

# KENT COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

**AFFILIATED TO THE ETTA**

**PRESIDENT: LES ETHERIDGE  
CHAIR: MARTIN SMITH  
VICE CHAIR: BOB BAKER  
SECRETARY: ROGER HARRIS  
TREASURER: STEVE BISPHAM**



## NewsLINK

**December 2014**

### News and Views

#### FOCUS - VENUES

##### TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND SURVEY

One of the biggest factors for members was a lack of quality playing facilities.

We noted the survey was sent to Clubs. Did you see the survey and if so did you respond?

How many quality venues are there to play TT - multi table, good lighting, good surround colour, good flooring, warm, social area, refreshments, changing facility, good equipment, sessions for differing standards, mix of ages and has lots of members? The answer all over the UK is very few.

Investment has been extremely low. Schemes are very hard to initiate and progress, land is not readily available, money and volunteers are hard to come by. Most schemes start and finish as just an idea. Even when a facility is available it has to attract lots of members to be viable. When the infrastructure is there it costs money along with a good complement of resources on tap to organise and run it.

This is very much the continental model, where the clubs are a community, based on table tennis. The clubs can provide most players needs for practice, competitive games, local competitions and progression into higher level events. England is different, instead having a focus on local leagues.

Recently Chestfield Warriors upgraded to new premises, brought about with lots of effort. They are not alone in bringing on younger players in the County but the facility enhances their ability to do so. The established Fusion club has also recently moved from its facility at Grove Park to a larger facility. The use of existing buildings has significant cost and timescale advantages over brand new structures. Kent is a large County and has a definite need for more. What other schemes are going on in Kent?

Whilst the ideal is these dedicated centres, reality determines existing facilities will prevail for some time. The need to improve facilities, whether by moving to a bigger, better venue or making improvements to existing ones is much needed to both maintain and importantly to promote ourselves to new participants. There needs to be a will to do this along with a change in culture.

There remains divided opinion on even basic, simple preferences, like playing in a single table venue or in a multi table venue and having earlier finish times. The Table Tennis England survey suggests we need to change things if the sport is to develop and progress, as everyone would want it to do.

## **KENT COUNTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

### MEETING 12th NOVEMBER SUMMARY

#### Financial Year - rule change

The idea that the financial year should be moved from end of April to the end of May was reaffirmed. A rule change will be formulated by the Secretary and Treasurer and presented to the next AGM.

#### Meetings - rule change

The number of meetings was suggested could sensibly be reduced from the stipulated four. Business can and is conducted by electronic communication between meetings, as often it needs a quicker response than waiting for the next meeting. The Secretary will prepare a rule change to a minimum of two meetings.

#### Affiliation Fees - paid and unpaid

All the Leagues bar one paid their Affiliation Fees in due order (in sum and timescale). This is being chased but is of course unsatisfactory. It was affirmed only all Junior Leagues/ Divisions can apply the Junior Affiliation fees. It was also asked if Development Leagues were to be included in the Affiliation fees. It was affirmed they are excluded and no charge is made as such schemes are encouraged.

#### Voting Regime - how will it pan out?

It is strongly felt the National Council is now sidelined and its demise is very imminent. The impact on Table Tennis England (TTE) governance and its links with its members has yet to be finalised. Individual Membership implies that it will be direct with you the players. Counties and Leagues may have little or no say, however it is to be hoped all bodies will be incorporated in a meaningful way and autocracy does not prevail.

#### Umpire Secretary - retirement

David Cue stood down as County Umpires Secretary after ten years of bringing in more umpires. We are grateful to him for those efforts. David has brought in Malcolm McKay to replace him.

#### Kent League - postponements

The Kent League has, division one particularly, suffered postponements for many years. All leagues are reminded postponements are only allowed in extenuating circumstances. Extenuating does not mean cannot get best team, or the similar reasons currently given. The rule is going to be reinforced from 01st December and penalties may be imposed.

The meeting, held in Maidstone was attended by 4 Officers and 1 committee member. The next meeting is due on 18th March 2015.

