via the membership portal in Sport:80, including Grands Prix and Inter-regional Finals.

A new video resource was created to support player transitions from recreational and club-based activity to national competition – it tells players and parents



BATTs players Shayan Siraj, Josh Bennett and Ralph Pattison lift the SBL Premier Cup

Our new video resources



Scan the QR code on the left to watch our adaptive rules video



Scan the QR code on the left to watch the video on transitioning to national competitions



all they need to know about entering a first national tournament of league.

A broad series of Para inclusion developments were undertaken during the season – key elements included:

- Para events are now included as standard at the Mark Bates Ltd Cadet, U17 & Junior National Championships – the first TTE national Junior Para Champion was Joseph Fortnum-Adams

- A video resource was created for players, parents and officials to illustrate adaptive rules that apply when a competitor in open singles or doubles is a wheelchair player

- *Level The Table* grants were made available for clubs which need to invest in equipment to meet accessibility requirements

Consultants were appointed, with the financial support of UK Sport, to lead a blue-sky feasibility study into the practical and commercial viability of an England Pro League competition.

We extend our sincere thanks to all members of the Tournament Approval Panel and its Chairman John Mackey; the Technical

Officials Committee and the volunteer technical officials at national events; the members of all league and tournament committees and Gary Wood (British League) in particular; our sponsors Mark Bates Ltd, China Taiping and Topspin; our equipment suppliers Teessport and Bribar; Neil Hurford for his tireless support of TT Leagues IT development – and all hosts, organisers and entrants of regulated leagues and tournaments.

Looking ahead

Areas of focus for Competitions & Events over the next season include the full development of Phase III of the Competition Review and implementation starting from 2024/2025.

We will have a new Rankings system in live testing for 2024/2025, running side by side with the existing Rankings system.

We will also grow our digital capability, including enhancing our rankings platform, and implement our online entry and payment portal pilot for external regulated tournaments.

We will also be delivering and offering support to deliver local level competitions for new and developing players through our Area Manager network, with the aim to increase competition opportunities for young players at a local level.

Roll of Honour

Senior British League

- Premier Division:** Ormeau
- Championship:** Drumchapel Glasgow
- Division A1:** P Pong Team
- Division A2:** Brighton II
- Division B1:** Guernsey
- Division B2:** Horsham Spinners
- Division B3:** Finsbury
- Division B4:** Cippenham
- Division C1:** Colin Deaton TTA
- Division C2:** Ormesby IV
- Division C3:** Wensum II
- Division C4:** North Ayrshire III
- Division C5:** Foresters III
- Division C6:** eBaTT
- Division C7:** Morpeth

Senior British League Premier Cup

- 1 BATTs, 2 Brighton, 3 Fusion,
- 4 Drumchapel, 5 North Ayrshire, 6 Urban,
- 7 Ormeau, 8 Ormesby

Women's British League

- Premier Division:** Fusion
- Division One:** Fusion II
- Division Two:** Wensum
- Division Three:** Ellenborough
- Division Four:** Greenhouse
- Division Five:** Ackworth

Junior British League

- Premier Boys:** Ormesby
- Premier Girls:** London Academy
- Division One Boys:** Grantham Academy II
- Division One Girls:** Woodford Wells
- Division Two Boys:** Grantham Academy III
- Division Two Girls:** Ackworth
- Division Three Boys:** Grantham Academy IV
- Division Three Girls:** Ormeau II
- Division Four Boys:** Lillington
- Division Four Girls:** Lillington
- Division Five Boys:** Bribar Cleeve Park
- Division Six Boys:** eBaTT
- Division Seven Boys:** Loop Dublin II
- Division Eight Boys:** Joola Plymouth
- Division Nine Boys:** Kingfisher II

Veterans' British League

- Premier Men:** Team Bribar
- Premier Women:** Ellenborough
- Division 1A Men:** Lilleshall
- Division 1B Men:** Cippenham
- Division One Women:** Foresters
- Division 2A Men:** St George's
- Division 2B Men:** Foresters D
- Division Two Women:** Foresters II
- Division 3A Men:** Zyabyte
- Division 3B Men:** Horsham Spinners
- Division Three Women:** Cleeve Park
- Division 4A Men:** BATTs II
- Division 4B Men:** Border Reivers
- Division 5A Men:** TableTennisDaily
- Division 5B Men:** Cutnall Green

Continued on page 18



SBL Premier Division champions Ormeau (left)

Women's British League champions Fusion (below)



Above: Junior British League champions Ormesby (left) and London Academy
Below: Veterans' British League champions Ellenborough (left) and Team Bribar





The Mike Watts Achievement Award is presented annually to the girl and boy with the greatest improvement in ratings points between August 1 and July 31 each year. The winners for 2021/22 were Ella Pashley and Ralph Pattison, seen here receiving their awards from Head of Performance Development Gavin Evans during the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships

From page 17

County Championships

A total of 226 teams from 38 Counties entered the championships, split as follows:

- Cadets 30
- Junior 43
- Seniors 44
- Veterans 72
- Over-60s 37

Overall, this was an increase of four teams from the 2021/22 season.

Unfortunately, 12 teams withdrew from the championships either before the season started or during the season - four from the Cadets, two from the Juniors, two from the Seniors and four from the Veteran divisions. All the divisions completed their season, meeting the deadline for completing all matches.

In the Premier Divisions, Nottinghamshire completed a double by winning the Juniors and Veterans - the sixth year running they had won the Veterans and the third year running for their Juniors.

In the Cadet Premier Division, Middlesex became champions and in the Senior Premier Division it was Sussex, whilst in the Over-60s Premier, Kent retained their title.

No fewer than 18 teams had a 100% win record in their sections, with a further 16 teams remaining unbeaten during the season. A few divisions were decided on countback from matches won between two teams and in one division between three teams which were on equal points.

This was the second season in which TT Leagues had been fully used for all age categories, following a successful first full year in the 2021/22 season.

Result entry via the Section Administrators went reasonably smoothly, with the majority of results entered within a week of matches taking place, although this does depend on the weekend organisers or Counties returning the match scoresheets to the administrator in a timely manner. It does also depend on Counties ensuring that new players have registered for County Championships within their memberships



Over-60s Premier Division county champions Kent

profile. Hence, thanks must go to the administrators for taking on this task with TT Leagues, which wouldn't have been possible without their dedication.

The TT Leagues system does provide a lot more data, which has been shown to be very popular with the players from the high number of visitors per month to the website.

As data is now available via TT Leagues, it can easily be shared with the Counties which have their own County websites through manual links, so that a major feature of County sites will be displaying the results of county matches, promoting County Championships to a wider audience.

Divisional champions

Cadets

Premier Division: Middlesex

Division 1A: Middlesex II

Division 1B: Warwickshire II

Division 2: Glamorgan

Juniors

Premier Division: Nottinghamshire

Division 1A: Derbyshire

Division 1B: Middlesex

Division 2A: Durham

Division 2B: Gloucestershire II

Division 2C: Middlesex II
Seniors

Premier Division: Sussex

Division 1A: Lancashire

Division 1B: Essex

Division 2A: Cambridgeshire

Division 2B: Hertfordshire

Division 2C: Avon

Veterans

Premier Division: Nottinghamshire

Division 1A: Cheshire

Division 1B: Essex

Division 2A: Warwickshire II

Division 2B: Bedfordshire

Division 2C: Kent III

Division 2D: Avon

Division 3A: Cleveland II

Division 3B: Kent IV

Over-60s

Premier Division: Kent

Division 1A: Leicestershire

Division 1B: Essex

Division 2A: Cambridgeshire

Division 2B: Hampshire

Junior National Cup

Girls: 1 Mari Baldwin, 2 Sienna Jetha, 3 Anna



ELCC winners, clockwise from left: Plymouth (Carter Cup), Derby (Bromfield Trophy), Plymouth (Wilmott Cup), Norwich (JM Rose Bowl)



Green, 4 Saskia Key, 5 Maliha Baig, 6 Ella Pashley, 7 Rebecca Savage, 8 Megan Jones, 9 Isabelle Lacorte, 10 Evie Pace.
Boys: 1 Larry Trumpauskas, 2 Josh Bruce, 3 Ben Piggott, 4 Louis Price, 5 Joseph Hunter, 6 James Hamblett, 7 Rohan Dani, 8 Tom Rayner, 9 Olly Cornish.

