

# Honours Presentations

2024/2025



*For long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England as a Board Director, initially as Vice-Chairman (Membership); as a Technical Official, including umpiring the Men's Singles final in the London 2012 Olympic Games; as well as in Lancashire, especially in Liverpool*

---

Tom qualified as a Level 1 Umpire in 1995, Level 2 in 1999, Level 3 in 2002 and finally Level 4 in 2007.

He has umpired many domestic and international events each year from 1995 to present time for the ETTA, Table Tennis England and the ITTF. The major events are:

- Commonwealth Games Manchester 2002, Glasgow 2014, Brisbane, Australia 2018.
- Olympic Games London 2012, umpiring the Men's Singles gold medal match.
- Men's World Cup 2011 and 2012.
- World Team Championships 2016 and 2018.
- Paralympic Games, Paris 2024.

Tom was on the ETTA Executive Committee from 2012-2014 and a Board member of Table Tennis England from 2014-2022.

Other roles:

2005-present: Member of the Liverpool League Management Committee.

2008-present: Secretary of the Association of English Table Tennis Umpires.

2008-present: Lancashire County Committee member.

2017-present: Secretary of the Liverpool TT League.

2019-present: Member of the TT Leagues Project Management Team.

2020-present: Member of the TTE Technical Officials Committee.

2019-23: Member of the ITTF Umpires and Referees Committee.



2023-present: Lancashire National Councillor.

2024-present: Member of the ETTU Umpires and Referees Committee.

*For long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England as a Board Director, initially as Vice-Chair (Communications) and then as Deputy Chair; as a Committee Chair and Secretary of National Council; as well as in Lancashire, especially in Southport.*

---

Susie Venner has been involved in table tennis as a player and volunteer for 50 years. She continues to play regularly in local leagues in Liverpool and Southport, represents the league and county of Lancashire and is an active participant in VETTS and veterans events at home and abroad.

She is currently Chair of the VETTS (Veterans English Table Tennis Society); Chair of Southport League, on the Lancashire Committee, General Secretary to the National Council, a member of both the ETTU Veterans Committee and IVTTS Executive Council; and was a Table Tennis England Board member and its Deputy Chair from 2013 to 2023.



*For his service in Essex as National Councillor and in coaching at Mossford Table Tennis Club; as well as nationally on the Disciplinary Committee, Members Advisory Group and its Implementation Committee, the Independent Review Panel and as Coach Tutor Assessor*

---

Phil started playing in around 1970 in the Wembley & Harrow League and has since played in many leagues in Essex and Hertfordshire and in Senior British League.

Since 1990, coaching became his passion, initially as Head coach at Mossford TTC and then moving on to Chair the club.

UKCC L3 Qualified, Phil has been an active Tutor/Assessor over many years and has worked with and mentored hundreds of coaches mostly around London and the home counties.

He was a committee member of Essex TTA and then National Councillor for Essex from 2017 until 2023.

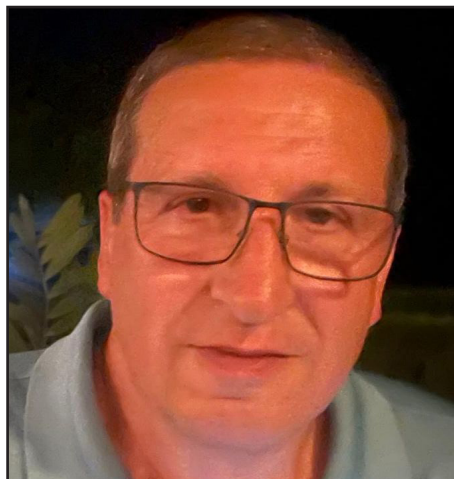
Member of the Independent Review Panel on Governance, 2017-18.

Members' Advisory Group member, 2020-23.

Disciplinary Committee since 2019.

Ivor Montagu Award, 2018.

Honorary Life Member Essex TTA, 2024.



*For his service in Derbyshire as National Councillor and with Draycott & Long Eaton Table Tennis Club; as well as nationally on Development Committee and in related advisory roles*

---

Jon started playing with his father Roy at 17 and has played in his local league in Derby for more than 44 years.

