

Discussion paper for National Council regarding affiliation and membership

Background:

Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association (HTTA) is a relatively large association within Table Tennis England and until recently has had 7 affiliated leagues within the County. For 2023/24 season HTTA have entered 7 teams in the County Championships (1 junior, 1 senior, 3 O40 and 2 O60).

Team and player numbers fluctuate over time but typical numbers from the Season before Covid19 are shown below

League name	Player numbers	Team numbers
Barnet	234	47
Cheshunt	82	13
Hemel Hempstead	126	24
Hertford	88	17
North Herts.	255	48
Shaw	299	48
Watford	119	29
Total	1203	226

Historically, players within these leagues have paid a Table Tennis England affiliation/membership fee and additionally each **league** within Hertfordshire has paid a **£14 per team** fee to Herts County which has funded coaching development, junior training, County Championship entry fees and travel expenses for the principal County Teams.

There appears to be some growing resistance to paying the £14 team fees. Barnet have de-affiliated completely, not only from Hertfordshire Table Tennis Association but also from Table Tennis England affiliation. Hemel Hempstead are considering doing the same and are in the process of changing their constitution to enable changes to their affiliation. We have recently lost Watford and Cheshunt through the gradual contraction of league table tennis so assuming Hemel Hempstead go ahead and de-affiliate from the County and TTE

we are left with only 3 out of 7 former leagues and are faced with a corresponding reduction in income.

Questions for the National Council are as follows :-

- Is this just a Hertfordshire problem?
How many leagues within your County association have folded in the last 5 years?
How many leagues within your association have de-affiliated in the last 5 years?
How is funding raised within Counties?
Are there any other income streams other than team fees?
How are County Teams funded?
- **Does your County pay expenses of any kind to players?**
- **How does your County set charges for the leagues within your County Association?**
- **What benefits do your leagues receive from being affiliated within your County Association? Anything HCTTA not thought of?!**

**David Edwards
National Councillor
Hertfordshire**