Cadet National Cup

Girls: 1 Ella Pashley, 2 Sienna Jetha, 3 Naomi Coker, 4 Jonabel Taguibao, 5 Mia Lakhani, 6 Brooke Morris, 7 Eva Eccles, 8 Tilly Simms, 9 Alyssa Nguyen, 10 Luna Archard
Boys: 1 Rohan Dani, 2 Max Radiven, 3 Isaac Kingham, 4 Kacper Piwowar, 5 Harry Randall, 6 Adam Alibhai, 7 Fernando Frandes, 8 Abraham Sellado, 9 Leo Nguyen, 10 Janak Shah

English Leagues Cup Competitions

Wilmott Cup (Senior Men): Plymouth
JM Rose Bowl (Senior Women): Norwich
Carter Cup (Junior Boys): Plymouth
Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls): Derby

Inter-Regional Championships Team

Under-15 Girls: Southern
Under-15 Boys: West Midlands
Under-13 Girls: East Midlands
Under-13 Boys: London
Under-11 Girls: East
Under-11 Boys: London
Individual
Under-15 Girls: Mia Longman (Yorkshire)
Under-15 Boys: Wajid Wafiq (West Midlands)



Under-13 Girls: Chuanyu Cheng (West Midlands)
Under-13 Boys: Charles Donald (East)
Under-11 Girls: Hannah Saunders (East)
Under-11 Boys: Lewis Wu (East)
Tonge Trophy (overall winners): East

NCL/NJL

The number of teams rose from 153 to 198 in the NCL, 48 of which were at London Academy. In the NJL, the number was 141, which was 10 below the previous season, although offset by an increase in capacity of the Junior British League.

This continues a pleasing positive trend since the pandemic, especially as the Greenhouse Centre is not currently available – alternative venue Morpeth has space for 32 fewer teams across both competitions.

Two new organisers, Lee McHugh and Paul McGerty, need thanking for taking on the organising at BATTs and Stowmarket.

Equally, at least, thanks should also be expressed to all the other organisers who have been “in situ” for many seasons.

All 16 host venues used the TT Leagues platform for results and tables, for the first time this season. Many of the organisers were new to TT Leagues, and thanks are due to Neil Hurford for steering them smoothly through the process.

Butterfly School Individual Championships

Under-19 Girls: Aleksandra Titievskaia
Under-19 Boys: Felix Thomis

Under-16 Girls: Sienna Jetha
Under-16 Boys: Isaac Kingham
Under-13 Girls: Brooke Morris
Under-13 Boys: Aarif Li
Under-11 Girls: Alyssa Nguyen
Under-11 Boys: Zihan Lin

Butterfly School Team Championships

Under-19 Girls: Heanor Gate Spencer Academy
Under-19 Boys: Grantham College
Under-16 Girls: London Academy
Under-16 Boys: London Academy
Under-13 Girls: St Marylebone CE School, Westminster
Under-13 Boys: University College School
Under-11 Girls: London Academy
Under-11 Boys: St Edward’s Catholic Primary, Westminster



Above: Lewis Wu and Hannah Saunders receive the Tonge Trophy on behalf of the East region from Ken Tonge and Karen Tonge OBE
 Left: Cadet National Cup boys’ champion Rohan Dani



Left: Tin-Tin Ho won her fifth Women's Singles title; Above: Mutual respect between Class 2-5 Para champion Jack Hunter-Spivey (right) and beaten finalist Simon Heaps; Below: Class 6-10 Para champion: Ash Facey; Above right: Women's Doubles champions Tin-Tin Ho & Emily Bolton; Below right: Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall won their eighth Men's Doubles title as a pair; Far right: Tom Jarvis reacts as he retains his Men's Singles title



The team of umpires and officials

Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships

- Men's singles:** Tom Jarvis (Li)
- Women's singles:** Tin-Tin Ho (Mi)
- Men's doubles:** Liam Pitchford (Dy) & Paul Drinkhall (Cv)
- Women's doubles:** Tin-Tin Ho (Mi) & Emily Bolton (La)
- Mixed doubles:** Mollie Patterson (Nk) & Ismaila Akindiya (Ng)
- Under-21 men's singles:** Connor Green (Ng)
- Under-21 women's singles:** Jasmin Wong (Y)
- Para Class 2-5:** Jack Hunter-Spivey (Ch)
- Para Class 6-10:** Ashley Facey (E)



Above and below: Under-21 champions Jasmin Wong and Connor Green
Left: Mollie Patterson and Ismaila Akindiya won the Mixed Doubles



Left: Action from the Para Showcase Doubles; Right: Fliiss Pickard; Above: Sponsors Mark Bates and Yamei Yang, of China Taiping, are interviewed by Andy Ashworth





Mark Bates Ltd Junior, U17 & Cadet National Championships

Junior boys' singles: Connor Green (Ng)
Junior girls' singles: Anaya Patel (Bk)
Junior para singles: Joseph Fortnum-Adams (Sk)
U17 boys' singles: Connor Green (Ng)
U17 girls' singles: Sienna Jetha (He)
Cadet boys' singles: Ralph Pattison (E)
Cadet girls' singles: Naomi Coker (Dy)
Junior boys' doubles: Connor Green (Ng) & Josh Bruce (K)
Junior girls' doubles: Erin Green (Ng) & Anna Green (Ng)
Junior mixed doubles: Connor Green (Ng) & Erin Green (Ng)
U17 boys' doubles: Joseph Hunter (Mi) & James Hamblett (He)

U17 girls' doubles: Ella Pashley (Cv) & Mabel Shute (E)
Cadet boys' doubles: Max Radiven (Mi) & Harry Randall (Bk)
Cadet girls' doubles: Sienna Jetha (He) & Naomi Coker (Dy)

Mark Bates Ltd U11 & U13 National Championships

U11 boys' singles: Zihan Lin (Ca)
U11 girls' singles: Hannah Saunders (Ca)
U13 boys' singles: Kacper Piwowar (Dv)
U13 girls' singles: Hannah Saunders (Ca)
U13 boys' doubles: Kacper Piwowar (Dv) & Abraham Sellado (Y)
U13 girls' doubles: Alyssa Nguyen (Dv) & Evie Knaapen (E)



Top left: Zihan Lin; Top right: Anaya Patel; Above left: Erin Green & Anna Green; above right: Kacper Piwowar & Abraham Sellado; Left: Hannah Saunders; Below left: Max Radiven & Harry Randall; Below right: Evie Knaapen & Alyssa Nguyen

Top: The historic first Junior Para Singles podium, featuring (from left) George Jarvis, Joseph Fortnum-Adams, Bly Twomey and Jaiden Caldeira; left: Ella Pashley & Mabel Shute (top); James Hamblett & Joseph Hunter (middle); Sienna Jetha & Naomi Coker (bottom); Below: Ralph Pattison (left); Josh Bruce & Connor Green (right)

Commonwealth Games

The summer of 2022 was an exciting one with a home Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Our final medal total was five, which included:

- 2 x Gold (Men's Doubles; Men's Class 3-5)
- 1 x Silver (Men's Singles)
- 2 x Bronze (Men's Team; Men's Class 8-10)

The Men's Doubles pair of Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall performed very well and retained their gold medal against India in a thrilling match. In the para events, Men's Wheelchair Class 3-5 Jack Hunter-Spivey won gold in a fantastic encounter to achieve his first Commonwealth medal.

In the Men's Singles, Liam lost out in the final to gain silver, achieving his and England's best singles performance ever at a Commonwealth Games.

The Men's Team was disappointed after the semi-final defeat to Singapore, however, they recovered well to beat Nigeria 3-0 in the bronze medal match.

