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# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 2024

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*Editor’s notes: Except where stated otherwise, this review covers departmental and financial matters for the year to March 31, 2024. For competition and performance matters, obituaries and notable achievements, the period covered is the 2023/24 season.*

*The updates in this Report are provided by the members of the Senior Leadership Team who are responsible for the respective Table Tennis United pledges or other areas of our work. Please visit our website [www.tabletennisengland.co.uk](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk) to find out more about our work, including information about our staff, Board and committees.*



**Nick Donald, alongside ITTF President Petra Sorling, presents the Swaythling Cup to the victorious China men’s team at the World Team Championships in Busan**

Later this month sees the start of the 33rd Olympiad in Paris and I wish our GB table tennis players every success as well as in the Paralympics which follows.

In February, we welcomed the first ever World Table Tennis series event to Manchester and I was fortunate enough to attend the World Team Table Tennis Championship in Busan, South Korea. While performance and influence on the international stage are important, equally so is broadening the reach of the recreational game in England and facilitating a structure for our sport which is relevant and sustainable.

It is a real privilege to be Chair of Table Tennis England and having now been in post for eight months, the opportunities for the development of our fabulous game are even greater than those I anticipated when I was appointed.

I have travelled throughout the country to visit clubs and hubs, including two of our new Pathway Development Centres and our elite training centre in Sheffield, and have watched competitions from local league to the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships, across different age groups.

The passion and commitment of the players, officials, volunteers, supporters, sponsors and staff is infectious and has confirmed to me that table tennis really is a sport for all for life.

I was attracted to the role by the opportunity I saw for developing a membership-based organisation, spanning performance and recreational sport, and one which is relatively accessible and affordable and one which can be played within, and across, generations.

I have witnessed a huge amount of enthusiasm and realism for the implementation of our *Table Tennis United* strategy. I have also seen close-up an executive team, under the leadership of Adrian Christy, which is cohesive and focused with a can-do attitude but one which understands that we cannot do everything given funding pressures and other resourcing constraints. This year has seen us build and begin to embed a new workforce and structure with a focus on local delivery through new Local Organising Groups across our Area Network.

We continuously face tough choices and sometimes the decisions that we take are not met with unanimous support across our membership, a situation not uncommon across other membership-based sports governing bodies.

We rely on the support of government funding, which comes with conditions, and we are working hard as a Board to improve our organisational health as we seek to evolve and embed into our

“ The opportunities for the development of our fabulous game are even greater than those I anticipated when I was appointed



organisation excellence in three key areas - strategy and purpose, people and culture, and operations and governance - which are central to delivering on our pledges.

Attending external events, meeting our stakeholders and promoting table tennis in England is a key part of my role. Less glamorous, but fundamental, is improving our effectiveness to become a high-performing organisation; ensuring that the Board can govern with transparency and consistency, allowing our executive team to deliver on strategy.

As sports administrators, both paid executives and volunteers, we often put up our own barriers, often with good intention but with unintended consequences, that can hinder the development and enjoyment of our great game. We are often slow to recognise this and this can lead to frustration amongst our community.

We must become more agile and develop a better understanding and communication of our appetite for risk and change as we seek, for example, to implement our ambitious coach education strategy and our competition review.

The same is true across our governance structure as we seek to ensure we are visible and relevant to those who are just starting their journey in table tennis and as we tackle inequality, provide equity, gender parity and ensure the sport is representative of the demographic in England.

These are themes, together with sustainability which need to be embedded in everything we do. Our partnership with Sported, our SHEcoaches programme and our inaugural SHEplays girls talent event are notable examples this year of reaching up and rising up to break down barriers.

I was humbled to attend The Pride of Table Tennis Awards during the National Championships and speak with the rich diversity of nominees. Their stories and contributions were truly inspiring, as has been my interaction with many of our less able-bodied community. Also inspiring has been our 12-year association with the Jack Petchey Foundation and it was with great sadness that we learned of Sir Jack's recent passing.

Since the start of 2024 we have welcomed two new Board members, Kath Curran and Anna Whowell, and we thanked Steve Kemish for his service. Kath and Anna together bring significant sports marketing experience and expertise in the field of diversity and inclusion, adding greater diversity to the Board.

As we look forward we will do so with a new CEO as Adrian will be stepping down at the end of the year. He took on the role at a very challenging time, including the ongoing impact of the pandemic, but has led the organisation with energy and clarity. Adrian was central to our successful bid for the 2026 World Championships and a vision to make England a home of table tennis. We are hopeful of staging a number of world tour events in England in 2025 and there is excitement amongst many of our major cities that we have approached to host such events.

Adrian's successor will find a well set, ambitious organisation with plenty of opportunity to accelerate growth in the sport and engage with partners who share our vision. To do so we must continue



Nick Donald during a visit to Worthing TTC



to challenge ourselves to communicate effectively and speak the language that resonates and connects with our target audience.

I would like to end by personally thanking you all for the support you have shown me over my first eight months and for welcoming me into the table tennis community. We have much still to aim for and to achieve for the benefit of the membership and the wider game.

Nick Donald

“ Purposeful change takes time, but we are already making great progress and we have much to look forward to



Above: International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) CEO Steve Dainton (left) and WTT General Manager Europe, Jonny Cowan with Adrian at the Table Tennis England offices in Milton Keynes

Below: A coaching session under way at the Elite Training Centre at the EISS Sheffield



When we launched Table Tennis United 18 months ago, our ambition was to bring the table tennis community and our partners together and to open up our sport to an audience we had little or no engagement with – table tennis, a game for everyone.

Our objectives span the whole game, from our established club and league network to the recreational game, particularly those audiences and communities who are engaging with table tennis for the first time.

We have set ourselves the ambition that table tennis will be a thriving community - a sport for everyone with no barriers to taking part.

It is extremely pleasing to see the Local Organising Groups across the Area Network providing great leadership, with examples such as more women and girls' activity helping to address the goal of gender parity, and the establishment of our first Ping! Hub in Manchester, in partnership with the City, where the doors to table tennis have been thrown wide open to a new audience of players, including those from harder-to-reach groups.

We have begun the exciting project to rebuild our talent and performance system, with great strides made already through the establishment of our first four Pathway Development Centres and the relocation of our high performance environment to our 'own home' at the EISS Sheffield.

We have also put coaches front and centre of our participation, talent and performance strategy and have started the necessary work to overhaul our coach learning and development, ensuring the focus will be on coaches being the best they can be in the environments they can best flourish.

We are now well into our stride as we set about better connecting across



From left: WTT Chief Executive Steve Dainton, ITTF President Petra Sorling, Sandra Deaton, Richard Scruton and Adrian Christy on stage at the ITTF Summit after England had been awarded the 2026 World Championships. Although Sandra’s tenure as Chair of Table Tennis England

has now come to an end, she will continue to play a key role in our relationships on the international stage. Richard has been appointed Chair of the newly established company, Table Tennis International Events Ltd, which has responsibility for the oversight and delivery of

the exciting calendar of major events planned to be hosted in England. Scan the QR code on the right to read more about London being awarded the 2026 World Championships and to watch our bid presentation.



the table tennis community. We have recovered membership numbers to close to pre-pandemic levels and in addition, we continue to engage with the wider audience of players and fans.

The consequence of this focus is that we are now speaking regularly with many more individuals about how they can enjoy more from table tennis.

A key part of our reach and engagement strategy has been to secure the rights to stage major international events in England and the past year has shown the progress we are making, with the awarding of the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026 to London and the staging of our first WTT event when we hosted a WTT Feeder event in Manchester in February.

I have often spoken about the need to wake up the giant that can be table tennis in this country, but we can only do this if our sport is visible - and so it is necessary to establish an ambitious plan to regular host events that can excite players, fans and partners, whether they be media, broadcasters or commercial sponsors.

A high-performing organisation that is

not just fit for today but is fit for the future is the pledge that underpins everything we do. In order that Table Tennis England can operate in an efficient and agile manner, we continue to review and, where necessary, reform our governance, including our articles, regulations, policies and procedures. We continue to seek to ensure that the governance of the organisation is transparent, consistent and clear. We have begun the construction of our People Plan and we continue to ensure our financial stability.

### The Priorities Ahead

The last 12 months underline the importance of what we are trying to achieve and demonstrate how much further we need to go to achieve the ambitions we have set for table tennis in England.

So as we look ahead, we will continue to relentlessly pursue our goals to increase participation through ensuring opportunities to play table tennis are available to everyone. Similarly, we will continue to build our talent pathway, and we look forward

to the first year’s implementation of the competition review.

We will continue to reach more customers through meaningful and engaging content, which includes further building our major event portfolio, and we will continue to reform and develop our governance.

We will look ahead to the excitement of Paris 2024 and ensure those players qualifying are as best prepared as possible.

We will bring our People Plan to life where our priorities will include the development of energised, committed and talented coaches across the pyramid. We will also launch our Technical Officials Academy, which will be designed to ensure we have a pathway for officials at all levels of the game.

The year ahead will also see the launch of our investment proposition - increased investment into table tennis is crucial for our growth and the future success of table tennis in England.

Purposeful change takes time, but we are already making great progress and we have much to look forward to.

**Adrian Christy**



# PLEDGE 1:

**Table tennis will be a thriving community – a sport for everyone with no barriers to taking part**

- **Growing a Grass Roots Workforce**
- **Working in Partnership**
- **Participation with a Purpose**
- **Competition for All**

The Development team saw a huge amount of change within the department in 2023/2024 with the establishment of the Area Network, changes in responsibilities and a shift in focus to ensure the attention was on achieving the outcomes set in *Table Tennis United*.

As a result the Development team's objectives were to:

- Establish the Area Network
- Establish a programme of training for officials
- Increase the number of Under-11s playing
- Scope new competition formats to support local competition

### Establish the Area Network

With the Area Manager team starting their new roles at the end of the 2022/2023 financial year, this year has been about building relationships, establishing connections, understanding their local environments and to build their Local Organising Groups and develop their Area's Local Delivery Plan.

It has been great to see the Area team get out and about and start to build critical relationships with clubs, leagues and counties but also to start to connect with external partners who can further support the sport.

The team has successfully undertaken the following to support their work in building the local Area Networks:

- Undertaken club audits of most clubs and leagues in the country to understand the gaps in provision around playing, coaching, officiating and the needs and concerns of those delivering the sport
- Completed a relationship audit of external partners to thoroughly review what we get from those as a sport and whether they bring enough value to us. This will be used to evaluate future partnerships and continue to evaluate existing partnerships
- Recruitment of local people with the right skillset and enthusiasm to sit on the Local Organising Group and support the development and growth of the sport through the Local Delivery Plans.

The result has been we now have all seven Local Organising Groups up and running, with Chairs working with Area Managers to drive forward activity locally, and members of Local Organising Groups recruited in all seven Groups.

All seven of the Areas now also have active Local Delivery Plans.

The following statistics demonstrate the reach and impact the Area team have had across England in the last 12 months:

**Clubs visited/supported:** 525

**Leagues visited/supported:** 156

**Counties positively supported:** 22

**External partners worked with:** 71

**Sport England funding applications supported:** 16

**Sport England funding secured for local table tennis:** £19,500\*

**Other funding applications supported/written:** 5

**Other funding secured for local table tennis:** £222,500

*\*Some applications are still awaiting a decision*

As a result of the Area structure coming into place, the organisation has formed, or started to form, viable partnerships that will benefit local clubs and leagues across England.

The most notable is the partnership Table Tennis England has established with Sported. This has resulted in the Regional Managers for Sported coming on board the Local Organising Groups and a package of support and membership access to Sported being built for affiliated table tennis clubs. This will increase the support clubs will

get around funding advice, facilities advice, training and infrastructure support, which clubs and leagues require to continue to operate. The full impact of this will be felt next year.

We have also seen a pleasing growth in the number of affiliated clubs, which is critical if we want to grow the capacity and ability of the sport to be able to handle an increase in demand as we start to grow participation.

Affiliation	2022/23	2023/24	Growth
Associate Club	298	348	17%
Premier Club	174	188	8%

We want to continue to grow the number of Premier Clubs as we know the process clubs go through to achieve this status means they are safe and of the highest quality. We will continue to support clubs to achieve this.

The WTT Feeder unlocked a number of opportunities to engage the local population of Manchester in the sport. The presence of table tennis, despite the large Chinese population, is relatively low, with no established Premier Clubs in the city and only two affiliated clubs. There was very little in the way of organised social activity, with no Ping! activity. Much of the organised and semi-formal activity takes place outside the city in the boroughs surrounding the city. The sport was starting from a fairly low base.

Since the start of February, our focus and energy has been on Manchester, to start building links with local communities and activities. Through the Ping Hub at Great Northern Warehouse, we have established a destination for the local community for free play, coached activity, women and girls' activity and competitions.

The Ping Hub has seen throughput growing each month. Between the start of February and end of April, 3,500 people visited the Ping Hub. Of those, 1,000 have engaged in one or more of our coached and led activities. Of those 1,000, 35% are female and 87% have either not played table tennis before or are very low-level social players, so we know it is engaging a new audience. We estimate that 50% of participants are from a diverse background (mainly Chinese, Hong Kong or South Asian).

We have had more than 4,000 visits to the Ping Hub website in two months and more than 5,500 searches for it on Google. This demonstrates the reach of the Hub is growing.

Our relationship with the Great Northern Warehouse is also strong, with their Director extending the Hub until the end of 2024 and businesses commenting they have seen an uplift in trade and footfall because of the Hub.

Table Tennis England has picked up 47 new members as a result, and the venue has played host to two Manchester varsity matches (more than 40 participants), our International Women's Day event and a number of local pop-up activities with local community groups.

There is now a local Hong Kong group which uses the Hub as its base each week, having never engaged outside their community before, with the group leader becoming a Ping Hub Activator. We are also working with a local Ukrainian group.

We had 17 schools engage with our Under-11 programme offer



Activity at the Ping Hub at the Great Northern Warehouse in Manchester

Among the initiatives which speak to becoming a sport for everyone with no barriers to taking part, and which provide essential insight towards our programmes, were the following.

**Prison research**

After receiving funding through Sport England’s Small Grant scheme, a project to evaluate the impact of table tennis in prison settings was completed by Professor Rosie Meek of Royal Holloway University of London.

Although delayed by Covid-19 for two years, the project ran between 2022 to 2024 and involved three English prisons who received equipment and resource to create and build table tennis provision in their prisons.

The findings demonstrated that table tennis is a suitable and positive activity to provide in prisons and was particularly valued by female prisoners.

The coaching activity provided more encouragement to

prisoners who don’t typically use the gym or engage in other physical activity and is important for psychological, social and physical wellbeing.

**International Women’s Day**

17 women attended an activation session at the Ping Hub in Manchester, which included free play and coaching drills/games led by Olympian Andrea Holt. 19 Women attended an insight and learning session, providing their thoughts and lived experiences on engaging W&G in the sport.

