

Dear Team Captain,

First, if you have received this in error – I apologise as I have not yet updated the distribution lists to reflect the 2020/21 season. This is just a quick email to keep you all up to date with progress on sorting out the new season. I was hoping to have uploaded all the teams into their respective divisions, and completed the first draft of the fixtures on TT365. Regrettably, I have been overrun with other tasks that have delayed this. As I will be away this week and I will therefore now not be able to complete things until next weekend at the earliest. My apologies for the delay

The first bit of news is that the new Divisional structure has been agreed. Miraculously we have only dropped by 1 team (NET) this season. Last year we had 41 teams, and we have had entries for 40 this season. Bearing in mind the present threat of COVID-19, this is a great result.

Some of you will be aware that some other local leagues have postponed the start of their seasons. In the Bury league we are putting things in place so that, if circumstances allow, we will be able to start the new season on 21st September. This is a couple of weeks later than normal, but as ALL divisions now contain 10 x teams, there are only 18 weeks of matches to fit in. (Last year there were 11 teams in Division 1, which meant their fixture length was 22 weeks). The reduction of 4 weeks mean we will still be able to finish on time.

On the subject of other leagues postponing the start, I want to give the reasons why Bury is behaving differently, and the basis for setting up the new season. In my view, and the view of virtually everyone I have spoken to, it is important to make it possible for players to be able to play competitive games of table tennis if they want to. Unless the league is setup, they have no mechanism to be able to do this. I recognise there will be a number of teams within the league who are not yet able to play competitive games. This might be because of precautions taken by some of the teams/players as they are “high risk”, the unwillingness of venues to allow table tennis to be played, or a combination of many other reasons. If some teams cannot play, that is fine, but at least some teams CAN play. I accept that some teams may be unable to play until the new year in which case they are unlikely to complete their fixtures. And if that happens, we can just write off the season. However, even if that happens, in the meantime a number of teams still have managed to get some games played, and as far as I’m concerned, that is more than enough reason to set up the league. I don’t mind if the season doesn’t get completed if some teams get to play.

We will all need to be a bit flexible this year with the dates of fixtures, and when they are played, as I have already mentioned, the important factor is that teams that want to play each other are able to do so (provided national and local restrictions allow it).

Below are the four Divisions as they currently stand;

DIV1 (10)	DIV2 (10)	DIV3 (10)	DIV4 (10)
Ramsbottom Town A	Hollinwood A	Shawfield TTC A	Seedfield C
Prestwich TTC A	Ramsbottom Town C	Carlton Club C	Elton Vale Sports Club - A
Burning Desire - EVSC	Seedfield A	Hollinwood B	Elton Vale Sports Club - B
Little Lever - Hilton A	Maccabi A	Sandon House	Maccabi C
Prestwich TTC B	Carlton Club B	Carlton Club F	Shawfield TTC D
Ramsbottom Town B	Carlton Club D	Maccabi B	BGSOB B
Prestwich TTC C	Little Lever Cricket Club B	Ramsbottom Town D	Maccabi D
Carlton Club A	Seedfield B	Shawfield TTC B	Seedfield D
Polish Catholic Club	BGSOB A	St Marys Social Club A	Maccabi E
Prestwich TTC D	Carlton Club E	Shawfield TTC C	Seedfield E

Teams highlighted in Green have been promoted. Team highlighted in Red have been demoted. Teams highlighted in Grey are New teams this year.

Some clubs have entered new teams, some teams have withdrawn from the league and some have moved/renamed. Below is the list of changes, comparing last year's name with their new name this year.

Old (2019/20) Name	New (2020/21) Name
Flixton Cricket Club	Prestwich TTC A
Shawfield TTC B	Sandon House
Shawfield TTC C	Shawfield TTC B
Shawfield TTC D	Shawfield TTC C
Shawfield TTC E	Shawfield TTC D
St Marys Social Club B	St Marys Social Club A
St Marys Social Club A	#DELETED#
Elton Vale Sports Club - C	#DELETED#
Prestwich TTC A	Prestwich TTC B
Prestwich TTC B	Prestwich TTC C
Prestwich TTC C	Prestwich TTC D
Prestwich TTC D	#DELETED#
Ramsbottom Town B	Ramsbottom Town C
Ramsbottom Town C	Ramsbottom Town B
New team	Maccabi E
New team	Ramsbottom Town D

I would be grateful if you could pass on the information in this email to your teams. As always, feel free to get in touch if you have any questions. If I don't answer, please leave a voicemail, and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Once the information has been uploaded onto the website, (TableTennis365.com) I will be in touch. Once again, my apologies for not being able to get this organised before next weekend.

Regards

Martyn Rolling

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