You can see more about the Commonwealth Games elsewhere in this Review.

We would like to thank all the staff and board for the support they gave the team across the event, which was hugely appreciated by the players. We would also like to thank BPTT, who allowed us to utilise two of their staff members for the duration of the Games. We look forward to the Commonwealth Games in Victoria in 2026.

Other Major Events

At the World Team Championships in Chengdu, we faced incredibly challenging circumstances during the lockdown in China. Three men were happy to travel and compete in the championship (Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker, and David McBeath). The team reached the last 16, losing out to France.

Due to the circumstances, the goal was to field a team to try to maintain as far as possible the world team ranking, which is critical for Olympic qualification in 2024. Our enormous gratitude goes to the players who attended and competed under these conditions and the adaptability they showed in the build-up to the event.

Liam Pitchford showed he is up there with the best players in Europe as he secured a bronze medal in Montreux at the European Top 16, beating the top seed in the quarter-finals.

England women's and men's teams have both qualified for the European team championships in Malmo in September, where our intention is to compete for a medal.

We saw some positive performances at the individual World Championships in South Africa. Unfortunately, some singles results did not go our way, with our top finisher Paul Drinkhall who lost in the last 32 against Liang Jingkun of China.

Paul Drinkhall & Liam Pitchford made it to the quarter-finals in the Men's Doubles and

Performance Development Team

led against Dimitrij Ovtcharov and Patrick Franziska, before unfortunately losing out.

We really thought this could be the moment for the boys to win a second world medal and be the only European nation on the podium, however, it was not to be, and our quest for a medal will have to wait until next time.

Departmental Changes

There have been some changes across the last year, both as part of the organisation's strategic reset and due to some staff leaving.

Gavin Evans was appointed as Head of Performance Development following the departure of Simon Mills. Gavin is focusing on aligning the GB and England performance programmes with the new *Table Tennis United strategy*. A key focus is culture change which inspires belief across the whole organisation, including athletes and coach development, which will see an exciting new strategy launch in late 2023.

Emma Vickers left the Board of Directors and has been appointed as Head of Pathway Development. Emma is focusing on establishing a series of pathway development centres, and the development of talent ID initiatives.

John Murphy has been appointed as National Coach, joining from Table Tennis Australia, and we are in the process of appointing one more national coach.

Alan Cooke decided to step down after more 40 years of being involved with Table Tennis England, and Matt Stanforth moved on to a new challenge at the LTA.

Performance Programme Restructure

The new performance restructure has taken place, and players have had their initial induction into the squads.

The new squads include a combination of England and GB programmes:

- Futures Squad (U12, England)
- Start Squad (U15, GB)

- Potential Squad (U19, GB)
- National Training Squad (U15 & U19, England)

- Senior National Training Squad

Later this year, we will also launch our U21 transition squad, which will support players exiting the junior level to transition to the Senior Training Squad.

We also recently published our performance standards, detailing how players can enter and progress through the squads. We anticipate these standards being adapted each year as the level of our players increases over time.

Looking ahead

The Performance Team have a lot of exciting developments in process which we are looking forward to sharing with you soon. These include:

- **Establishing our pathway development centres (PDCs):** An open application process will take place, allowing environments to put themselves forward to gain PDC status. The PDCs will cater for players aged 8-11 (early development phase) and 12-15 (pathway phase), with the aim

of developing players with world-class technical and fundamental skills ready to excel into the next stage of the pathway.

- **Establishing our player development framework:**

The framework will cover development within technical/tactical, physical, medical, social/lifestyle, psychological, nutrition, key behaviours and competition, and outline key indicators of progression from seven years old to the senior international level.

- **Redesigning our coach development pathway:** We want to invest in a coaching system that promotes long-term engagement and personal development. Our new strategy will launch later this year.

- **Continuing to work with our athlete panel:** The panel will continue to give our players a voice and provide valuable insight and feedback to support our decision-making.

- **Talent ID initiatives to find the next generation:** We will be working on a variety of projects to increase the number of players transitioning on to our

Liam Pitchford celebrates beating top seed Truls Moregard at the Europe Top 16



England results

Commonwealth Games 2022

Men's Group 1

England 3 Guyana 0
England 3 Fiji 0
England 3 Bangladesh 0

Quarter-finals

England 3 Cyprus 0

Semi-finals

Singapore 3 England 2

Bronze medal match

England 3 Nigeria 0

Women's Group 1

Singapore 3 England 0
England 3 St Vincent & The
Grenadines 0
England 3 Nigeria 2

Quarter-finals

Wales 3 England 0

World Team Championships 2022

Men's Group 5

Poland 3 England 2
Sweden 3 England 1
England 3 Australia 0

Round of 16

France 3 England 2

European Team Championships – Stage 1

Women's Group B3

England 3 Bosnia-Herzegovina 1
England 3 Estonia 1

Men's Group A3

Serbia 2 England 3
England 3 Serbia 0
England 0 France 3
France 3 England 0

European Team Championships – Stage 2

Women's Group 3

England 3 Israel 0
England 3 Netherlands 2
Bulgaria 3 England 2



The England women's squad at the European Stage 2 qualifiers in Croatia. From left: Jasmin Wong, Tin-Tin Ho, Matej Mamut (coach), Emily Bolton, Mari Baldwin

BUTTERFLY

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.

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pathway, including a national hopes week and collaboration with the Area Network on the TT Kidz programme.

- **Launching our pathway guide:** A guide is in development which will help players, parents and stakeholders understand how to enter and progress through the pathway.

Coach Education

In the past 12 months, a total of 24 Level 1 Session Coach courses, plus six Level 2 Lead Coach courses were held in locations across the country.

A total of 300 Level 1 coaches and 51 Level 2 coaches completed the respective courses. Of these, 20.2% (71) were female.

The highest number attending any single course was the 24 who were part of the Level 1 Session Coach course hosted by Brighton TTC.

A female-only coaching course was delivered at Carlton Le Willows TTC in Nottingham, with 10 candidates completing the course. A similar course in Worthing was due to start in June 2023.

The Level 3 Head Coach course attracted 12 candidates. We started in new partnership with the University of Birmingham to deliver the course. The university is one of the top ranked Sport Science Universities in the UK and we are extremely excited to start a long and prosperous partnership.

The following feedback from Ajay Naik of Kingfisher TTC is typical of the responses received: "It's made me question my previous and current practice. I immediately implemented changes to my club and I'm already seeing the benefits.

"After only attending the first weekend



The female-only coaching course at Carlton Le Willows TTC

(of the course), it's transformed my coaching."

Fourteen coaches were awarded funding through the Charlie Childs Coaching Grant scheme, of whom 10 were female.

The total number of Coach Licence holders was 790, of which 19.2% (152) are female.

All Home Nations now deliver the same coaching qualification, meaning all qualifications are recognised and portable between the Home Nations.

Candidates from England, Scotland and Ireland are currently in the process of completing the Level Head Coach qualification.



Four new tutors are in the process of completing the Level 3 Tutoring and Assessing in Table Tennis course.

Safeguarding

Our partnership with High Speed Learning offers a free online renewal safeguarding course. So far, 90 Table Tennis England members have completed the course.

We set up a Coaching Facebook Group, building a community between coaches and encouraging them to share good practice. At the time of writing, there were 224 members and we will continue to build this community.