The key learnings were:

What prevents Women & Girls from participating in table tennis: **Lack of exposure in schools, not enough W&G representation, male dominance and judgment, club and league structures not suitable.**

What changes are needed: **Increase and enhance school experiences, exposure of positive role models, connecting the W&G community.**

**EVALUATION OF TABLE TENNIS IN PRISON SETTINGS**

**The Project**  
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**Methodology**  
 Qualitative interviews with 8 prisoners across 2 sites  
 Prison staff reflections from participating prisons  
 Written submission from a member of PE staff from one prison  
 Reflections from a community coach on his experiences of delivering coaching in a prison

**Findings**  
 Play in prison settings is important for psychological, social and physical wellbeing, particularly post COVID-19  
 Table tennis is a means of promoting wellbeing, particularly in prison settings and when working with children with experiences of trauma  
 Providing of equipment was well received by prisoners and increased uptake as a result of having ‘good kit’  
 Table tennis was recognised as a social sport, which was particularly valued in the Women’s prison  
 Prison staff valued the equipment and training provided by Table Tennis England  
 The coaching activity provided more encouragement for prisoners who typically don’t visit the gym to engage in physical activity

Logos: HM Prison & Probation Service, Royal Holloway University of London, Sport England

and five schools visit the Hub for PE lessons and have coached table tennis at the venue (75 students playing).

Outside of the Hub we have also been working, in conjunction with MCRactive, with Bruntwood and will be placing tables into two of their buildings and building a Corporate Table Tennis event with their tenant companies. This will engage players new to the sport and bring a large, local company on board.

Finally, our local partnership with the Jack Petchey Foundation, who support table tennis through a generous grant each year, is going from strength to strength.

In the last year through the programme, table tennis has been accessed by more than 39,000 young people across London and Essex. We have placed 226 tables across 81 schools, SEND schools and youth clubs and delivered team and individual competitions that saw 1,200 young people take part. We also delivered three young leader courses to 60 young people who can now support and help across table tennis activity across London and Essex. In our girls’ programme, 152 girls played table tennis across eight schools through bespoke coaching and 74 girls took part in a girls-only festival.

The partnership with the Foundation has been a long-term one and we continue to value and appreciate our relationship with them and thank them for their support in the last year.

**Establish a programme of training for officials**

The sport has been struggling to recruit and retain technical officials



Four new Level 2 Umpires who completed their qualifications at the Mark Bates Ltd Cadet, U7 & Junior Nationals

across all levels for years and this is now being felt across the board, especially at national competitions.

Progress in this area in 2023/2024 was not as quick or developed as we would have liked. The two reasons for this were, firstly, it was imperative we prioritised other objectives as they were critical to setting the infrastructure and capacity to progress other areas of work (such as the Area Networks being established) and, secondly, when the planning started for this objective, it became obvious that it needed a fresh, new approach, one less about training and running courses and more about reimagining the role of technical officials and redefining their importance to the sport.

As a result, work has begun to create a Technical Officials Academy to raise aspirations and status in this area of work.

Huge progress has been made with a Working Group of experienced technical officials and Table Tennis England staff forming and a clear vision and action plan being established and much of the ground work completed to push it forward.

This will be taken into 2024/2025 with a key priority to get the Technical Officials Academy established and starting to recruit and further develop world-class officials. The table below sets out the current numbers and our targets across the range of roles.

Role	Current – 2023/24		Target – 2024/25	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
L1 Umpire	204	56	224	71
L2 Umpire	21	3	23	5
L3 Umpire	24	6	26	7
Blue Badge	6	6	6	6
L1 Referee	33	6	36	7
L2 Referee	8	0	9	0
L3 Referee	2	1	3	1
Tournament Organiser	122	25	132	37

The numbers above demonstrate the lack of female technical



**Competitors at the Women & Girls 1\* at Brandon TTC**

officials in the sport across all levels. It takes time to move between the levels and with a low number of female Level 1 and Level 2 umpires and referees, we are not likely to see huge growth in 2024/25 in female technical officials at Level 2 and above next year. This is a longer-term aspiration and we will start with a focus on getting more female Level 1 Technical Officials trained who aspire to progress, and to do some focused support with existing Level 1 and Level 2 Technical Officials so they can progress to the next level.

### Increase the number of U11s playing

The number of younger people entering and playing the sport competitively within clubs' formal settings has been reducing for a number of years, which is having a knock-on impact on the number of players competing and, crucially, the number and standard of players within our talent pathway.

Part of the solution is to have a particular focus on Under-11s and encouraging and increasing the number of primary-aged children who take up and progress in the sport.

This provides several benefits including:

- A younger player base which will provide more consistent numbers for clubs, improving their sustainability and increasing participation in the sport longer term.
- Enabling a clear pathway between the role of the Development team in bringing people into the sport and ensuring they have a great experience, and the Performance team, who start to identify and develop players to become highly successful athletes. Under-11s (with a particular focus in the talent pathway on Under-9s) have been identified because we have a small number at this age group and it is the group most likely to become our future international players and medallists.
- An opportunity to create an easy-to-understand pathway for players, coaches, parents and others.

The initiatives we have undertaken to move forward in this priority area include the redesign of TT Kidz to make it easier for clubs and schools to use and deliver the programme in their spaces.

There has been more support and investment from Table Tennis England to support clubs delivering the programme to promote to wider audiences. We have increased our investment into the amount of paid advertising to support clubs running TT Kidz to grow the reach and take-up.

This has had a positive impact, with numbers taking up the programme increasing in areas where advertising has increased.

There is still more to do in this space and the next steps are to align the content of TT Kidz with the new Player Development Framework in order to create an engaging and fun programme that creates better players across the whole pathway.

The introduction of the first Pathway Development Centres and the links between them and the Area Network has progressed well

and the connections Area Managers have made with clubs wanting to do more work in this area has enabled better local connections and growth. Overall, there has been a 24% increase in the number of Under-11s becoming Compete or Compete Plus members, with a 22% increase in the number of female Under-11s becoming Compete or Compete Plus members. There are now 469 Under-11s holding a membership with Table Tennis England.

### Scope new competition formats to support local competition

A lot of feedback received from clubs, leagues and counties has been around the lack of local competition and competitive opportunities for players, particularly younger players.

The burden of travelling long distances to play others and the cost of overnight stays and entry fees are barriers to participation, particularly for those entering the sport or who are willing to progress.

There is also a big gender disparity - both in the number of women and girls competing and in the number opportunities for them to compete in environments they feel more comfortable in.

Further feedback raised the concern that competitions for men and women, and for young players in particular, can take too long.

As a result, work started to explore how different formats and different levels of competition could remove or reduce these barriers and how developments in TT Leagues, including Fast Format, can provide a menu of options to create a thriving local competitive offer.

There has been a focus by the Area Manager team to start to develop a suite of Development and 1\* competitions targeted for Women and Girls only as part of our efforts to close the gender gap in participation and membership numbers.

The North East saw two new Women and Girls 1\* competitions delivered with more than 50 participants and these, along with Women and Girls 1\* competitions delivered in Sussex, Crippenham and Nottingham means more than 140 women and girls competed in this particular format. The Durham event alone saw 20% of participants compete in their first ever competition.

The National Competition Review moved into the implementation phase in 2023/24 and this will continue next season, through to completion in 2025/26. A new [section of the Table Tennis England website](#) was created to share information about each specific area of the Review.

The current landscape of 1-4\* events and Grands Prix will transition to Tiered Open Tournaments over the course of the next two seasons.

This season saw the last events in the Grands Prix format, which will evolve as part of these changes to Tiered Open Tournaments.

Other changes arising from implementation of the Competition Review meant that this season also saw the last iteration of the Cadet National Cup and the Junior National Cup, both of which will evolve in

David McBeath (in red) takes on Tom Jarvis in the Senior British League, Premier Division match between Ormesby and Brighton



scope and frequency with the launch of the four-date U13/ U15/ U19 National Series next season.

The first tangible outputs from the Review changes were seen as the former U11 & U13s National Championships expanded to become the U10-13s National Championships – an open (ie not invitation) tournament including U10s and U12s age-groups, additional doubles categories, and a new approach supporting the participation of capable but as-yet-unranked players.

The Competition Review proposed, and it was agreed by Board, that the Junior British League (JBL) would expand to three national weekends and incorporate doubles in the boys’ and girls’ Premier Divisions. A significant amount of work was undertaken in terms of venues, calendarisation and format development.

However, feedback from participants on the practical implications, including increased costs to clubs for travel and accommodation, meant that it was decided not to implement this particular change, illustrating Table Tennis England acting on feedback from clubs.

Piloting of the online tournament entry system within the Sport:80 platform, originally scheduled with organisers of 1\* and 2\* events for 2022/23 season, but postponed in order to prioritise staff and partner capacity in the area of developing the membership offer, is now anticipated to take place in season 2024/25.

As well as providing a consistent and effective entry and payment platform for all regulated events, this approach will enable greater data and insight to be collected, which will enable us to make better and more robust business management decisions.

However, the availability of umpires - and also now referees - is an increasing challenge on an ongoing basis, and being actively addressed elsewhere in the organisation.

New functionality has continued to be developed and launched in the TT Leagues platform to support online entry, payment and roster management to national leagues. This is expected to expand in season 24/25 to incorporate these processes for NCL/ NJL for the first time. More about the developments in TT Leagues can be seen in the section on Pledge 3.

We extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all members of the Tournament Approval Panel and its Chairman John Mackey. We also want to thank the Technical Officials Committee and all the volunteer technical officials at national events. We thank the host venues for national events, the members of all league and tournament

committees and the British League Press Officer Wilf Reeve and Gary Wood (British League Chair) in particular.

The support of our sponsors Mark Bates Ltd and China Taiping is greatly appreciated, and we thank them for their ongoing support.

Thank you to our equipment suppliers and ball sponsor Tees Sport, equipment suppliers Bribar, to Neil Hurford for his tireless support of TT Leagues IT development, as well as Rocca Creative and Sport:80.

Finally a huge thank you to all clubs, teams, players, coaches, parents, table officials, commentators, scorers, venues and organisers of regulated leagues and tournaments.

### Looking ahead

After a year of building and embedding a new workforce and new structure and where the priority has been about establishing systems as a springboard, 2024/2025 will be all about delivery and focusing on what matters most to the sport.

This year will see greater alignment between Development, Competition and Performance as we start to join systems together to make it more seamless and easier for players, coaches and clubs to navigate.

We also have a some big challenges ahead of us including addressing the gender disparity across our playing and coaching membership, continuing to grow the number of Under-11s in the sport and establishing the Technical Officials Academy.

Our key objectives for 2024/2025 are:

- Enable more people to play table tennis, with a particular focus on gender parity, young people and reducing barriers for those with disabilities, from deprived communities and from ethnic minority groups.
- Introduce new people to competition by introducing a localised calendar to ensure greater opportunities for people to play at their level.
- Establish the Technical Officials Academy that can grow and enhance Technical Officials in England.
- Establish strategic relationships that help us achieve the Pledges in *Table Tennis United*.
- Scope and develop the commercial potential and identify further investment for Ping!

# PLEDGE 2 :

**Culture change across  
the pathway that  
inspires World Class  
performances and  
medal success**

- **World Class Pathway**
- **World Class Behaviours**
- **World Class Environments**





Left: A session at the new Elite Performance Centre in Sheffield

Below: Young squad members take part in a BetterMe exercise

### Elite Training Centre and Performance Programme

In January, Table Tennis England announced a new home for the Elite Training Centre at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield, with the aim to fuel the Olympic medal aspiration outline in *Table Tennis United*.

With the aim of providing a world-class training environment, the performance programme will have exclusive use of a training hall for more than 1,700 hours a year, as well as world-class support from the outstanding sports science and medical services provided by the UK Sports Institute.

The centre is a centralised training environment and is critical to the pathway system we are building, providing the inspiration for young British players to strive to be a part of, where our next generation of players will come together regularly with our leading senior players and, crucially, where we will bring coaches from across the UK to learn together.

Alongside the announcement were key updates to the programme, including transitioning the National Training squad to the Great Britain Training squad and the Futures Squad to Great Britain Futures Squad, encompassing all the Home Nations.

We anticipate that events under the National Championships banner will transition to Sheffield in the coming seasons.

### BetterME

This new initiative has been instrumental in supporting players within the Performance Pathway to develop holistically and learn a wide set of skills that can aid in their progression through the pathway.

The programme has successfully equipped players with the necessary tools to navigate the demands of high performance. Each topic covered has been aimed at enhancing various aspects of player development. Topics included:

- Nutrition - educating players and their support network on how dietary strategies can enhance sports performance, recovery and health
- Psychology - supporting players to understand pressure, managing nerves and performance anxiety. Further sessions included a focus on player wellbeing and coping with stress and the car journey – optimising communication
- Lifestyle - helping players develop skills to effectively manage all their commitments, understand the importance of developing an identity outside of sport and navigate the challenges of the athletic career, such as moving through transitions
- Physical development - a strength & conditioning focus on how to appropriately structure the training week to enhance player development.

The initiative has used a combination of in-person and online workshops led by experts in the respective fields, providing valuable knowledge and support strategies to both players and parents. The



positive engagement levels observed across all squads indicated the effectiveness of the programme, which will be continued with new topics currently in development to further enrich the learning experience for players.

### Pathway Development Centres (PDCs)

We have now set up four Pathway Development Centres based at Ormesby TTC, Joola Plymouth TTC, Kingfisher TTC in Reading, and at London Greenhouse.

The PDCs will support players between the ages of 8 and 11 and 12-to-15 to develop world-class technical and fundamental skills ready to excel at the next stage of our pathway. We are looking to have seven active PDCs by March 2025.

### Coach Development

Work is currently under way on the new coach development strategy. The new strategy will focus on the continual development of coaches, based on recognising excellence wherever they work, instead of the current qualification-based system.

The aim is to enable culture change across the pathway that inspires world-class performances and medal success. The current qualifications will be recognised in the new strategy but there will be more emphasis on place-based learning. Further details regarding the coach development strategy will be released throughout the 2024/25 season.

### SHecoaches

January 2024 saw the launch of the first ever SHecoaches Initiative. The initiative, funded by SportsAid, is a two-year programme that aims to educate, inspire, and motivate the next generation of female Talent & Performance coaches.

The SHecoaches cohort have had access to a number of workshops with high-level practitioners in their fields and also an immersive on-camp experience where they developed skills in delivering multiball and sessions.

They also had the opportunity to observe the National Training



Young players showcase their talent at the SHEplays event

Squad and speak to the lead coaches. There was also a classroom element where they discussed Talent ID, the pathways and journeys for a player, what international events look like and the performance standards.

The SHEcoaches programme continues into next year with further workshops, camp experiences and reflective sessions.

### SHEplays

We hosted the inaugural SHEplays Girls Talent event in Nottingham, marking a significant milestone in identifying and empowering young talented female players.

A total of 30 girls, aged between 8 and 11, gathered at the University of Nottingham to showcase their skills in a unique and engaging setting. Throughout the day, participants had the opportunity to explore various taster stations, including multiball, service practice, fun games, and fundamental skills, all under the guidance of dedicated women coaches from the SHEcoaches cohort - Emily Bolton, Eva Toth, Joanne Green, and Colette Neenan - in addition to the GB Futures Lead coach, Gordon Fearn.

The highlight of the event was a special Q+A session with Anna Hursey, who, at the age of 17, qualified for her first Olympics Games in Paris this summer. This session provided an invaluable opportunity for the girls to gain insights into Anna's table tennis journey and be inspired by her achievements.

The event not only showcased the girls' talents but also emphasised the importance of mentorship and support in nurturing young female athletes within the sports community.

### Looking ahead

The Performance Team have a number of developments in process:

- Releasing the Pathway Guide – the Performance Team have created a handbook to support the athletes of tomorrow reach the top level. The handbook will outline the stages of the journey for athletes, parents, coaches and wider stakeholders. The Pathway guide will sit on the Table Tennis England website and will be readily available to the wider membership.
- Releasing the Player Development Framework – The framework is nearly complete and will cover development within technical/tactical, physical, medical, social/lifestyle, psychological, nutrition, key behaviours and competition, and outline key indicators of progression from seven years old to the senior international level.



