



# ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM 2016

To: ESTTA Officials & County Secretaries, School Games Organisers/Development Managers  
Table Tennis England National & Area Development Teams, Participating Schools  
and to all who have an interest in the development of School Based Table Tennis

### In this Issue

- Past, Present and Future
- Communication - Website
- Communication - Newsletters
- Under 19 Girls' Team - Changes
- ESTTA Handbook 2016/17
- Dates for your Diary 2016/17
- Press Cutting Competition Winners
- Home Countries Internationals
- Support
- **STOP PRESS & Finally ...**

### Past, Present and Future

Once again we have all been inspired by sportsmen and women from around the world who gathered in Rio to do battle. Congratulations are due to all members of Team GB, including the table tennis squad, who qualified to take part but particularly to those who stood on the podium to receive their medals.

We need to capitalise on their success which comes through four main areas - the athletes themselves, coaching, funding and **organisation**. There is more to sport than winning medals. Hopefully, the Games will raise awareness of the need for long-term planning at grassroots level and that between NGBs and SSAs together with clubs and schools - built upon **more and better organisation**.

The English Schools' Table Tennis Association has provided a structure for school based team and individual competitions with further opportunities for teams and players to take part in the Home Countries and World Schools' International Championships. You will read in the Chairman's remarks in the ESTTA 2016/17 Handbook that John Blackband, after 28 years of dedicated support as Chairman, has announced that he will no longer stand for re-election at the end of this season. There will be ample opportunities to show our gratitude to John in the months ahead.

Just as the Olympics and Olympians need **good organisation** behind them, so does the development of school based competitions and opportunities. This year we have celebrated 50 years of the National School Team Championships - we thank all those, past and present, who have contributed in any way to their success. We now embark on the next 50 years - but without a **team of organisers** prepared to work to further our aim 'to promote, encourage and improve the playing of table tennis in schools' this will not be possible.

If you are one of the 1600 people who receive this newsletter by post or read it on the website and believe school based table tennis is a vital part of the development of the sport, **please consider volunteering to join the ESTTA Executive or offer help in some other way** whether you are a teacher, coach, parent or enthusiast. We look forward to hearing from you!

### Communication - New Website [www.estta.org.uk](http://www.estta.org.uk)

Communication is vital for all organisations and their members. I am pleased to announce the development of a new ESTTA website which will come on-line in late September. This has been designed by Jamie Gordon, Table Tennis England Communication Officer. We thank him and Table Tennis England for their support. At the time of writing, six main sections are being developed, all of which are self explanatory. The website address is unchanged.

### Communication - Newsletters

Table Tennis England produces a series of web based newsletters including a Schools' Newsletter. I strongly recommend that you logon to [www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/schoolsnewsletter](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/schoolsnewsletter) to receive this electronically. Recent editions have included the following articles - Young Officials' Award, National Championships, School Table Tennis Packages, Grant Scheme for Primary Schools - and they always contain the latest ESTTA Termly Newsletter.

## Important Change - Calling Under 19 Girls' Teams

Entries to the ESTTA Team Championships continue to grow at a steady pace - except in the Under 19 Girls' event. It has been agreed to change the format of the Under 19 Girls' Team Championships for 2016/17. Teams will consist of **TWO** players, not four as in previous years. It is hoped this change, initially for one year only, will result in more teams entering the event.

One of the two players **MUST** fall in the Under 19 age category i.e. Year 12/13. This decision will not only affect the Butterfly School Team Zone, Regional and National Finals but **ALL** county qualifying events. A full copy of the Team Championship Rules and of both the 4-a-side and 2-a-side match templates can be found on the new ESTTA website (when launched) in the 'Information & Regulations' Section.

## ESTTA Handbook 2016/17

Recipients of this Newsletter by post will have received a copy of the ESTTA 2016/17 Handbook. We hope you find the Handbook interesting and informative. The style and quality of this publication would not be possible without major support from **Butterfly** and **Table Tennis England**.

The Handbook consists of three main sections:

- **Contact details** of Officials/County Secretaries.
- **Calendar of events** for 2016/17 with important dates for affiliation and registration.
- **Results of events** held in the 2015/16 season – the Butterfly School Team and Individual Championships along with the Invitation Internationals.

Also included - Website Information, Selection Criteria for Home International Teams, Disability Table Tennis, Table Tennis England Contacts, Who is Butterfly?, Photo Gallery and Q & A about 'Organising a Schools' League' - Intra and Inter.