England players and coaches at the Euro Minis

The following represented Great Britain

European Games: Charlotte Carey, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

The following represented England

World Championships: Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

World Team Championships: David McBeath, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

European Team Championships – qualifying:

Mari Baldwin, Emily Bolton, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, David McBeath, Denise Payet, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker, Jasmin Wong

European Championships: Charlotte Bardsley, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

Commonwealth Games: Sue Bailey, Charlotte Bardsley, Emily Bolton, Dan Bullen, Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Jack Hunter-Spivey, Tom Jarvis, Fliss Pickard, Liam Pitchford, Maria Tsaptsinos, Sam Walker, Ross Wilson

European Under-21 Championships: Mari Baldwin, Charlotte Bardsley, Connor Green

European Youth Championships: Junior - Mari Baldwin, Connor Green, Amy Marriott, Anaya Patel, Ben Piggott, Louis Price, Felix Thomis, Jasmin Wong; Cadet - Maliha Baig, Sienna Jetha, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Jakub Piwowar, Larry Trumpauskas

European Under-13 Championships: Adam Alibhai, Kacper Piwowar, Abraham Sellado

Euro Minis: Sienna Jetha, Teagan Khazal, Laura North, Max Radiven, Abraham Sellado, Isabella Turner-Samuels

The following competed at WTT/ITTF/ETTU tournaments on a funded basis

Europe Top 16: Liam Pitchford

Other events

Senior: Paul Drinkhall, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Maria Tsaptsinos, Sam Walker

Under-19: Maliha Baig, Mari Baldwin, Sophie Earley*, Anna Green, Connor Green*, Anna Hursey*, Megan Jones, Ben Piggott, Jakub Piwowar, Larry Trumpauskas, Jasmin Wong

Under-17: Maliha Baig, Sophie Earley*, Anna

Green, Connor Green, Sienna Jetha, Megan Jones, Isaac Kingham, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Ben Piggott, Jakub Piwowar, Larry Trumpauskas,

Under-15: Sienna Jetha, Isaac Kingham, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Jakub Piwowar, Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven, Abraham Sellado, Larry Trumpauskas

Under-13: Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven, Abraham Sellado,
* GB funded

The following competed at WTT/ITTF tournaments on a self-funded basis

Senior: Paul Drinkhall, Sophie Earley, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

Under-19: Mari Baldwin, Josh Bruce, Adam Dennison, Toby Ellis, Anna Green, Connor Green, James Hamblett, Joseph Hunter, Megan Jones, Amy Marriott, Evelyn Pace, Ben Piggott, Jakub Piwowar, Yat Poon, Louis Price, Felix Thomis, Larry Trumpauskas, Jasmin Wong, Tianer Yu

Under-17: Prayrit Ahluwalia, Naomi Coker, Adam Dennison, Joseph Dennison, Bethany Ellis, Toby Ellis, Anna Green, Connor Green,

James Hamblett, Joseph Hunter, Sienna Jetha, Megan Jones, Isaac Kingham, Evelyn Pace, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Ben Piggott, Jakub Piwowar, Jonabel Taguibao, Felix Thomis, Larry Trumpauskas, Tianer Yu

Under-15: Prayrit Ahluwalia, Adam Alibhai, Naomi Coker, Joseph Dennison, Bethany Ellis, Sienna Jetha, Teagan Khazal, Isaac Kingham, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Jakub Piwowar, Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven, Abraham Sellado, Janak Shah, Jonabel Taguibao, Larry Trumpauskas

Under-13: Prayrit Ahluwalia, Adam Alibhai, Dimitar Dimitrov, Sienna Jetha, Teagan Khazal, Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven, Abraham Sellado, Janak Shah, Nishil Shah, Sinan Surensoy

Under-11: Dimitar Dimitrov, Nishil Shah, Sinan Surensoy

The following officials were selected for international events

Commonwealth Games

Referee: Karen Tonge OBE

Umpires: Nico Caltabiano, Lyndon Griffiths, Ollie Ingram, Chloe Ireland, Brian Jackson, Harry Jutle, Tom Konarski, Kim Mudge-Johnson, Beate Nicol, Jo Outhwaite, Matthew Pryke, Immad Qureshi, Lynda Reid, Joshua Reynolds, Linda Roff, Jenny Sanders, Lester Smith, Sheila Walshe

Other events

Referees: Harry Jutle, Steve Smith, Karen Tonge OBE

Umpires: Dan Bullen, Nico Caltabiano, David Edwards, Lyndon Griffiths, Harry Jutle, John Mackey, Kim Mudge-Johnson, Beate Nicol, Tom Purcell, Immad Qureshi, Lynda Reid, Sunil Sapre, Vladimir Shadrinov, Sheila Walshe



Maliha Baig



Jack Hunter-Spivey wins gold in the Men's Class 3-5 Para Singles (above)



Inset: Men's Class 8-10 Singles bronze medallist Ross Wilson

It was not only the athletes who had the chance to showcase their talents at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham last summer, as people from across the table tennis family played vital roles in delivering a memorable experience for everyone.

As well as a fantastic team of volunteers (above), no fewer than 18 English umpires were part of the officiating team - Dan Bullen was also selected but received a wildcard to compete for Team England instead - and they and their international colleagues were under the direction of Referee Karen Tonge OBE (right).

Our officials took charge of several gold medal matches: Josh Reynolds (Women's Team), Nico Caltabiano (Men's Team), Lyndon Griffiths and Immad Qureshi (Men's Class 8-10 Para Singles), Chloe Ireland and Lynda Reid (Women's Class 8-10 Para Singles), Jo Outhwaite and Kim Mudge (Women's Class 3-5 Para Singles), Chloe Ireland (Women's Doubles), Josh Reynolds and Kim Mudge (Mixed Doubles).

The others on duty were: Ollie Ingram, Brian Jackson, Harry Jutle, Tom Konarski, Beate Nicol, Matthew Pryke, Linda Roff, Jenny Sanders, Lester Smith, Sheila Walshe.

Birmingham 2022



Right: The gold medal moment for Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall, who beat India's Achanta & Gnanasekaran to retain their Men's Doubles title. Pitchford also took singles silver

Above: Fliss Pickard

Left: Sue Bailey MBE (top) and Dan Bullen

Far left, top: England's Women's Team Maria Tsaptsinos, Tin-Tin Ho, Emily Bolton and (inset) Charlotte Bardsley, and coach Kelly Sibley

Far left, bottom: The bronze medal-winning England Men's Team and officials (from left) Neil Rogers, Gavin Evans, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker, Paul Drinkhall, Tom Jarvis, Lee Hetherington and Matt Stanforth



Notable achievements

Performance - seniors

- Commonwealth Games - See pages 30-31.

- Liam Pitchford won a bronze medal at the Europe Top 16 in Montreux.

- Paul Drinkhall reached the semi-finals of the WTT Feeder Dusseldorf.

- Liam Pitchford & Paul Drinkhall reached the Men's Doubles quarter-finals at the World Championships for the second edition in succession.

Performance - veteran

- At the World Veterans Championships, there was gold for Betty Bird (WD O85, with partner Marianne Blasberg of Germany).

Silvers went to Loresta Trumpauskas (MS 50-54); Sandra Rider (WS 70-74 and WD O70, with Hildegard Georgi of Germany) and Roy Norton and Carol Judson (XD O80). Bronzes went to Roy Norton & Dennis Bromage (MD O80) and Betty Bird (WS O85).

Performance - para

- Martin Perry combined with Mohammad Alrashidi from Kuwait to take silver in men's class 14 doubles at the Thailand Para Open.

- Buckinghamshire teenager Shae Thakker won class 10 singles gold in the Para table tennis events at the European Universities Games 2022 in Poland. Scotsman Ryan Henry took silver in class 8 and Cornwall's Joe Crouse took bronze in class 9.

- At the Finland Para Open, there was gold for Will Bayley (men's class 7 singles) and Rob Davies (men's class 1 singles); silver for Paul Karabardak (men's class 6 singles), Bayley & Karabardak (men's doubles MD14) and Grace Williams & Anja Harden (SWE) (women's doubles WD20); and bronze for Andrew Guy & Timo Natunen (FIN) (men's doubles MD4) and Bayley & Williams (mixed doubles XD17).

- At the Greek Para Open in October 2022, Aaron McKibbin beat Billy Shilton in the men's class 8 final. There were also golds for Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5), Josh Stacey (men's class 9) and Fliss Pickard (women's class 6-7).

Martin Perry (men's class 6) and Megan Shackleton (women's class 3-5) also took silver and there were bronze medals for Rob Davies (men's class 1), Sue Bailey (women's class 3-5) and Simon Heaps (men's class 5).