- Continual engagement with the Athlete Panel – the panel will continue to give our players a voice and provide valuable insight and feedback to support our decision-making.
- Talent ID – we have a number of projects we are currently working on to increase the number of players transitioning on to our pathway, including a focus on girls Talent ID.

### Departmental changes

There have been a number of changes within the Performance Team. In February 2024, Ryan Jenkins left his post as National Coach and was replaced by Carlo Agnello. Carlo has a wealth of knowledge and experience having worked full-time with the Belgian national team for more than 10 years. Carlo's focus will be on the youth programme, while John Murphy's focus is on the Senior programme.

Kelly Sibley left her role as lead coach for the Futures programme, due to the agreement between Table Tennis England and the University of Nottingham coming to an end. Kelly's departure saw Gordon Fearn take over this role, working closely with Carlo and the Performance Team.

Natalie Green has come onboard as the DiSE (Diploma in Sporting Excellence) Lead.



Members of the SHEcoaches cohort discuss placement of shots with Gavin Evans. Above: The Pathway Guide is now available

# PLEDGE 3 :

## Connection across the table tennis community

- Building our Digital Capability
- Staging Fantastic Events
- Developing our Partnerships



## TTLeagues

The 2023/24 has seen continued growth and development of TT Leagues. The software is now used across a wide range of competitions at local, county, regional and national levels as follows:

- 140 local leagues
- 4 regional/county leagues
- 6 competitions in the British League
- 5 competitions in the County Championships
- 16 venues that run competitions in the National Cadet and National Junior Leagues

Applying TT Leagues to such a diverse range of competitions with so many different formats and regulatory structures has tested both our ingenuity and the flexibility of the system. But TT Leagues has proved it can meet the different challenges these competitions present.

There has been increasing cross-fertilisation across the competitions – new features developed specifically for one competition have proved useful in other competitions.

We are currently working with a few leagues as they trial TT Leagues ahead of adopting it for next season. So, we expect to see further expansion in the use of TT Leagues next season.

### Knockout and Handicap Formats

These new formats were the main development in TT Leagues this season and represent a significant step forward in the competitions that can now be managed within TT Leagues.

The initial focus has been on using these formats in Local League competitions. 30 leagues have been using the new formats to run their Divisional Cups and Handicap competitions. Others have been trialling the formats in the background on the Administration system. Some have used them for just one competition, whilst other leagues have used them with multiple competitions. With the further development that we plan, we hope to see an increase in uptake next season.

### National Competitions

The extension of TT Leagues beyond Local League competitions has been the main feature of the development of TT Leagues since the



Capturing the Mark Bates Ltd Senior Nationals for TTE.TV

pandemic. Successively, we have applied it to British League, County Championships and National Cadet & National Junior Leagues. This has significantly increased the number of results handled by the system.

For British Leagues, there are more than 13,000 individual matches played each season, for County Championships about 7,000 individual matches and for NCL/NJL about 3,000 individual matches.

### Continued Development

As in previous years, we will be using the summer months to develop further the TT Leagues system. Priority areas for this summer are improvements to the Knockout and Handicap Formats, and the development of a new online entry system for NCL/NJL competitions.

Other developments to improve the user experience will take place depending on the amount of time and resource available as we reach the end of the development period.

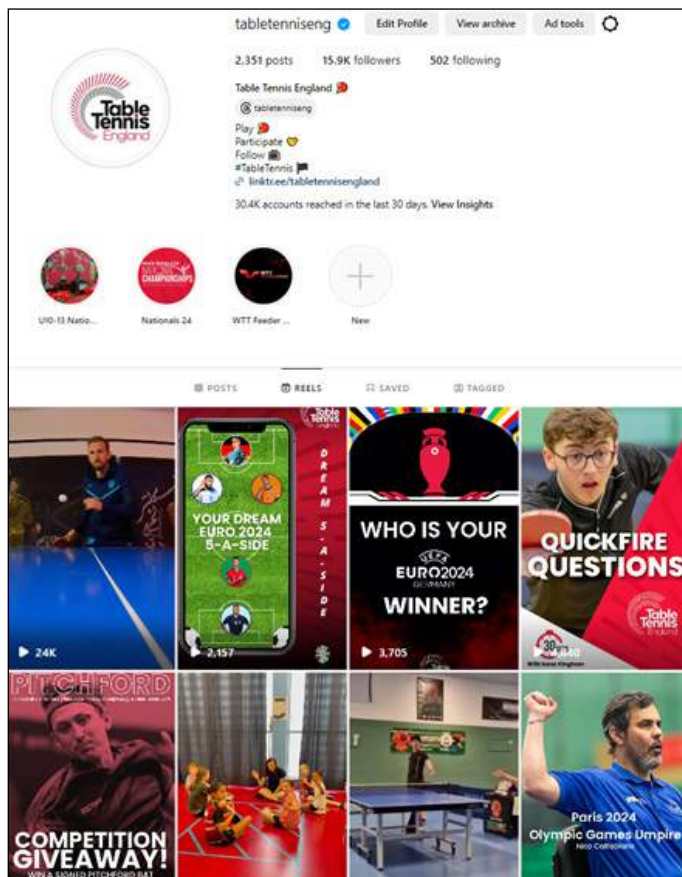
## Engagement

The Engagement Team supports the business and sport to attract new and retain existing audiences through the development and distribution of digital content and products and, the delivery of live events.

In last year's Annual Review, we committed to the below priorities. Here, we map them against a progress report.

### 1. Building our digital capability – increasing engagement with audiences, reducing churn, and acquiring new fans, members and participants

- Membership of Table Tennis England rose by 5% to 27,716 (as of 31st March 2024). The number of people on autorenewal also rose by 13%, with the introduction of a Direct Debit payment option.
- Database growth by 10% (10,930 new contacts).
- Users to [www.tabletennisengland.co.uk](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk) were up 11.37% year-on-year (47,240 visitors), who visited the website a total of 850,000 times during the year. 36% of visitors to the website were female.
- Visitors to [www.ttleagues.com](http://www.ttleagues.com) was down by 4.72% vs 22/23.
- On social media, we gained 2,520 Instagram followers, reached 280.3k people (108% increase vs the previous year), and had a 100% increase in content interactions, totalling 37.1k.
- On Facebook, our total reach was down 4% vs the previous year, however our organic reach was up 100%, totalling 1.9m accounts. We also gained 3,032 new followers and had an 11.5% increase in content interactions (totalling 90.7k).
- Followers on X increased by 1.8%.
- Our YouTube content received 208k views, 9.2k hours playtime and gained 431 subscribers. The channel also qualified for monetisation during the period. Total views on YouTube were down vs the previous year by just over 100% due to an increased emphasis on providing content to TTE.TV, including our live coverage of events.
- On TTE.TV, we achieved 69,561 total plays, and 12,115hrs playtime watched, from 6,500 subscribers.



The Table Tennis England Instagram page



Above: The Finals Day court at WTT Feeder Manchester allowed spectators an outstanding-up view of the action; Below: Officials from England and abroad at the event; Right: Paul Drinkhall plays in front of packed seating at the Velodrome in Manchester



**2. Delivering personalised communications and engagement based on an individual's preferences and interests**

Over the last 12 months we have worked closely with our partners at Winners to improve the quality of our data and, in turn, our ability to send more personalised and engaging email communications and campaigns.

We have tested and implemented a variety of tactics and different types of content. Consequently, unique open rates are up 39% to 981,760 and unique clicks are up 14% to 80,716.

**3. Produce and host more content on TTE.TV and improve production values**

TTE.TV, the home of live and on demand table tennis, is a free view service for Table Tennis England members and a subscription service for non-members.

It now has more than 6,500 subscribers and during the 23/24 season hosted live coverage of the WTT Feeder in Manchester, World Team Championships in Busan, ETTU European Team Championships in Malmo, the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships, all the matches from the Senior British League Premier Division and selected matches from the Championship Division.

Additionally, there were thousands of hours of On Demand content, including 14 Rewind Shows, providing coverage of our main events and age-group competitions, and the following six TT Insider pieces which were watched by 10% of the TTE.TV subscribers:

- The Reunion: Liam Pitchford and Zak Abel (ex. England Cadet turned musician)
- Competing in a women's 2\*: Chloe's Vlog
- Red Black Green (the story of the Green family)

- Rio 2023 World Schools Championships
- Leon (the Magician): The Journey
- John Murphy: In England's Corner

The level of audience engagement remains below where we want it to be, however there are some encouraging signs and our commitment to the channel remains at the forefront of our engagement strategy and our membership proposition.

Over the last 12 months, enormous energy has gone into establishing the processes that will enable increased engagements and a focus on the development of exciting new video and live-streamed content that has been distributed across our digital platforms including [www.tabletennisengland.co.uk](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk), TTE.TV and social media channels.

**4. Continue to scope a new Membership Scheme for the 2024/25 season**

This is covered under Pledge 4.

**Events**

**WTT Feeder Manchester**

In February, we hosted our first World Table Tennis event in England. The Manchester Feeder was deemed to be an enormous success across all areas.

The Table Tennis England Engagement Team managed the marketing, communications and event coverage, media, branding, ticketing, live streaming, sport presentation and FanZone and engagement.

More than 2,000 spectators from all over the country attended the four-day event, which received a +28 Net promoter score, with 97%

# Players' social media praise for WTT Feeder Manchester



A special shoutout to @tabletenniseng for the incredible organization!!! Thoroughly enjoyed playing in such an electrifying atmosphere and felt a really warm welcome from everyone involved  
 - Lily Zhang, USA



Congratulations to @tabletenniseng for this great event in WTT Feeder Manchester

1. Good competition venue
  2. Good training spaces
  3. Players lounge for rest and always with food and beverages available
  4. Physiotherapy with massage available any time
  5. A lot of volunteers who were there to assist us, its also greatly appreciated
  6. PUBLIC - Possibly the most important in my opinion, was that we had an audience, for a long time we only played in empty stadiums with nobody there. Now playing with an audience since day one was a pleasure and I am sure all the players needed it.
- Marcos Madrid, Mexico

Hi, whoever is reading here just wanted to say congrats for an amazing tournament! Best organization ever. Had the best time and played good:) see you soon!



- Debora Vivarelli, Italy

of respondents saying they would be interested in attending a future event of a similar nature.

More than 50% of spectators were not members of Table Tennis England, suggesting world events like this can engage new audiences in our sport.

Content from the event filled our social channels, contributing to between 30 and 50% of the engagements in the weeks building up to the event. A commercial partnership with hydration provider Applied Nutrition was successfully activated throughout.

### Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships

More than 800 people attended the Mark Bates Ltd Senior Nationals in Nottingham in March, with 2,641 people watching live on TTE.TV and 2,958 'on demand'. A further 3,200 watched the highlights back on YouTube.

Our social media content for the event reached significantly more people than in previous years, with a 93.6% increase in reach and 34.8% and 36.5% more engagements and likes. Video content performed best with a 101.1% increase in average seconds viewed.

### 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships bid

A series of literature, Powerpoint slides and videos were created to support the successful 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships bid.

### Tech review

In January 2024 Winners FFD were appointed to undertake a review of the Table Tennis England technology ecosystem and make recommendations on how this can be evolved and further developed to enable the successful delivery of the objectives outlines in *Table Tennis United*.

### Media appearances

From time to time, we instigate or facilitate appearances on regional and national media. In the past 12 months, these have included:

- Paul Drinkhall and Anna Hursey appeared on the prime-time 5Live *Path To Paris* programme
- Senior Communications Officer Paul Stimpson broadcast live on BBC East Midlands from the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships.

We anticipate, and are cultivating, media interest in Liam Pitchford and Anna Hursey around the Paris Olympics.

We also facilitated an appearance on a special Paris 2024 edition of *Great British Menu* by Liam Pitchford, and helped arrange an advertising shoot for a major sportswear brand involving Tin-Tin Ho and Emily Bolton.

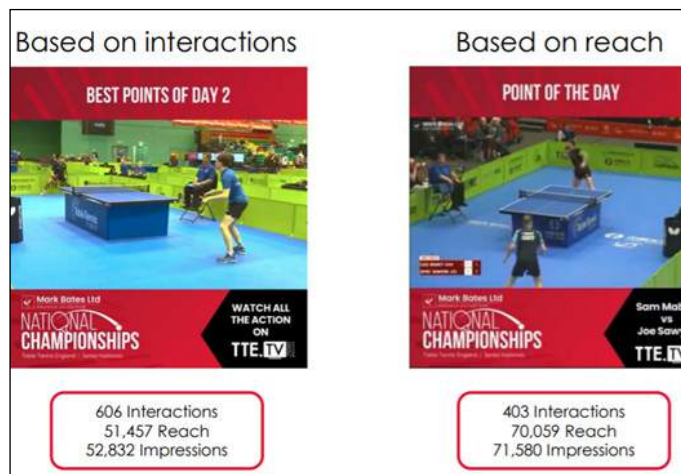
### Looking ahead

Engagement priorities will remain focused on our ability to attract, convert and retain players, participants and fans in the sport.

This will be achieved through content that resonates with existing and new audiences, growing our following across our social media channels, websites and email.

We will run campaigns, competitions and events in an attempt to engage and grow our contactable audience by 40% and increase Membership numbers by a further 10%, ahead of trying to launch a new Membership proposition for the 25/26 season.

We will act on the findings and recommendations of the technology review.



Our leading social posts from the Mark Bates Ltd Senior Nationals

# PLEDGE 4 :

**A high performing organisation that is not just fit for today but is fit for the future**

- **A Powerful Culture**
- **Tackling Inequalities**
- **Influencing our Partners**
- **Inspiring Change**
- **Investing in People**
- **Growing our Own Income**





In August 2023, a four-year extension to the Official Clothing Supplier agreement with Butterfly was announced and a professional photoshoot with senior England internationals Liam Pitchford, Tom Jarvis, Mollie Patterson and Jasmine Wong launched the new deal. England squads of all age groups will continue to be supplied with kit via Tees Sport, the Butterfly partner for specialist equipment in the British Isles, until September 2027 – including the World Team Championships in London in 2026. As well as the England match kit, Butterfly will supply travel and training kit to the squads, and branded clothing for Table Tennis England staff.



### Code for Sports Governance

This year has seen full adherence to all the requirements of the Code including the seven new areas.

The key areas that have been required to be developed have been our Sustainability Policy and People Plan and actions from these will be rolled out in the coming year.

Confirmation has been received by Sport England that the evidence provided has been accepted and have confirmed our compliance.

### UK Anti- Doping

We continued with our commitment to comply with the UK Anti-Doping framework, supporting Clean Sport Week, educating those on the performance pathway and communicating all the key information and requirements under the framework.

### Committees

This year saw the introduction of our Governance Reforms and the development of Tier 1 Advisory Committees in Finance and Audit, Governance and Risk, Talent and Performance, Development and Competitions.

We also enhanced our Standing Committees with the introduction of a People Committee. [Click here to see who sits on our committees.](#)

### Safeguarding

#### Annual Framework Review

The Child Protection in Sport Unit carry out a review in May each year where they look at all of our policies, guidelines and processes to make sure they are fit for purpose and also to see if we have met our targets as set within our Safeguarding Implementation Plan, which includes training, case management, communications in relation to all of our staff, players and volunteers. In May 2023 Table Tennis England

fully met all of the required standards.

