

Honours Presentations

2022/2023



Mark Bates

For his services as the official headline partner in support of the Table Tennis England National Championships as well as in Lincolnshire.

Mark Bates is an accomplished entrepreneur and the founder and Managing Director of Mark Bates Ltd., a highly successful family business based in Grantham, Lincolnshire.

With nearly three decades of dedicated leadership, Mark has propelled his company to the forefront of specialised insurance sectors, earning recognition as the industry's leading provider. With a team of 80 skilled professionals spread across the UK, Mark's commitment to excellence is evident in the company's continued growth and success.

In addition to his professional endeavours, Mark is a passionate advocate for table tennis. His involvement in the sport spans many years, during which he not only supported his children's enthusiastic participation but also nurtured their talents. His daughter, Emily, emerged as a national champion and represented her country in prestigious competitions.

Through these experiences, Mark cultivated meaningful relationships with fellow enthusiasts and dedicated



volunteers who contribute to the sport's development and success.

Since 2020, Mark has taken immense pride in his company's position as the primary sponsor for the prestigious Table Tennis England National Championships.

Additionally, Mark holds cherished memories of his time managing the Grantham Tornados table tennis club, which played a pivotal role in the training and development of Tom Jarvis, who currently holds the title of Men's Singles national champion.

Mark's passion for sports extends beyond table tennis. He has a keen interest in cricket, football, horse racing

Vice-President



and greyhounds, staying engaged with the excitement and intricacies of these popular athletic pursuits. Furthermore, he embraces an active lifestyle, indulging in activities such as running, swimming and golf, which serve as outlets for personal enjoyment and well-being.

Continuing to fuel his entrepreneurial spirit, Mark leads new business initiatives, one notable example being his involvement in the development of the innovative Insura App. This forward-thinking venture aims to

revolutionise the insurance industry by leveraging technology to provide convenient and user-friendly solutions for customers.

While Mark's dedication to table tennis remains unwavering, he now places paramount importance on spending quality time with his wife, JJ, and their cherished family. With his daughter, Ruby, already displaying an interest in table tennis, Mark eagerly anticipates her growth and hopes she develops the same passion for the game that he holds dear.

Steve Burge

For his services to schools table tennis as well as in Cleveland.

Played table tennis at school at Ifield in Crawley and then for Hull University.

Became more involved with the game having qualified as a teacher, setting up a table tennis club at the North School in Ashford, Kent, and qualifying as a coach.

In 1988, Steve moved to Billingham and started teaching at Northfield school. Having set up a school club, this blossomed and the sport rivalled football as the main sport in the school.

With the help of various grants, the club was able to buy equipment and many teams were entered into the Stockton & District League - for which he is now secretary.

In 1999 Northfield became a sports college with a focus on table tennis and an old boiler house was converted into a table tennis hall which is still in use today.

The school also hosted county, area and regional rounds of the National schools team competition. Because of this, Steve worked with what was then the English Schools Table Tennis Association (ESTTA) committee.



Northfield school became three times national schools champions with another nine teams becoming national finalists.

After the merger of ESTTA with Table Tennis England, he has continued to work on the schools committee firstly as international co-ordinator and more recently as chairman.

Karenza Mathews

For her services as an English international including as a European medallist.

Karenza played for England at junior level and more than 230 times as a senior.

She represented England many times, playing in Russia and many other European and Iron Curtain countries, as well as in the Far East, including Japan and China, and also in India and Australia.

During her career, Karenza was England No 1 and Women's Singles champion of England twice; she was Women's Doubles champion eight times and Mixed Doubles champion five times. Her total of 15 national titles put her at No 5 on the all-time list of players winning titles at the English National Championships.

She represented England at five World Table Tennis Championships in the Corbillon Cup, from 1967 to 1975. She won an English Open Women's Doubles title with Mary Wright and also reached the quarter-finals of the English Open Women's Doubles with



Mary and the Mixed Doubles with Denis Neale in 1967.

She won a bronze medal in the team event at the European Table Tennis Championships in 1970. Karenza also won gold and silver medals in the Commonwealth Championships.

Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award

For exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England

Karen Tonge

OBE

For her long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England as well as to British Para Table Tennis

ETTA Vice Chairman (without departmental responsibility); Chairman, ETTA new Equity Committee 1998-2001; ETTA Vice Chairman (Teaching and Training) 2001-03, devising the Junior Umpire Award.

Member, National Umpire & Referees Committee 1988-2002; Technical Officials Committee member 2010-23.

Chairman, North West Region 1988-2023.

Chairman for Cheshire 2007-2024; National Councillor to 2024; and Coaching Officer, Cheshire, 1975-88.

Vice President, Cheshire Table Tennis Association.

Cheshire Schools TT Association Organiser 2008-2024.

Chairman, Halton Table Tennis League 1997-2024 and Halton TTC 1999-2024 (founder member).