Shilton & Perry won gold in the men's doubles (MD14) and Shilton and Pickard won gold in mixed (XD14). Pickard also took silver with Grace Williams in the women's doubles (WD14). Bailey & Shackleton won silver in the women's doubles (WD5-10) and Bailey & Hunter-Spivey won silver in the mixed doubles (XD10).



At the World Para Championships, GB won the following medals:
Gold - Will Bayley (far left, men's class 7 singles), Fliss Pickard & Grace Williams (above, women's class 14 doubles), Paul Karabardak & Billy Shilton (left, men's class 14 doubles).
Silver - Josh Stacey (men's class 9 singles), Ross Wilson & Josh Stacey (men's class 18 doubles).
Bronze - Rob Davies (men's class 1 singles), Ross Wilson (men's class 8 singles), Aaron McKibbin (men's class 8 singles), Martin Perry (men's class 6 singles), Billy Shilton & Fliss Pickard (mixed class 14 doubles).

- Fliss Pickard won gold in the women's class 6 singles at the Lignano Masters Para Open. There were bronze medals for Rob Davies (men's class 1), Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5) and Martin Perry (men's class 6).

Aaron McKibbin and Ashley Facey took silver in men's doubles (MD18), Pickard took bronze in women's doubles (WD14) with her Hungarian partner Zsafia Arloy, Hunter-Spivey and Megan Shackleton took bronze in XD10 and McKibbin and Pickard combined to take bronze in XD14.

- Josh Stacey took silver in the men's class 9 singles at the Greek Para Open in April 2023. Martin Perry (men's class 6) and Aaron McKibbin (men's class 7-8) took bronze and there was a first medal for former GB wheelchair rugby captain Chris Ryan, who took bronze in men's class 2 in only his second international tournament.

Perry & McKibbin combined to take gold in the men's class 14 doubles. Ryan won his second medal of the tournament, taking bronze with Simon Heaps in the men's class 8 doubles, and Pathway athlete Jack Stockdale combined with Ioana-Monica Tepelea from Romania to take silver in the mixed class 20 doubles.

- Will Bayley retained his men's class 7 singles title in the ITTF Slovenia Para Open in Lasko. Jack Hunter-Spivey won silver in men's class 5 and there were bronze medals for Tom Matthews (men's class 1), Aaron McKibbin (men's class 8), Ross Wilson (men's class 8) and Fliss Pickard (women's class 6).

- Paul Karabardak won gold in the men's class 6 singles at the ITTF Polish Para Open in Wladyslawowo. There were silver medals for Billy Shilton (men's class 8), Ashley Facey (men's class 9) and Grace Williams (women's

class 8) while 13-year-old Bly Twomey won bronze in women's class 7 in only her second international tournament.

In the doubles, Facey & Shilton took bronze in men's class 18 and Karabardak combined with Spaniard Alejandro Diaz to take bronze in men's class 14.

- Ross Wilson won men's class 8 gold at the Czech Para Open. Tom Matthews won gold and Rob Davies silver in men's class 1 singles. Martin Perry (men's class 6), Joshua Stacey (men's class 9), Ashley Facey (men's class 9) and Fliss Pickard (women's class 6) all took bronze.

In the doubles, Billy Shilton & Paul Karabardak took gold in the men's class 14 and Facey combined with Koyo Iwabuchi from Japan to win men's class 18.

There were bronze medals for Stacey & Wilson (men's class 18), Pickard & Grace Williams (women's class 14) and Perry & Williams (mixed class 14).

- The Great Britain and Northern Ireland team won a total of nine medals at the World Transplant Games in Perth, Australia.



Abraham Sellado on top of the podium at the WTT Youth Contender Platja D'Aro

Erin McIlvaney (U12-14 Girls' Singles), Eloise Lowrie (U15-17 Girls' Singles), Kristof Polgar (U15-17 Boys' Singles) and Boryana Nankova (60-69 Women's Singles) won gold.

Helen Tasker won silver in the 60-69 Women's Singles class. Boryana & Tasker also teamed up to take silver in the 50+ Women's Doubles and Millie Stobie Platts won silver in the 18-29 Women's Singles.

Jade Carr earned a bronze in the same category and a further bronze was won by Stuart Robbins & Alexandra Bell in the 19-29 Men's Doubles.

Performance - Junior

- Abraham Sellado won the under-13 boys' singles at the WTT Youth Contender Platja D'Aro in Spain.

- GB duo Anna Hursey & Sophie Earley won the girls' doubles at the WTT Youth Star Contender Podgorica in Montenegro.

- Kacper Piwowar was one of only 40 youngsters (20 boys) worldwide to compete at the ITTF World Hopes Week & Challenge, finishing 13th.

- England youth players had success at a number of overseas tournaments as follows:
Sweden Tour Helsingborg: Gold – Ella Pashley (U14G), Ben Piggott (U18B); Silver – Sienna Jetha (U14G), Larry Trumpauskas (Banded), Joseph Hunter (U18B); Bronze – Isaac Kingham (U14B), Adam Dennison (Banded), Ella Pashley (U16G and U18G), Joseph Hunter (U16B).

- **Sweden Tour Karlskrona:** Gold – Abraham Sellado (U13B and U12B), Sienna Jetha (U13G), Larry Trumpauskas (U15B); Silver – Joseph Hunter (U16B); Bronze – Max Radiven (U13B), Sienna Jetha (U14G and

U16G), Jakub Piwowar (U15B), Joseph Hunter (U18B).

Safir International Orebro: Gold - Sienna Jetha (U14G, U15G), Abraham Sellado (U12B), Ralph Pattison (U15B), Connor Green (U16B); Silver - Ella Pashley (U15G), Kacper Piwowar (U12B, U13B), Sienna Jetha (U13G); Bronze - Naomi Coker (U14G), Sienna Jetha (U16G), Ella Pashley (U14G, U16G), Mabel Shute (U15G), Adam Alibhai (U12B), Connor Green (U18B), Mari Baldwin (U18G), Isaac Kingham (U14B), Abraham Sellado (U13B).

Mulhouse International Youth Open, France: Gold - Zihan Lin (U11B), Ryan Goodier (U13B), Hannah Saunders (U11G), Cindy Xiao (U9G), Jayden Chen (U9B); silver - Lewis Wu (U11B); bronze - Dimitar Dimitrov (U11B), Theo Kniep (U13B).

- At the Primary Schools International, hosted by England at Oundle School, there were golds for the England A girls' team and the England A boys' team, as well as Alyssa Nguyen in the girls' singles.

Silvers went to England B girls, Hannah Saunders (GS), Kai Lun Chow (BS) and Prithvi Meon (BS Plate) and bronzes to England B boys, Amber Lemmon (GS), Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska (GS) and Zihan Lin (BS).

- At the Senior Schools International in Ireland, England won six golds, five silvers and a bronze in the team events and five golds, four silvers and five bronzes in the individual events. The individual medallists were: Gold - Rex Wong (U14B), Krish Chotai (U16B), Ester Lam (U16G), Toby Ellis (U18B), Erin Green (U18G); Silver - Aarif Li (U14B), Brooke Morris (U14G), Mabel Shute (U16G), Anna Green (U18G); Bronze - Pablo Ramirez-Rioja (U14B), Sophie Ackred (U14G), Starry Sheung (U16B), Zarita Lo (U16G), Adam Dennison (U18B).

- Three volunteers - Ken Eliot, Gary Howes and Margaret Calver - all received the BEM in the King's Birthday Honours for services to table tennis.

- Tin-Tin Ho was Athlete of the Year in the TASS Stars Awards

- Dan Bullen, Beate Nicol, Vladimir Shadrinov, Sheila Walshe and Gary Whyman completed their Level 3 International Umpire qualification.

- Steve Smith completed the International Referee school in Helsinki and is now a qualified International Referee.

