

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION Limited

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Dear Table Tennis Player,

I have asked for your Local League Secretary to include this article in the 2005/6 Handbook of your Local League in an attempt to give you a little background information on the English Table Tennis Association Limited, (ETTA) its workings, benefits to you and how by communications we can work together as a team for the sport we all love.

The ETTA is the National Governing Body for the sport in England. Its responsibilities are just like those of the Football Association, Badminton Association, etc.

All players who pay a fee to the ETTA are part of the ETTA and can be involved in any policies and direction of the sport via an appointed League Representative Company Member who is entitled to vote on your behalf at Annual General Meetings (AGM). A County Representative Company Member not only votes at an AGM but is involved with the operation of the sport at four meetings per year as part of the National Council and receives regular communications of all minutes of the various ETTA committees responsible for the day to day operation of the sport.

The ETTA has a Management Committee consisting of Departmental Vice-Chairmen and the Officers of the ETTA who are all volunteers plus the Chief Executive who is a member of staff. The Management Committee has 11 members and works with the staff and you're your representatives on the National Council.

The ETTA now has 30 full or part time staff covering all aspects of support for the existing players and potential new players. This includes Administration, Competitions, Finance, Selection, Marketing, Coaching, Communications and Development. The Development Department has 9 Regional Development Officers, Volunteer Manager, Child Protection and Equity Officer, Facilities Officer and a School Club Link Officer.

All of the staff are responsible for supporting and helping you and your local volunteers in expanding the participation of our sport by creating opportunities for people to play at all levels while at the same time supporting you at Local League and club level within the areas defined above.

Not everyone wants or needs support; it is very important that you understand what is available to you and is in place for your benefit and for the creation of more players and administrators at all levels. As part of our service to member Leagues we would very much welcome an invitation from your Local League for your ETTA Regional Development Officer to visit you. The aim is to provide information and support to help table tennis grow at the local level. This would include areas of discussion including volunteer support, club, coach and facility development funding opportunities, school club links, and table tennis for disabled people as well as updates on topical issues, such as child protection within our sport.

It is not only the responsibility of Management Committee and National Council to make the decisions about table tennis, how it functions, what the membership needs and the benefits

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of being part of the biggest table tennis club in England, namely your ETTA, but yours as well.

Much debate has taken place regarding the way players pay fees to the ETTA and this will continue to be discussed. No changes can take place without the approval via the democratic procedures laid down for our sport. You can and should be involved in the process.

On my travels some people raise the question why do I have to pay a fee to the ETTA and what do I get out of it. Firstly you should be aware that the ETTA receives from each Local League player under £5 per annum. For this your ETTA has to provide the services for its members from each of the Departments mentioned previously. You may not want any or only some of these services, that is your decision. The National Governing Body has to be responsible for all areas of table tennis and at all levels. I do not consider £5 per annum from players to help in the running of the sport in England unreasonable. I also believe that we have to modify our affiliation structure to ensure that all people who are supported by the ETTA pay a fee on an individual basis via their Local Leagues. Those who play more should pay more!

I am still a Local League player and a volunteer administrator and consider that we have to increase our real support and help to the grass roots while at the same time ensure that these grass roots are kept aware of what is going on via better communications.

Table tennis, like most sports, is dependant upon its band of dedicated and hard working volunteers including those who work for their Local League. More volunteers are required and I hope that you will put your name forward to assist in some way in the running of the sport in which. No one is asking for a 40-hour week. A contribution from more people will reduce the workload of those already working hard on your behalf.

Please come forward and help our great sport, which you love to play.

I have always been prepared to visit any Local League meeting to discuss any aspects of our sport. This is where I can listen and learn and at the same time answer your questions about table tennis.

I am attempting to update my personal email address book and if you wish to be included in it please contact me [alex@harwoodltd.co.uk](mailto:alex@harwoodltd.co.uk). It would be fantastic if I could get one contact at every Local League team in England.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Regards

  
Alex Murdoch  
ETTA Chairman