#### Policies and Procedures

The Safeguarding Team have been working with an organisation called Lime Culture as part of a Sport England pilot, reviewing all of our safeguarding policies, guidance and procedures and paving the way for a more coherent and inclusive approach to safeguarding which provides support for all involved in our sport by defining the purpose of safer sport policy, guidance and procedures.

The aim is to clarify their function, streamline their application and broaden their scope, ensuring a comprehensive safeguarding approach that truly encompasses the entirety of the sporting community.

During the first quarter of 2024 the team have reviewed all of our current safeguarding policies, guidance and processes to fit with this approach. The safeguarding section of the website will be updated to reflect this.

#### Implementation Plan

As part of our work with Lime Culture the Safeguarding Implementation Plan has also been reviewed and ensuring it also links to the *Table Tennis United* strategy and the Whyte Review.

#### Training and Support

Over the past year, the team has delivered webinars to club officers and also welfare officers on safeguarding.

Additionally, we have provided regular advice on a weekly basis to coaches, clubs, welfare officers and anyone involved in our sport on how to run safe sessions, applying for a DBS check, how to safely transport young people, dealing with complaints and disciplinary issues and supporting anyone involved in safeguarding issues.

Total Membership	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Trend	% of Membership Increase	Female	Male
Supporter	1143	997	865	971		12%	272	699
Club Play	2899	3531	4188	4434		6%	1171	3263
Compete	12343	18193	18635	19229		3%	1621	17608
Compete plus	1313	2353	2717	3082		13%	494	2588
Total Membership	17698	25074	26405	27716		5%	3553	24163
<b>Membership by age</b>								
Cadet	1428	2437	2937	3007		2%	440	2567
Junior	1134	1881	1861	1931		4%	253	1678
Senior	2174	3732	4091	4514		10%	553	3961
Veteran	12962	17024	17514	18264		4%	2308	15956
<b>Membership by age - Compete Plus</b>								
Cadet	288	509	687	742		8%	135	607
Junior	259	482	490	542		11%	107	435
Senior	288	552	671	806		20%	102	704
Veteran	478	810	876	986		13%	149	837
<b>Membership by age - Compete</b>								
Cadet	684	1133	1315	1374		4%	144	1230
Junior	640	1140	1132	1162		3%	115	1047
Senior	1444	2668	2802	2942		5%	277	2665
Veteran	9575	13252	13371	13707		3%	1064	12643

### Membership

The membership total of 27,716 on March 31st, 2024, represents a 5% increase compared with the previous year.

Compete Plus membership overall has increased by 10%, while the Compete membership has grown by 3% compared with the previous year. This upward trend reflects the growing interest and active participation in competitions.

The table on this page gives more detail about membership numbers and trends across all areas.

We introduced a Direct Debit option for the 2023/24 season, and as of on March 31st, 1,264 members had opted for the Direct Debit payment method to pay their fees annually, which is a convenient way to manage payments. A significant number of members, 8,107, have chosen to set up an auto renewal using their payment cards. This means their membership fees will automatically be taken annually and charged to their cards.

The fact that 34% of the current membership has opted for auto renewal represents a 13% increase compared with the previous season. This growth indicates that members are finding value in the auto renewal processes and appreciate the convenience it offers.

Some new Membership types have been added to the Membership Scheme for the 2024/25 season which will provide greater flexibility for members.

Restrictions with technology have prevented a completely reimagined membership scheme for the new season, but this remains on the roadmap for the future.

Free Membership for under-11s, a reduced price point for Compete and Compete Plus memberships that are purchased late in the season and One-Time Tournament passes for those not wishing to commit to a full membership should all help to provide greater flexibility and affordability to some groups and moves the Membership Scheme towards a new model for the future.

### Customer Service

In the year to March 31st, 2024, there was a 7% increase in customer service tickets. The table below gives a breakdown by area. "All agents" includes inquiries which do not fall into other categories.

Ticket group	2022/23	2023/24	% change
All agents	146	203	39
Clubs, Leagues & Volunteering	593	224	-62
Coaching	433	335	-23
Competitions	161	229	42
Finance	236	219	-7
Membership	2,092	915	-56
Partnerships		132	
Performance	552	1,276	131
Ranking	1,062	613	-42
Support	3,322	5,120	54
TT Clubs	88	-	-
Total	8,685	9,266	7

The increase is partly due to the addition of staff and Area Managers who are now using the platform.

The performance category has seen the largest increase due to more correspondence being sent to helpdesk rather than directly to the performance team. The Support category, which includes TT Leagues, TT Clubs and general queries, is seeing the second-largest increase.

# Financial Statements

	2024	2023
<b>STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		
Income	6,375,302	5,194,484
Administrative Expenses	(6,404,295)	(5,205,309)
<b>Operating Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(28,993)</b>	<b>(10,825)</b>
Interest receivable and similar income	20,494	6,331
Taxation	(3,894)	(1,203)
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>(12,393)</b>	<b>(5,697)</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION</b>		
Fixed assets	59,550	38,681
Current assets	1,203,932	1,525,371
Current liabilities	(867,323)	(1,155,500)
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>396,159</b>	<b>408,552</b>
Income and expenditure account	361,235	372,541
Testimonial funds	34,924	36,011
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>396,159</b>	<b>408,552</b>

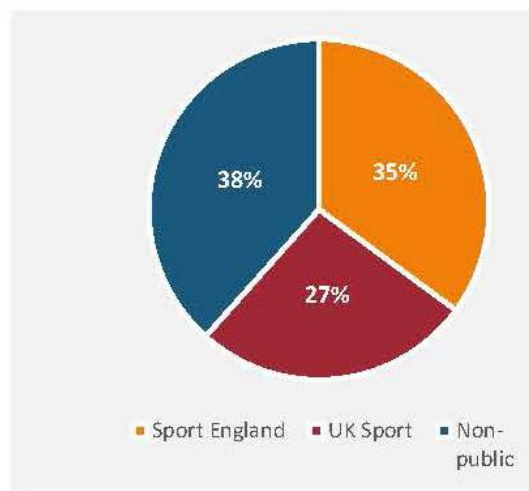


CONNECT WITH



**INCOME BY FUNDING SOURCE**

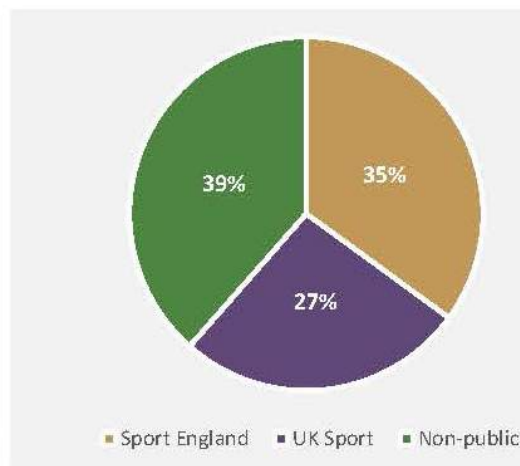
	Sport England	UK Sport	Non-public	Total
Participation grants	32%			32%
Para Performance grants	1%	20%	11%	32%
Other grants	2%	6%	4%	12%
Membership income			7%	7%
Sponsorship income			1%	1%
Other income *			16%	16%
	<b>35%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>100%</b>



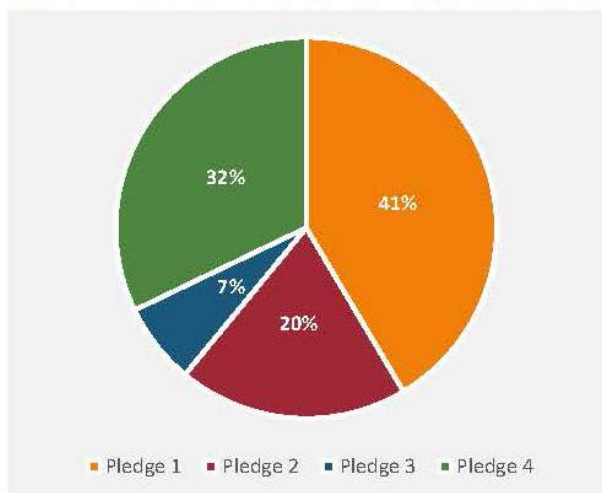
\* Other income sources include Coaching and Competition entry fees, Web Advertising, Royalties, TT Leagues licensing, Player recharges, Merchandise and Ticket sales, Bank interest, TT Kidz and PING sales

**EXPENDITURE BY FUNDING SOURCE**

	Sport England	UK Sport	Non-public	Total
Overheads/Support costs	7%		1%	8%
Talent	6%		1%	7%
Participation/Core market	12%		9%	21%
Para Performance	1%	20%	11%	32%
Performance		6%	4%	10%
Events and Courses	4%		13%	17%
Marketing	2%			2%
Other costs	2%			2%
	<b>35%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>100%</b>



**EXPENDITURE BY TABLE TENNIS UNITED PLEDGE**



**Pledge 1**

Table tennis will be a thriving community – a sport for everyone with no barriers to taking part

**Pledge 2**

Culture change across the pathway that inspires world class performances and medal success

**Pledge 3**

Connection across the table tennis community

**Pledge 4**

A high performing organisation that is not just fit for today but is fit for the future

**Number of Paid Members**

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Compete Plus - Cadet & Junior	1,029	1,017	528	972	1,152	1,282
Compete Plus - Senior	1,366	1,326	680	1,357	1,513	1,783
Compete - Cadet & Junior	3,060	2,954	1,326	2,285	2,470	2,526
Compete - Senior	20,187	19,594	11,054	15,940	16,148	16,747
<b>Total Paid Members</b>	<b>25,642</b>	<b>24,891</b>	<b>13,588</b>	<b>20,554</b>	<b>21,283</b>	<b>22,338</b>

**Price Per Membership Category**

	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
Compete Plus - Cadet & Junior	£ 19.00	£ 19.00	£ 19.00	£ 19.00	£ 20.00	£ 20.00
Compete Plus - Senior	£ 38.00	£ 38.00	£ 38.00	£ 38.00	£ 40.00	£ 40.00
Compete - Cadet & Junior	£ 8.00	£ 8.00	£ 8.00	£ 8.00	£ 9.00	£ 9.00
Compete - Senior	£ 16.00	£ 16.00	£ 16.00	£ 16.00	£ 18.00	£ 18.00

The year 2023/24 is the second year of the 2022/27 Sport England funding cycle, in which we received a partner award of £2,068,430. Sport England funding continues to be ringfenced with clear outcomes and outputs required to maintain investment of public funds.

It is worth noting that the five-year Sport England funding award for 2022/27 is 1.5% lower than the previous five-year funding period and, within the last three years, we have seen UK inflation increase around 22%. While inflation has slowed, it means the funding we were awarded for the current cycle, in real terms is worth less today. The price of a membership on average has increased by 8.8% over the same period.

Table Tennis England, on behalf of Great British Table Tennis also received a Progression grant from UK Sport to support the development of the GB performance system; a crucial investment that underpins our ambitions for future Olympic medal success as set out in *Table Tennis United*.

The British Para Table Tennis World Class Performance Programme is accounted for within our financial statements, and they hosted the European Para Table Tennis Championships in September 2023 in Sheffield. Table Tennis England also hosted the WTT Feeder event in Manchester in February 2024. While funding was received for both of these one-off events, it has increased both income and expenditure for the year compared with 2023.

While the last couple of years have been challenging with rising living costs and inflation, we have worked hard to achieve a near

balanced year-end position for 2024. However, while we seek to secure additional investment, the pace at which we can progress *Table Tennis United* is determined by available resources.

In the year, we saw an increase in membership renewals of approximately 5% compared with the previous year, and we are gradually increasing renewals year on year after the 2020/21 pandemic.

While membership renewals have been gradually increasing over the last few years, membership fees have only increased once since 2018/19.

We were once again grateful to other partners; the Jack Petchey Foundation for their support of the Children and Young People Programme which has such a positive impact in table tennis, particularly in London and Essex, and to Mark Bates Ltd for their ongoing commitment to the Senior National Championships.

In 2021 we introduced an optional donation feature to the membership system, providing options that people could choose to indicate their preference on how their money should be spent. We are extremely grateful to have received over 1,430 individual donations, exceeding £11,000 since this feature was introduced.

We continue to monitor any potential financial impact on the organisation, with some of the biggest risks in 2024/25 still coming from membership renewals not reaching pre-pandemic levels, while income levels remain fairly static.

A copy of the Audited accounts is available on our website.  
**Samantha Garey**



**Governance Statement 2023/24**

The Board is the ultimate decision-making body and exercises the powers of the organisation. The Board is responsible for: Setting the strategy of the organisation; approving the long-term financial plan and annual budget; monitoring delivery of the operational plan, priorities and objectives; periodic review of the financial plan and performance against annual budget, and periodic review of major risks and programmes.

Day-to-day management of Table Tennis England is delegated by the Board to the Senior Leadership Team under the leadership of the Chief Executive. Financial authorities are in place for each level of the Executive structure.

After nine years as Chair of Table Tennis England, Sandra Deaton stood down, and the Board would like to thank Sandra for her dedication to the organisation during this time. Nick Donald was appointed as Chair and took up the position on the 1st November 2023.

The Code for Sports Governance has introduced new criteria including the development of a People Plan and Welfare & Safety and Environmental Social Governance (ESG) requirements. These have been completed and were approved by the Board in December and subsequently submitted for approval to Sport England in February 2024.

There were four scheduled Board meetings held during the year and the Board member attendance is tabled below. There were also two interim virtual Board Meetings held during the period. Minutes of the Board meetings, some with appropriate redactions, are available on the website.

In addition, every Board member sat on a Committee, which met in-between the scheduled Board meetings.

An election took place for a Director to replace Susie Venner, whose term was completed; Sally Hughes was successfully elected as her replacement. Priya Samuel stood down in July



A presentation was made to Sandra Deaton at her final Board meeting

just short of the end of her term, and Steve Kemish’s term on the Board came to an end in March. Two new Directors, Anna Whowell and Katharine Curran, were appointed.

*Table Tennis United*, Table Tennis England’s Strategy, with the Vision of a ‘Table Tennis Nation’ and its Purpose of ‘Hosting generations of players at our table’, started its implementation which included the establishment of its Major Events Strategy and the hosting of the first WTT Feeder event in Manchester in February.

The progression of the Governance reforms was undertaken, as was a review of the Articles of Association; proposals to this effect will be presented to the AGM in 2024.

	NAME	ROLE	6-Jun-23	28-Sep-23	7-Dec-23	7-Feb-24
Board Members	Sandra Deaton	Chair until end October 2023	NO	YES	N/A	N/A
	Nick Donald	Chair from November 2023	N/A	N/A	YES	YES
	Richard Ayers	Appointed Director	YES	NO	YES	YES
	Kwadjo Adjepong	Appointed Director	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Mark Baate	Appointed Director from July 2023	N/A	YES	YES	YES
	Adrian Christy	Chief Executive Office	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Sally Hughes	Elected Director from July 2023	N/A	YES	YES	YES
	Ray James	Appointed Director	YES	YES	YES	N
	Jos Kelly	Elected Director	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Steve Kemish	Appointed Director & SID until 2/24	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Don Parker	Elected Director and Deputy Chair	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Priya Samuel	Appointed Director until end 6/23	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Ritchie Venner	Elected Director	YES	YES	YES	YES
	Susie Venner	Elected Director until end 6/23	YES	N/A	N/A	N/A
		TOTAL ATTENDED		10	11	10



### National Council

I was appointed Chair of National Council in December 2023. I would like to start this report by acknowledging the work of my predecessor, Estyn Williams, who undertook the role for four years.