Table Tennis England Vice President 1999; Honorary Life Member 2014; Ivor Montagu Award 1997.

Level 4 Coach 1987; Tutor and Assessor, Coach Education 1988.

Level 4 Tournament Organiser.

Karen became a County Umpire in 1987, later qualifying as a National Umpire, International Umpire and progressing to Blue Badge status in 2005.

Umpired at 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi and at the 2014 edition in Glasgow, and also at 2007 World Championships in Zagreb and 2005 Worlds in Shanghai. Also umpired at competitions including European

Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award

For exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England

Championships, Commonwealth Championships, World Youth Championships, English Open and European Olympic Qualifying Event.

Karen became an International Referee in 1997. Major events at which she has been Referee or Deputy include the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, Men's World Cup, European Championships, Commonwealth Championships, World Transplant Games, ITTF World Tour Opens, Senior 6 Nations, World Youth Championships, European Youth Championships, European Veterans' Championships, Europe Youth Top 10.

Referee or Umpire Manager at the Senior National Championships over many years. Women's British League Referee 1992-99 and 2000-24.

2012 Paralympic Games Technical Official.

Director of Personnel at the World Table Tennis Championships in Manchester in 1997, responsible for the recruitment and training of 600 volunteers.

Director of Hospitality for World Veterans TT Championships in Manchester 1998.

Competition Manager at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester.



ETTU Umpire & Referees Committee 2015-21.

ETTU Deputy Chair Para Committee 2021-24.

ITTF Para Committee 2021-23.

Represented TTE on Sports Officials UK 2014-2020.

Deputy Chair Games & Sport Division, Sport & Recreation Alliance 2019-2023.

In 2008, Karen was awarded the MBE for services to grassroots table tennis and in 2022 was awarded the OBE for services to paralympic table tennis.

Dr Emma Vickers and Lois Peake

For their work in setting up the Talented Athletes Panel for Table Tennis England

Emma Vickers (top) played table tennis for 25 years, representing England at junior and senior international level, and was an 11-time national champion through the age groups.

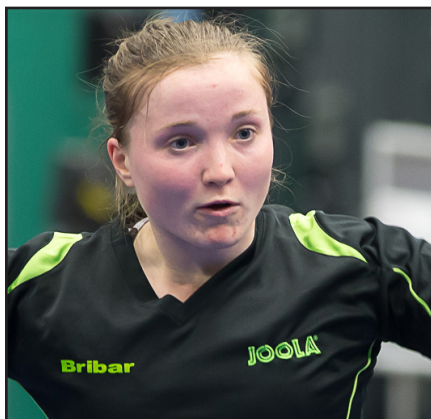
Board member 2021-23 – left to join the staff as Head of Pathway Development in April 2023. Talent and Performance committee member; former Governance and Risk committee member.

Emma has a PhD within athlete talent development and is former Head of Insight and Research at TASS.

Current research consultant on projects in the talent development and women & girls spaces.

Former Senior Women's International and Senior British Champion, **Lois Peake** represented England in U15s, U18s, and Senior from 2010-2015.

Led the development and implementation of the Charlie Childs



coaching bursary, which provides support for coaches looking to increase youth, women and girls and/or Disabled People's participation.

Since early 2020 has been a Co-opted member of the Table Tennis England Board's Talent and Performance Committee and is the inaugural Chair of the Athletes Panel.

Samantha Garey

For her service to the financial and IT administration of Table Tennis England.

Samantha is an Accountant and has over 15 years' experience working with small and medium sized businesses.

She joined Table Tennis England in February 2015 and became part of the Finance team.

Samantha is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and became a Fellow member of The Association of Accounting Technicians in September 2022.

She has been the Head of Finance & IT for Table Tennis England since December 2018, as she also has a range of IT skills and has introduced various improvement processes and procedures into the organisation. These activities contributed to achieving a clean Audit report for the year ending 31st March 2022.

Samantha also enjoys playing recreational table tennis and is always looking to improve her table tennis playing abilities.



Karl Bushell

For his service to Oxfordshire in administering and promoting the County Championships.

Karl started playing table tennis in 1965 at his local Boys' Club in Swindon and went on to become county champion in Wiltshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, representing all counties.

As a junior won the Coca-Cola Open in 1970.

Moved to Oxfordshire in 1986 and has won numerous titles. Has represented Oxfordshire at Senior, Veterans and Over-60s on more than 275 occasions.

In his bank career, represented Barclays Bank at various European tournaments and has played at various European and World veterans' events.

BBC Oxfordshire Sports Personality of the Year in 2009.

Coaching – Level 2 coach.

Has been club coach at Kidlington Forum TTC since 1987, helping develop both junior and senior players plus coaching at various local schools and community events.

