



*TAMWORTH & DISTRICT
TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION*



(Affiliated to the English & Staffordshire Table Tennis Associations)

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Andy Jackson

CHAIRMAN

John Kinson

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IMPORTANT

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Notes relating to our EGM at Netherseal on Tuesday 6th May at 7.30 pm

Many of you will have heard about the problems between Table Tennis England and TT 365.

On Tuesday we held a committee meeting to try to unravel the truth about what is going on so that we could offer our recommendation to the players attending the EGM at Neatherseal on Tuesday 7th May at 7.30.

After well over 2 hours we realised that there is simply not enough solid information for us to do this, and the committee asked me to contact Table Tennis England to see if they could give us the latest information, and give answers to some very important questions which we had established.

Expecting just a typed statement to be sent, I was very pleased to receive a phone call from Joanna Keay-Blyth – Head of Operations and Governance. Joanna is the key person acting on behalf of Table Tennis England in this matter, and as well as giving me plenty of time to ask whatever I wanted, she has offered to come to the EGM to give us the full facts about how the situation arose, and give us very latest information on the new system. I explained that we are a small league but she is still very happy to attend the meeting and I said yes please.

I am not asking for someone from TT365 to attend because we want a considered debate with the party which runs table tennis on our behalf, but anyone who sides with TT365 will have ample opportunity to ask Joanna any question they like – she is fully aware that they have many friends and admirers of the system and the organisation, and she will take questions on any matter relating to Table Tennis England and their actions.

With this in mind I would urge as many players as possible to attend the meeting – we will rarely get a chance to meet with someone so elevated in the ranks of Table Tennis England. She is travelling from Milton Keynes, so please make the effort to get to the meeting and show her that our league is genuinely as good as any other.

Yours in sport

John Kinson on behalf of the Management Committee

Even though this changes things where you will get the latest from Joanna and will not need our recommendation, I am attaching a copy of the notes I made on Tuesday. This will give those who may not have followed the situation closely the “Gossip” as we understood it. It may just help you with the details which you will want to discuss with Joanna. Some of the things in the notes are not really correct, but we did not know that at the time.

I would really appreciate it if you could email Dawn if you can attend the meeting so that we can gauge roughly how many people may attend – it would not be fair to bring Joanna to a meeting with just a handful of people, even though I am sure that she would still come – the honour of our league is important. If you can't email come anyway.

Now the notes, but remember Joanne will show us how the new system looks, and answer the questions raised.

For years we have had the use of the TT365 site and it is an excellent facility. Unfortunately the organisation that provides the service has requested a substantial increase in their charge to Table Tennis England – at face value it looks like an increase from £1.60 to £7.00 per player per year, and not surprisingly TTE have rejected the figure.

Rather than get together and sort out a sensible deal TTE appointed a new provider for the service – they will effectively be in charge of the new system and cannot be held to ransom by the new supplier. The cost of this service is very much cheaper than TT365 but as far we are aware the actual cost has not been disclosed.

That's easy then – we just go with TTE and forget about TT365

Unfortunately the new system is not yet ready, and although TTE are saying that it will be ready for the new season there are plenty of people within the game who are sceptical about this promise.

TT 365 have started a campaign to get players on their side. They say that if enough players offer to pay £7.00 per year directly to them, Table Tennis England will be forced to reduce their fee from £16.00 to £9.00 per person – they say they need 50% of the players on board to achieve this and we believe this to be correct. They have a superb product, but it seems to us as a committee that table tennis is run by Table Tennis England and not TT365. Eventually TTE will win, because even if TT365 get enough support from players, who is to say that TTE will take any notice of them.

Any player who decides that they want to pay TT365 £7.00 and then send £9.00 to TTE may well be told that they cannot be a member of TTE if they do not pay the full amount. Effectively they may be excluding themselves from playing in more than one league, and certainly the tournaments for elite players organised by TTE.

The problem is that nobody knows what will happen

Who owns the data in the TT365 SITE?

Can TTE just take this data of rankings, leagues etc without permission from TT365 – you would think that they can because players send their details to TTE and not 365, so surely they own them - BUT DO THEY?

At the start of our committee meeting to discuss what we are going to recommend to you, many of the members were undoubtedly on the side of TT365 – the web site is superb and has been provided and improved by them over the past few years. It appears that Table Tennis England have brushed them aside and decided to go down a different route without making a serious attempt to reach a compromise.

We think that TTE should have tried harder to maintain access to this site because many players use it and are very keen to continue to do so. Unfortunately they did not, and say that TT365 refused to enter into constructive dialog. You will need to make up your own mind who is telling the truth – there is plenty to read on both TTE and TT365 Web Sites.

We are being asked to make a decision on where we stand as a league – do we back TT365 and insist that TTE let players pay less to them and the difference to TT365, or do we back TTE who actually run table tennis on our behalf. If TTE were forced to take £9.00 per player and not £16.00 we think that this could give them enormous problems and potentially have very serious consequences for the administration of table tennis.

We should not have been put in this situation, but because the two parties cannot reach a compromise (does this sound familiar ?) unfortunately that is exactly where we are.

As there are so many unknown factors at this stage, we have reluctantly decided to recommend that we abstain until we know more. This is effectively not helping TT365, but after over 2 hours of discussion we have realised that Table Tennis England will eventually get their way because they are in control of the money and the politics of running Table Tennis.

Obviously this is just a recommendation to the EGM – your votes (one per player who attends) will determine what we actually do. We urge all players to attend and have your say – this is a very serious matter.

Regards

The Management Committee