- Table Tennis England Chairperson Sandra Deaton was appointed to be Deputy Chair of the influential International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Nominations Committee for the next two years. Sandra was also one of 10 mentors named in UK Sport's International Leadership Mentoring Programme, helping to guide the female sports leaders of the future.

- Table Tennis England partner StreetTT was shortlisted for an award at the London Sport Awards. The app was one of three organisations shortlisted for the Digital and Tech Innovation Award, which recognises creative new thinking, innovative ideas, or the creation and/or use of digital or technological methods to support inactive Londoners to get and stay physically active.

- British Para Table Tennis Performance Director Gorazd Vecko was awarded an Honorary MBE by His Majesty the King for his services to Paralympic Table Tennis. Gorazd was also honoured with a Friend of Para Sport award by his home nation of Slovenia.



Steve Smith after completing the International Referee school



Skylet Andrew



Alison Broe



Ian Harrison



Harry Jutle



Charles Noel Sewell



Brenda Stephenson



Sara Sutcliffe MBE



Gorazd Vecko

AGM Honours

The following were honoured at the 2022 AGM:

Honorary Life Member

Estyn Williams

Vice-Presidents

Skylet Andrews

Alison Broe

Ian Harrison

Harry Jutle

Charles Noel Sewell

Brenda Stephenson

Sara Sutcliffe MBE

Gorazd Vecko

Keith Ponting President's Memorial

Award

Mike Holt

Malcolm Scott Award

Simon Griew

Ivor Montagu Award

Richard J Hudson

Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy

Stuart Seaholme

AK Vint Staff Award

Paul Stimpson

Victor Barna Award

Paralympic Team Tokyo 2020: Sue Bailey MBE, Will Bayley MBE, Jack Hunter-Spivey, Aaron McKibbin, Megan Shackleton, Billy Shilton, Ross Wilson

Special Awards

Diane Webb

For her contribution to the Centenary Book project



Sandra Deaton with Victor Barna Award winners Aaron McKibbin (back row, second left), Billy Shilton (back row, third left), Jack Hunter-Spivey (from left), Megan Shackleton (front right) and other athletes and coaches from British Para Table Tennis

Colin Clemett

For his contribution to the Centenary Book project

Victoria Wiegleb

For her contribution to the Centenary project, including the Gala Dinner

Tom Blunn Fund

None awarded

Ivor Montagu Junior Fund

None awarded

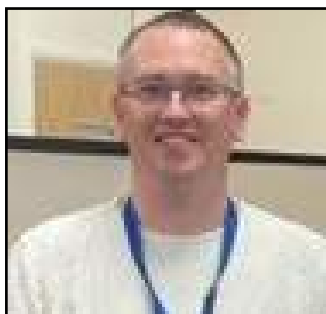
Maurice Goldstein Awards

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
John Greening, Leicester and District Table Tennis League
Mike Withyman, Somerset Table Tennis Association



Left: Estyn Williams with Chairperson Sandra Deaton.

Below (first row, from left) Mike Holt and Simon Griew; (second row) Richard Hudson and Stuart Seaholme); (third row) Paul Stimpson and Colin Clemett; (fourth row) Diane Webb and Vicky Wiegleb



International matters

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) AGM was held at the first ever ITTF Summit in Amman. The three-day event took the format of a number of presentations culminating in the actual general meeting. A number of propositions were tabled with many of them involving the tidying up of the constitution to bring about consistency in the wording.

There were two presentations from the prospective host countries for the 2025 World Individual Championships, one from Spain and the second from Qatar. Ultimately Qatar secured a larger vote and were awarded the Championships.

During the summit, the ITTF Executive Committee met to consider the applications for the Nominations Committee and subsequently I was appointed as deputy chair. Currently, the committee is working on further criteria for applications as this year sees the appointment of the other international committees.

This year, the World Team Championships took place in Chengdu, China. As a result of the ongoing covid restrictions in the province, many associations considered the health risk of taking part. My understanding is the Championships were a success and priority was given to the health of the athletes.

There have been a number of discussions and meetings with the senior staff and executive board members of the ITTF to move forward with the consideration of England to host the 2026 Centenary World Champions. A taskforce has been assembled to bring together the ITTF bid book and the UK Sport funding application.

This involves a tremendous amount of work and is progressing well. Thank you to all involved.

The European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) continues to be led by the acting President.

The Executive Board has agreed a strategic plan which includes an increase in competitions, an enhanced development programme with more support for the member nations, production of the European Ranking list and system, and partnership contract to increase commercial income.

The European Individual Championships were held in Munich as part of a multi-sport event. This was extremely successful, with an increase in the media exposure of the sport on a global level. The Congress was held in Munich during the Championships.

Following the decision of the IOC and subsequently the ITTF for Russian and Belarus athletes to compete on an independent basis, there has been considerable discussions within the EB on the logistics of how this can be delivered throughout Europe. The ETTU, ITTF and the Russian Table Tennis Association have met to discuss if there is a mutually acceptable way forward.

December 2022 saw the end of Richard Scruton's period in office as Secretary General of the ETTU. Richard had been in post for nine years and during this time moved the organisation into a stronger governance structure, with significant financial support and the enhanced delivery of all of the events and competition. He is currently maintains his input as an advisor to the ETTU Board.

Undoubtedly one of the major success of 2022 was the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The City delivered an incredible event for each and every sport. The athlete and spectator experiences were superb. The ITTF President Petra Sörling visited and was immensely impressed. The Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation also had the opportunity to meet during the competition.

SANDRA DEATON

Financial reports

The year 2022/23 is the first year of the 2022/27 Sport England funding cycle, in which we received an award of £2,042,000.

While the Sport England funding continues to be ring-fenced with clear outcomes and outputs required to maintain funding, we did receive slightly more this year compared with the previous year by way of a membership top-up.

This is part of their continued support to the sporting sector to ensure it continues to recover after the pandemic and is in as strong a position as possible and to keep the nation moving, by encouraging and facilitating people to become and stay active.

In the year, 86% of members renewed their membership, compared with 2019/20. While this was higher than we had initially forecast for the year and 3% higher than 2021/22, the value of affiliation fees was still approximately £34,000 lower than the pre-pandemic amount in 2019/20.

The Sport England top-up funding supported this shortfall, which meant we did not have to reduce expenditure to allow for the reduction in membership income. The remainder of the top-up funding was used to support additional Governance costs, such as legal fees, scoping of a new finance system and recruitment costs, including for the new Chair.

Due to adapting how we operated during the pandemic, we continued to see a reduction in expenditure compared with pre-pandemic levels, which included staff expenses and holding more virtual committee meetings rather than in person.

We also went through quite a significant change process across the organisation, which included

changes in personnel, as well as a change in strategy, all of which will have created variances in Income and Expenditure compared with previous financial years. Overall, we have worked hard to achieve a near break-even position for the year.