He has also played in the Loughborough, Nottingham, Aylesbury and Oxford leagues, and for Derbyshire Seniors, Vets and Over-60s.

Jon is the founder and a leading coach at Draycott & Long Eaton Table Tennis Club, establishing the club in 1989. He acquired the current venue as one of the trustees in 1999. As a dilapidated building, the committee obtained a £440,000 sports grant to upgrade the venue to what we see today.

His passion for coaching started at 21, and he has coached junior players with his coaching team to obtain more than 60 national titles, with adults from the club also winning over 25 national titles.

Jon is probably most known on the junior competition circuit cornering many of the club's players.

He is National Councillor for Derbyshire (on the competition select committee), a Table Tennis England advisor on development and various other subjects.

Jon's personal highlights include:

- DLETTTC winning the Derbyshire sports club of the year twice (over 1000 clubs enter).
- Helping many players to enter the sport and have fun.
- Cornering DLETTTC players at the Euro trophy finals and a world championship.
- Watching club players compete at all levels including Euros, WTT and national events.



*For her service in Sussex as a coach with Schools and Brighton Table Tennis Club; as well as with National Schools teams at Internationals*

Teresa first started playing Table tennis at eight years old, at Bexhill Youth Centre with her dad, Jim, and two big brothers, Stephen and Adrian.

She went on to play for Sussex as a Junior and Senior and she loved travelling the country playing the tournaments and is so grateful her Mum, Wendy, dedicated her time to taking her and her brothers.

Teresa's biggest achievement was playing in the Italian Open in an England representative team and, when studying to be a PE teacher at Bedford, playing for GB in the World Student Games in Bulgaria.

Teresa was also part of a team that won the Premier Women's British League in 1998/99.

Teresa and husband Jeremy have three children, Jack, Joshua and Joelle, who also play table tennis and Teresa is so proud that The Bennetts have become a table tennis 'clan'.

Teresa has been coaching for 40 years and has been the secretary/organiser of the East Sussex schools individual and team events for the last 35 years.

Teresa has felt honoured to undertake the NPC England role on many occasions over the years for the British Primary Schools and Senior schools internationals.

Teresa was a PE teacher for 30 years, teaching in Brighton and St Leonards on Sea, also enjoying the role of School Games Organiser and leading the Hastings and Rother School Sports Partnership.

For the last six years, Teresa has been coaching at Brighton Table Tennis Club and is passionate about sharing the benefits and her



love of table tennis.

Teresa enjoys the variety of the role, coaching in the club, schools, women's sessions, adult disability sessions, coaching in prisons and of course developing up and coming junior players.

Teresa also appreciates having the opportunity to tutor coaching courses over the last five years.

Teresa still loves playing and plays Women's British Clubs League for Brighton TTC and Veterans British Clubs League for Knighton Park.

Teresa's ambition when she's not coaching so much is to play in a European or World Veterans event when she is 60!

*For his service in Essex as Deputy National Councillor, Vice-Chair, roles with Schools and Veterans; as well as with BATTs Table Tennis Club*

Neil's lifelong love affair with table tennis began aged 11 when his dad used his carpentry skills to put together a table at home. They only had a small garage so the table had to be 8 foot by 4 foot instead of the customary 9' x 5'. A year later when he ventured out, it really was the big wide world as tables seemed to have acres of space in which to guide his return.

Then followed coaching from the legendary Jack Carrington and Harry Venner.

Despite all the opportunities, Neil says "journeyman" would best describe his playing career. A few appearances for Essex juniors and similar for Essex veterans but not too much in between aside from the London Insurance Championship crown and a never to be forgotten (but rather brief) encounter with then world champion Istvan Jonyer in the second round of the Welsh Open.

He also won the Central League with lifelong friend Dave Wright and a certain Simon Heaps who a few years previously had been European cadet champion.

Neil enjoyed playing far too much to consider volunteering but the chairman of the Harlow League, Eric Todd, began coaching in a church hall in the late 1980s aided by Essex stalwart and former England international Stuart Gibbs. Eric was worried about falling numbers and was determined to set up a vibrant junior scene.