Estyn set an impressively high standard for chairing National Council meetings. In particular, he established National Council as an effective communication channel, providing advice to the Board. He is a hard act to follow. I would also like to thank my National Councillor colleague, Neil Le Milliere who chaired the October meeting.

Four National Council meetings have been held in the last year. The meetings in October, April and the one planned for the end of June were hybrid meetings, with National Councillors having the choice of participating online or in person. The January meeting was online only.

The Minutes of National Council meetings, along with all the relevant documents, are published on the [National Council page](#) on the Table Tennis England website ensuring that the deliberations of National Council are open for all to see. In addition, the [Archive section](#) of the Table Tennis England website contains details of National Council meetings going back to 2015.

### Forging a New Relationship with Table Tennis England

This has been an important year for National Council. As part of forging a new relationship with Table Tennis England, National Councillors have agreed to take greater responsibility for managing their own affairs. This means appointing our own Secretary, rather than the Secretary being a member of staff of Table Tennis England.

This change is all part of a suite of measures that will see National Council being a more independent, autonomous body which will enable it to carry out its existing role more effectively and to consider how its role can change as our sport develops. This includes considering how to broaden representation on National Council. Providing the opportunity for Premier Clubs to participate in National Council meetings could be a sensible first step.

At the time of writing, discussions are taking place with the Chair and Chief Executive to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will define how the Board and National Council work together for the good of our sport. Hopefully, it will be possible to provide an update at the AGM.

### Table Tennis United

The *Table Tennis United* strategy continues to feature heavily in the discussions at National Council meetings. At the January meeting, the Chief Executive provided an update on the progress in implementing the strategy and also outlined how such progress would be monitored.

At the April meeting, Emma Sutherland (Head of People at Table Tennis England) provided an update on Diversity, Inclusion and People Development. Diversity and inclusion are critical to the success of table tennis and the development of people is an essential component of the *Table Tennis United* strategy.

National Council will continue to play a key role in the development and implementation of *Table Tennis United*. In particular, we have front-line experience in the development of table tennis at local level and we will be able to input this experience into the strategy.

### Membership

Increasing membership remains a key priority for all of us as we seek to grow membership of our sport. We have heard of the steps being taken by the Area network and the Local Organising Groups, and while this is impressive, it is clearly resource-intensive.

We are encouraging Table Tennis England to also consider how they grow membership by liaising with other national organisations, such as BUCS and U3A, whose activities have a table tennis component. This is not intended to replace the local activity but to complement it.

### Challenges Faced by Counties

Many counties are facing the challenges of declining membership and in some cases leagues closing. Declining income has made it increasingly difficult to fund county teams, which are a key part of county activities.

We have undertaken a survey to determine whether the problems that specific counties have reported are limited to those counties – or whether it is a more general problem. The indications are that many counties face similar challenges. This will continue to be an important topic for National Council.

### Select Committees

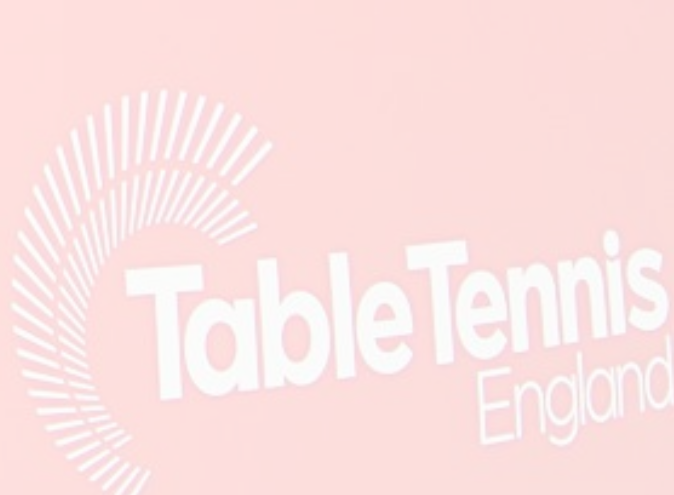
The Select Committees provide specialist advice on particular topics.

The Select Committee on the Constitution has led in developing the concept of an autonomous National Council, responsible for managing its own affairs.

The Select Committee on Competitions contributed to the important feedback on the Table Tennis England Competition Review, particularly in relation to Junior British League.

The Select Committee on Disability is working with Table Tennis England Area Managers to explore how to bring players with disabilities into the competitive pathway.

Neil Hurford





**Sandra Deaton  
presenting medals  
at the European  
Under-13  
Championships**

### International Matters

The International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) held their second summit in Bangkok in August 2023. Again, it was a three-day event with a number of presentations and seminars - I was asked to be a panellist on the governance topic.

England was one of the two countries bidding for the 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships, being held in the centenary year of the ITTF. Thailand was the other bidding country.

Adrian Christy presented an excellent bid from England which was followed by the member associations voting to award the championships to England. It was an amazing moment to hear the announcement that we had won the vote, and the World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026 (WTTTC26) will be held in London.

During the summit, the ITTF Council met to discuss the number of teams participating in the team championships, following the member associations voting to move away from an open entry event in 2019 to a restricted entry which included a process for continental quota representation.

Subsequently, the restricted number of team participations was increased to 40.

However, during the summit in Bangkok, the ITTF Council voted for a further increase in participation to include 64 men's and 64 women's teams commencing from 2026 and there is ongoing collaboration between Table Tennis England and the ITTF to accommodate the updated required team participation.

I am honoured to be able to continue my involvement with the WTTTC26 and the ongoing major events strategy representing the ITTF on both the new company, TT International Events and the WTTTC26 Event Delivery Board.

The European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) continues to be led by the acting President Pedro Moura. The Executive Board have agreed a strategic plan which includes an increase in competitions,

an enhanced development programme with more support for the member nations, a production of the European Ranking list and system and partnership contract to increase commercial income.

The European Individual Championships were held in Malmo. It was an extremely well organised, successful event with an increase in the media exposure of the sport on a global level. The European Congress was held during the Championships where I presented the 2022 audited financial accounts, the 2023 current position and 2024 budget. In addition, the ETTU held two webinars prior to the Congress, one on finance and the second on the tabled propositions and constitutional amendments.

Following the IOC decision, and subsequently the ITTF, for athletes from Russia and Belarus to compete on an independent basis (within imposed set strict criteria), the ITTF have set up a registration process for individual athletes to compete. The ETTU have followed the ITTF ruling and are collaborating together for the registration of athletes competing on an independent basis.

The ETTU have once again agreed to be part of the 2026 European multi-sports championships. Although a number of cities have shown interest in holding the collective event, we await further confirmation.

The Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation held its AGM on 10 February 2024 in India and included the election of the Executive Board. Unfortunately, no representative proposed by England was elected on to the Board.

At the time of writing, there is no update on the host of the Commonwealth Games 2026 following the withdrawal by Victoria, Australia.

**Sandra Deaton  
ITTF Deputy Chair of the Nominations Committee;  
ETTU Vice President for Finances**

### World Team Championships

At the World Team Championships in South Korea, we faced challenging circumstances, with Liam Pitchford sustaining an injury in a previous event.

The men's team finished third in the group (after losing to USA and Germany) and the last 32 round saw us go up against Romania with hopes of repeating the performance at the European Team Championships. However, with Pitchford ruled out of the match the team struggled to find momentum and went down 3-0.

### World Youth Championships

Wales and GB athlete Anna Hursey won a silver medal in the Under-19 Girls' Doubles at the World Youth Championships, held in Slovenia.

Hursey was partnered by Germany's Annett Kaufmann and the pair were fourth seeds. The pair fell at the final hurdle, losing to Chinese third seeds Kuai Man & Xu Yi in the final.

### Olympic Singles Qualification Event

The Olympic Singles Qualification Event in Bosnia provided a fantastic opportunity for the Great Britain team.

Anna Hursey secured her spot in the Women's Singles at the 2024 Paris Olympics with a string of victories against players ranked higher than her. Anna is the first ever Welsh table tennis player to qualify for the Olympics and the first player since 1994 to qualify a named spot for the Games - and this at the age of 17.

Tin-Tin Ho and Paul Drinkhall had some good victories over higher-ranked players but could not put together the sequence of results needed to qualify.

### European Team Championships

The European Team Championships held in September 2023 provided both our Men's and Women's Teams with a chance to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games.

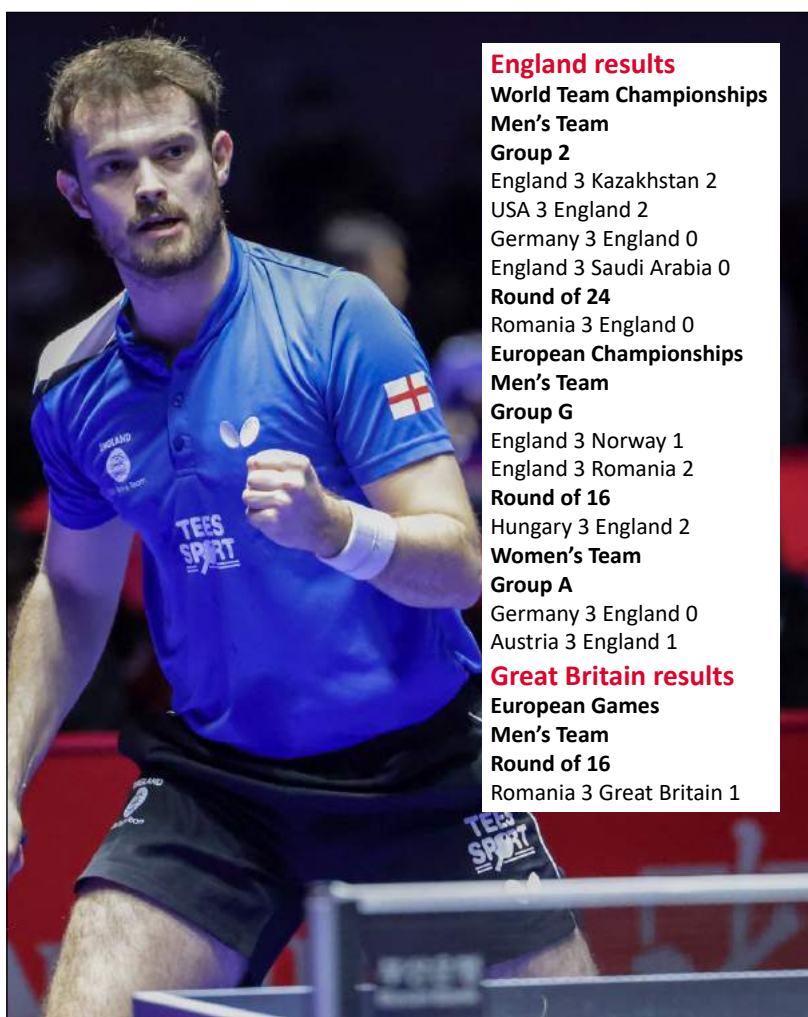
The men's team battled through the group including a 3-2 win over Romania, having been 2-0 down in the match. Unfortunately, the team lost to Hungary in the round of 16. The Women's team had a mixed performance and did not manage to make it through the group stage.

### European Youth Championships

We saw some positive results at the European Youth Championships which took place in Poland in July 2023.

In the Team event, the Cadets proved to be strong competitors with the girls' team (comprised of Sienna Jetha, Ella Pashley and Naomi Coker) securing a top-16 finish whilst the boys' (Ralph Pattison, Isaac Kingham and Rohan Dani) managed to secure joint 13th spot alongside Germany. In the Juniors, the girls (Erin Green, Anaya Patel and Mari Baldwin) finished 16th whilst the boys (Ben Piggott, Connor Green, Louis Price) were in joint 21st place with Greece.

In the singles, Ralph Pattison had the best results from the England contingent, reaching the quarter-finals of the Cadet Boys' singles.



**England results**  
**World Team Championships**  
**Men's Team**  
**Group 2**  
 England 3 Kazakhstan 2  
 USA 3 England 2  
 Germany 3 England 0  
 England 3 Saudi Arabia 0  
**Round of 24**  
 Romania 3 England 0  
**European Championships**  
**Men's Team**  
**Group G**  
 England 3 Norway 1  
 England 3 Romania 2  
**Round of 16**  
 Hungary 3 England 2  
**Women's Team**  
**Group A**  
 Germany 3 England 0  
 Austria 3 England 1  
**Great Britain results**  
**European Games**  
**Men's Team**  
**Round of 16**  
 Romania 3 Great Britain 1



We would like to thank our Official Clothing Supplier, Butterfly, and also Tees Sport, the Butterfly partner in the British Isles, for their ongoing support.



Anaya Patel, Mari Baldwin and Erin Green at the European Youth Championships; above: Sam Walker at the World Team Championships

**The following represented England**

**World Team Championships:** Paul Drinkhall, Tom Jarvis, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker

**European Team Championships:** Emily Bolton, Paul Drinkhall, Tom Jarvis, Mollie Patterson, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker, Jasmin Wong

**European Under-21 Championships:** Mari Baldwin, Connor Green

**European Youth Championships:** Junior – Mari Baldwin, Connor Green, Erin Green, Anaya Patel, Ben Piggott, Louis Price; Cadet – Naomi Coker, Rohan Dani, Sienna Jetha, Isaac Kingham, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison

**European Under-13 Championships:** Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Ryan Goodier, Dimitar Dimitrov, Hannah Saunders, Violet Lily Marquis

**Euro Minis:** Adam Alibhai, Ryan Goodier, Amber Lemmon, Zihan Lin, Hannah Saunders, Abraham Sellado, Bly Twomey, Lewis Wu

**Home Nations International:** Senior – Mari Baldwin, Connor Green, Mollie Patterson, Shayan Siraj; Junior – Scarlett Anders, Isaac Kingham, Ralph Pattison, Tianer Yu; Cadet – Sienna Jetha, Max Radiven, Hannah Saunders, Abraham Sellado

**The following competed at WTT/ITTF/ETTU tournaments on a funded basis**

**Europe Top 16:** Liam Pitchford

**Other events**

**Senior:** Paul Drinkhall, Connor Green, Tin-Tin Ho, Anna Hursey\*, Tom Jarvis, David McBeath, Liam Pitchford,

**Under-19:** Sophie Earley, Connor Green, Ralph Pattison, Larry Trumpauskas

**Under-17:** Sophie Earley, Connor Green, Sienna Jetha, Ralph Pattison, Kacper Piwowar, Abraham Sellado, Larry Trumpauskas

**Under-15:** Sienna Jetha, Ralph Pattison, Kacper Piwowar, Abraham Sellado

**Under-13:** Kacper Piwowar, Abraham Sellado

**Under-11:**

\* GB funded

**The following competed at WTT/ITTF/ETTU tournaments on a self-funded basis**

**Senior:** Ismaila Akindiya, Andrew Baggaley, Mari Baldwin, Emily Bolton, Paul Drinkhall, Connor Green, Tin-Tin Ho, Tom Jarvis, Mollie Patterson, Ben Piggott, Louis Price, Shayan Siraj, Sam Walker, Tianer Yu

**Under-19:** Rohan Dani, Adam Dennison, Sophie Earley, Toby Ellis, Anna Green, Joseph Hunter, Ralph Pattison, Ben Piggott, Jakub Piwowar, Gabriel Schogger, Felix Thomis, Poon Yat+, Tianer Yu

**Under-17:** Prayrit Ahluwalia, Adam Alibhai, Rohan Dani, Jake Davidson, Adam Dennison, Alisha Dutta, Anna



**The England squad at the Under-13 European Championships; Below: Emily Bolton in action at the European Championships**

