

Use of TableTennis365 League Manage Software

Introduction

Over the past few months there has been a great deal said about the relationship between Table Tennis 365 (TT365) and Table Tennis England (TTE). The situation has significant consequences for the Bury league, as well as a significant number of other leagues that are also using the Table Tennis 365 League Manage software/website. For those of you who do not know the background, read on. If you are familiar with the history and why have arrived at current position, then continue to read from the “**The Options**” paragraph.

Background

First, a brief explanation of the players. Table Tennis England (TTE) is the governing body for Table Tennis in England. Table Tennis 365 (TT365) is a private company who have developed the TT365 website, and Membership Manager & League Manager application. For a number of years, TTE have funded TT365 to manage and develop the League Manager software and TT365 website. This funding has come out of the £16.00 annual subscription each player makes to TTE. The most recent contract between TT365 and TTE finishes on 1-August this year.

Earlier this year, TTE decided they were not going to renew the contract with TT365, but instead use a different supplier. There are numerous documents which explain the reasons, written by TT365 as well as TTE. There are significant differences between the stories told by each side which you can read for yourself. (I will add links to this later in the email.)

Regardless of the reasons, the situation has become serious because TT365 will no longer be able to continue to provide the TT365 League Manager website/software unless they get funding now they are no longer receiving any money from TTE. If enough teams/leagues “sign up” to use TT365 next season, they will be able to carry on providing the software. If the numbers are too few, then they would need to wind up the company. Because of the notice periods they are required to give, they need to know which leagues are going to use TT365 next season by 17th May – this is in 6 days time.

TTE are in the process of developing a replacement application that will replicate the functionality currently provided by TT365, and they claim it will be ready by the end of June/beginning of July for testing, and fully functioning in time for the start of the new season on 1st August.

A proposal has been put forward to the TTE AGM which requests a reduction of £7.00 in the TTE subscription. This would mean members could give £7.00 direct to TT365 and the remaining £9.00 to TTE. The NET result would be the same £16.00 per year outlay for players. This motion may or may not get passed at the AGM, but once again, TT365 could already have closed down by the time the vote is taken.

Important Notes & Issues

- If TT365 are wound up, it is probable the historic results data and the existing ranking mechanism will be lost
- There is a significant risk that, despite TTE's assurances, the new TTE system will not be ready, or will not be fit for purpose. If that happens, by the time we find out, TT365 will already have gone. If this happens, we could be left with no mechanism to run the leagues. (Each league would have to run independently of each other and probably use a manual process.)
- TT365 need to know, before 17th May, if the Bury League will sign up to use the League Manager software next season. This would cost £7.00 per player
- The proposal to reduce payments to TTE by £7.00 will not be known until after the deadline for signing up for TT365 next season.

The Options

Below are the options (along with some notes)

Option Number	Option
1	Subscribe to TT365 (£7.00 per player) regardless of outcome of TTE Vote
2	Subscribe to TT365 (£7.00 per player) only if vote to reduce TTE subscription by £7.00 is successful
3	Use the TTE application instead of TT365

Notes

1. This option **may** result in a player paying £16.00 to TTE as well as £7.00 to TT365 (giving an annual cost of £23.00). However, if the vote to reduce the TTE fee to £9.00 is successful, then each player would only pay £7.00 to TT365 and £9.00 to TTE (giving an annual cost of £16.00)
2. This option **may** result in each player paying £7.00 to TT365 and £9.00 to TTE (giving an annual cost of £16.00). However, there is a risk that choosing this option would mean an insufficient number of leagues will have signed up to TT365, and so they close down, and so it would no longer be possible to use TT365.
3. The general opinion is that there is significant risk that the TTE application will not be ready or will be a poor substitute for the existing TT365 application. Choosing this option increases the likelihood that TT365 would close down, and so if the TTE solution is not ready/fit for purpose, there will be no alternative to it.

The Bury & District Table Tennis League Committee's majority view is that we should;

- support the reduction in TTE fees by £7.00 at the TTE AGM
- agree to use TT365 for the next 12 months regardless of the outcome of the TTE vote (to guarantee we have software that works)
- evaluate the TTE software during the year to "test" its functionality. Assuming it is OK, we could consider moving to it for the 2020/21 season.

Next Steps...

Please can you reply to this email and let me know which option you favour, and which option would be your second choice. So the reply would be something like:

First choice – Option 1

Second choice – Option 2

If you have any other suggestions or comments on this subject, then feel free to express them.

As already mentioned, there are only a few days before we must let TT365 know if we plan to use them next season, so a prompt response is essential.

Thanks for your help.

Regards

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