Neil says he and Dave Wright were initially attracted by Stuart's charisma rather than a desire to help, but so began a 35-year rollercoaster that took them from the hall to a shared school/club venue and finally a full-time venue courtesy of Harlow Council and a peppercorn rent.

Eric's daughter Sharon Head is part of the team that is still carrying out her father's



vision. BATTs is now a well established club with regular coaching sessions and tournaments as well as British Clubs Leagues and county events.

Neil considers his nomination to be a result of the extraordinary team at BATTs, including Sharon and Dave and the amazing support from Graham Frankel over many years; Cliff Carder, who runs the flagship British Clubs Leagues teams; and Keith Fung who heads the coaching set-up.

*For her service in Buckinghamshire as Chair and National Councillor/Deputy National Councillor; as well as with Cippenham Table Tennis Club*

Sue describes herself as a retired teacher, happily married mother of four and grandmother of four, a practising Catholic and lover of sport and music. Her sport is and always has been table tennis.

Daughter of two table tennis internationals, Jack and Jean Head (nee Winn), Sue was immersed in table tennis from a very young age, starting playing as soon as she was able to see above the table, and reaching a decent standard, representing Surrey at Junior Level.

She has played table tennis at Local League, Interleague and County levels all her adult life and represented Sussex at Senior level, Buckinghamshire at Seniors, Veterans and Over-60s and Cippenham TTC in Women's and Veteran's British Clubs Leagues.

#### Volunteer Roles:

- Match Secretary, Hastings League, 1985-1988.
- Chair, Eastbourne League, 1991-1997.
- Cippenham Committee Member, 2000-2015.
- General Secretary, Buckinghamshire County TTA, 2015-2024.
- Deputy National Councillor, 2016 to 2017.
- National Councillor, 2017-present.
- Cippenham Committee Member and Welfare Officer, 2021-present.
- Member of National Council Select Committee on Disability, 2022-present.
- Field of Play Team for Commonwealth Games, 2022.
- TTE Chaperone, 2025.



#### Qualifications:

- Level 2 Coach, 1996.
- Level 4 Coach, 2000.
- Tournament Organiser, 2002.
- Coach Tutor/Assessor, 2004.
- Referee, 2008.
- Coach Education Verifier, 2009.

#### Honours:

- ETTA Female Coach of the Year, 2002.
- Maurice Goldstein Award, 2007.
- TTE Female Coach of the Year, 2008.
- Pride of Table Tennis Special Award, 2023.

*For his service with the British Para Table Tennis coaching team at four Paralympic Games, including coaching English Paralympic Games medallists*

Neil, won seven Paralympic medals as an athlete before becoming an integral part of the British Para Table Tennis coaching team, retiring this year after an incredible career during which he represented Great Britain in 11 Paralympic Games, seven as an athlete and four as a coach.

Neil was training in the electrical field at Bridgend College, with the ambition of joining the Merchant Navy, when he was a passenger in a car accident at the age of 18 that left him in a wheelchair and changed the course of his life.

After taking up table tennis during rehab he went on to become one of Britain's most successful Paralympians, representing his country as an athlete in seven Games, winning seven medals including gold in the men's class 3 team event in Barcelona in 1992, and was European champion and world No 1.

In 2012 he received an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for his services to the sport.

Having retired from playing after the Paralympic Games in Beijing in 2008, Neil was asked to help prepare the British Para table tennis players for the challenge of a home Games in London 2012 under the direction of new Performance Director Gorazd Vecko.

With several Welsh players in the British squad, Neil set up a centre at the Welsh Institute of Sport in Cardiff with a professional training environment where the Welsh players could benefit from top quality coaching on a full-time basis in between training camps at the BPTT base in Sheffield.

He coached Paul Davies to win a bronze medal



at the London 2012 Paralympics and also Tom Matthews to take bronze in Tokyo 2021.

Although he wasn't in the corner when Rob Davies won gold at Rio 2016, he had played a big role in his preparation.

*For his service in Devon and the South West, notably to Joola Plymouth Table Tennis Club, Plymouth League and in regional development; as well as nationally as Head Coach of the South West Pathway Development Centre and as a Coach Mentor on the National Programme*

Paul Whiting started playing table tennis at the age of 10 in 1972, progressing through local league table tennis and a junior career reaching No 3 in Cadets and No 7 in Juniors in England.

