



**KENT COUNTY TABLE TENNIS  
ASSOCIATION**  
[www.kctta.net](http://www.kctta.net)

Hon: Secretary  
Angie Bristow  
41 William Street  
Royal Tunbridge Wells  
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## **KCTTA Management Committee Report to the 2008/09 AGM**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

I would like to start by welcoming you all here tonight and thank you for turning out in the middle of summer for a table tennis AGM.

As chairman, it is my task on the committee to focus forward rather than backwards. We have invited Diccon Gray from the ETTA to come and talk to us tonight about how the ETTA sees our sport developing in the next few years and the strategy for growing participation in the sport.

I will ask Diccon to make his presentation at this stage in the proceedings.

#### **Way forward – big clubs**

I hope I will not now be contradicting some of Diccon's presentation. It seems to me, to survive we must embrace the large club mentality. Our aim should be to have big clubs in the Kent regions which are within 20 minutes travel of everyone in the County. This does not and should not cause issues to local leagues and their teams as such a venue where youngsters, adults and pensioners can play for fun, practice and train should and would provide the growth potential that all leagues want and need.

These large clubs should aim to have UKCC qualified coaches, be open at least three nights a week, and be available at least for one whole day of a weekend. How many do we have at present that achieve or get near to this?

Belverdere Community Centre TTC  
Byng Hall, Tunbridge Wells  
Chatham TTC  
Choughs TTC, Canterbury  
Fusion TTC, Grove Park  
Howard TTC, Rainham  
Kemnal Manor TTC, Orpington,  
Larkfield TTC  
Meopham TTC  
VCD TTC, Bexleyheath  
Weald TTC, Cranbrook  
Youngs TTC, Abbey Wood

I am sure that I have missed some out, so can anyone help me to complete my list for Kent?

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There should be a list of smaller clubs with say more than 20 members as again we need to improve our communication here.

### **Way forward – more coaches**

How many coaches do we have in Kent either fully certified or not. Angie I know has tried to obtain via league secretaries, a list of coaches operating in the County. To help with this exercise I would like to send a list around which requires completion. We want the full names of your local coaches and their email addresses ideally, if not a telephone number or postal address. Somehow we have got to improve our communication links to anyone who is trying to promote the game at whatever standard.

To start the growth going, we need more qualified coaches with ideally some attachment to one of the bigger clubs, even if this just by Email so that the better players can be steered towards perhaps a more progressive club. Where are the most likely places for coaches to come from? It must be players, ex players and general sport enthusiasts. On the coaching course I was on, there were a number of youngsters who were taking coaching of a racquet sport in addition to the main sports of football, rugby and cricket. We need big clubs to entice these types of people to come and join our great sport.

As some of you will know, I am undertaking the UKCC coaching course. I will say before anyone from the floor kindly points out that a good player does not always make a good coach. This assumes I was a good player but as I like to say, it is all relative to the player at the other end of the table and I am sure that Paul Drinkall would query the use of “good” next to my name.

Seriously, I would ask you all to think about who you or your leagues can persuade to become coaches. Two or three tackling the UKCC course at once is particularly helpful.

### **Way forward – more umpires**

I am going to embarrass David Cue now. Sorry David. David Cue has managed to increase the number of qualified umpires in the County by a single minded focus. No magic or big budget, just accomplished through some great personal effort. We would still like more of course but it is a great start.

We must do the same on the coaching side.

### **Way forward – more youngsters, adults and veterans playing in Kent league and Kent Closed**

#### **Kent League**

How can we get more teams playing Kent league? Any suggestions from the floor?

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### **Background to this year's Kent Closed Junior and Senior event**

I feel that I should answer one question that many players regularly ask me so the various league representatives can pass the message on. Why cannot KCTTA have their closed tournament during the season? Our aim was to do just that this year and Bob Baker took on primary responsibility for this.

The hall has to meet the budgetary constraints that our treasurer sets, which is we aim to at least break even on the Kent Closed weekend. That means the bigger halls such as the Black Lions at £3000 for a weekend are outside our budget.

Bob having looked at a number of choices of venue over the summer and autumn, found the Body & Mind to offer the best all round deal and with approval from the committee booked a weekend in February 2009. Prior to booking Bob physically checked that the lights were all operating following the debacle the previous year where 50% of the lights were not working.

