

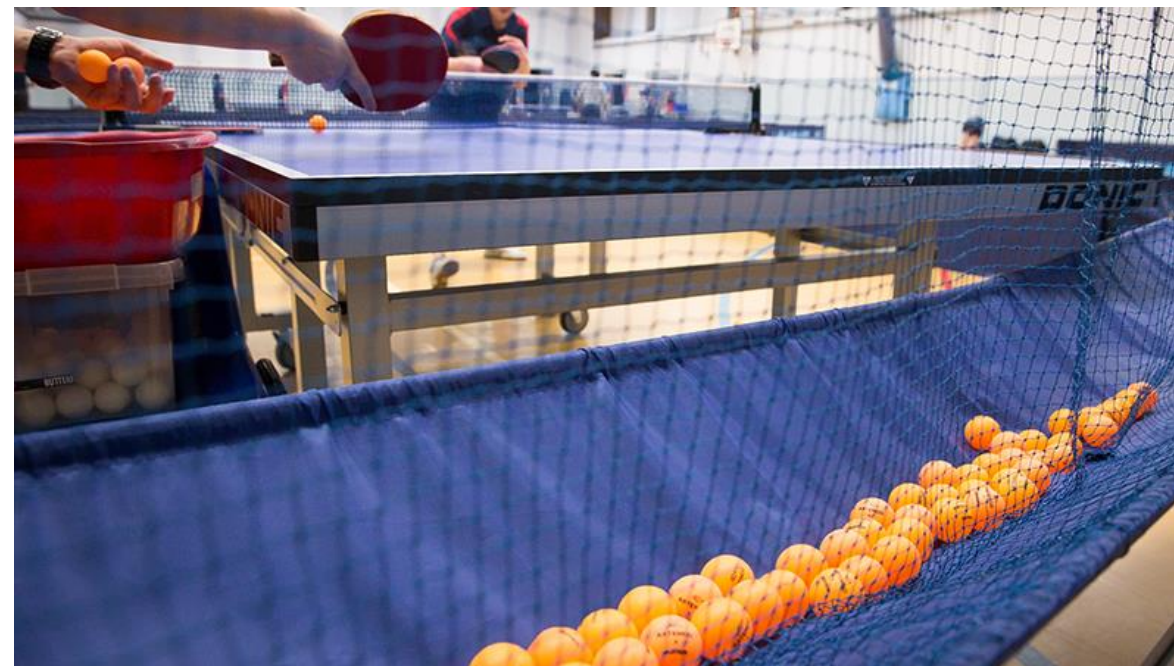
# Ready to return player survey (1816 responses)



Last week the results from the ready to return player survey were published online and this document outlines our responses to the results of the survey. Thanks once again for all those that took part, which has helped to shape the sports response to support players, volunteers, coaches, clubs and leagues over the coming weeks and months.

You can find all of the information related to the Table Tennis England and table tennis clubs, leagues and coaches response to the Coronavirus outbreak by following the link below.

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/coronavirus-advice-and-guidance/>





## Ready to return player survey results – high level summary

### Physical and mental well-being

- 54% of players have experienced negative impact on their mental well-being since the outbreak
- 86% of players have exercised to help manage their physical health
- 52% of players are exercising less than previously
- 4% of players have introduced a household member to table tennis

### Returning to TT

- Nearly 50% of players are desperate to start playing as soon as govt guidelines allow
- Only 0.6% of players indicated that they are unlikely to return
- Nearly 60% of players would welcome a return to league play if it meant using alternative formats

### Regional/National competitions

- 40% of players are keen to get back asap
- Approx 40% of players are unlikely to return to competition for a reasonable length of time

### Volunteering/coaching

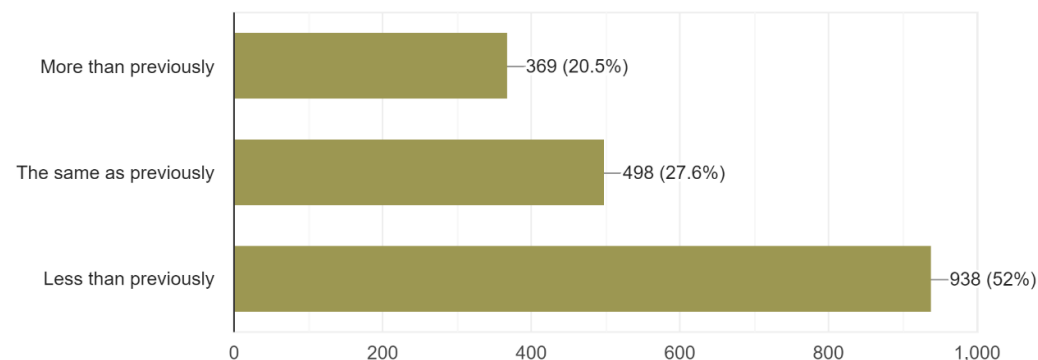
- 21% of people are interested to be more involved in volunteering or start volunteering as a result of the outbreak
- 23% of people are likely to do less volunteering when the game returns

## Player survey results – physical and mental well-being



The survey shows that over 50% of players are exercising less than before the outbreak, below are examples of what is currently available for players and what we are working on in response.

