



KENT COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Hon: Secretary
Angie Bristow
41 William Street
Royal Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN4 9RP

Dear Colleague

As you are aware at the last AGM, the main officers of the Kent Committee resigned. With such a big change in officers, the Committee has to concentrate its efforts on the basics, the Kent League, Kent Closed and the County Team programme. During the season Tina Stewart ran a series of Junior Assessment Days around the County, very successfully but they lacked direction. The committee would now like to look at a Junior programme for the future.

In past years this has tended to be centered around the better junior players, with high profile Coaching Courses, Junior Kent League, Junior County teams, Kent Junior Closed and the Kent Junior Open. Whilst all these are desirable projects, all have required considerable funding, something that the county is currently short of.

Obviously we must continue with the Junior County Teams and the Junior Closed, but what else?

The ETTA informs us that there are 56 active local coaches within the county, so what help can the County Association offer them?

What we can offer is more grassroots competition. **Children thrive on competition**, without it any coaching becomes meaningless and children will drift away to take up other sports that satisfy their competitive needs. So by organising grassroots competition we will be supporting the local coaches and hopefully increasing the number of young players coming into the sport.

So what competition? We could resurrect the Kent Junior League, but this would take time to develop, and only a very few leagues that have junior development programmes which would benefit. Also which teams would play in which divisions? We don't want to see a similar situation to that experienced in the past where a team has been put in too low a division and won every match without dropping a game. It did little for them and even less for their opponents.

What is needed is competition that caters for the absolute beginner and the potential county player alike. Competition that gives players ladders to climb! Without it, coaches have little to guide them on their player's true potential and little to offer that will stimulate it.

This event is sanctioned by the Chairman of selectors

County Junior Rating Tournaments **Note: Ratings** not to be confused with rankings.

This is a singles competition. Which is designed to provide Competition for all levels of abilities.

- a) All matches are played on a group system. **Nobody gets knocked out.**
- b) The aim is to give players between 5 and 8 matches in a day at a reasonable cost.
- c) The tournaments are banded by age and ability.
Suggested age groupings: Under 13 & Under 18 Bands: Advanced, Intermediate, Novice.

Note: Too many age groups cause logistical problems resulting in players having fewer games.

- d) Initially we will have to rely on the information given on a players entry form plus, if available, a report from their coach. Once a Player has taken part they will be given a

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rating based on their first tournament match results. From then on their ratings will decide in which band they should compete.

- e) Ratings & Certificates: At the end of each Tournament players will receive a Certificate stating their finishing position. A Rating List will be published after each tournament. There will be a Rating List for Boys U18, U15, U13 & U11 and Girls U18, U15, U13 & U11.
- f) Rating will be used as a guide only when issuing County Ranking Lists and selecting players for the County Teams and Regional Trials.

Gary Howes senior level 4 coach ETTA
Vice chairman & chairman selection KCTTA

Organiser Len Pilfold
K. C. T. T .A. Committee Member

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