



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – SPRING TERM 2017

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

ONE SMALL STEP FOR ESTTA - ONE GIANT LEAP FOR TABLE TENNIS

The English Schools' Table Tennis Association has agreed to form an **Alliance** with Table Tennis England. This follows a period during which stronger relationships have been formed between the National Governing Body and the School Sport Association. In the fullness of time, a new joint committee will take over the responsibility of the organisation of the National School Team and Individual Championships and the participation of squads representing English Schools in the Home Countries Internationals and the International School Sport Federation World Schools' Championships.

Sara Sutcliffe, Chief Executive, on behalf of the Board of Table Tennis England said:

'We are delighted to be joining up with ESTTA to enable schools' table tennis to continue to grow and improve. ESTTA has done an incredible job to implement, develop and increase the level of schools' competition for over 50 years. Both organisations see merging as an opportunity to grow schools' table tennis even further and to utilise the experience and skills of volunteers and staff in both organisations to ensure that schools' table tennis is in the best position possible to realise its potential. There are endless opportunities when working with schools and both organisations are aware of what a good school sport table tennis can be, making this a very exciting time for Table Tennis England going forward.'

John Arnold, responding on behalf of the ESTTA Executive said:

'The decision taken by the Executive, having consulted members, is one which will help Schools' Table Tennis in England to continue to grow at all levels and provide quality opportunities as part of a Whole Sport Plan. Change will not happen overnight - it will be phased in following discussions about the future. The vastly experienced 'old hands' will still be at the forefront, giving much needed continuity to the programme but will benefit from working alongside staff from Table Tennis England. We thank the army of volunteers who have supported us and made our events what they are - we still need your help and that of others! I have witnessed many challenges in my time as a senior officer of ESTTA - this will be the greatest but one providing long term benefits to table tennis in schools.'

We believe this is not rocket science nor a leap into the unknown. Initially, there is no intention to change the ESTTA competition programme but development means looking to the future. We are always pleased to receive constructive ideas and more than that, offers of help!

Watch this space for developments!

Dates for your diary - 2017

- Butterfly School Team Championships
 - Zone Finals - 14th/15th January (8 venues)
 - Regional Finals - 4th/5th March (4 venues)
 - National Final - 25th March (the **new** Hinckley Leisure Centre)
- Butterfly Individual Championship Finals - 29th April (Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton)
- Schools' Internationals
 - Primary Schools' International - 7th/9th April (Wales)
 - Senior Schools' International - 23rd/25th June (Jersey)
- ESTTA Annual General Meeting - 21st May - 2.00pm at Wood Green Academy, Wednesbury - all are welcome to attend.

(Please note the next ISF World Schools' Table Tennis Championships will be in Malta in 2018)

Championship Entry Deadlines

- Please note the last date for receipt of entries from players for the **Butterfly Individual Championships** is the 3rd March 2017 - payment having been made together with completed registration forms.
- *I recommend that schools and SGOs **contact their County Secretary to ascertain when and where their qualifying Individual events will be held** in order to plan their participation. A reminder that only winners of the County Finals progress to take part in the Butterfly Schools' Individual Championships.*
- It is sad to note that some 20 teams initially entered by their counties to take part in the **Butterfly School Team Championships** failed to complete their registration on time, despite a more than generous offer by the National Team Championship Organiser to allow a leeway during which every effort was made to encourage teams to submit their detailed entry. I cannot see this generosity being extended to next year's event - it only makes the organisation more difficult!
- *Will all concerned with the organisation of entries please help to achieve the deadlines which are clearly printed on the entry forms, in the ESTTA Handbook and on the website.*

4th ISF World Schools' Educational Games - 31st March/5th April 2017 - Greece

Congratulations to Harefield Academy (Uxbridge, London West) who have been nominated to send four boys and four girls who will represent England at the ISF World Schools' Educational Games. This is a participation event for young athletes who have given service to sport. They will take part in unified sports' events in and around Olympic venues in Greece including the ancient Olympic Stadium, the Marathon Gate, Acropolis and the Panathenaic Stadium - the site of the first modern Olympics in 1896. Delegates from around the world will study Olympic ideals. The Harefield squad will be joined by a team nominated by the sport of gymnastics and will be joined by four boys and four girls from Special Olympics making a complete delegation of 28 people.

A great experience for the students - we wish them well and look forward to receiving reports.

Press Cutting Competition

Calling all budding journalists!

Publicity is good for your school, your county, ESTTA and their sponsors. Why not enter this year's competition and win one of several prizes of equipment worth some £100 for your school. We look forward to receiving your entries from the local press, school website, newsletter ... or other media outlets. The valuable prizes, kindly donated by Butterfly, are there for you to claim if you have taken part in either the Team or Individual Competitions at any level.

Website

The 'all new' ESTTA website is our most efficient and effective way of communicating with you and the wider table tennis audience.

You can find all ESTTA Championship Regulations, Selection Policies, News and a mass of individual and team match templates - free for you to download.

The Butterfly Schools' League Project (Ideas for Organising Intra & Inter School Competitions) and the Butterfly 'More Schools' Project (Ideas for Maximising the Use of Limited Space & Equipment - ideal for primary schools) have both been re-written and can be found in the Resources Section of the website. Both Projects consist of a Handbook and Templates.

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

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