I am exercising less/the same/more since the outbreak  
1,803 responses



### What is currently available:

- Alan Cooke's 'Ready to return' movement session – <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/be-ready-to-return-with-our-exercise-routine/>
- TT Kidz after school club – <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/organisers/bett/sign-up-for-live-tt-kidz-afterschool-club/>
- TT Kidz at home activities - <https://www.ttkidz.co.uk/play-at-home/>
- Play at home activities - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/play-at-home/>
- Examples of what clubs are doing to keep their members engaged and active - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/play-at-home/>
- Advice about playing on outdoor tables - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/our-sport/major-events/coronavirus-advice-and-guidance/>

### What has happened after, or as a result of the survey:

- With 67% of survey respondents being over 50 and the sport having a high proportion of people aged over 55, since your feedback we have produced Bat and Chat Live, which will be aimed predominantly at the 55+ age group. Bat and Chat live offers branding, structure and resources to run your own online movement and social sessions to help keep people active and provide vital opportunities to connect with other people. This will be available in the ready to return section of the website in the coming days
- Paul Drinkhall (England Senior number 2) has teamed up with Team GB to do an exercise video for your home, which you can find [here](#).
- Funding has been made available through the Be TT programme to support clubs and leagues in restarting their activity upon returning, and since the results of the survey we are looking at ways we can make this even more flexible to support clubs, leagues and coaches. You can find out more about [what is currently available here](#).

## Player survey results – physical and mental well-being

It has been possible for some to continue to play table tennis since the outbreak, please tick the statements below that best describe your table tennis participation since the outbreak (tick as many boxes that apply).



I don't have access to be able to play and have not done so since the outbreak	74%
I have a table at home and have someone to play with and have continued to play	9%
I have a table and a table tennis robot at home and have continued to play	8%
Since play on outdoor tables has been allowed with someone from your household or one other person, I have played table tennis outdoors	5%
I don't have a table tennis table at home but have been able to keep playing using alternative equipment (dining table etc)	4%
I have a table at home/have used alternative equipment and household members that have previously not played table tennis have been encouraged to play during the outbreak	4%

The majority of players are unfortunately not able to continue to play at home, due to lack of equipment, space or someone to play with. We have provided some links below that enable players to purchase roll nets for their home, which allow you to turn the majority of kitchen/dining tables into your own mini table tennis table. Also look to your regular table tennis equipment suppliers to see if they can help.

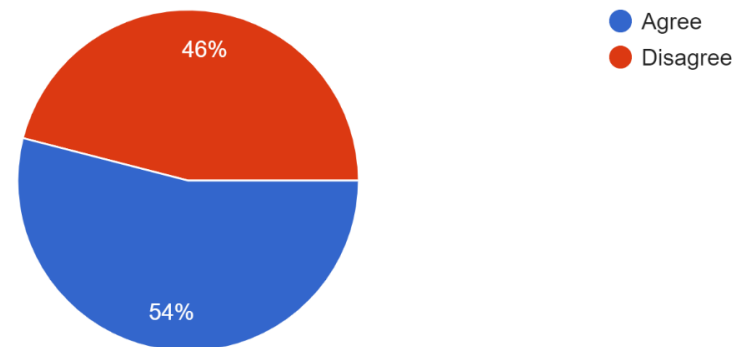
<https://www.ttkidz.co.uk/shop-ttkidz/>

<https://www.pingengland.co.uk/shop-2/> - not yet available on this site, but will be in the coming weeks

## Player survey results – physical and mental well-being

With over half of survey responders highlighting that not playing table tennis has negatively impacted on their mental well-being, it shows what an important part of peoples' lives table tennis is and we endeavour to support clubs and leagues to get the sport going again.

Not playing table tennis has had a negative impact on my mental well-being  
1,789 responses



### What is available already:

- We published an article, which was also included on the weekly Over the Net newsletter, providing support to a wide range of mental well-being resources and services, which you can find [here](#).
- Information about support with those struggling with their mental health has been on the Coronavirus pages of the Table Tennis England website.
- Mind have made free mental health training available for clubs and coaches, you can find more information [here](#).