Green, Joseph Hunter, Sienna Jetha, Isaac Kingham, Shahuraj Nimse, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Jakub Piwowar, Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven, Angad Saggi, Janak Shah, Mauli Shah, Tianer Yu

**Under-15:** Prayrit Ahluwalia, Adam Alibhai, Kai Lun Chow, Rohan Dani, Jake Davidson, Alisha Dutta, Ryan Goodier, Sienna Jetha, Isaac Kingham, Theo Kniep, Lok Yiu Eunice Lam+, Zihan Lin, Oscar Nikolli, Shahuraj Nimse, Aarav Parihar, Ella Pashley, Ralph Pattison, Kacper Piwowar, Max Radiven, Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska, Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Angad Saggi, Assil Sarri, Abraham Sellado, Janak Shah, Mauli Shah, Nishil Shah, Sinan Surensoy, Lewis Wu, Wilson Zheng

**Under-13:** Adam Alibhai, Jayden Chen, Li Hao Chen, Kai Lun Chow, Dimitar Dimitrov, Ryan Goodier, Theo Kniep, Lok Yiu Eunice Lam+, Zihan Lin, Oscar Nikolli, Aarav Parihar, Kacper Piwowar, Serene Rahmani-Walentynska, Soraya Rahmani-Walentynska, Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Assil Sarri, Zacharia Sarri, Hannah Saunders, Abraham Sellado, Nishil Shah, Sinan Surensoy, Lewis Wu, Wilson Zheng

**Under-11:** Jayden Chen, Li Hao Chen, Dimitar Dimitrov, Serene Rahmani-Walentynska, Zacharia Sarri, Hannah Saunders, Sinan Surensoy,

+ association entry

**The following officials were selected for international events**

**European Team Championships**

**Umpire:** Josh Reynolds

**WTT Feeder Manchester**

**Deputy Referee:** Stuart Sherlock; **Umpires:** Dan Bullen, David Edwards, Lyndon Griffiths, Harry Jutle, Matthew Pryke, Tom Purcell, Jenny Sanders, Alan Thomas

**European Para Championships**

**Deputy referee:** Steve Smith; **Assistant referee:** Dave Cochrane; **Umpires:** Dan Bullen, David Edwards, Lyndon Griffiths, Richard Horsfield, Harry Jutle, Kim Mudge Johnson, Tom Konarski, Paul Nichols, Beate Nicol, Jo Outhwaite, Tom Purcell, Lynda Reid, Josh Reynolds, Jenny Sanders, Lester Smith, Alan Thomas, Sheila Walshe

**Other events**

**Umpires:** Dan Bullen, Nico Caltabiano, Vincenzo Chiarella, Harry Jutle, John Mackey, Kim Mudge Johnson, Beate Nicol, Jo Outhwaite, Lynda Reid, Sunil Sapre, Vladimir Shadrinov, Alan Thomas, Sheila Walshe

**Other para events**

**Referee:** Karen Tonge OBE; **Umpires:** Dan Bullen, Richard Horsfield, Alan Thomas, Sheila Walshe





**Left: Liam Pitchford reaches the WTT Contender Muscat final. Right: Anna Hursey celebrates with physio Justin Lucas-Hill and coach John Murphy after qualifying for the Olympics. Below: Will Bayley celebrates becoming European champion in Sheffield**

### Performance - Senior

- Anna Hursey qualified for the Olympics at the European Singles Qualification Tournament – the first Welsh table tennis player to reach the Games and the third GB female to qualify via that route.
- Liam Pitchford reached the final of the WTT Contender Muscat, losing 4-3 to world No 5 Hugo Calderano.
- Tin-Tin Ho & Anna Hursey reached the Women’s Doubles final at WTT Feeder Manchester. Tom Jarvis & David McBeath reached the Men’s Doubles final.
- David McBeath was a key part of the Texas Smash team which won the inaugural Major League Table Tennis Championship in the USA.

### Performance - Para

- At the European Para Championships in Sheffield, Will Bayley won gold in men’s class 7. Silvers went to Rob Davies (men’s class 1); Grace Williams (women’s class 8); Jack Hunter-Spivey (men’s class 5); and Jack Hunter-Spivey & Megan Shackleton (mixed class 10). Bronzes were won by Martin Perry (men’s class 6); Fliss Pickard (women’s class 6); Bly Twomey (women’s class 7); Tom Matthews (men’s class 1); Fliss Pickard & Grace Williams (women’s class 14); Aaron McKibbin & Martin Perry (men’s class 14); and Ross Wilson & Joshua Stacey (men’s class 18).

- Will Bayley won men’s class 7 singles gold at the US Open in Fort Worth, Texas. Ross Wilson won gold in men’s class 8, Jack Hunter-Spivey took gold in men’s class 5 and there were silver medals for Max Flint (men’s class 10), Ryan Henry (men’s class 8) and Simon Heaps (men’s class 5). Grace Williams (women’s class 6-8), Chris Ryan (men’s class 1-2), Lee York (men’s class 4) and Shae Thakker (men’s class 10) all took bronze. In the doubles, Bayley & Theo Bishop won the men’s class 14 doubles gold, and Max Flint won gold in the mixed class 20 doubles with Gloria Wong Sze from Malaysia. Ross Wilson & Shae Thakker took silver in men’s class 18, with Ryan Henry & Max Flint taking bronze.

- Bly Twomey won silver in women’s class 7 singles at the Finland Para Open, while Megan Shackleton took bronze in the women’s class 3-5 singles. Shackleton combined with Flora Vautier from France to win gold in the women’s class 5-10 doubles and Twomey took bronze in the

women’s class 20 doubles with her Italian partner Elena Elli.

- Bly Twomey won gold in the women’s class 7 singles at the ITTF SQA French Para Open. Grace Williams took bronze in women’s class 8. Twomey combined with Nora Korneliussen from Norway to take silver in women’s class 14, Megan Shackleton took bronze in the women’s class 10 and mixed class 7 with her French partners Flora Vautier and Yorick Adjal respectively, and there were also bronze medals for Chris Ryan (with Daniel Rodriguez from Spain) in men’s class 4 and Ashley Facey (with Koyo Iwabuchi from Japan) in men’s class 18.

- Simon Heaps won bronze at the World AbilitySport Games in Thailand, as he reached the semi-finals.

- Aaron McKibbin (men’s class 8) and Ashley Facey (men’s class 9) both came out on top in all-GB finals to take gold at the ITTF US Para Open in Corpus Christi, Texas while Megan Shackleton also took gold in the combined women’s class 1-5 event. Jack Hunter-Spivey (men’s class 5), Martin Perry (men’s class 6), Billy Shilton (men’s class 8) and Joshua Stacey (men’s class 9) all took silver and Paul Karabardak (men’s class 6) took bronze. Facey combined with Stacey to win the men’s class 18 doubles. Shilton & Karabardak won silver in men’s class

14, Shackleton won silver with Mexican Martha Verdin in women’s class 10 and combined with Hunter-Spivey to take silver in mixed class 10. Hunter-Spivey also took bronze in men’s class 8 with Romain Simon and there were further bronze medals for McKibbin & Perry in men’s class 14 and Chris Ryan with Slovakian partner Jan Riapos in men’s class 4.

- Megan Shackleton won gold in the women’s class 4-5 singles at the ITTF Brazilian Para Open in Sao Paulo. Chris Ryan won silver in men’s class 2, and Ashley Facey took bronze in men’s class 9. Ryan won his first gold medal since switching from wheelchair rugby to table tennis in 2022 when combining with Spanish partner Daniel Rodriguez to win the men’s class 4 doubles. Facey teamed up with Frenchman Lucas Didier to take silver in men’s class 18, Shackleton took silver with Caroline Tabib from Israel in the women’s class 5-10 doubles and then combined with Ryan to take bronze in the mixed class 4-7. Grace Williams also took bronze in the women’s class 14-20 with Florencia Perez from Chile.

- Will Bayley won gold in the men’s class 7 singles at the ITTF Astana Para Open in Kazakhstan. Megan Shackleton won gold in the women’s class 4 singles. Theo Bishop and Grace Williams took



# England youngsters' success on WTT stage

English youngsters won a series of medals at WTT Youth Contender events:

- Dimitar Dimitrov reached the Under-11 Boys' Singles semi-finals in Senec, Slovakia. He then improved to reach the finals of the same category at Cuenca in Ecuador and Linz in Austria before winning two titles in as many months at Antalya in Turkey and Vila Real in Portugal. His third title came in the round-robin Under-11 Boys' Singles at the WTT Youth Contender Spa.
- Pablo Ramirez Rioja clinched silver medals in the U13B singles at the WTT Youth Contender Panagyurishte in Bulgaria and at the WTT Youth Contender Havirov in Czechia.
- Sinan Surensy won the Under-13 Boys' Singles silver medal at the WTT Youth Contender Berlin.
- Isaac Kingham took the Under-15 Boys' Singles silver medal at the WTT Youth Contender Podgorica in Montenegro.



From left: Pablo Ramirez Rioja, Isaac Kingham & Ella Pashley, Sinan Surensy

- At the same tournament, Max Radiven reached the semi-finals and Kingham & Ella Pashley reached the semi-finals of the Under-15 Mixed Doubles.
- Kacper Piwowar reached the semi-finals of the U13 boys' singles at the WTT Youth Contender Lignano.
  - Hannah Saunders reached the Under-11

- Girls' semi-finals at the WTT Youth Contender Szombathely in Hungary.
- Rohan Dani reached the Under-15 Boys' semi-finals at the WTT Youth Contender Tunis.
  - Sophie Earley reached the Under-19 Girls' Singles semi-finals at the WTT Youth Contender Linz in Austria.

silver in men's class 7 and women's class 8 respectively, Chris Ryan won bronze in men's class 2 and Romain Simon won a first singles medal with bronze in men's class 3. In the doubles events, Will Bayley & Martin Perry (men's class 14), Megan Shackleton & Tamara Leonelli Leonelli of Chile (women's class 5-10) and Grace Williams & neutral athlete Raisa Chebanika (women's class 14) all won silver in their respective events.

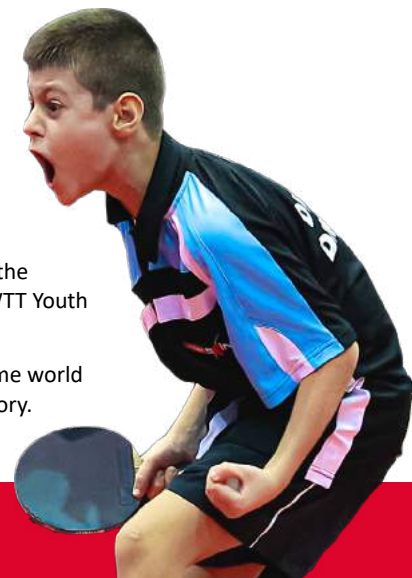
- Aaron McKibbin and Bly Twomey won gold in the men's class 8 singles and women's class 7 singles respectively at the ITTF Lignano Masters Para Open in Italy. Joshua Stacey (men's class 9) and Fliss Pickard (women's class 6) took silver and Martin Perry (men's class 6) and Ashley Facey (men's class 9) took bronze. Pickard & Twomey took gold in women's class 14 and Megan Shackleton combined with Serbia's Borislava Peric-Rankovic for gold in women's class 5-10. Billy Shilton & Paul Karabardak took bronze in men's class 14.
- Billy Shilton won gold in the men's class 8 singles at the ITTF Costa Brava Spanish Open in Platja D'Aro. Fliss Pickard took silver in women's class 6 and there were bronze medals for Tom Matthews (men's class 1), Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5) and Martin Perry (men's class 6). Ashley Facey & Joshua Stacey took bronze in the men's class 18 doubles.
- Will Bayley reached the final of the showcase para event at the Singapore Smash on the WTT circuit.
- Megan Shackleton, Fliss Pickard and Bly Twomey led the way took gold in the women's class 4, class 6 and class 7 singles respectively at the ITTF Polish Para Open in Wladyslawowo. Jack Hunter-Spivey (men's class 5), Martin Perry (men's class 6) and Ross Wilson (men's class 9) all took bronze. Wilson combined with Croatian teenager Borna Zohil to win gold in the men's class 18 doubles, defeating teammates Joshua Stacey & Ashley Facey in the final, while Pickard & Twomey took bronze in women's class 14.
- Will Bayley and Bly Twomey won gold in the men's class 7 and women's class 7 singles respectively at the ITTF Slovenia Para Open in Lasko. Tom Matthews took silver in men's class 1 and there were bronze medals for Martin Perry (men's class 6), Billy Shilton (men's class 8) and Megan Shackleton (women's class 4). Aaron McKibbin

& Joshua Stacey won gold and Ashley Facey & Ross Wilson took silver after an all-GB final in the men's class 18 doubles. Twomey & Fliss Pickard took silver in women's class 14 and there were bronze medals for Shilton & Paul Karabardak (men's class 14) and Perry & Grace Williams (mixed class 14).

- Joshua Stacey (men's class 9), Fliss Pickard (women's class 6) and Bly Twomey (women's class 7) all took singles gold at the ITTF Czech Para Open. Martin Perry (men's class 6) Ashley Facey (men's class 9), Megan Shackleton (women's class 4) and Grace Williams (women's class 8) won silver and Aaron McKibbin and Billy Shilton (men's class 8) took bronze. In the doubles, Shilton & Paul Karabardak (men's class 14), Stacey & McKibbin (men's class 18) and Pickard & Twomey (women's class 14) all won gold, while Will Bayley & Perry (men's class 14) took silver and there were bronze medals for Stacey & Twomey (mixed class 17) and Shackleton with her Czech partner Petr Svatos (mixed class 7).
- Simon Heaps won singles silver, plus bronze in both the men's doubles and mixed doubles at the Jordan Para Open in Amman.

## Performance - Junior

- GB athlete Anna Hursey won a silver medal in the Under-19 Girls' Doubles at the World Youth Championships in Slovenia, alongside Annett Kaufmann of Germany.
- Ralph Pattison reached the quarter-finals of the Cadet Boys' Singles at the European Youth Championships.
- GB athlete Anna Hursey won the Under-19 Girls' Singles at the WTT Youth Contender Senec.
- Dimitar Dimitrov (right) became world No 1 in the Under-11 age category.
- GB Start squad player Peadar





**Left: Josh Reynolds with the teams before the men's final at the European Team Championships. Right: Olympic umpire Nico Caltabiano at the Saudi Smash. Below: Tim Holtam receives his National Lottery Award from former Premier League footballer Bobby Zamora**

Sheridan reached the U13B final at the WTT Youth Contender Linz in Austria.

- Hannah Saunders earned a ninth-place finish in the Girls 2012 class at the Euro Mini Championships.

- The England boys team won bronze and the whole squad also brought home the Fair Play Award at the ISF World Schools Gymnasiade in Rio.

- Abraham Sellado and Kacper Piwowar won the U13 Boys' Team gold at the Europe Youth Series event in Dimitrovgrad, Serbia. Piwowar added the U13 Boys' Singles gold and a silver in the U13 Mixed Doubles with Lizett Fazekas of Hungary.

- Kacper Piwowar and Abraham Sellado took team silver and Piwowar added individual bronze as the Europe Youth Series moved on to the Greece Open.

- Larry Trumpauskas won two golds in the Riga Open. There were silvers for Naphong Boonyaprapa, Erin Green and Isabelle Bradly.

- Tianer Yu won the Torneo de Centenario Open in D'Ouro, Portugal.

