Dear Member

The time has finally come when we can once again open our Table Tennis Centre at Smallbrook. Your committee members have been working hard to implement the latest guidelines from our sport’s governing body, so you will see many changes down at the Centre next time you come for a knock. The details below are not an exhaustive set of instructions, so please also read the signage at the Centre.

Firstly, we are restricted with a minimum court size, which, although we have a large hall, we can only fit five tables in it for practice play. Initially, this means that we are restricting each session to a maximum of ten players. For this reason, and for the purposes of track-and-trace, we have implemented a pre-booking system, details below. **Do not attempt to turn up to play if you have not received a confirmation of your booking.**

When you arrive, park in the usual car park and make your way to the front door. If there are people in front of you waiting to get in, observe the usual 2-metre social-distancing that we have got used to over the last few months. As each person enters the building, they will be greeted by a Duty Officer who has responsibility for running your session. Please follow all directions this person gives you at all times – if we are found to be non-compliant in our processes, we will be closed down by our governing body. Hand sanitiser must be used upon entering the building, and these facilities will be there as soon as you walk in the door. Payment will also be taken at this point, but no cash will be exchanged – all payments must be made by card.

Table Tennis England has advised us that we are permitted to form “bubbles” for the purposes of practice, of up to six people. This means that these six people can play amongst themselves, swapping partners as they see fit; they will be spread across three adjacent tables. Obviously, as we have five tables available, we will be able to have two bubbles – one of six people, one of four. It is critical that we adhere to these bubbles – but don’t worry, these bubbles last just for the duration of the session. Next time you come, you can form bubbles with other players.

You will notice that there is a one-way system in place within the Centre; please follow the arrows marked out on the floor if you need to move about. Toilets are open, but restricted to one person at a time; the gents’ toilets will be shut, but the accessible toilets next to the ladies’ will be temporarily designated as the gents’. The kitchen will be strictly “one person at a time”, and only for the refilling of water bottles. Sadly, no tea or coffee making facilities will be available for the time being, and no cups will be in use, so don’t forget to bring your own water bottles.

Towels and water bottles must be kept inside kit bags within the court; chairs have been set aside for your kit bags. Arrive with your own equipment, do not lend out balls or bats to others. Tables must be cleaned before and after each session; equipment for doing this can be found in each court. It is the responsibility of players themselves to clean the tables at these times. Players must arrive dressed for play, as there will not be any changing facilities.

Doubles play will not be permitted, unless the pairs are from the same family unit (or outside social bubble). Players will not change ends at all – if you are playing a “scored” match, stay at the same end for the whole duration. Players must not shake hands after playing – a simple smile and a “thank you” will usually suffice! If you have stopped playing for any significant duration (ie for a rest), you must put on a face mask, so please ensure you have one with you. The morning sessions have a 15-minute window between them in an effort to reduce contact between the outgoing and incoming players; at the end of your session, please vacate the Centre promptly to assist with this.

Spectators will not be permitted for the time being, unless they are a playing-child’s parent, or a carer, and in which case they must wear a face mask when inside the Centre.

**Booking a Session**The following sessions will be available for the next two weeks (until August the 7th); after that, we will review the process:

Mondays, 0915-1045  
Mondays, 1100-1230  
Mondays, 1900-2100  
Wednesdays, 0915-1045  
Wednesdays, 1100-1230  
Wednesdays, 1900-2100  
Fridays, 1900-2100

Pick a session you would like to attend, and email [bookings.iwctta@outlook.com](mailto:bookings.iwctta@outlook.com) to request a specific time and date. **Make certain to include your full name on the request**. You will receive an automated response, saying that your request has been received; we will check your request against availability, and respond via email. Do not turn up at a session unless you have had an email confirming successful booking, which will be on a “first-come, first-served” basis. The person running the session will know who to expect for each session, and no-one will be allowed in without a valid booking. Each person is currently limited to two open bookings; so, if you have already booked Monday and Wednesday, you cannot book a Friday session until your Monday session has expired (ie on Tuesday). Although this increases the administration, I believe it is necessary in the short-term to ensure sessions are available for all who want them. I will endeavour to get daily updates on the website and the IWCTTA Facebook site detailing session availability. Please turn up if you book a session! Not only will you be leaving someone without a practice partner, we are anticipating demand to be high, so you may have prevented someone else from playing. You may book for other people within your own family unit, but please include all players’ full names, and understand that if you book for two people and there is just one space, both bookings will be refused. Also, please ensure that your details are correct in our TT365 system; it is critical that contact details are up-to-date for obvious reasons, so if you have recently changed your mobile number or email address please update it in TT365 or ask your club secretary to do so for you.

**By making a booking, you are committing to adhering to these new rules.**

Please understand that all of the above are subject to change; as the weeks go on we will tweak, improve and react to changing conditions; more sessions may become available, if there is sufficient demand, and if we can get the volunteers to run the sessions.

The Association will be advising and helping other clubs with their own “return to play” scenarios; if you need help with this for your club, do not hesitate to ask.

Finally, I'm delighted to announce that Tim Giles has agreed to be co-opted into the newly-created Management Committee role of “Covid Officer”. If you have any questions regarding playing table tennis in these testing times, please contact him via email or phone:   
[wychboldwarrior@icloud.com](mailto:wychboldwarrior@icloud.com); 01983 565803

Many thanks,  
Alex Rorke (Chairman, IWCTTA)