He represented England Schools on numerous occasions, culminating in playing International Schools in Turkey in 1978.

He progressed into the senior ranks representing Plymouth, winning the Wilmott Cup, Devon County winning the Senior Premier Division and DML Launceston White Hart winning the Senior British League Premier Division. He reached No 12 in the men's ranking and played in the Commonwealth Championships in 1989, winning a bronze medal in doubles along with partner Kevin Satchell.

Paul now competes in Veterans table tennis and with partner Paul Giles has won two bronze medals in Rimini and Oslo at European Over-60 events.

Alongside playing and working as a mechanical engineer in Devonport Naval Dockyard, he started coaching table tennis as a volunteer for the Plymouth & District Table Tennis League whilst also working with some young Devon players on a 1-to-1 basis. During this period, he completed all levels of the ETTA coaching qualification before completing the UKCC courses finishing as a UKCC Level 4 coach. He is also a UKCC Tutor and Assessor.

This voluntary work led to opportunities to work with the ETTA, working with the Youth Development Squad and supporting national coaches at tournaments throughout Europe.



In 2009 he left employment with the Dockyard and took up a full-time role as South-West Regional Coach with ETTA working to develop coaches and clubs in the region alongside working with all England age groups at various training camps and competitions, before leaving TTE in 2019. He now focuses solely on developing the Joola Plymouth Table Tennis Club and the junior players within that club.

He completed the County Umpire and Tournament Referee exams to enable him to run 1\* and 2\* Senior events and 1, 2 and 4\* Junior events. The club has now created a very successful Competition Committee to ensure the club is self-sustainable in running events.

Furthermore, Paul runs a short format pairs league for Plymouth & District TT League which enables younger players to take their first step into structured competition.

*Awarded posthumously for his exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England*

Harvey received the honour of ETTA Honorary Life Member in 2011, having previously become a Vice-President in 1986 and awarded the Ivor Montagu Award in 1981 and the AK Vint OBE Staff Award in 2004.

Harvey's first introduction to table tennis was at a friend's house on a kitchen table before moving on to playing at a youth club. It was in the late 60s that he founded a club at NCR, where he was working, before joining the Willesden & District League where he became General Secretary from 1972-76, later joining the Middlesex County Committee becoming an integral part of their organisation. He later moved to Worthing and joined the local league as a player but also took on the roles of Chairman, Treasurer and County Representative, thereby also serving on Sussex County Committee.

His first major appointment was at the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham, one of three Umpires Controls in charge of 134 umpires.

After moving to Bournemouth, Harvey took on a number of different positions at club, league and county level as well as becoming a prominent Tournament Organiser and qualifying as a County Umpire in 1981 and a Tournament Referee in 1985. He regularly umpired county and British League matches.

1977 saw the start of Harvey's national appointments, the first being Secretary of the English Championships Committee followed by Calendar Working Party Chairman, Grand Prix Committee Chairman, English Open and English Junior Open Committee Member, Marketing Committee Secretary, National Championships Committee Member, Major Championships/Events feasibility Committee Chairman and Secretary,



Sponsorship Committee Secretary, Trade Committee Chairman, Tournament Organisers Qualification Committee Chairman and Secretary, Tournament Approval Panel Chairman, Veterans' Development Committee Member plus British League, European League, National Team Competitions Committee positions and many, many more.

In 1997 he had a major part in the introduction of the Grand Prix series, organising well over 100 individual tournaments.

In 1999 Harvey helped introduce the qualification scheme for Tournament Organisers and ran numerous courses as well as being the assessor for all levels, subsequently one of only six to be awarded the elite Level 4.

*Awarded posthumously for his exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England*

---

Harvey took up his appointment of National Events Manager in Hastings in 2000, a position he held until 2011. During this time, he oversaw one of the largest domestic competition programmes as well as overseeing numerous international matches and events.

Among his other appointments were:

European Championships 1994: Venue Director.

European Qualifying Tournament for the Olympic Games 1996: Hospitality Director.

English Open 1996 – the first ever ITTF Pro Tour Event: Hospitality Director.