For many years attended at the Stoke



Mandeville complex on behalf of Table Tennis England to coach and administer the Spinal Injury Games, WheelPower events and LimbPower Games. Has also been a coach at SportAble in Maidenhead for the Southern area disability players and Special Olympic team players.

Kidlington Forum Table Tennis Club – Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Coach; Oxford League – Vice President; Oxfordshire County Association – Treasurer, County Team Secretary and County team captain for many years. Schools County Secretary 2010-2020.

Sandra Pelizzoni

For her service to the membership of Table Tennis England.

Sandra Joined Table Tennis England in February 2014 as the National Coaching co-ordinator and is now the Membership and Systems Manager where she is responsible managing the customer service and membership department.

Sandra enjoys engaging with our members in providing help and advice and is always looking at ways on how to improve our customer service to the membership.

Sandra's background is in Learning and Development where she co-ordinated a wide range of talent and graduate programme events and projects along with ongoing design and development of the RICS Professional Accreditation (APC) programs.

In December 2022 Sandra and two Table Tennis England colleagues set up a local Bat & Chat Club which runs one evening a week, they have recently been awarded £1,000 by the Taylor Wimpey Community Chest competition after being nominated by the community for most deserving local group.



Victor Barna Award

For the most notable performance by an English player

Will Bayley MBE, Fliss Pickard, Billy Shilton

For their achievements in becoming champions at the World Para Table Tennis Championships 2022.

Will Bayley won his first major title at the European Championships in 2011, then took silver in London 2012 and followed that by becoming World champion in 2014 and Paralympic champion in 2016.

He reclaimed the world No 1 ranking in men's class 7 after winning tournaments in Italy, Slovenia and Japan in 2019 and won the hearts of the nation as a contestant on BBC TV's *Strictly Come Dancing*.

He recovered from a serious knee injury to compete in Tokyo in 2021 and took silver in the men's class 7 singles and silver in the men's class 6-7 team event.

In 2022 he was unbeaten in singles as he regained both the world No 1 ranking and the world title, taking gold in the men's class 7 singles in Spain.

He was awarded the MBE in the 2016 New Year Honours.

Fliss Pickard started playing table tennis when she wanted to find a sport she could play competitively. Born with



Victor Barna Award

For the most notable performance by an English player

cerebral palsy, dressage, boccia and swimming failed to provide her with the challenge but at the age of 14 she found a sport in which she could excel.

She made her international debut at the Czech Open in 2011 and was selected for the GB Para Table Tennis Team Performance Squad in April 2014.

Fliss made a breakthrough at the World Championships in 2018, taking bronze in the women's class 6 singles having earlier in the year represented Team England in the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Having just missed out on automatic qualification for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, Fliss responded by taking gold in her next three international tournaments.

She represented Team England again in the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and just missed out on bronze after losing 3-1 to the class 10 Nigerian Faith Obazuaye.

At the World Championships in Andalucia in 2022, Fliss combined with Grace Williams to take gold in the women's class 14 doubles and also took bronze in the mixed class 14 doubles with Billy Shilton.



Billy Shilton started playing table tennis in 2012, when his disability meant he could not play football any more.

His father took him to Woodchester table tennis club and he loved it.

His first big achievement was winning the UK School Games para event in 2015. He was then invited to train full time with the BPTT performance squad and live in Sheffield,

He won a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic games in men's class 8 with team-mates Aaron McKibbin and Ross Wilson last year won the men's doubles class 14 at the World Championships with Paul Karabardak.

Please note: The Mike Watts Achievement Awards, for the boy and girl English player making the greatest improvement in rating points between August 1 and July 31, will be announced in August.

Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved England Player of the Year Award

For a player representing England

Ella Pashley

For showing the most improvement while representing England during 2022.

Ella is 14 years old and lives in Guisborough, Cleveland. She plays at Ormesby Table Tennis Club.

She is currently coached by Carole Moore and Alan Ransome and represents Ormesby in the Junior British League and the Women's British League.

Ella has represented England for the last two years at various WTT events and is part of the National training squad.

In the last 12 months, she has won three 4-star tournaments including Blackpool, Cambridge and Stockton. She has won a number of medals at the Swedish Tour events in the last 12 months, including one gold, two silvers and two bronze.

She won the Senior National qualifying tournament without losing a game and got to the quarter-finals of the U21 event at the Senior Nationals in March.

At the Cadet and Junior Nationals, she won the silver medal in the U17s, bronze in the Cadets and a gold medal



in the U17 doubles. She also won a bronze medal in the U16 age group at the Butterfly Schools Individual Competition.

She has most recently won the Cadet National Cup in Plymouth and qualified to play in the Junior National Cup.

She has been selected for the European Youth Championships for the second consecutive year and for the World Schools competition in Rio de Janeiro in August.

She has also recently received the Mike Watts Achievement Award as the female junior with the biggest rise in ranking points this season.

