

# 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

### News and Views

**MAY 2015**

#### **FOCUS - Changes for next season**

#### **KENT COUNTY TTA**

**In the December NewsLINK we said several matters that should assist our member Leagues would be discussed at the next Management Committee meeting. We can report on progress.**

##### Affiliation Fees

- NO INCREASE in fee
- NO CHARGE for any ALL Junior teams (not just as currently those in an all Junior division)
- NO fee will be introduced for teams in a Development division
- Fee INCLUDES entry into KENT LEAGUE for all teams (no reduction though if no entry and The Senior and Intermediate Team Tournaments remain as a separate entry fee)

##### Kent League

- as asked for all the KL Contacts lists issued by David will now include EMAIL addresses
- NOT passed was a requirement for all teams to post their league RESULTS on the KCTTA website. This remains voluntary but the County ASKS all teams do make an effort to do so, if we get everyone doing it then up to date league tables can be provided and you save postage cost
- NOT passed was teams arranging fixtures by a fixed date and avoiding a FIXTURE MEETING (saving all leagues time and money as well as committing to matches that later need changing)

##### Kent Closed

- further to changing the VENUE this year and also the DATE (to meet player preference of avoiding the Bank Holiday weekend) it is being reviewed to see if FORMAT changes and or changing the ENTRY FEE charges can be an aid increasing participation

##### Rule Changes Proposals

- FINANCIAL YEAR to be 31st May year end (instead of 30th April)
- MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meetings to be at least 2 a year (instead of 4 as at present)

Reminder on a change we all have to accommodate - PLASTIC BALLS in competitive matches from 01st July 2015. This is NOT OPTIONAL it is a Table Tennis England REQUIREMENT.

## KENT MATTERS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The KCTTA gives notice that its AGM will be held on **WEDNESDAY 01st JULY 2015** at The Civil Service Social Club, Recreation Road, Maidstone, Kent at 7.30pm.

ALL LEAGUES are please required to have an attendance at the AGM. There is a bar at the venue. It is time for supporting your County, letting your League's views be known as to enhancing TT in Kent.

INDIVIDUAL League and Club members are also welcome to attend, although not having a voting right their views can be voiced.

We shall have a GUEST at the AGM as Mrs Sandra Deaton the current Table Tennis England Chair has agreed to come along and explain and receive questions on progress in TT. Please make her welcome.

Meeting papers will go out in the middle of June to all League Secretaries.

### CLOSED TOURNAMENT

Bob Baker, with his team of Mrs Linda Sopp, Steve Bispham have organised the Kent Closed's for a number of seasons now. Bob though advised in March the 2015 event was his last. We are grateful to Bob for running the tournament, doing so initially, as in so many volunteer roles, because no one else was prepared to do this quite forbidding task. Perhaps now he might get the opportunity to play in it instead.

This year the Senior and Veteran Closed moved its date (to accommodate player preference) and also the venue. Initial reports seem to be that venue at The Maidstone Ymca Centre was well received by the players.

### KENT SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Claire Moore has organised for three years now the KSTTA Development Competition Series with about five competitions in the County each year. They are well supported and additional help in running them is always appreciated. Kent County supports these events, covering some of the costs.

### UKCC COACHING COURSES LEVEL 1

A course has been set up recently through Claire Moore with aid of Kieron Pelling of TTE. This course is fully subscribed but a second course is being arranged if enough people come forward. Please use Contact Us on the KCTTA website, or let Claire Moore know if you have members wanting to take up a place. Numbers are limited to about 12 but some places are still available.

### DECLINING PLAYER NUMBERS - Can we ignore the real solution for much longer?

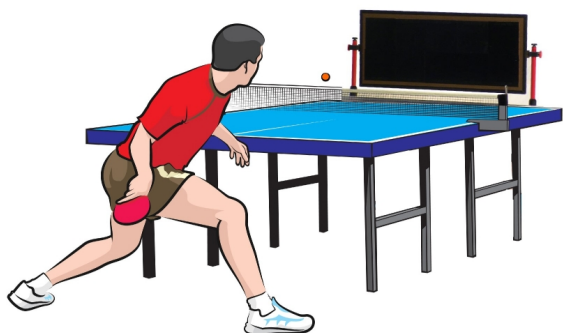
A few leagues ask us to put a note on our web site inviting players to join their league, including players already in adjacent leagues looking for more games and ones against different players. We already have a note on the web site for new players looking for entry point contact details. A non league specific notice is also now placed on the Home Page.

