

FROM THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE ETTA.

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Dear Member,

You will now be aware that an Election will take place for the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association Ltd. (ETTA) only, with Ballot Papers being issued on 13th February with a latest receipt of these Ballot papers by 6th March.

This is your opportunity to vote for the existing Officers of,

Alex Murdoch. Chairman.
Peter Bradley. Deputy Chairman.

There was only one nominee and candidate for Treasurer, namely Martin Clark from my Team, so he is automatically elected.

You need to be fully aware that A.Ransome did not put forward any candidate for Treasurer in his Team and a separate Letter from Martin is included.

May we thank all those who nominated the officers in my team and supported us over the last 6 years and hope that those who did not nominate us will consider the significant progress made by the Team during that period. Also please consider the planned programmes for the future when discussing the way in which to vote with your fellow members.

From our perspective, whatever the result, we must not be complacent but we need to ensure your vote is included in the Ballot, thus providing a mandate which the outside world will see and it is essential to show that the Table Tennis Fraternity is fully behind its Officers and Management.

All the present officers play and administer in Local Leagues and Counties. They also play in the ETTA Competition Programme and are involved internationally in Board, Officers and Committee positions within the European Table Tennis Union and the International Table Tennis Federation.

Brief details of the background and experience of the Officers and Members of the Management Team will be included in the manifesto.

In re-electing the present officers you will be supporting the significant progress made by your very experienced and knowledgeable Management Team who are backing fully these candidates.

A detailed Manifesto will be distributed shortly; this initial letter is to outline briefly the history, background, achievements and challenges we face together in the coming years as well as some of the opportunities we have created.

I was elected in 2003 to serve as your Chairman after the highest turnout in the history of the ETTA with a two thirds majority over Alan Ransome who had been in office since 1991; I was unopposed in 2005 and 2007. After the 2003 election result Alan Ransome quoted in the TTN the following, “Much of the support in the election for my team came from people with a sound knowledge whilst much of the support for our opponents came from local leagues”

The ETTA has negotiated an award of **£9.3 Million from Sport England**, which shows their confidence in the progress the ETTA has made. It will, over the next four years together with other awards, give the ETTA our highest ever budget of **£10.8 Million** to invest in Table Tennis within the Community and Grass Roots. UK Sport announced its World Class Funding award of **£1.2M** for the GB Table Tennis Programme to the British Table Tennis Federation which, subject to its Boards approval, will enable the GB National Training Centre (NTC) and its programme for the nominated athletes to continue for a minimum of another two years. An initiative is being put together by the British Olympic Association, UK Sport, Government, London Organising Committee and the British Paralympics Association to raise additional funding for the 12 sports that have not been given their full awards due to the Governments shortfall in funding provision.

The English Open, as part of the ITTF Pro Tour Circuit, will be held at the EIS in Sheffield (where the British Table Tennis NTC is located) from 28th October to 1st November 2009. This was confirmed after detailed negotiations with a number of potential funding partners including Yorkshire Forward and UK Sport. Our close relationships and the clear progress we have made over the last few years has been recognised by the ITTF who have made this event one of the **four Major Pro Tour events** in their 2009/10 Calendar along with China, Japan and Germany and will provide substantial prize money. Discussions continue with partners for further major events that are being planned and detailed documents have already been submitted.

The significant improvement in our young player’s results over the last four years in winning **34 World, Olympic and European Medals** and the progress made in the World Ranking list was a factor when both the ITTF and UK Sport Major Events Unit made their decision.

We are sure that the future for our sport is your main concern particularly on how it impacts your Community and the Grass Roots. We hope the following very brief outline will give you some idea of the plans for the next four years which came from a 12 month planning process and detailed consultations with our membership, major funding partner Sport England and its Regional and County representatives. Furthermore, those who have allied themselves to the ETTA in recognition of the progress made in the past few years include **Sainsbury’s PLC, the Fred Perry Company** and other corporate bodies.