### What will we do now:

- Back in January 2020, we filmed a **podcast with some of our athletes** who opened up about some of their **mental health challenges**. We are going to release this again to highlight to members the importance of talking about their mental health
- Through the open text survey responses many of you have told us that you have **really missed the social interaction** that table tennis brings. Whilst we are not at the stage of indoor activity in clubs resuming just yet, we are now **launching Bat and Chat Live**, which will be aimed predominantly at the 55+ age group but provides branding, structure and resources to run your own online movement and social sessions to help keep people active and provide vital opportunities to connect with other people. This will be available to all clubs, leagues and coaches to use and can be accessed in the ready to return section of the website.
- We recognise that many members may not know where to go to find the right type of support for them, we are therefore going to **publish a special edition mental health newsletter** over the coming weeks to **highlight the support that is available**, whilst also **highlighting examples from some of our members who have struggled with their mental health** and how the sport has helped them to overcome these.

## Player survey results – returning to table tennis

Which of the following statements do you most agree with.

I am desperate to get back to playing table tennis and will do so as soon as government guidelines allow	46%
I am likely to delay my return to play, irrespective of government guidance, until a later date when I have more confidence in the longer-term picture	17%
I am looking forward to playing table tennis but will only do so when the local league season starts again	16%
I am desperate to get back to playing table tennis and would like to play more upon returning	8%
I have underlying health conditions and/or I am in one of the governments high risk groups that mean I will not be able to return to table tennis until government guidelines allow	7%
I am looking forward to playing table tennis but have enjoyed more free time/have found other ways to keep active and it is likely I will play less table tennis when I return	4%
I have not missed table tennis and it is unlikely I will return to playing	0.6% (10 people)



It is extremely encouraging to note **that only 0.6% of members (10 out of over 1800 respondents) indicated that they would not be looking to return to table tennis.** However despite this, there are a number of people that wont be able to, or wont feel comfortable returning to the game straight away. We hope the information provided here helps clubs and leagues plan for a return, whilst there will be some variation across different areas, the large number of players completing the survey means that the data provides a confident picture of what would be expected across the country.

### What will we be doing?:

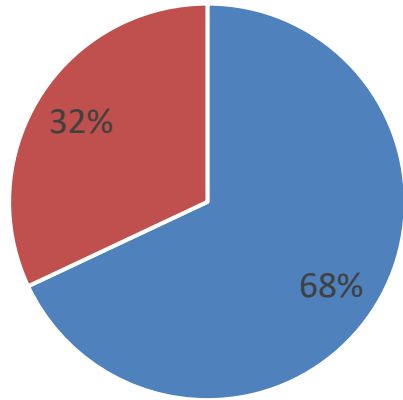
- Whilst table tennis indoors may get back up and running in the next month for some players, from the data collected above, there are a number who will still be unable to access the sport over the coming months. As a result, new activities and ways to keep active for all ages of participants that can be completed outdoors or in your own homes will continue to be provided to our members and other social table tennis players, [which you can find here](#).

### What can your club/league be doing?:

- When clubs and leagues are able to start again, as highlighted above, this will not be possible for all. We are encouraging clubs to continue to think about ways in which they can continue to stay in touch and connect with individuals in the position.
- We will be publishing some great examples of how from clubs and leagues have kept in touch with their members.

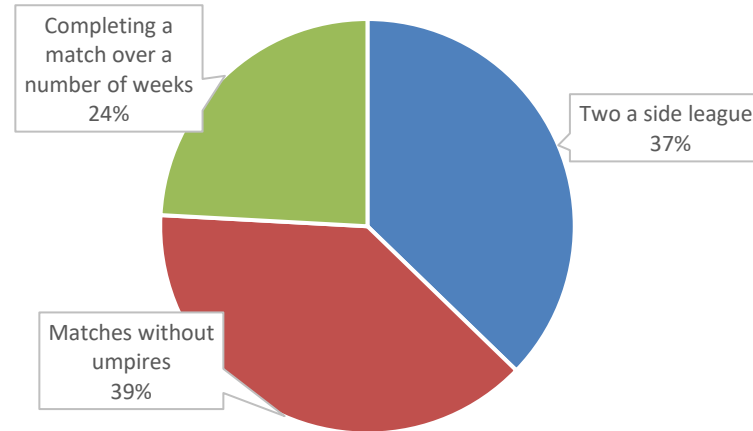
## Player survey results – returning to league table tennis

Which of the below statements most accurately describes your feelings about league table tennis?



