

Newsletter 6: New beginnings | Development | Spanish Open victory

To: Members of the English Table Tennis Association

From: Sandra Deaton, Chair, ETTA

In this newsletter:

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Although it is only just over a month since I last wrote to you to give an update about the events in English table tennis, there is much to report in this newsletter - both on and off the table. As always, I will use this email newsletter to provide brief details and then give a link to our website where you can find more information about each subject.

Changes . . . new Board, new rules, new head office, new beginning

Much of the past year has been about changing ourselves. We needed these reforms before we could move forward. Not only did we need to hit certain targets and objectives before we would receive further funding, but we also needed to make sure that we had laid the right foundations for us to build on. Much of that planning work is coming to an end and we now have the right environment to go forward to our 'Next Steps'.

Our most recent changes which make the next stage possible are:

. . . the creation of a new Board. We have replaced the former Board of part-time volunteers who had responsibility for day-to-day operational departments, with a new Board of Non-Executive Directors who combine the right mix of skills and expertise to work with our new professional senior management team and drive the sport forward.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/featured-news/new-board-of-directors-at-etta/>

. . . we reached a milestone recently in our programme for change with the acceptance of a new set of Articles at an extraordinary general meeting. These will determine the way we will govern ourselves in the future. This is a significant development for the ETTA and will position us to operate as a modern and progressive national sports governing body.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/etta-governance/>

. . . after months of planning, we have moved into a new, modern, central head office in Milton Keynes. Our staff - both new and old - worked together to ensure the move was as smooth as possible. I have visited the offices on a number of occasions and am delighted with the positive attitude and determination to succeed. Our offices were officially opened by ETTU President, Ronald Kramer.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/featured-news/ettu-president-opens-new-etta-hq/>

. . . under the new structure, the Board will work with our senior management team, who will have responsibility for the day-to-day running of their departments. A new flow chart of the personnel is available to show these roles – follow the link below and click on ‘Who’s who at the ETTA’

<http://etta.co.uk/our-sport/our-sport-information/about-us/>

This internal work and restructuring has been necessary for us to put our own house in order so we can provide firm foundations to build on and develop table tennis in England for all participants, at all levels and in all roles. It is not finished yet, but we are now ready to move to the next stage of putting our longer term plans for the development of the sport into action.

The role of our development team

The ETTA is now divided into four main departments, each headed by a newly recruited senior manager. We will be providing more information about the work, the aims and the direction of these departments as they take shape in the future. We start with Emily St John, Head of Development, who explains how she sees her role, the department, and the priorities for her and her team.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/national-news/blog-the-role-of-our-development-team/>

Deputy Chairman

Richard Scruton has resigned from the post of Deputy Chairman at the ETTA to concentrate fully on his new role as Secretary-General of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU). His contribution to English table tennis has been immense. We would not have achieved so much in such a short period of time without his involvement. We wish him much success in the future. Nominations will shortly be sought for candidates for election to the position of Deputy Chairman.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/richard-scruton-resigns-as-deputy-chairman-of-etta/>

Paul Drinkhall wins Spanish Open

Four-time English champion Paul Drinkhall became the first Englishman to win an ITTF World Tour Open since Carl Prean in 1996, when he was victorious in the Spanish Open. Paul went into the competition seeded 23 and saw off highly-ranked opponents to take the title, including Dimitrij Prokopcov (CZE, wr 82) in the quarters, Yuto Muramatsu (JPN, 88) in the semis and Matasaka Morizono (JPN, 80) in the final.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/record-breaking-drinkhall-wins-spanish-open/>

Volunteers - British League

If you want to get involved in the new era of English table tennis, the British League offers the perfect chance to do so. The organisers have a number of roles where they are looking for volunteers to play a vital role in this showcase event. If you think you can help out, please see these details.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/british-league-volunteer-roles/>

Our sport, and particularly our events, rely on the goodwill and commitment of many volunteers who give freely of their time and expertise to make sure these events are a success. To each and every one of you, please be assured that your efforts are valued and appreciated.

Congratulations to . . .

. . . Ryan Jenkins, whose victory at the Tees Sport Blackpool Grand Prix gave him his 50th Grand Prix 50th Men's Singles title, an incredible achievement for the 11-time Welsh national champion.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/landmark-50th-win-for-jenkins-could-signal-the-end/>

. . . Sussex seniors, who were victorious in the County Championship Premier Division only 12 months after maintaining their status in the division by virtue of a slightly superior sets advantage.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/national-news/bryant-stars-as-sussex-claim-title/>

. . . Paul and Joanna Drinkhall on their appearance on BT Sports television. For anyone who missed it, there is an opportunity to view the table tennis feature.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7U5sOm3SYQ>

. . . Veteran player, Roy Norton, who has been showcasing his table tennis skills in a new ITV Saturday night light entertainment show, *Amazing Greys*, where talented pensioners take on much younger challengers.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/grey-expectations-as-roy-norton-takes-on-tv-challenge/>

. . . Father and son Peter and Dan Ives who broke the world record for the longest table tennis rally with a non-stop eight hours, 40 minutes and 10 seconds, beating the previous record by just over 10 minutes. The duo's endurance was in aid of prostate cancer, and received wide news coverage.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/peter-and-dan-on-top-of-world-after-setting-record/>

. . . All our young players who participated in the ESTTA Schools team tournament recently, and particularly London Academy, and Northfield School and Sports College on retaining their titles.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/london-academy-and-northfield-lead-roll-of-honour-at-estta-team-event/>

. . . Our ESTTA national girls' team, who secured a bronze in the ISF World Schools' Championships in Clermont-Ferrand, France.

<http://etta.co.uk/news/featured-news/isf-world-schools-championships-2/>

And finally, good luck to the England teams who will be competing in the World Team Championships in Tokyo (April 28 - May 5). You will be able to follow their progress with regular updates on the ETTA website (www.etta.co.uk)

Best wishes

Sandra Deaton, Chair, ETTA

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(To reply to this email or to contact the ETTA about any issues, please email: admin@etta.co.uk)