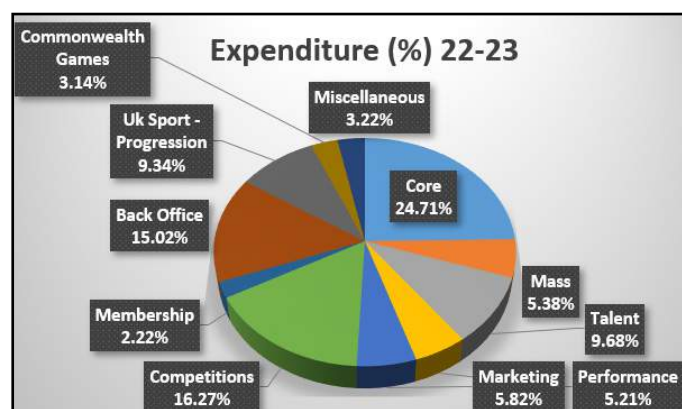
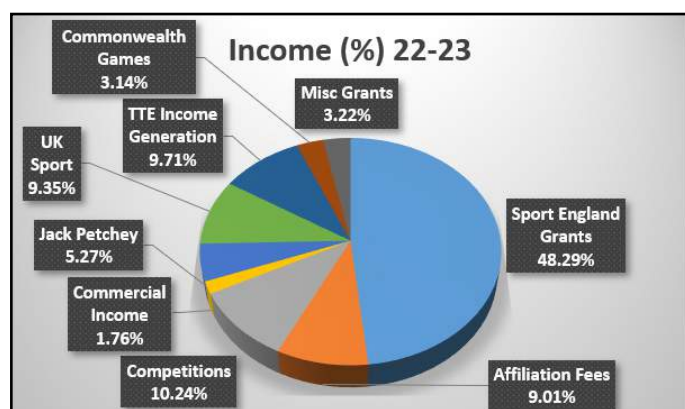
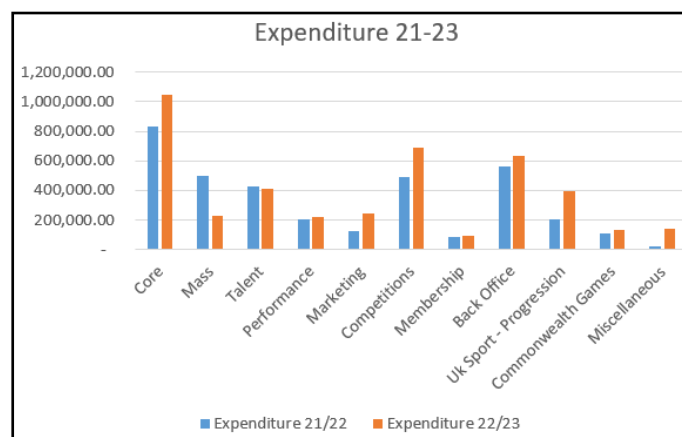
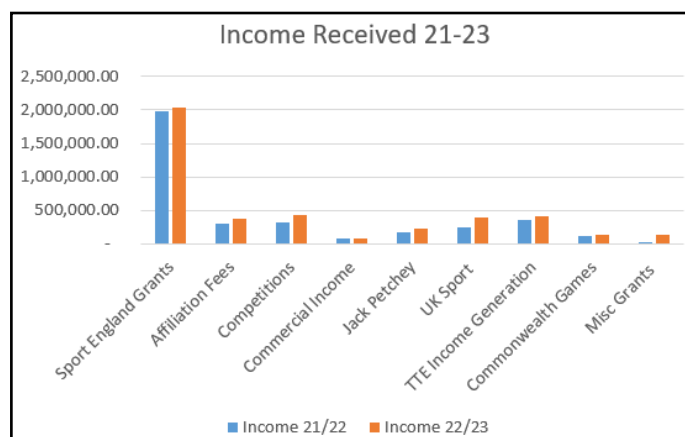
Table Tennis England on behalf of Great Britain Table Tennis also received a Progression grant from UK Sport to support the development of the GB performance system; a crucial investment that underpins our ambitions for Paris 2024 and beyond.

We were once again grateful to other partners, including the Jack Petchey Foundation for their support of the Children and Young People Programme which has such a positive impact in table tennis, particularly in London and Essex, and to Mark Bates Ltd for their ongoing commitment to the Senior National Championships.

During the previous financial year, we introduced an optional donation feature to the membership system, allowing people to choose to indicate their preference on how their money should be spent. We are extremely grateful to have received more than 1,000 individual donations, exceeding £7,000, since this feature was introduced.

A detailed Income and Expenditure account follows this page. A copy of the Audited accounts is available on our website.

We continue to monitor any potential financial impact on the organisation. Some of the biggest risks in 2023/24 continue to come from membership renewals not reaching pre-pandemic levels, and also the rising living costs and inflation which society as a whole is facing, while income levels remain fairly static.



English Table Tennis Association Ltd

Income and Expenditure

for the year ending 31st March 2023

	2023			2022		
	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure (Net Income)	Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure (Net Income)
Talent & Performance						
Talent	409,851	-	409,851	429,447	-	429,447
Commonwealth Games	132,776	132,776	0	111,158	111,158	0
Performance	220,449	146,051	74,398	200,113	102,567	97,546
	763,076	278,827	484,249	740,718	213,725	526,993
Development						
BeTT Delivery	302,995	35,440	267,555	252,054	39,498	212,556
Clubs	186,827	7,685	179,142	189,496	3,301	186,195
Children & Young People	221,181	223,018	(1,837)	168,210	164,981	3,229
ESTT	42,661	36,042	6,619	10,896	9,755	1,141
Satellite Clubs	1,556	-	1,556	37,368	-	37,368
Diversity and Inclusion	58,100	-	58,100	25,533	-	25,533
Officiating	3,996	2,175	1,821	3,944	-	3,944
Volunteers	7,917	-	7,917	7,141	-	7,141
Women & Girls	65,269	-	65,269	-	-	0
Coaching	155,973	101,355	54,618	136,367	76,107	60,260
	1,046,475	405,715	640,760	831,009	293,642	537,367
MASS						
Delivery	227,965	46,027	181,938	500,343	81,339	419,004
	227,965	46,027	181,938	500,343	81,339	419,004
Marketing & Communications						
Competitions	689,127	371,847	317,280	486,913	278,661	208,252
Ranking & Tournament Levies	-	61,407	(61,407)	-	36,994	(36,994)
Sponsorship	-	62,738	(62,738)	-	69,250	(69,250)
Marketing & Communications	246,400	11,685	234,715	125,350	11,748	113,602
	935,527	507,677	427,850	612,263	396,653	215,610
Operations						
Meetings	45,916	-	45,916	31,700	-	31,700
Staff Costs	341,990	-	341,990	300,529	-	300,529
Membership Costs	94,095	-	94,095	81,242	-	81,242
Other Core Costs	247,953	-	247,953	181,126	-	181,126
Sport England	-	2,042,000	(2,042,000)	-	1,981,241	(1,981,241)
Affiliation Fees	-	380,980	(380,980)	-	305,290	(305,290)
Bank Interest	-	6,331	(6,331)	-	133	(133)
Other Income	-	29,603	(29,603)	-	16,044	(16,044)
HMRC CJRS	-	-	0	-	9,044	(9,044)
	729,954	2,458,914	(1,728,960)	594,597	2,311,752	(1,717,155)
Other						
BPTT Performance Grant	967,282	967,282	0	882,647	882,647	0
Other Grants	531,825	531,825	0	275,388	275,388	0
Centenary Project	-	-	0	57,601	14,464	43,137
Regions	10,444	10,584	(140)	2,162	6,783	(4,621)
	1,509,551	1,509,691	(140)	1,217,798	1,179,282	38,516
(Surplus)/Deficit	5,212,548	5,206,851	5,697	4,496,728	4,476,393	20,335

Notes to Income and Expenditure Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

- 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 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	5	12,825	22,121
Tangible assets	6	25,856	9,962
		38,681	32,083
Current assets			
Stocks	7	43,431	71,516
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	8	262,447	177,046
Cash at bank and in hand	9	1,219,493	1,346,661
		1,525,371	1,595,223
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(1,155,500)	(1,213,057)
Net current assets		369,871	382,166
Total assets less current liabilities		408,552	414,249
Net assets		408,552	414,249
Reserves			
Testimonial funds		36,011	32,257
Income and expenditure account		372,541	381,992
		408,552	414,249

In memoriam



Diane Scholer (nee Rowe) left and (inset) alongside twin sister Ros, receiving the 1954 Women's Doubles World Championships trophy from Lady Swaythling

Diane Scholer (nee Rowe): It was Christmas morning 1947 when two excited 14-year-old twins woke up hoping they were going to get bikes as their present so they were a little disappointed when they received table tennis bats.

The disappointment didn't last long as the two teenagers, right-handed Rosalind 'Ros' and left-handed Diane 'Di' were soon hitting a ball backwards and forwards across the dining room table. It would have seemed inconceivable on that Christmas morning that less than three years later they would be world champions for the first time and, on 14th April 1954, on their 21st birthday, a second world title was added.

Back to 1947, they soon joined a local club where they began to beat not only other girls but the boys as well.