Of course, a handbook is only up to date on the day it is printed. The ESTTA website ([www.estta.org.uk](http://www.estta.org.uk)) is regularly updated with News, Change of Contact Details and Competition Results. *(If you have viewed this Newsletter electronically and would like a copy of the Handbook, please send your name and postal address to me by email)*

## Dates for your diary - 2017 - ESTTA Championships

- Butterfly School Team Championships
  - County Events (mostly October/November 2016)
  - Zone Finals - 14th/15th January (8 venues) - entry via the above County Events
  - Regional Finals - 4th/5th March (4 venues)
  - National Finals - 25th March (*new* Hinckley Leisure Centre)
- Butterfly Individual Championship Finals - 29th April (Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton)  
*(Entry via County Individual events)*

*Note: I recommend that schools and SGOs **contact their County Secretary to ascertain when and where their events will be held** in order to plan their participation. A reminder, as above, that winners of the County Finals progress to take part in the Butterfly Schools' Championships.*

## Press Cutting Competition

Congratulations to the overall winners of this year's Press Cutting Competition:

- St. Egwin's CE Middle School, Evesham & Prince Henry's High School, Evesham (John McKay).  
and the runner-up:
- The Park School, Bournemouth (James Lewis).

Each school has received a package of prizes of equipment kindly donated by Butterfly for both the author of the article and for the school. **Consolation prizes** have been awarded to St. Bede's RC High School, Blackburn; Lancaster Girls' Grammar School; Chinley Primary School, Derbyshire; Great Wood Primary School, Morecambe; Burbage Junior School, Hinckley; St. George's CE Primary School, Worcester; John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe and Newby & Scalby Primary School, Scarborough.

Publicity is good for your school, your county, ESTTA and our sponsor - Butterfly. Why not enter the competition next year and win equipment worth over £100. We look forward to receiving your entries from the local press, school website, newsletter ... or other media outlets.

### **Home Countries Senior Schools' International - Limerick, Ireland - 24th/26th June 2016**

ESTTA teams dominated the Team Championship with victories in the Under 18 Girls, Under 16 Boys, Under 14 Boys and Under 14 Girls - they also recorded three second and two third places playing against teams from Guernsey, Ireland, Isle of Man, Jersey, Scotland and Wales in this annual competition.

Congratulations also to Individual Championship Medal Winners.

- Under 18 Boys: 2nd Joshua Bennett.
- Under 18 Girls: 1st Zahna Hall, 2nd Bethany Farnworth, 3rd= Nicole Bird.
- Under 16 Boys: 2nd Matthew Leete, 3rd= Shayan Siraj.
- Under 16 Girls: 2nd Sophie Barlow, 3rd= Sarah Menghistab & Bhavika Mistry.
- Under 14 Boys: 2nd Sam Chesterman, 3rd= Naphat Boonyaprapa.
- Under 14 Girls: 1st Charlotte Bardsley, 2nd Mollie Patterson.

The 2016/17 Home Countries Internationals will be held:

- Primary Schools - 7th/9th April 2017 (Wales).
- Senior Schools - 23rd/25th June 2017 (Jersey).

NB The next **International School Sport Federation (ISF) World Schools' Table Tennis Championships** will be held in **Malta in 2018** (date to be confirmed).

### **Support**

As we embark on a new season, ESTTA formally acknowledges the assistance given to the Association by **Table Tennis England** (National Governing Body), **Ransome Sporting Goods** (ESTTA Official Table Tennis Equipment Supplier) and **Heritage Oil Ltd.** (supporting ESTTA International Squads). Their help is vital and gives security to the Association which allows it to plan ahead with confidence. Equally important to the Association are the **volunteers** who give freely of their time to support our plans. Thank you!

## **!!! STOP PRESS !!!**

### **Handbook Correction - Page 16**

**Please note the date of the Butterfly National School Team Championships is incorrect and should read Saturday 25th March 2017.**

### **Handbook Additions - Page 17**

- Zone 4 Organiser - Alex Mercer (07913 651795).
- Midlands & West Regional Organiser - Malc Macfarlane (07974 649067).

**And finally** – IF THE RECIPIENT NAMED ON THE ENVELOPE IS NO LONGER IN POST, IS AT A DIFFERENT ADDRESS, HAS A DIFFERENT TITLE/REMIT OR NO LONGER WISHES TO REMAIN ON THE ESTTA MAILING LIST – PLEASE INFORM ME IMMEDIATELY.

**Keep in touch [www.estta.org.uk](http://www.estta.org.uk)**

John Arnold MBE  
President/Development Officer  
September 2016  
[jarnold.estta@btinternet.com](mailto:jarnold.estta@btinternet.com)