World Championships 1997: Hospitality Director.

English Open 1997, 1999: Hospitality Director.

World Veteran Championships 1998: Venue Director.

English Open 2001: Tournament Manager.

Commonwealth Masters 2002: Tournament Organiser.

Commonwealth Games 2002: Deputy Competition Manager.

ETTA Masters 2003 (The Crucible) and 2004-05 (Fairfield Halls): Tournament Manager.

Dunlop Masters 2006 and 2007 at the Royal Albert Hall: Technical Manager.

European Youth Top 10 2008: Tournament Manager.

English Open 2009: Steering Group Secretary and author of the Bid Document.

Three Match Tour by India 2010: Tour Organiser.

English Open 2011: Tournament Manager.

British Open Factor 40 Para Championships 2011: Technical Adviser.

Island Games 2016: Technical Consultant.

National Championships 1978-2011: Tournament Organiser or Assistant at over 100 at all age groups, MC in 2012.

European League matches 2002-2011: Organiser.

English Opens: Organiser or Assistant Organiser at every English Open from 1978-2001 bar one, Venue Director in 1992.

English Junior International Championships 1978-1995: Organiser or Assistant Organiser.

VETTS Southern and National Masters 1984-94: Tournament Organiser.

Six Nations/Home Countries Tournaments/ Cadet Six Nations: Tournament Organiser for several.

Dorset County Closed: Organiser for several.

Swaythling Club International: England Branch Secretary 2016-2024, Sponsorship Director 2017-19, Deputy President 2019-22, Secretary 2021-24.

ETTA Vice-Chairman of Competitions and Board Member 2013-14.

TTE Network Review Group Member 2015-19.

Harvey played in 10 Local Leagues, several National Championships, two English Opens and a number of European and World Veteran Championships.



**Malcolm Scott Award  
for outstanding service to Table Tennis England**

**DON PARKER**

*For his outstanding service to Table Tennis England as Deputy Chair and Talent and Performance Committee Chair*

Don represented England in table tennis more than 200 times and went on to work at Commonwealth Games England as Sports Director.

In the 21 years in the role between 1997 and 2018, Don played an active role in six Commonwealth Games and six Commonwealth Youth Games.

Don was also the national coach for the then English Table Tennis Association, and worked within the governing body for 18 years in a variety of performance-related positions.

Don and his wife Jill – the Table Tennis England President – are well known by our members, attending numerous events around the country. Don is also an authoritative TV commentator and has commentated from a raft of international events as well as our own Senior National Championships.

He served with distinction as the European representative on the Commonwealth Games Federation Sports Committee, and was recognised for his outstanding service to sport by being awarded the Commonwealth Sport Order of Merit 2019.



*For his significant service on the Talent and Performance Committee*

Jason is a lifelong advocate for table tennis, dedicating his career to coaching, mentoring, and growing the sport at every level.

As Director of Coaching at Greenhouse Sports, he leads impactful programmes that use table tennis to inspire and empower young people, particularly those from under-served communities. The work focuses not only on developing technical skills but also on building resilience, confidence, and life-changing opportunities through sport.

Jason is also a member of the Talent & Performance Committee, watching the programme go from strength to strength over the last few years, something he describes as a privilege.

His passion for coaching and development was shaped by the early influence of his parents, Buxton and Patricia, who instilled in him the values of hard work, kindness and service to others. Throughout his journey, he says he has been fortunate to be guided by his mentor, Jon Kaufman, whose support and wisdom have been instrumental in shaping his approach to coaching and leadership.

Committed to making table tennis more inclusive and accessible, Jason have coached and mentored numerous players and coaches, developed sustainable community programmes, and driven significant growth within the sport.

He says receiving the Ivor Montagu Award is a proud and humbling moment that recognises his dedication to using table tennis as a force for good and his lifelong mission to help young people realise their potential, both on and off the table.



*For her outstanding service to the County Championships in Surrey*

Jane started playing table tennis at the age of 12 and represented Surrey at Junior, Senior and Veterans categories and has always been loyal and committed to county table tennis through development, performance training and coordinating trials, inter-county friendly matches and county fixtures.

She has have represented England, played in Belgium and trained abroad.