1. Details of the proposed Interventional Policies and Programmes have been put on the website and will be included in the next Ezine distribution.
2. 17 Regional Development Officers or Regional Coaches are in place and we intend to increase coverage to the 10 Regions with changes in their work programmes to assist our members and increase grass roots participation.
3. Improved and direct Communications to our members will follow from the proposed Individual Membership Programme as well as an extended and improved website to include Regional Sections and for Leagues to be able to contribute directly to the ETTA website.
4. Funding in place for a programme to help local volunteers and assistance to local organisations to recruit additional volunteers. The ETTA must make life easier for these volunteers, reduce paperwork and give them the support they need. The ETTA

needs more Technical officials including Referees, Umpires and Tournament Organisers and a specific programme is planned for this area.

5. Clubs of all sizes and additional facilities are essential for the growth of our sport and this area is within many of the Interventional Policies.
6. Coaching and Coaching Support is critical not just to improve standards but to help in increasing Table Tennis Participation. The introduction last year of the Regional Coaches who will all qualify as Tutors will assist in the Training, Qualification and Quantity of Coaches.
7. Young People playing our sport has increased significantly but this has not resulted in any real impact as yet in League/Club Participation. The new funding has given us extra income to help in this process via the Governments 5 hour School Sports Initiative. It is though essential that the Local Leagues with support from the ETTA increase the Junior League structure and make their regular league programme more accessible for young people.
8. We are putting together, in conjunction with Sainsbury's, a number of initiatives which were included in the planning process. These may include Table Tennis in the Workplace, Women in Sport, Marketing and other proposals. Over 20 employees in their Aspire Senior Management Group chose to work with Table Tennis against other programmes offered to them.
9. Social Media is becoming a significant part of today's society and we need to capture more of the 160,000 unique visitors that the ETTA website gets a month. We are working closely with Facebook and Google via a venture with one of our partners.
10. We have an excellent and large competition programme and a review is being conducted to ensure that we have a complete National competition framework which meets the needs of our present membership and attracts new members.
11. A New increased and supported Talent Development and Identification programme has been put in place and this is intended to give more opportunities for players with training and competitions with a clear goal of increasing the England Talent Pool.
12. The planning for the Playground to Podium (P2P) programme has been approved and will involve young players with Disabilities and provide opportunities of coaching, competitions and Development Centres for them.
13. Our Sport is one of four chosen to be part of the Premier League 4 Sport Project to help increase participation in the local communities near to the Premier Football Clubs and in conjunction with local Table Tennis Clubs.
14. The ETTA has not just looked at the next four years but has started with our funding and corporate partners a Full Transformation Programme over a 10 year period which will employ the latest and best practice from the corporate world with support from these Key business partners.
15. We have within our plans a New Ranking system to assist Local Leagues and an improved results service not just for ETTA Events but also Leagues. The ETTA must though provide the correct and easy to use IT tools for this to work and give the necessary support for their implementation.

I hope you have seen a more visible approach than in the past from the Officers since 2003. We have visited numerous Clubs, Leagues, Counties and events. We have been happy to discuss any issues with you and your members as well as answering tens of thousands of your emails, phone calls and correspondence.

Whilst preparing this letter to you Alan Ransome has circulated his "New Agenda". This will be reviewed in our Manifesto, however, we believe it is more important to concentrate, at this time, on our programmes and achievements rather than have a political "to and fro" about what we have or have not done. It is interesting to note that a number of programmes in place and some of our future plans contained in our approved and funded 2009 to 13 Planning Application to Sport England have been included in this "New Agenda".

I will though comment on his first item 'Places to Play', in particular his mention of seven examples of Clubs which are the way forward. Three of these were funded during my Chairmanship including his own club Ormesby. He also recognizes that he has a "Conflict of Interest" albeit his comments relating to it are open to interpretation. The responsibilities of Directors and others in influential positions have become more open, transparent and changed over the last few years.

We would appreciate your support to show the confidence in what we have achieved over our terms in office and trust that this has given the sport a brighter and clearer future for progress. If you require a visit or have questions please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Regards

Alex Murdoch Chairman
Peter Bradley Deputy Chairman
Martin Clark Treasurer

