

## **Copy of Email sent Team Captains (2020/21) on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020 @ 18:00**

Dear Team Captain/Club Secretary,

### **Setup of TT365 Website**

This is a brief update on the Bury Table Tennis League's Winter 2020/21 season. As mentioned in my previous email to you all on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020, I have continued to set up the league as if the new season will be going ahead. The four Divisions have been created, and all the fixtures have been added to the table tennis 365 website. All of this has been done to make it possible for teams to play some competitive table if their circumstances allow. The current restrictions on the Greater Manchester area (and Bolton in particular) is making this less likely as each day passes. The latest news of Bolton being in "extra special" measures (as opposed to the Greater Manchester "special" measures) means the Hilton Table Tennis centre has now closed completely again, even for practice. This affects a number of Bury teams who play from the Hilton meaning they would not be able to play any home fixtures.

### **The Effect of COVID-19 Restrictions**

The rules about whether a team is allowed to play are complex to say the least. Firstly, it depends on where you live. Secondly, it depends on where plan to play the fixture – is it in the Bolton area or one of the other areas in Greater Manchester? What about your venue - Is the "landlord" OK with your venue being used to play table tennis? It also depends on where your team mates live, and whether there are enough of you to raise a team. There is a mass of guidance on the Table Tennis England website which may help you to decide if you and your team are able to play. It can be found at <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/key-guidance-documents/>.

### **List of Teams who ARE Playing**

I still hope that there will be a few teams who are able to play. I have added a column on the "[Information => Team Captains](#)" page which will show if a team are able to play or not. I would suggest you use this to find other teams who ARE playing and contact them if you want a match (even if its just for a friendly game). Obviously, each team captain or club secretary will need to let me know if they are playing or not so I can keep this up to date. PLEASE CAN YOU LET ME KNOW YOUR CURRENT PLAYING STATUS so I can add it to the website. The options are;

- Playing Home games only
- Playing Away games only
- Playing Any Game
- Not playing

### **Need a Player?**

If there are any teams in Division 1 or Division 2 who are able to take on another player, I have had enquiries from two people who have moved to the area and would like to play in the Bury league. Get in touch and I will provide you with their contact details.

### **Team Fees**

I have had a few questions about Team fees, how much they will be and when will we be collecting them. The current position is that we will not be collecting anything until it is clear the season has started. The definition of "started" is fairly loose, but in reality means that the majority of teams are playing, and it is likely the majority of the seasons fixtures will get played. As things stand at the moment, this looks unlikely.

### **Summary**

Once again, I want to make clear that the intention of setting up the Bury league's new season is so as many people as possible are able to enjoy table tennis and play competitive games. Each individual and team will need to satisfy themselves that, by playing, they are not breaking any COVID-19 National or Local rules. It is stating the obvious to say that the League encourages and expects everyone to follow all the guidelines that are in force at any time.

Lets all hope that Bolton and the rest of Greater Manchester's restrictions are lifted soon so we can all get on with some table tennis.

As always, I am happy to discuss any of this with you so if you have any comments or suggestions, drop me a line. Please would you also please let me know as soon as possible if your team is able/wanting to play at the moment.

In the meantime, please take care and do whatever you can to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 still further.

Regards

Martyn Rolling

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