Because Bob is so conscientious he went back to the hall to check the lighting again just before Christmas only to find that Body & Mind had a major problem with their wiring and many of the lights had fused and this problem would not be fixed for the foreseeable future. At this late stage, Bob then went venue hunting again and the only date that was possible was to revert to the first May bank holiday weekend. We managed to agree this date with Howard and decided to go for this venue although it was not wholly satisfactory, in that we needed to play games in two separate halls, a nightmare for the referee, but the alternative was looking like no competition.

Bob's report covers the weekend, but I just wanted you all to know how hard particularly Bob worked to make it happen during the season this year, although ultimately we ended up having it the same bank holiday weekend in May.

From my perspective as a player and one who has spoken to a number of other players it was felt to be a very well run competition, general opinion on the venue was whilst not ideally, had a great atmosphere and worked well for the latter stages of both Saturday and Sunday competitions.

Next year's competition

Where to hold the Kent Closed next year? Howard - Rainham? Fusion – Grove Park?

I would like a show of hands on how many players/league representatives would want to go back or have the Kent Closed at the Howard?

How many would be prepared to travel to Fusion in Grove Park for the Kent Closed?

Any other suggestions for venues from the floor?

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How many feel it should be held during the season or should we keep it on first May bank holiday weekend?

### **Committee members**

Can you please show your appreciation to committee members (Les, Angie, Bob, Ted, Sally, Mark, Ken, David and Gary) for their efforts this year. As some of you will know, we have struggled to fill some posts in previous years so we need to support our volunteers to ensure that we can strengthen our position.

The Medway league has proposed that Neil Le Milliere be considered to join the committee and we plan to welcome Neil in the coming year.

Unfortunately Len Pilfold advised the committee that due to his commitments to the successful Kemnal club he was resigning from the committee. The Committee accepted his resignation and I would ask with the league representatives' permission that we record a special thank you note in the minutes for Len's contribution to KCTTA over the years.

### **Secretary's Report**

The committee held 4 meetings this season and one extra-ordinary meeting to decide our vote for the ETTA Chairman election.

The meetings were all held in Tunbridge Wells, except for the Extraordinary meeting which was held at the Howard school. We will hold the meetings in a more central venue next season.

The minutes of the final meeting will be issued following the AGM.

Again I would like to thank the leagues who choose to receive information by email and would ask if the remaining leagues would consider this an option for next season.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Please see the attached documents

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## County Championships Report

### Cadets

This season the cadet team played in division 1b. The team was mainly a development side, giving many young players some valuable experience.

### Juniors

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Team

The Junior 1<sup>st</sup> team won Division 1b in style. Kirsty Wilson did not lose a match and played all matches so stands out. Jide Owolabi, although sustaining a knee injury, and could hardly move, insisted on turning out for the last set of matches to try and help the team to win. This involved a lot of travelling on his part and a lot of effort for a teenage boy. The team have now been promoted to the Premier Division. The proposed team for next year is Lewis Gray, Ross Wilson, James Glass, Kirsty Wilson, and Jasmin Ould.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Team

The Junior 2<sup>nd</sup> team like the cadets was a development side and will continue in Division 2D.

### Seniors

The senior team were runners-up in Division 2d narrowly losing out to Sussex.

### Veterans

Please see the attached report for all of Veteran teams

## Kent Closed Tournament

The KCTTA Closed Tournament was held at The Howard Centre, Rainham on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2009.

We had provisionally booked The Body and Mind Centre, Canterbury for the tournament after they had gone some way to fixing the lighting. Unfortunately in mid October they discovered that the lighting was worse than thought and it would not be fixed in time for the Closed Tournament the following year. After frantic searches for other venues the Howard Centre offered us the use of their facilities and we went ahead and organized the event there.

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The tournament went extremely well despite us only having the use of 12 tables instead of the usual 15. We used two venues; the Centre itself with eight tables and an adjacent gym which had another 4 tables. Some problems occurred with the lighting in the gym and lack of seating in the main hall, but overall most players and spectators were happy with the facilities.

The entry for the Mens' and Ladies events was slightly down on last year, due in some part to us turning down late entries because of fewer tables. The boys entry was exceptional with over 60 taking part, the girls entry was very poor with only eight girls entering.

The tournament itself ran very smoothly due to excellent scheduling by Linda & Graeme Sopp and the superb organization by David Cue of several county and local umpires.