Jane qualified as an English Table Tennis Association (ETTA) club coach at 18 years old.

At 25 she focused on her coaching at Graham Spicer Table Tennis Club and Surrey TTA.

She ran the South East Centre of Excellence in Surrey and assisted in the Sussex Centre to steer juniors to improve within the region and achieve national standard.

She coached the Paralympic squads at training camps and European, World and Paralympic Championships.

Jane is a previous winner of ETTA Coach of the Year and worked for Table Tennis England as London Regional Coach and Talent Development Coach between 2010 and 2016.

In October 2000 Jane stepped step up to be Surrey County Captain. From 2000, Surrey has featured in all County Championships age groups: Cadets, Juniors, Seniors, Veterans and O60s, usually entering three Cadet teams to help young players develop and enjoy the experience of playing for the County.

The majority of these seasons Surrey had teams in Cadet, Junior and Senior Premier Divisions. Recently Surrey also returned to O60s Premier Division.



For 23 of these seasons, Surrey has run trials, closed championships and training camps to inspire and develop our players.

More recently Surrey has run Under-9 and U11 closed championships too.

**AK Vint OBE Staff Award**  
**for exceptional service as a staff member**

**JOHN MURPHY**

*For commitment to the Performance Team and support for the players*

John joined Table Tennis England in 2023 from Table Tennis Australia, where he reinvigorated the performance programme.

He led the team to six medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham – one gold, three silver and two bronze.

He also saw an influx of players into the top 100 in the world rankings and delivered – for the first time in the nation's history – World Junior Championships medals.

Before making the transition into coaching, John was a multiple Irish national champion and represented his country at more than 10 World and European Championships.



**Victor Barna Award**  
**for the most notable performance by an English player**

**ABRAHAM SELLADO**

*For his achievement of reaching the quarter-finals of the European Youth Championships with credible wins against top-ranked players*

Abraham's love of table tennis started on holiday to the Philippines and was developed on his return by Alan Dickinson, development coach at Halifax TT centre.

Aged eight, he won the U11 singles at West Yorkshire School and joined the Hopes Squad for future England aspiring players.

At 11, he won doubles and team gold and singles bronze at the Home Nations International Championships and the following year became Under-13 Boys' Singles national champion.

He has gone on to win multiple national titles, as well as several medals at WTT youth competitions, and made his senior international debut at WTT Feeder Manchester this year.



**Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved England Player Award  
for a player representing England**

**CONNOR GREEN and BLY TWOMEY**

*Connor Green for his tremendous improvement as shown in his ranking, in reaching the latter stages of a number of events and in his 100% win record for the Junior Boys Team in the European Youth Championships*  
*Bly Twomey for winning two bronze medals at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games*

Connor started playing table tennis from the age of five or six, because both his parents played. Connor trained at Draycott TTC and when he was 12 he made the decision to focus exclusively on table tennis, and moved to Grantham College Academy in order to practise every day and start improving with the players and coaches there.

He has won national titles at all levels from U10 to U21 and represented England at Home Nations Championships, Euro Minis and European Youth Championships. He has reached the later stages of many WTT youth events and performed well and won matches at WTT Feeder events, notably the two feeder events in Manchester.

He has represented England at Senior level at the European U21 Championships, European Championships and World Championships.

Bly has had cerebral palsy from birth and has always been sporty. She discovered table tennis at a multisports day for special needs children in 2021. Her natural talent was immediately spotted by Brighton Table Tennis Club. After being invited to attend regularly, she fell in love with the club and the sport.

Within six months, she was competing in the National Club League and, just a year later, she became the Sussex Cadet champion. In 2023, she won bronze at the U13 Nationals and represented England at the Euro Minis.

Bly made her para international debut in 2023 and has since earned various medals. In 2024, she reached the semi-finals of the



para showcase at Singapore Smash. At the 2024 Paris Paralympics, at just 14 years old, Bly became a Guinness World Record holder as the youngest table tennis medallist at any Paralympic Games, taking Bronze in Class 7 singles and Bronze in the women's Class 14 doubles.

This year, Bly returned from the Cadet & U17 Nationals with one silver and three bronze medals.

