

Newsletter 8

To: Members of Table Tennis England

From: Sandra Deaton, Chair, Table Tennis England

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National Table Tennis Day 2014

We want to raise awareness of our sport and highlight the playing opportunities to the widest audience possible. As part of this, we have launched our first ever National Table Tennis Day on Thursday, July 17, 2014.

The success of this will be down to the imagination, creation and participation of our membership and the wider table tennis family.

This is your opportunity to do something at a local level to raise the profile of our sport. Maybe an 'open day' at a club or an exhibition or a social event? The possibilities are endless.

We hope many of you will participate, use this as a focal point to increase local interest and will encourage your local media to report your events, as well as letting us know what is happening.

At Table Tennis England, we are preparing national events and support information to assist with this promotion. I know many of you contribute on a regular basis with coaching and volunteering. However, this is an annual focal national event we want to build on for years to come.

More information is available here:

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/nationaltabletennisday/>

Or please contact our Head of Development, Emily St. John estjohn@etta.co.uk for further information.

Support and advisory network

For the past year, Table Tennis England has been undergoing considerable change and modernisation. As part of this continuing process, we have introduced a Support and Advisory Network to assist our staff tap into the talent and knowledge pool among our volunteers and players.

If you want to be part of this and feel you have something to offer our sport at national level, please email Robert.sinclair@tabletennisengland.co.uk

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/board-announces-new-support-and-advisory-network/>

Commonwealth Games

The preparations for the Commonwealth Games are well under way. Our squad selection has been announced; the players have been to a training camp in China; and we are hopeful of seeing English players on the medal podium in Glasgow.

We have a microsite for news, information and results from the Commonwealth Games, including a recent article about how 11-time National Singles Champion, Desmond Douglas, is optimistic about our chances.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/glasgow2014/>

New ball

I know that many of you want to know about the situation regarding the use of the new plastic ball at Table Tennis England events next season. The ITTF has introduced it with effect from July 1.

I am aware that we are not going to be able to please everyone with this as there are conflicting requirements and demands. But we need to balance the impact on all our players at all levels, allow for a transitional period, while respecting the ITTF's decision.

This has been discussed at Table Tennis England, and we are checking on availability of the balls at comparable events around Europe. We are also discussing this with tournament organisers and key partners in our events.

When that information is gathered, we will forward the decision to all members via email and on the website no later than next week.

Take on the Army

The Army table tennis team is looking for fixtures with leading clubs for about four matches this year. They can field a strong men's team comprising former national league players, and a female team of mixed ability. Any clubs or leagues interested please contact Dawn Buxton-Berry at Dawn.bb1978@yahoo.co.uk or call her on 07807 014949.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/army-team-look-to-enlist-clubs-for-fixtures/>

Keeping it in the family

A trio from one family won the prestigious Wilmott Cup (Men) in the English Leagues Cup Competition.

Jimmy, Luke and Ethan Walsh representing North Herts beat Bournemouth in the final. Other winners were Linda Hales and Chloe Thomas (Bournemouth) in the JM Rose Bowl (Ladies); Diana Rusinova and Amy Humphries (Derby) in the Bromfield Trophy (Junior Girls); and Bradley Wood, David Thompson and Liam Rowson (Sheffield) in the Carter Cup (Junior Boys).

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/featured-news/walshes-keep-success-in-the-family-at-the-elcc-finals/>

Sainsbury's School Games

Affiliated clubs and members of Table Tennis England can benefit from discounted tickets for Sainsbury's School Games (September 4-7, 2014, Manchester).

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/discounted-school-games-tickets/>

Johnny Leach MBE

It was with deep regret that we learnt of the recent passing of one of our greatest players and ambassadors of the sport, Johnny Leach. Tributes were paid from around the world to the double World Singles Champion.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/former-world-champion-leach-passes-away/>

Congratulations to . . .

. . . Our young players, Megan Shackleton, Martin Perry, Billy Shilton and Thomas Matthews from the GB Para Table Tennis Team who won medals in the Romanian International Open.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/youthful-gb-extend-medal-surge-at-romanian-open/>

. . . Our seven national umpires who have successfully completed the course to join the ranks of international umpires.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/english-officials-achieve-international-status/>

. . . Table Tennis England director Mike Smith and young players Simon Price and Johnny Pemberton, who were selected as baton bearers as the Commonwealth Games symbol made its way around England as part of the countdown to Glasgow 2014.

<http://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/trio-honoured-to-be-baton-bearers/>

Diary date

The AGM of Table Tennis England will take place on Saturday, July 12, 2014 at 2pm at the Holiday Inn, 500 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, MK9 2HQ.

Best wishes

Sandra Deaton, Chair, Table Tennis England

June 2014

To reply to this email or to contact Table Tennis England about any issues, please email help@tabletennisengland.co.uk