The famous West Ealing Club beckoned where top international player and coach, Ken Craigie, took them under his wing and trophies soon started appearing on the mantelpiece.

Ros was the first to be capped for England when she was selected to play in Czechoslovakia in November 1949 at the tender age of 16. Not to be outdone, Di soon followed and also had a major success when she won the *Daily Mirror* tournament in April 1950 in both the Girls' and Women's Singles events. The finals were played at the Royal Albert Hall in front of 4,500 spectators including Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and television cameras. As a result of the wins, Di was entitled to free coaching and so Victor Barna became her coach, she of course, took Ros along as well.

The improvement in their game was significant, bearing in mind they were already very good players, they moved up a level. Before they were 18 the pair had toured Belgium, Holland and France and were chosen to represent England at the World Championships in Vienna in 1950/51.

In their first World Championships they had reached the final of the Women's Doubles and were facing two of the best players in the world, Romanians Angelica Rozeanu and Sari Szasz. What a match it was – Di and Ros won the first game 22-20 but lost the second 20-22, the third went their way 21-19 but the fourth saw the score levelled 24-22. All to play for in the fifth game which turned out to be the easiest of all as they won 21-13. Incredible scenes followed.

The Rowe twins were feted not only in England but around the world, they were true superstars of the 1950s and invitations came pouring in. A very official one invited them to play an exhibition match before the Swedish Royal Family in 1951. Prince Gustav, now the King of Sweden, who was then four years old went scrambling

around the sumptuous room retrieving balls wherever they ended up.

Another remarkable tour was three months spent in New Zealand and Australia in 1953. The twins left England on 7th May and arrived back on home soil on 7th September, not only three months in the two countries but two long sea voyages as well. It was the journey home that changed both Ros and Di's lives as Ros met her future husband en route, she married in 1955 and retired from play shortly after.

Di and Ros' second world title came in 1954 at the Empire Pool and Sports Arena, Wembley and it was an all England final with Kathy Best and Ann Haydon the opponents. The score -19, 10, 19, 20. Di and Ros held aloft the W J Pope Trophy for the second time, presented by the Dowager, Lady Swaythling.

Di made over 400 appearances for England, won two gold world championships medals, eight silver and 10 bronze. She was a member of the England team which won the first European Championships Women's Team title and went on to win again in 1964/65, she also won the Women's Doubles twice with Mary Shannon/Wright with who she formed a world class partnership. She added five silver and five bronze medals to her collection.

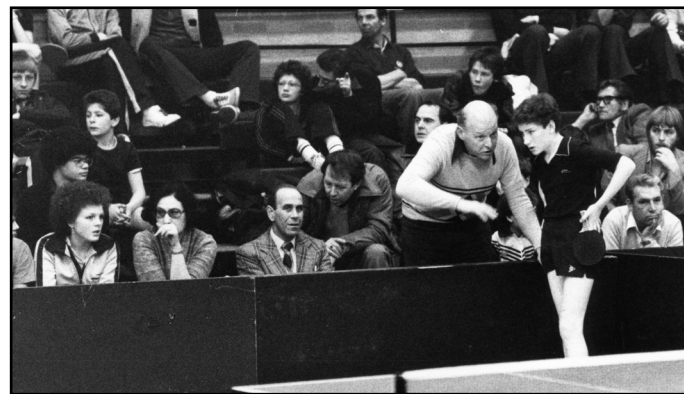
Nineteen English Open titles were added to the medal collection as well as innumerable foreign Opens. In the first English Closed (now named the National Championships) she won the treble, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles with Jill Rook/Mills and Mixed Doubles with Johnny Leach. She won 13 titles altogether before playing in and for Federal Germany following her marriage to Eberhard 'Ebby' Scholer, the top German international. They married in 1966 and she moved to Dusseldorf where she lived until her death at the age of 90.

When Di stopped playing competitively, she turned to coaching before following in the footsteps of her former coach and mentor, Victor Barna, as President of the Swaythling Club International (SCI). She held that position for many years before being elected as Honorary President.

Di has received many other honours and accolades over the years: the ITTF Merit Award in 1993, the ETTA's Victor Barna Award with Ros in 1954 and again in 1955, Player Achievement Award in 1983, Vice-President in 2021 and inducted into the Table Tennis England Centenary Hall of Fame in 2022. The ETTU honoured Di when she was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2016, she was also made a Vice-President of the International Club of England in 1964 and the Veterans' English Table Tennis Society in 1987.

Written by Diane Webb

In memoriam



Above: Anita Stevenson

Top right: Erica Prean (front row, second from left) as her husband John coaches con Carl

Bottom right: Baroness Masham

Anita Stevenson: Part of the England women's team which finished third at the European Championships in 1980.

Stevenson was from Leicestershire and as a Junior was national Girls' Singles champion in 1974.

In the Seniors, she went on to play alongside Jill Parker, Linda Jarvis and Carole Knight at those European Championships in Berne, the same edition where John Hilton won the Men's Singles gold.

At the National Championships, she was twice a Women's Doubles champion, alongside Knight in 1980 and 1982, and was Women's Singles runner-up in 1982.

In 1973, she was part of an England tour of China alongside the likes of Karenza Mathews and Andy Barden.

Erica Prean: Table Tennis England Vice-President and former National Councillor.

The wife of former ETTA Chairman John Prean and mother of England international Carl, Erica was in her own right a long-serving table tennis administrator.

Erica was born in Aachen, Germany, and came to England just before the Second World War as the Jewish community fled the Nazis. Her husband came to England from Austria around the same time.

The couple married in 1952 and settled in the Isle of Wight. Erica served for the Isle of Wight on National Council from 1980-85, 1996-2001 and 2009-13 and was Deputy National Councillor from 2004-2009.

She was General Secretary of the Isle of Wight TTA from 1980-85 and 1993-2012, Treasurer from 2009-12 and Company Member from 2003-12.

For the Isle of Wight Table Tennis League, she was Secretary in three stints (1979-85, 1996-2002 and 2003-12).

Erica, who became an ETTA Vice-President in 2014, died on December 23 at the age of 92.

Baroness Masham: The longest serving female member of the House of Lords and a former Paralympic table tennis champion.

Born Susan Sinclair in 1935, she became Lady Masham in 1959 following her marriage to David Cunliffe-Lister, Lord Masham. She suffered a T5 spinal cord injury in 1958 in a riding accident and during

her time as a patient at Stoke Mandeville she took up archery before being introduced to table tennis which she described as her "number one sport".

In 1960 she took part in the archery demonstration at the Finmere Show, organised to raise money for the air fares for around 50 wheelchair athletes to participate at the inaugural Paralympic Games in Rome. She went on to compete in Rome, winning a gold and silver in swimming and bronze in table tennis in the women's doubles.

She competed in the Commonwealth Games in Perth in 1962, winning silver medals in table tennis and swimming. At the Tokyo Paralympics in 1964 she again competed in both sports, winning gold in the women's doubles with Gwen Buck and silver in the women's singles as well as three silver medals in the pool. She added further medals in the Tel Aviv Paralympic Games in 1968 – silver in table tennis in the women's doubles and bronze in swimming, after which she retired from competitive sport.

In 1970 she was announced as a life peer and became The Right Honourable Susan Lilian Primrose, Baroness Masham, for "social services and services to the handicapped." She sat as a crossbencher taking particular interest in disability rights, health, and penal reform and spent a total of 53 years in the House of Lords, more than any other female peer in history.

In February 1976, she was the subject of the popular BBC television show *This Is Your Life*, hosted by Eamonn Andrews.

In 2021 Lady Masham visited the British Para Table Tennis team at their training base at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield as they prepared for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

Eric Pentland: International Umpire

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.

Acknowledgements

Edited by Paul Stimpson

Photographs courtesy of David Johnson, Michael Loveder, Alan Man, Stephen Pover,
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President: Jill Parker MBE
Chairperson: Sandra Deaton
Company Secretary: Adrian Christy (Chief Executive)

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