- I would welcome a return to league table tennis utilising alternative competitive formats (if you tick this option, please answer the following question)
- I would only consider returning to league table tennis in the same format that we currently use

If enabling the local league season to commence, meant adapting the way in which your league operate, what competitive formats would you consider (tick all that apply)?



With nearly **70% of players highlighting that they would be happy to return with alternative competitive formats**, this is something that clubs and leagues will need to consider, depending on the level of which the restrictions in place will affect the local area.

### What will we be doing:

We are producing a set of **guidance and support documents for leagues when returning**. These documents will include examples of things that should be considered by leagues, alongside some options and leagues to consider in each of the topics raised.

### What can your club or league be doing:

It is worth considering the options available to you as a league, using the questions posed in the upcoming 'Ready to return' guidance for leagues. Consultation with club venues around accessibility and player availability is clearly vital in this. The survey responses demonstrate the importance of table tennis to players mental and physical health, and there is a balance for all clubs and leagues to consider the health benefits of returning, against the challenges and opportunities locally.

As a result of many of the challenges that clubs and leagues have identified and the difficult decisions having to be made, we are offering an opportunity for clubs and leagues to access one to one or group calls with a Table Tennis England member of staff to discuss these challenges, concerns and solutions that returning to play might bring. [To book a session, please visit the link here.](#)

## Player survey results – regional/national competition



Which of the statements below most accurately reflects your current feelings about regional/national table tennis competitions

### Summary

- Multiple choice question – only one selection was possible
- 40% of people would be keen to return as soon as possible
- 39% of people are unlikely to want to play in larger competitions for a reasonably significant time

I would like to get back to playing these again as soon as possible	39%
I would be nervous about starting to play in larger competitions until the outbreak has settled down more significantly	13%
I am unlikely to want to play larger competitions until at least January 2021	12%
I am in one of the governments higher risk groups and so will be unable to take part in larger competitions until government advice allows me to	8%
I am unlikely to play in larger competitions until a vaccine for the corona virus has been identified	8%
I/my club are nervous about making any financial commitment to any competitions in 2020	5%

Table Tennis England has announced a framework for confirming national events and leagues, plus a refund policy. Whilst planning for a full 2020/21 season, we recognise that the situation is constantly evolving and it is likely we will need to adapt our plans. The detailed feedback received from members via the player survey was a valuable barometer of feeling, and gave us confidence that outlining these policies at an early stage will be helpful and enable members and clubs to make appropriate arrangements. Details of this announcement can be found [here](#).



## Player survey results – returning to table tennis

**There may be volunteers and coaches that are unable to return immediately after club activity returns, would you be willing to volunteer/take on volunteer roles to help the sport come back?**



The survey results around returning to volunteering show that although there are a large percentage of people that are not in a position to get involved as a volunteer, there are still 21% of people that would be willing to start volunteering or do more volunteering than previously. That means that when you look at player members across the country, there are approximately 5000 people that would be willing to help out over the coming months.

### What will we be doing:

We will be providing guidance for clubs on re-engaging volunteers and coaches, as well as providing advice about reaching out to new volunteers, who may be able to help at this time. We are also preparing a volunteer role description for a Covid-19/Health and Safety Officer to support the recruitment of volunteers into new roles. This information will be available in the ready to return section of the website in the coming days.

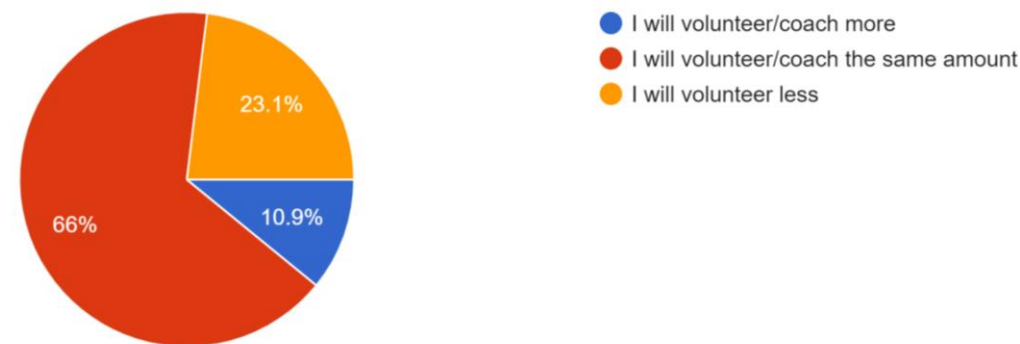
### What can clubs/leagues be doing:

Looking at the number of people that may be keen to start volunteering, we recommend all clubs and leagues reaching out and engage with their members to understand those that may be willing to help, initially on a short term basis, to support the return of your club or league. Clubs and leagues may also be able to talk to those members that have experience with health and safety to engage them in supporting a safe return for their members and helping with vital aspects, such as risk assessments.

