**SENIOR BRITISH LEAGUE**

This competition is widely regarded as the premier and most prestigious competition in the English Table Tennis Association’s calendar.

It is open to all players, male and female, and of any age. All players need to be a member of an affiliated club and require an ETTA Player Licence to participate. Each player is given a unique, once and forever, Player Membership Number, which is quoted in all ETTA Competitions.

The British League currently consists of 14 Divisions, one Premier Division, three 1st Divisions, three 2nd Divisions, three 3rd Divisions, three 4th Divisions and one 5th Division, totalling 14 Divisions.

Each Division consists of 8 teams, making 112 participating teams..

Each team consists of 4 players identified as A, B, C, D, (home team), or W, X, Y, Z (away Team). Each player is previously allocated a ranking and must play in that ranking order. All individual games shall be played. Each player therefore plays two singles per match. Matches usually are played on one table with four tables playing simultaneously at one venue for one division. Some venues host more than one division at any one time.

Each match consists of 8 singles, using a playing format of A v X, B v W, C v Z, D v Y, A v W, C v X, B v Y, D v Z.

Each Division consists of 8 Teams, each playing each other on a ‘home’ and ‘away’ basis, totalling 14 matches, per season. 2 points are awarded for a win and one for a draw.

Matches are played over 4 weekends, three of both the Saturday and Sunday and one being the Sunday only. Each weekend plays 4 matches, two on each day, with two matches on the Sunday only, totalling 14 matches. Days start at nominally 9:30 until say 17:30. Usually the weekends are in September, December, January (the Sunday only) and February/March.

In April there is a Premier 'play off', for teams in the three Division 1 leagues, who finished 1st and 2nd in their respective divisions. The 1st and 2nd placed teams from this play off will be promoted into the Premier Division. The two lowest placed teams in the Premier Division will be relegated.

Teams enter from all over the country and are nominally sorted geographically, but should be prepared to travel and possibly require overnight accommodation.

Playing venues are placed strategically around the country to try to keep travelling to a minimum.

Season 2015/16 sees the introduction of 2 doubles matches making a total of 10 in all.

G D Wood
Secretary-British League Committee