- Nine-year-old Thomas Ellis won the under-nine competition at the Stockholmsspelen Tournament in Sweden.

### Performance - veteran

- Margaret Dignum won the WS80 singles class at European Veterans' Championships in Norway and added the doubles alongside Monika Maul of Sweden. There was gold as well for David Mahabir (MS70) and Betty Bird (WD85 with Marianne Blasberg of Germany).

Silvers went to Janice Crompton & Gillian Knightley (WD80); Michele Reeves & Rosemary Rainton (WD50); Sandra Rider & Monika Hussman of Germany (WD70); Margaret Welsman (WS75); Audrey Robinson (WS85)

Bronzes went to Pam Butcher & Audrey Robinson (WD85); Sally Bax & Carol Judson (WD80); Betty Bird (WS85); John Payne (MS65); Carol Eckersley (WS70); Keith Powell (MS85); Paul Giles & Paul Whiting (MD60); Nigel Eckersley & Gerd Werner of Germany (MD70); Janet Brown & Margaret Welsman (WD75); Keith Powell & Hans Westling of Sweden (MD85).

### Other

- Nico Caltabiano was selected to umpire at the Paris Olympics.

- Josh Reynolds umpired the men's final at the European Team Championships in Malmo.

- Brighton Table Tennis Club founder Tim Holtam won the Sports category in the prestigious National Lottery Awards.

- Table Tennis England Chief Executive Adrian Christy was appointed to the International Table Tennis Federation's Rules Committee. Karen Tonge OBE and BPTT Performance Director Gorazd Vecko MBE were both re-appointed to the Para Committee.

- Adrian Christy was named Racket Sport CEO of the Year for 2023 by CEO Monthly magazine.

- The Isle of Wight team won bronze at the International Island Games in Guernsey. The squad was Hugh Idle, George Downing, Temeesha Hobbs, Elaine Mills, Danny Burns (captain), Anna Joyce, Scott Lawson, Pat Thorley.

- It was triple gold for the University of Nottingham women in the European Universities Table Tennis Championships. In the women's team event, Jasmin Wong, Denise Payet and Meng Jiaqi won gold. The pairing of Jiaqi & Payet won gold in the Women's Doubles event, In the singles, Jiaqi lifted her third gold of the event.

- Ethan Walsh won the U23 title at the World Ping Pong Cup Championships in Mexico City.





Tom Jarvis has the trophy as Brighton celebrate with supporters after winning the SBL Premier Division

**British League**

Notably, the 2023/24 season saw the largest ever British League season entry, including:

- A ‘full house’ in all five tiers of Senior British League, including the Premier Division, totalling 130 teams - a 7% increase
- Capacity again reached for the Veterans’ British League, including a secondary venue, with 93 teams in total
- Capacity again reached for Junior British League, including a secondary venue, totalling 92 teams
- 38 Women’s British League teams, down by 2 on 2022/23

Key British League successes included:

- The launch of streaming for the SBL Championship Division
- Significant development of streaming production in the SBL Premier division, in active collaboration with clubs
- Two England Senior Internationals competed in the Premier Division - Tom Jarvis (Brighton TTC) & David McBeath (Ormesby TTC). GB para squad members also played as follows: Fliss Pickard (SBL & WBL), Will Bayley, Aaron McKibbin, Jack Hunter-Spivey, Billy Shilton & Ashley Facey (all SBL).

**Senior British League**

**Divisional champions**

- Premier Division:** Brighton
- Championship:** London Academy
- Division A1:** Ormeau II
- Division A2:** Woodford Wells
- Division B1:** Ormesby III
- Division B2:** Butterfly Lilleshall
- Division B3:** Urban II
- Division B4:** London Academy II
- Division C1:** Drumchapel Glasgow II
- Division C2:** Goodwin
- Division C3:** Lillington
- Division C4:** Draycott IV
- Division C5:** Joola Plymouth II
- Division C6:** Ellenborough II
- Division C7:** Woodford Wells II
- Division C8:** Fulham Brunswick
- Senior British League Premier Cup**
- 1 BATTs, 2 Ormesby, 3 North Ayrshire, 4 Drumchapel Glasgow, 5 Brighton, 6 Ormeau, 7 Fusion, 8 Nottingham

**Women’s British League**

- Premier Division:** Drumchapel Glasgow
- Division One:** Draycott & Long Eaton



SBL Championship division winners London Academy



WBL Premier Division champions Drumchapel Glasgow with Table Tennis England Director Sally Hughes



JBL Premier Division champions London Academy (Left) and Grantham Academy receive their trophies from Table Tennis England Chair Nick Donald



VBL Premier Division champions Tees Sport (Left) and Ellenborough receive their trophies from Table Tennis England Director Ritchie Venner

**Division Two:** Wensum  
**Division Three:** Cippenham  
**Division Four:** Ackworth  
**Division Five:** Greenhouse

## Junior British League

**Premier Boys:** Grantham Academy  
**Premier Girls:** London Academy  
**Division One Boys:** Draycott  
**Division One Girls:** London Academy II  
**Division Two Boys:** Woodford Wells  
**Division Two Girls:** Ackworth  
**Division Three Boys:** London Academy  
**Division Three Girls:** Joola Plymouth  
**Division Four Boys:** Chelmsford  
**Division Four Girls:** London Academy III  
**Division Five Boys:** Graham Spicer  
**Division Six Boys:** Drumchapel Glasgow  
**Division Seven Boys:** Kingfisher II  
**Division Eight Boys:** SGS College  
**Division Nine Boys:** Ormeau III

## Veterans' British League

**Premier Men:** Tees Sport Vets  
**Premier Women:** Ellenborough  
**Division 1A Men:** Central  
**Continued on page 32**  
**From page 31**  
**Division 1B Men:** Draycott  
**Division One Women:** Topspin Fusion  
**Division 2A Men:** The Musketeers  
**Division 2B Men:** Horsham Spinners  
**Division Two Women:** Cleeve Park  
**Division 3A Men:** Nailsworth Phoenix  
**Division 3B Men:** Halton  
**Division Three Women:** Foresters IV  
**Division 4A Men:** Graham Spicer II  
**Division 4B Men:** Cutnall Green  
**Division 5A Men:** Swerve  
**Division 5B Men:** Butterfly Lilleshall B

## County Championships

This season has proved to be a challenging one for the County Championships. The hugely experienced Stan Clarke, who had been Chair of the County Championships since 2018, passed away in September. And sadly, our experienced Administrator, the highly respected Dave Goulden, was taken seriously ill in November. We pass on our best wishes to Dave as he continues his recovery.

Inevitably, the loss of these two respected colleagues has left a huge gap in the committee. Fortunately, the Competition Administrators along with the Premier Weekend organisers ensured all five competitions have been completed successfully, with all results published on TT Leagues and submitted for inclusion in the monthly ranking runs in a timely manner.

This year saw 224 teams competing in 30 divisions across all five competitions of the County Championships.

We estimate that about 1,500 players competed in the competition this season. The youngest player was just eight years of age. The oldest was a remarkable 87.



**County Championships Premier Division champions (clockwise from top left): Middlesex (Seniors); Kent (Over-60s); Essex (Cadets), Middlesex (Juniors) and Nottinghamshire (Veterans)**



The number of teams, divisions and players seems to have been stable over the last few years. However, as the Over-60s competition has expanded there has been a commensurate decrease in the number of veterans' teams.

The recent decline in the number of teams in the Cadet competition seems to have been halted and now seems fairly steady at 30 teams. Nonetheless, the number of counties that only play with one or no girl players in their cadet teams continues to be a concern and we continue to monitor the situation.

The Premier Weekends continue to be keenly contested. Nottinghamshire continue to dominate the Veterans' Premier Division – this year making it seven wins in a row. In the Over-60s, Kent's dominance continues with their third successive title. But there were new champions in Cadets (Essex), Juniors (Middlesex) and Seniors (Middlesex).

The use of TT Leagues continues to be an invaluable tool for managing the competitions. For Premier Weekends, TT Leagues enables results to be published on the County Championships website within 24 hours of the matches taking place. For matches in other Divisions, we aim to get results published within a week of the matches being played. All the results for 2023/24 are on the County Championships

website which can be [accessed at TT Leagues](#).

This year, the Conference was a wholly online affair. Attendance at the Conference has been declining for a number of years and has been particularly poor since the pandemic. We hope that by taking the Conference online we will increase the level of participation so counties can be proactively involved in shaping the nature of this highly valued competition.

### Divisional champions Cadets

**Premier Division:** Essex  
**Division 1A:** Surrey II  
**Division 1B:** Cambridgeshire  
**Division 1C:** Warwickshire II

### Juniors

**Premier Division:** Middlesex  
**Division 1A:** Buckinghamshire  
**Division 1B:** Sussex  
**Division 2A:** Norfolk  
**Division 2B:** Warwickshire II  
**Division 2C:** Middlesex III

### Seniors

**Premier Division:** Middlesex  
**Division 1A:** Yorkshire  
**Division 1B:** Norfolk  
**Division 2A:** Derbyshire  
**Division 2B:** Bedfordshire  
**Division 2C:** Dorset



The Mike Watts Achievement Award is presented annually to the girl and boy with the greatest improvement in ratings points between August 1 and July 31 each year. The winners for 2022/23 were Parmis Ahsani and Kacper Piowar, seen here receiving their awards from Table Tennis England President Jill Parker MBE during the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships.

## Veterans

**Premier Division:** Nottinghamshire

**Division 1A:** Derbyshire

**Division 1B:** Middlesex

**Division 2A:** Lancashire

**Division 2B:** Surrey

**Division 2C:** Hertfordshire II

**Division 2D:** Devon

**Division 3A:** Kent V

**Division 3B:** North Wales

**Division 3C:** Buckinghamshire II

**Division 3D:** Somerset III

## Over-60s

**Premier Division:** Kent

**Division 1A:** Yorkshire

**Division 1B:** Surrey

**Division 2A:** Norfolk

**Division 2B:** Essex III

## English Leagues Cup Competitions

**Wilmott Cup:** Central London A

**JM Rose Bowl:** Norwich

**Carter Cup:** Norwich

**Bromfield Trophy:** Derby

## Junior National Cup

**Girls:** 1 Tianer Yu, 2 Ella Pashley, 3 Sienna Jetha, 4 Rebecca Savage, 5 Mabel Shute, 6 Maliha Baig, 7 Anna Green, 8 Saskia Key, 9 Mia Lakhani, 10 Jonabel Taguibao

**Boys:** 1 Connor Green, 2 Joseph Hunter, 3 Felix Thomis, 4 Ralph Pattison, 5 Isaac Kingham, 6 Rohan Dani, 7 Naphong Boonyaprapa, 8 Jakub Piowar, 9 James Hamblett, 10 Larry Trumpauskas

## Cadet National Cup

**Girls:** 1 Sienna Jetha, 2 Eva Eccles, 3 Alyssa Nguyen, 4 Alisha Dutta, 5 Bly Twomey, 6 Mauli Shah, 7 Brooke



Norwich's winning JM Rose Bowl team with ELCC Organiser Mike Smith (left) and (right) the league's winning Carter Cup squad.

Below: Cadet National Cup champions Max Radiven and Sienna Jetha

Morris, 8 Evie Knaapen, 9 Millie Noble  
**Boys:** 1 Max Radiven, 2 Kacper Piowar, 3 Abraham Sellado, 4 Adam Alibhai, 5 Leo Nguyen, 6 Angad Saggu, 7 Prayrit Ahluwalia, 8 Shahuraj Nimse, 9 Dimitar Dimitrov, 10 Pablo Ramirez Rioja

## NCL/NJL

There was an increase in the number of NCL teams year-on-year from 198 in 2022/23 to 225 this season. There were 141 teams for the second season in a row in the NJL.

There has been a steady recovery after the pandemic gap, especially as the Greenhouse Centre in London, which has greater capacity than other venues, still remains unavailable.

All organisers completed their programmes – three new organisers, Hitesh Jethwa, Janet Spicer and Carl Johnson, are thanked for taking on the organising at Highfield TTC in Wellingborough, Limpsfield and BATTs respectively. Thanks should also be expressed to all the other organisers who have been “in situ” for many seasons.

## Butterfly School Individual Championships

**Under-19 Girls:** Hannah Silcock

**Under-19 Boys:** Alex Liu

**Under-16 Girls:** Ella Pashley

**Under-16 Boys:** Isaac Kingham

**Under-13 Girls:** Violet Lily Marquis

**Under-13 Boys:** Kai Lun Chow

**Under-11 Girls:** Amber Lemmon

**Under-11 Boys:** Zaid Aldilimi

## Butterfly School Team Championships

**Under-19 Girls:** Chellaston Academy

**Under-19 Boys:** Grantham College

**Under-16 Girls:** Charles Read Academy

**Under-16 Boys:** Charles Read Academy

**Under-13 Girls:** London Academy

**Under-13 Boys:** London Academy

**Under-11 Girls:** London Academy

**Under-11 Boys:** Fox Primary School





**Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships**  
 University of Nottingham – March 2024  
**Men's Singles:** Paul Drinkhall (Cv)  
**Women's Singles:** Tin-Tin Ho (Mi)  
**Men's Doubles:** Paul Drinkhall (Cv) & Sam Walker (Ng)  
**Women's Doubles:** Tin-Tin Ho (Mi) & Emily Bolton (La)  
**Mixed Doubles:** Sam Walker (Ng) & Tin-Tin Ho (Mi)  
**Under-21 men's Singles:** Connor Green (Ng)  
**Under-21 women's Singles:** Tianer Yu (Mi)  
**Para Class 2-5:** Jack Hunter-Spivey (Ch)  
**Para Class 6-10:** Ross Wilson (K)

Clockwise from top left: Para Class 6-10 champion Ross Wilson; Tin-Tin Ho won her sixth Women's Singles title; handshakes after the Men's Doubles final as Paul Drinkhall & Sam Walker beat teenagers Larry Trumpauskas & Joseph Hunter; Emily Bolton supervises the selfie after the Women's Doubles final and (inset) the resulting photo; Connor Green retained the Under-21 Men's Singles title; Jack Hunter-Spivey again won the Para Class 2-5 title; the Mixed Doubles podium; Louis Price with the Swaythling Club International fair play award; Tianer Yu celebrates winning the Under-21 Women's Singles. Centre: Paul Drinkhall won a seventh Men's Singles title.