I would not have the time to help out as a volunteer	28%
I will continue to volunteer as I have done previously	22%
I would not be able to volunteer currently due to other reasons	18%
I would be interested in helping out as a volunteer	11% (189 responses)
I would be interesting in helping ensure guidelines and recommendations set out are adhered to within my club or league	10% (175 responses)
I would be interested in being more involved as a volunteer than I have done previously	6%
I have volunteered/coached before and I am not interested in doing this again	4%
I used to coach and would be interested in coming back to coaching	3%

How do you think your volunteering/coaching will be affected following coronavirus?

1,184 responses



## Player survey results – summary of text based responses



### Playing based feedback

**There are significantly different views between those with no concerns about coming back and those that are extremely nervous about doing so**

What the survey really highlights are members views on the Coronavirus outbreak and their fears of returning to social interaction. It is imperative that as a table tennis community we support each other and are understanding and accommodating to individuals own feelings with regards to returning to the game. It will be equally important for players to be supportive of clubs and leagues decisions on when they are able to welcome their members back and how that go about doing this.

Volunteers will have really difficult decisions to make over the coming weeks and months and will make them with the best interests of their members' health at the heart of it. Of course, some of these decisions will not suit everybody and may well be different to decisions made in other parts of the country.

### Concern for 50+ / Bat and Chat sessions returning (many only play doubles also)

Doubles may well be one of the activities that are unable to return straight away but this does not necessarily prevent these groups from re-starting with some adaptations for those that are not used to singles play.

### What are we now doing:

- We have been working on guidance and advice for different participant demographics and how these can be welcomed back to the game, as well as coach guidance on running their own sessions. We hope this will support clubs and coaches to adapt their sessions for different groups.
- [Bat and Chat Live](#) is being launched to enable clubs and leagues to run online movement and social sessions for this age group. Information on both of these areas will be found in the ready to return section in the coming days.

### Lots of people really missing the social aspect of the game and cant wait to get back

There are so many great examples of what clubs and coaches are doing up and down the country to continue to engage with their members and we encourage this to continue when clubs go back, to ensure that those that are not able to return are not forgotten.

### What is available now:

- Examples from clubs across the country have been collated together on our Ready to Return pages - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/how-to-keep-playing-during-lockdown/>

## Player survey results – summary of text based responses



### Facilities

#### Clubs and leagues are concerned about paying for hall hire costs with lower numbers

At the time these responses are written, the information for DCMS and government is still not available to actively plan a return to indoor sport, we will continue to update the ready to return pages of the website with the latest information.

#### What is currently available:

- The Be TT funding programme for year four was launched and includes an opportunity for Premier Clubs and leagues to access funding to support their return to activity. [You can find more information here.](#)
- There will be an additional Ready to Return webinar put on for clubs and leagues to work through the latest advice and guidance, as well as an opportunity for an open discussion on the challenges and solutions clubs and leagues are finding. This will be taking place on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 1pm. You will be able to book on the webinar here - <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/new-webinar-series-launched-to-support-clubs/>

#### Concerns about the availability of venues, even when indoor sport is allowed to open, particularly around school halls.

At the time these responses are written, the information for DCMS and government is still not available to actively plan a return to indoor sport, we will continue to update the ready to return pages of the website with the latest information.

### Volunteering/coaching

#### Clubs worried about volunteers in more vulnerable groups being able to return and requiring more volunteers to support additional requirements

The survey shows that although there are some volunteers that are unable to return (see page 9), there are also many players that are happy to support clubs and leagues to support table tennis returning, we strongly encourage clubs and leagues to reach out to their members being clear about the roles and amount of time commitment required (more advice in the ready to return section).

#### Coaches would like guidance on how they can safely restart junior coaching

Following the feedback from the survey, we have started to produce a return to coaching guidance document, which includes Table Tennis England advice, in addition to advice from our partners, such as UK Coaching and Sport England. We encourage you to speak to our coaching team if you have any questions in relation to this by emailing [coaching@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:coaching@tabletennisengland.co.uk)

Since April there has also been weekly coaching and club webinars running online, which over 80 different club personnel and nearly 200 different coaches have accessed.