Thanks must go to Linda & Graeme Sopp for running the tournament, Bob Baker the organiser, Steve Waud and his staff at the Howard Centre, the many umpires and of course the players.

The venue for 2010 has not yet been finalized, and we are looking at various alternatives including going back to The Howard or The Body & Mind Centre. Several players have expressed a desire that the tournament be held earlier in the year and this is being looked at, one big problem is always the ETTA calendar with so many events on nearly every weekend.

**Main Results:**

Mens Singles Winner	Chris Bartram
Ladies Singles Winner	Jurate Brazaityte
Junior Boys Singles Winner	Jide Owolabi
Junior Girls Singles Winner	Jasmin Ould

**Umpires Secretary Report**

This season saw Malcolm Kay and Amanda Alabaster qualify as County Umpires and Daniel Broad and Jim Taylor qualify as local umpires.

A number of umpires were present at the Kent Closed which helped with the smooth running of the event.

The next step is for the umpires to help out within their own leagues.

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## Kent League Report

### Kent League Results

#### Veteran Division 1

Winners North West Kent A  
Runners-Up Medway A

#### Veteran Division 2

Winners Medway C  
Runners-Up Sittingbourne B

#### Veteran Division 3

Winners Tonbridge  
Runners-Up Sittingbourne C

### Team Tournament

The team tournament was held at the Howard School on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February and was won for the second year running by Medway A.

Winners Medway A  
Runners-Up Medway B

## National Councillor Report

The ETTA compulsory insurance fee was fixed at £3-00 per team last season, the same rate as applied voluntarily for 2007/2008. The intention is to eventually include it in individual affiliation (see below).

The English International Open Championships will re-emerge as part of the ITTF Pro-Tour in Sheffield from 28th October to 1st November 2009.

New UKCC (United Kingdom Coaching Certificate) courses for table tennis have been introduced this season.

Schools table tennis appears to be flourishing.

The ETTA website continues to be upgraded but there are still criticisms about lateness or absence of some results/reports. Comments are invited on a cost effectiveness analysis currently being conducted on Table Tennis News vis-à-vis the website, e-zine etc.

The ETTA 'Whole Sport Plan' 2009-2013 development funding application to Sport England is to be initially awarded a total of £10.9m, which is a significant increase

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over recent years, but a relative decline in comparison with other competing sports. (In January, UK Sport dealt a huge blow to the game by slashing funding up to the Olympics to the BTTF by half to £1.2m. But the ETTA was also awarded £569,900 'Playground to Podium' funding to work with young disabled players, and Paralympic Table Tennis in GB has been awarded £1,623K by UK Sport up to 2012).

The Active Sport Survey showed a small increase in adult (age over 16) table tennis participation, but from a low base.

Although there was an overall decline of senior team affiliations to the ETTA last season of 2.3%, in Kent there was an increase of 4 teams (up 6 in Sevenoaks, 4 in Medway). However, the Medway Youth League apparently discontinued (13 teams in 2007/08).

The ETTA is proposing combining the National Under 11/12/13/14 Championships with the National Trials for a trial period: regional competitions would qualify for national finals.

The ETTA is proposing a new structure for the Junior British League whereby the number of teams participating in the main two weekends is effectively reduced from 72 to 48, and there is a second competition outside of the top 48 teams.

A review has been conducted on table tennis competitions in England.

An Extraordinary General Meeting would be held on 27th June to consider propositions regarding Child Protection Rules. Incidentally, when coaches' Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks have to be renewed, they will in future have to be done through the ETTA as 'portability' is not being allowed (although further research is being undertaken on this issue).

Proposals on Individual Affiliation (Player Member & Associate Member) are being put to the ETTA AGM on 27th June, which if passed will become effective for season 2010/2011. The Management Committee assures that it is not the intention to raise affiliation fees significantly as a result of them. Whilst I broadly support the proposals (because they will give greater information on memberships, improved communications to membership, satisfy funding partners, assist income generation etc.), I am unhappy that the power to determine the affiliation fee rate (to also include individual insurance) is to transfer from the AGM (where a 75% majority is required) to the National Council (where a straight majority is required).

The Elections in the Spring 2009 for ETTA Chairman and Deputy Chairman were closely fought and resulted, on a 83% turnout, in a reduced majority for Alex Murdoch and Peter Bradbury over challengers Alan Ransome and Mike Smith. Mandated by Kent CTTA I voted for the Murdoch team, although I personally favoured the Ransome team!

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