Clockwise from top left: Felix Thomis & Toby Ellis; Abraham Sellado (inset with Kacper Piwowar); Tianer Yu; Isaac Kingham & Ralph Pattison; James Hamblett & Scarlett Anders; Twin champions Anna and Connor Green; Ella Pashley & Mabel Shute; Sienna Jetha & Mauli Shah

**Mark Bates Ltd Cadet, U17 & Junior National Championships**

University of Nottingham – May 2024

**Junior Boys' Singles:** Connor Green (Ng)

**Junior Girls' Singles:** Anna Green (Ng)

**U17 Boys' Singles:** Ralph Pattison (E)

**U17 Girls' Singles:** Tianer Yu (Mi)

**Cadet Boys' Singles:** Abraham Sellado (Y)

**Cadet Girls' Singles:** Sienna Jetha (He)

**Junior Boys' Doubles:** Felix Thomis (Mi) & Toby Ellis (La)

**Junior Girls' Doubles:** Tianer Yu (Mi) & Scarlett Anders (Mi)

**Junior Mixed Doubles:** James Hamblett (He) & Scarlett Anders (Mi)

**U17 Boys' Doubles:** Ralph Pattison (E) & Isaac Kingham (Sk)

**U17 Girls' Doubles:** Ella Pashley (Cv) & Mabel Shute (E)

**Cadet Boys' Doubles:** Kacper Piwowar (Dv) & Abraham Sellado (Y)

**Cadet Girls' Doubles:** Sienna Jetha (He) & Mauli Shah (Mi)





**Mark Bates Ltd U10-13 National Championships**

WV Active Wolverhampton – June 2024

**U10 boys' singles:** Saisuriya Prasanna Kumar (Bk)

**U10 girls' singles:** Cindy Xiao (Ca)

**U11 boys' singles:** Dimitar Dimitrov (E)

**U11 girls' singles:** Amber Lemmon (Ca)

**U12 boys' singles:** Dimitar Dimitrov (E)

**U12 girls' singles:** Violet-Lily Marquis (Bd)

**U12 boys' doubles:** Sinan Surensoy (Mi) & Zaid Aldilimi (Mi)

**U12 girls' doubles:** Hannah Saunders (Ca) & Amber Lemmon (Ca)

**U13 boys' singles:** Pablo Ramirez Rioja (He)

**U13 girls' singles:** Violet-Lily Marquis (Bd)

**U13 boys' doubles:** Theo Kniep (Bk) & Teagan Khazal (Mi)

**U13 girls' doubles:** Soraya & Serene Rahmani-Walentynska (Mi)



**Clockwise from top left:** Violet-Lily Marquis (inset with Maisha Patel); Saisuriya Prasanna Kumar; Cindy Xiao; Teagan Khazal & Theo Kniep; Soraya & Serene Rahmani-Walentynska; Hannah Saunders & Amber Lemmon; Pablo Ramirez Rioja; Dimitar Dimitrov





New Vice-Presidents (from left) Mark Bates (pictured with Sandra Deaton), Karenza Mathews and Steve Burge



Karen Tonge OBE with Sandra Deaton



Samantha Garey



Karl Bushell



Sandra Pelizzoni



Lois Peake



Emma Vickers



Ella Pashley

The following were honoured at the 2023 AGM:

**Vice-Presidents**

Mark Bates  
Steve Burge  
Karenza Mathews

**Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award**

Karen Tonge OBE

**Malcolm Scott Award**

Samantha Garey

**Ivor Montagu Award**

Dr Emma Vickers and Lois Peake

**Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy**

Karl Bushell

**AK Vint Staff Award**

Sandra Pelizzoni

**Victor Barna Award**

Will Bayley MBE, Fliss Pickard, Billy Shilton

**Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved England Player of the Year Award**

Ella Pashley



Billy Shilton and Fliss Pickard



Will Bayley

In addition, the following were awarded this year:

**Tom Blunn Fund**

Daniel Bullen, Harmesh Jutle, John Mackey, Lynda Reid

**Ivor Montagu Junior Fund**

Larry Trumpauskas

**Maurice Goldstein Awards**

Minimum of 10 years' continual service either as an elected officer or official of a

County Association, Local League or Premier Club. Must have made a significant contribution to the administration of the sport at County, League or Premier Club level  
Dennis Williams, Falmouth Docks TTC  
Granville Thornton, Leeds TTL  
Walter Smart, Leeds TTL  
Steve Webb, Leicester & District TTL  
Ian Wetherly, Leicester & District TTL



# Pride in our volunteers

The exceptional volunteers within our sport were recognised at the Pride of Table Tennis Awards ceremony during the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships.

Winners were announced in six categories during the Pride of Table Tennis Dinner on Saturday evening.

The awards included Volunteer of the Year and Young Volunteer of the Year Awards (male and female), alongside Contribution to Table Tennis and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The ceremony was part of a weekend invitation to the finalists to watch the Mark Bates Ltd Senior Nationals and receive recognition from the table tennis community on the court on Finals Day court (see picture above).

More than 70 nominations were received, and the winners were chosen by the national judging panel.

Johnathon Driscoll, who leads on the Pride of Table Tennis Awards at Table Tennis England, said: "It was inspirational to celebrate the exceptional volunteers for their achievements at the Pride of Table Tennis dinner on Saturday evening.

"It's crucial to pay tribute to and acknowledge the accomplishments of individuals who go above and beyond to provide opportunities for many. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them for their contributions to our sport.

"We sincerely appreciate the volunteers, who consistently step forward each year to ensure the growth of table tennis. You are the very heartbeat of our sport."

The winners were:

**Young Male Volunteer of the Year**  
**Winner:** Bailey Page (Joola Plymouth TTC)



**Above:** Pride of Table Tennis Awards finalists at the Mark Bates Ltd National Championships

**Left:** Contribution to Table Tennis Award winner Ian Wu receives his award from Director Don Parker.

Scan the QR code below to read more about all the finalists



**Runners-up:** Alain Shibu (Horsham TTC) and Alekss Belskis (Bradford Grammar School TTC)

**Young Female Volunteer of the Year**

**Winner:** Heilam Tse (Kingfisher TTC)

**Runner-up:** Maddy Lyons (Halton TTC)

**Male Volunteer of the Year**

**Winner:** Tajudeen Alao (TJ TTC)

**Runners-up:** Rob Cook (Leeds Parky PING!) and Gary Kenton (Hollingbury TTC)

**Female Volunteer of the Year**

**Winner:** Clare Flynn (Durham TTA, Brandon

TTC, NETT) and Chirstine Burke

**Runners-up:** Karen Smith (Knighton Park Table Tennis Club) and Megan Bollen (Derby Community TTC)

**Contribution to Table Tennis Award**

**Winner:** Ian Wu (Newbury & District TTA)

**Runner-up:** Bob Baker (Kent TTA)

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Winner:** Colin French (Waterside TTC)

**Runners-up:** John Waters (Bury St Edmunds TTC) and David Wiles (Portsmouth and District TTA)



From left: Stan Clarke, Keith Thomas, Doreen Nightingale

**Keith Thomas:** The last Table Tennis England Treasurer and a huge influence on the sport in Cleveland, Keith was made a Vice President of Table Tennis England in 2018 and an Honorary Life Member in 2020 in recognition of his service to the sport.

The latter award came after his service as the ETTA/Table Tennis England Treasurer ended in 2019 when the post was deleted from the Association.

He had held that post from 2013-19 but his contribution to the sport far outstripped that role and reflected not only his status in the area of finance and accountancy but also as a UKCC Level 3 Coach Tutor and Assessor and other areas of the sport – he was also a Level 1 (County) Umpire and a Level 1 Tournament Organiser.

On the international stage, he was a member of the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) Audit Commission in 2018. He also played a key role as a Volunteer Team Leader at the London Olympics and Paralympics in 2012.

In his native Cleveland, he was on the Management Committee for Cleveland TTA and, from 2013-14, was Company Member for the Cleveland Premier TTL.

In his hometown of Hartlepool, he was Vice Chairman of Hartlepool TTL and a founder member, Treasurer and first Chairman of Hartlepool TTC.

**Stan Clarke:** A Table Tennis England Honorary Life Member, it as an umpire that Stan is best known. He gained his County Umpires badge in 1984 and his National Umpires badge in 1987. He then went on to become an International Umpire in 1990 and earned his coveted International Blue Badge, number 221, on 3rd December 2009.

Stan umpired far and wide, not only in this country but also at some of the most prestigious international events – World Championships in Manchester in 1997, European Championships, Commonwealth Games in Manchester 2002, Paralympics in London 2012, ITTF Men’s World Cup Liverpool in 2012, European Cup, Schools International and English Opens. On the domestic front he was an ever-present face at everything from Local League to National Championships.

From club to national level, Stan was heavily involved in numerous committees and still held many posts at the time of his death, including Secretary of the Wavertree Labour Table Tennis Club and numerous roles on the Liverpool Table Tennis League Committee.

Stan was also Chairman and President of the Southport Table Tennis League and on Lancashire County Table Tennis Association Executive Committee from 1984.

He was a Committee Member of the Association of English Table Tennis Umpires (AETTU) from its inception in 2005 until his death.

Stan was honoured with some of the highest accolades that the ETTA/Table Tennis can award. He was presented with the Ivor Montagu Award in 2008, became a Vice-President in 2010 and an Honorary Life Member in 2017.

**Richard B Hudson:** Table Tennis England Vice-President and National Councillor and a stalwart of the table tennis scene in Humberside and Yorkshire.

Among his many positions, he was Junior British League Administrator between 2014 and 2019.

As well as the JBL role, he was Organiser of the English League Cup Competitions (ELCC) from 2012-14, ELCC Secretary from 2013 to 2022 and Deputy Referee from 2015-22.

Among his other national roles, Richard was National Councillor for Yorkshire from 2001 until this summer. He was awarded a Maurice Goldstein Merit Award in 2008 and became a Vice-President of the then ETTA in 2011.

**Doreen Nightingale:** ETTA Vice-President and former member of staff.

She became a County Umpire in 1990, a National Umpire in 1996 and an International Umpire in 2000. Doreen also became a Tournament Referee in 2003. She was regularly seen at events around England in umpiring and refereeing capacities.

Doreen was one of the three ladies on what is, perhaps, the only all-female top table, at an Exeter Grand Prix with the late Gill Smith and Diane Kirkwood (later Webb). However, the pinnacle of Doreen’s umpiring was when she was selected for the European Championships in March and April 2003 in Courmayeur, Italy.

She was also part of the team of umpires at the prestigious Masters, Fairfield Halls, Croydon in 2005 and umpired the match between Alan Cooke and Sweden’s former World Champion Jan-Ove Waldner – in front of television cameras.

Doreen started working for the ETTA in 1991 in the Ranking and Development Department, a role she continued in until her retirement in 2006. She was made an Honorary Life Member of VETTS in 1996, a Vice-President of the ETTA in 2003 and an Honorary Life Member of Sussex County in 2009.

**George Tyler:** International Umpire and Table Tennis England Vice-President.

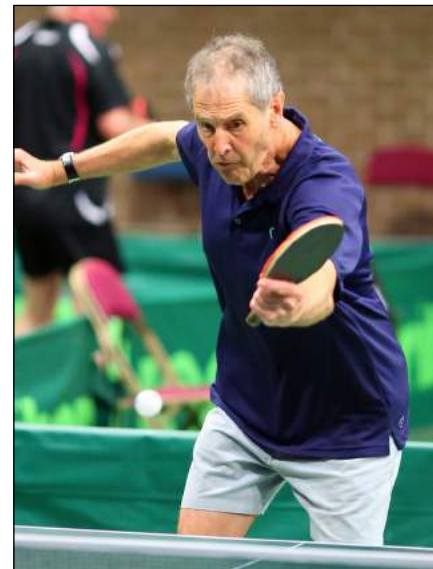
George was one of our best and most experienced umpires, becoming a County Umpire in 1981, National Umpire in 1984 and International Umpire in 1986. He officiated at some of the most prestigious tournaments and championships not only in England but around the world.

He was at the World Championships, Manchester 1997 and the following year at the World Veteran Championships in the same city and also at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester in 2002, the first time table tennis was played in the Games.

George was part of the umpires’ team in Glasgow at the Commonwealth Championships in 1997, the Disabled World Championships in Paris 1998 and the Paralympics in Athens in 2004. He officiated at various European Championships at all age levels including Euro ’94 in Birmingham, Stuttgart 1992, Czech Republic



Left: Richard B Hudson (top) and Christine Lewis; Above: George Tyler; Right: Tony Clayton



1996, Eindhoven 1998, Italy 2001 and also at several International Schools Championships.

George was the first Chairman of the Association of English Table Tennis Umpires (AETTU) in 2004 and continued in that role until 2021 when, at the age of 90, he decided that it was time to hand the baton on. The following year he was made the Association's President.

**Christine Lewis:** Assistant Organiser of the Women's British League (WBL) when it was launched in April 1989 with husband Mike holding the main organising role.

Christine received The Solihull Trophy twice, a trophy presented by the WBL for an individual who enhanced the Women's British League. She was the first recipient in 2000 and was a recipient for the second time in 2005, jointly with Mike.

Other ETTA committee positions which Christine held were Women's Steering Committee Member 1991-92; Women's Development Committee Member 1993-97 and Secretary 1997-98; Membership Committee Secretary 1996-97; Veterans' British League (VBL) Organiser for several years, again assisting Mike, who helped launch it.

At regional level, Christine became secretary of the South West Region from 1989-90.

She was honoured by becoming an ETTA Vice President in 2003 followed by the Ivor Montagu Award in 2005.

**Tony Clayton:** Former England international who will forever be in the history books as a member of the England team who took part in what became known as 'Ping Pong Diplomacy' in 1971, along with Alan Hydes, Trevor Taylor, Karenza Mathews, Pauline Piddock and Jill Shirley, they made not only table tennis history but world history.

His first England senior appearance was in February 1971 at the English Open. In April 1971 he had a late call to go to Singapore for the 1st Commonwealth Championships and then on to Japan for the World Championships. At the last minute, Chester Barnes and Denis Neale had pulled out of the two Championships due to contractual difficulties.

Tony came away with medals in Singapore, a gold in the team event with Alan Hydes and Trevor Taylor and then a silver with Karenza Mathews in the Mixed Doubles. Moving on to Nagoya in Japan for the World Championships, the men's trio finished a creditable 10th.

However, it was what happened next that made history. For the first time since the Cultural Revolution which began in 1966, China played in a World Championships. Political manoeuvrings had been going on behind the scenes for some time as relations between China and the West eased. As a result, England were invited to China for 15 days in what became known as Ping Pong Diplomacy, four other countries were also invited, including the USA.

The team took part in six matches which were played in Peking, Shanghai and Tientsin in front of capacity crowds, 23,000 in Peking

and 6,500 in Shanghai and Tientsin with thousands more queuing up to get in. The English team won four of the six matches but the feeling was of friendship first, competition second.

A reciprocal visit by China was made in December 1971 and again, Tony was involved in many of the matches as well as other aspects of the Chinese tour, including a reception at 10 Downing Street hosted by Prime Minister Edward Heath, and meeting Princess Anne.

Tony was Chairman of Dorset County TTA from 1997-2005 and President from 2009-18 and also a Vice-President of Hull & District TTA.

**Sue Collier:** A European Youth and World Veterans medallist, as well as a former Senior England international, Sue has been described as "one of the shining lights of the VETTS circuit".

Born in Maidenhead in 1966, Sue represented Berkshire and later Cheshire and won multiple medals at home and abroad, across the age groups. She reached No 5 in the Senior rankings, No 2 in both Cadet and Junior and No 1 in the Veterans.

An aggressive attacker, Sue started playing when she was 12 years old. Her first major title was in 1981, at the European Youth Championships, where she gained a team silver medal alongside Lisa Bellinger and Jean Parker.

Among Sue's other headline achievements, she won bronze in the O40 Women's Singles at the World Veteran Championships in Auckland in 2014.

**Mike Kercher:** Surrey County Life President, Ivor Montagu Award winner and coach to many international players.

Mike's value was recognised, also, by being on several ETTA Committees – Selection Committee Member 1977-87, Ranking Panel Member 1980-84, Member of the Coaching Technical Sub-Committee and numerous roles on the National Coaching & Schools Committee including Chairman of several Regional Committees.

*Editor's note: We remember here those with honorary appointments or who gave international service as a player, official or coach. Full obituaries were published on the Table Tennis England website and can be read by scanning the QR code to the right. We are indebted to Diane Webb for her help with compiling obituaries. We also remember at National Council meetings all those members of the table tennis family who passed away in the last year. Please notify us of the passing of any individuals so they may be remembered in this way.*



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## Acknowledgements

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