### Management Committee

Chair: Martin Smith  
Vice Chair: Bob Baker  
Secretary: Roger Harris  
Treasurer: Steve Bispham  
National Councillor: Neil Le Milliere  
Deputy National Councillor: none  
County Teams Coordinator: None Note: is now separate Coordinators for Seniors (Marianne Jorgenssen), Cadets/Juniors (Mark Walsh), Veterans (Roger Harris), Over 60 (Chris Hooper). All as non MC members.  
Kent League Organiser: David Cue  
Kent Closed Tournament Organiser: Bob Baker  
Umpires Secretary: Malcolm McKay  
Coaching Officer: Mark Walsh  
Assistant Coaching Officer: Ken Muhr  
Development Officer: vacant  
Committee Members:  
Ted Tydeman, Claire Moore, Wayne Matthews.  
Auditor: Roger Pingram

## **KENT INTERMEDIATE TEAM TOURNAMENT**

Maidstone A took the title, in this year's final they reversed their 3-2 loss of last year against their Maidstone B team in the semi. Jill Shipton (one singles and the doubles) and her team of Gillian Skilbeck (the doubles) and Ted Tydeman (one singles) defeated Miro Danadzhev (2 singles), Petar Tancevski and Adam Simpson.

In the semis Folkestone B lost to Maidstone A and West Kent lost to Maidstone B. The other teams who took part were Ashford, Canterbury A and B, Folkestone A, Medway, Thanet.

The event took place again at The Howard Centre and thanks to all those who organised and ran it on the day, as well as the players, to make it a good day of table tennis.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

### **KSTTA JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY 10th JANUARY 2015**

**The Maidstone Y Centre, Loose.**

**10am-12midday Coaching Sessions**

**12-5pm Tournament**

**DETAILS and ENTRY FORM on our website.**

## MEETINGS WITH TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND

A session was held in Tunbridge Wells in September with the South East Regional Development Officer, Kieron Pelling. Three attended a good session on coaching, regional infrastructure and promoting TT. A similar session was suggested for the east of the County, if there is sufficient interest.

## KENT LEAGUE

### CAN WE DO THINGS TO HELP YOU?

We receive comments on 1) getting the results onto the web site 2) provision of email addresses 3) arranging fixtures.

The results. We have circulated all leagues with the access code so all teams can post the results of their home matches on the web. A number do this, we welcome all teams posting a scorecard. It really does only take a few minutes. As well as the result, it allows up to date league tables to be posted.

Emails. Some teams provide their email addresses, they do not though get put on the list circulated to all teams at fixture meeting. From comments we know it will make team coordinators tasks that much easier. It will be raised at our next MC meeting.

Fixtures. A fixture meeting has been the tradition for some long time now, held in mid to late September in Maidstone. The point has been made that in this day and age the fixtures can readily be organised by email or other means. Those attending the fixture meeting travel a total of around 750 miles and expend around a total of 45 hours just to make the meeting. The meeting lasts under an hour. There is a regime to the fixtures but it could readily be handled so people did not have to travel from the four corners of the County to be in Maidstone for 10am. This will be raised at our next MC meeting.

## KENT CLOSED TOURNAMENT

### 2015 DATES

Senior Closed Tournament  
Sunday 26th April at The Maidstone Y Centre in Loose, just south of Maidstone town centre.  
Junior Closed Tournament  
Saturday 16th May at The Howard TT Centre, Rainham. The venue is being confirmed.

## COUNTY TEAMS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - results are on the Kent website [www.kctta.net](http://www.kctta.net).

The coordinators for our respective teams are;  
Cadets and Juniors - Mark Walsh  
Seniors - Marianne Jorgensen  
Veterans - Roger Harris  
Over 60 - Chris Hooper.  
Team captains are;  
Junior and Cadets - Mark Walsh  
Seniors - Marianne Jorgensen  
Veterans - 1 Mark Romano 2 Wayne Matthews  
3 Jill Shipton 4 Steve Johnson 5 Roger Harris  
6 Roger Harris  
Over 60 - 1 and 2 Chris Hooper.

## COACHING

REMINDER. We have added to our Coaching with Ken Muhr joining Mark Walsh as Assistant Coaching Officer. One of the motivations is to relate to all coaching activity in Kent, coaching resources and players alike and assist in and maintaining the planned Ranking List.

### CONTACT THEM TO HELP US LINK UP BEST PRACTICE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY.

JUNIOR RANKING. So far we have very limited input received from leagues and clubs, insufficient to progress a ranking list at present.

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR JUNIORS LISTS through Contact Us. It could also help in us being able to run more Cadet and or Junior teams in the County Championships.

## NewsLINK

Here is hoping everyone is having good first half and is now getting ready for the coming seasonal break at the halfway point of the Winter season.

All best wishes from the KCTTA Management Committee.

Roger Harris.  
KCTTA Secretary