The fundamental issue is of course Leagues are chasing players to limit the long term trend of decline in clubs and players. Players migrating from one Club to another does not make for more players, and players playing second or even third leagues does not actually help the Leagues in a real way and sustainable long term way, it is short term and merely creates problems (such as needing bigger squads in order to put out teams). Leagues are looking for bigger divisions, for example so teams do not play each more than twice. Even if we take it that the pool of players in the County is about the same this year to the last few years, the one way to meaningfully realise sustainable bigger leagues is to have less leagues. Oh no, goes the cry but truth is as one league gets bigger another gets smaller. The cake as they say is only so big, to get a bigger share you have to

cut down the number of claims on those players.

it of course does not mean half the leagues disappear, only that adjacent leagues work together to play as one league. No one loses their identity. Are there problems, a few but readily surmountable if there is a will to make it happen. Some will say cannot do that as they perceive there is only one set of matches now. Not so though, firstly they get more diverse games (as do not have to play each team three or even four times). Those who want still more games can have them if the combined leagues arrange matches in a differing format. There is still also the option to play in the next nearest league.

There are a number of other factors which might help, playing at multi table venues to improve ambience and more flexible playing times among them but in the end to double the size of the thirteen leagues in Kent you have to half the number of Leagues. It is a fact that in the end cannot be ignored. It sounds disastrous but actually is not and with proper management would ensure everyone benefits (among them but not only in more and better matches and more efficient use of the dwindling volunteer base - thirteen leagues, thirteen secretaries, treasurers, chairs, committees, rules, etc. etc can be better utilised by avoiding replication).



## DEVELOPMENT HOTSPOTS - Do you want The Invicta DL?

Around the County there are a number of Development hotspots, where players have been encouraged to take up TT by some superb volunteers who give their time to coach, develop and promote the game locally. Some of these have advanced so well they run their own development divisions. It would be invidious to name only one or two but they exist in the four corners and the centre of the County. Where they exist they have helped

the local league mitigate the declining numbers problem.

The KCTTA wants if it can help to bring those hotspots together to maximise their impact and encourage other new hotspots to be created. The current idea is to organise a Development Competition on a regular basis (say about every 5 weeks) at varying central venues for those developing players who have progressed to a level approaching, if not at local league level. The competition sessions are intended to comprise of Coaching, followed by a 2 aside league match (2 singles per player and a doubles). The idea is it is a County wide venture a sort of Kent League for progressive developers - we look to call it The Invicta DL.

We need to know if your League and or our Clubs in Kent are interested? If you are then use Contact Us on the Kent web site to let us know. We shall in the summer come out with plan details, we would though like to finalise the plan in consultation with the participating Leagues/Clubs so it is what teams want.

## GRANTS

We are able to make a small number of grants each year, albeit the individual sums are not large we might be able to help deserving schemes. The application requirements are set out in our Development Policy posted on the KCTTA web site under Coaching/ Development. The grants we have been able to make are also listed there.

## NewsLINK

Here is hoping everyone has an enjoyable summer break. All best wishes from the KCTTA Management Committee.

Roger Harris. Secretary

### Management Committee.

Chair: Martin Smith Vice Chair: Bob Baker  
Secretary: Roger Harris Treasurer: Steve Bispham  
National Councillor: Neil Le Milliere Deputy: None  
County Teams Coordinator: Now Various Captains  
Kent League Organiser: David Cue  
Kent Closed Tournament Organiser: Bob Baker  
Umpires Secretary: Vacant  
Coaching Officer: Mark Walsh, Assistant Ken Muhr  
Development Officer: Vacant  
Committee Members:  
Ted Tydeman, Claire Moore, Wayne Matthews.  
Disciplinary Sub Committee: Mark Romano, Roger Pingram, David Cue, Peter Armory.