

Introduction to British Clubs League

[British Clubs League](#) is Table Tennis England’s premier club team competition, and is open to entrants from across the Home Countries (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and Isle of Man)

The Youth BCL, Women’s BCL and Veterans BCL leagues each take place at two large weekend events - one apiece in Autumn and one apiece in Spring - where all teams gather together at a single national venue and play their league fixtures in two blocks.

The Senior BCL (senior men and women) leagues have a different format. At the top level, the Premier Division teams play on a home and away basis, travelling on 10-12 dates to each other’s venues. Below Premiership level, each of the divisions meets collectively to play their fixtures on a broadly geographical basis across 4 or 5 weekends.

In addition, Cadet BCL (U15s) and Junior BCL (U19s) are competitions aimed at grass roots players looking to experience a competition early on in their career, and act as feeder events to the Youth British Clubs League. The competitions involve around 400 teams, playing four days at around 30 local venues.

British Clubs League activity is reliant on a sizeable cohort of skilled volunteers, with a Referee for each section, and a [Committee](#) supporting the operational delivery alongside Table Tennis England staff. Delivery of over 60 annual national events and 120 local events are each supported by umpires, volunteers and local organisers/ hosts.

Functional aspects of British Clubs League are underpinned by the relevant Table Tennis England departments, including Competitions & Events, Finance and MarComms.

British Clubs League started (as ‘British League’) in 1979 with 8 senior teams, and expanded firstly with a women’s league in 1989, followed shortly by the youth and veteran sections. The primary objective at the point of formation was to assist the development of clubs and officials, to provide high-quality domestic competition for the top players, and as a vehicle to promote table tennis at a local level.

In ‘19/20, the British Clubs League ‘vital statistics’ were:

	Teams	Players	Divisions	Events
Senior BCL	115*	690	14	Premier: 9x Home or Away fixtures (30 total) Others: 55 divisional weekends
Women’s BCL	38	155	6	2 national weekends
Veterans BCL	58 men’s 22 women’s	350	9 men’s 3 women’s	2 national weekends
Youth BCL	54 boy’s 26 girl’s	310	8 boy’s 4 girl’s	2 national weekends
	313	1,505		

* Senior BCL teams are mixed gender, c.6% female

In '22/23, the British Clubs League 'vital statistics' were:

	Teams	Players	Divisions	Events
Senior BCL	122*	823	15	Premier: 8-9x Home or Away fixtures (30 total) + Team Cup event Others: 57 divisional weekends
Women's BCL	40	169	6	2 national weekends
Veterans BCL	66 men's 27 women's	389	11 men's 4 women's	2 national weekends, plus satellite venue
Youth BCL	61 boy's 30 girl's	386	10 boy's 5 girl's	2 national weekends, plus satellite venue
	346	1,767		

* Senior BCL teams are mixed gender, c.4% female