

CAMPAIGN FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF THE OFFICERS.



CAMPAIGN FOR THE RE-ELECTION OF THE TEAM DEDICATED AND COMMITTED TO SERVING YOU, THE MEMBERSHIP, WHICH WE WILL DO IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF PROGRESS FOR OUR GREAT SPORT, FROM GRASS ROOTS TO THE ELITE.



Alex Murdoch Chairman



Peter Bradley Deputy



Martin Clark Treasurer(Elected)

YOUR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Alex Murdoch. 6 years ETTA Chairman, 4 years BTTF Chairman, 5 Years on British Olympic Committee and Commonwealth Council England, 4 years ITTF Board of Directors, 11 Years VETTS Chairman, Involved with Regional, County and Local League/Club Committees for over a 25 year period. Qualified County Umpire. Plays in 3 Local Leagues, represents his County and plays in numerous ETTA Events.

Peter Bradley. ETTA Vice President, ETTA Deputy Chairman (3 years), VC – Competitions (3 years), ITTF Equipment Committee (2 years), VETTS Committee Member (15 years), Local league Administrator (37 years), Executive Committee Member for 9th World Veterans Championships, Deputy Hospitality Director for 44th Senior World Championships and Assistant TT Venue Manager at Commonwealth Games. A qualified Tournament Organiser (TO3), still playing in two local leagues. Represents the County and plays mainly in VETTS events.

Martin Clark FCCA. 6 years as ETTA Treasurer, 4 years Finance Director BTTF, ETTA Vice President, Malcolm Scott Award in 2007, Financial Expert for ETTU, Qualified County Umpire, League, County and VETTS Treasurer involved in Local Leagues for over 20 years, Events Organiser, Volunteer at Veterans World Championships, English Open and European Veterans Championships, currently plays in 2 Local leagues, Represents his County, and participates in other ETTA events.

Keith Ponting (VC Competitions), One of the ETTA's longest serving volunteers with a wealth of experience and knowledge in Table Tennis including 10 years on Management, ETTA Life Member since 1983, first recipient of the Ivor Montagu Award, Malcolm Scott Award in 2002. Served on National Council for 40 years and has Chaired many Committees, was a volunteer at numerous World Championships and other prestigious events in England.

Charlie Childs (VC Coaching), recent addition to the Management Team, Qualified Coach actively involved for 30 years, ETTA Regional Coaching Coordinator for 4 years, many posts in Local League and Club Administration, plays in Local Leagues, British League, County and other ETTA events.

John Dignum (VC Administration), 6 years on ETTA Management, involved for many years in local league and club administration and coaching. Has worked in large companies at a high level in Administration, Staffing and Product Planning. Volunteer at Veterans World Championships, English Opens and other major events.

Mike Holt (VC Marketing), 12 years on ETTA Management, ETTA Life Member, Leading the English Open 2009 and other planned events programme to 2012. Founder member of the Hinckley & District TT League and a Life Vice-President, Life Member of the Leicestershire TT Association, recipient of the Ivor Montagu award 1985-6 and the Malcolm Scott award 1997. 30 years as a Member of the National Championships Committee. Involved with 1994 European Championships in Birmingham organising the ETTU congress and also heavily involved with the organisation for both the World Championships in 1997 and the World Veterans Championships in 1998 being awarded a Swaything Club silver bat for his contribution to the event. He was also a member of the Technical Committee for the Manchester Commonwealth Games for the Table Tennis event.

Eileen Shaler (VC Development), 3 years ETTA Management, 8 years Secretary VETTS, ESTTA Committee, 12 years Local League/County Administration, Volunteer at Commonwealth Games and World Championships, County Umpire and Coach, plays in Local Leagues, British League, County and other ETTA events.

Peter Charters (VC Selection), 12 years involvement on two ETTA Management Committees, Member of the ETTU Youth Committee. His coaching career has involved many of England's top players including Matthew Syed, Andy Syed, Dave Barr, Karen Witt and Alison Gordon. ETTA Vice President and was chair of a previous England Selection Committee. President of a large, purpose built club, which he founded. Started his table tennis career with the Reading League and Berkshire County. After retirement from teaching became the Youth Recruitment Officer for Reading FC Academy.

Jim Beckley (VC PR/Communications), 10 years on Management, ETTA Vice President, serves on Regional Committee, Events Organiser, involved as Media and Press during a number of World, European and Commonwealth Games, plays in three local leagues and other competitions. Professional Journalist and PR Consultant.

ETTA STATUS IN 2003

- ❖ Depleted Net assets Value.
- ❖ Income Budget of £1.34M creating potential staff redundancies.
- ❖ No medals at Cadet and Junior Levels and Zero ETTA budget for Youth Development and Talent ID.
- ❖ Awards from funding partners at £866K which included final World Class funding for England.
- ❖ Allowances for Staff, Volunteers and Technical Officials at very low levels, not increased for several years.
- ❖ Not enough funding for the National Training Centre (NTC). Previous years over £700K, a planning application was submitted by the previous Chairman in December 2002 that resulted in £258K award a reduction of 65%. No contingency plans in place to overcome this problem.
- ❖ Contact and Communications with member's very poor, very limited data of our membership.
- ❖ Limited Trade responses to Tenders. Trade issue raised by Sport England during various Audits.
- ❖ No full time coaches. Limited coaching resources and manuals.
- ❖ No medium/ long term plans in place for the sport or any major events.
- ❖ Lack of visibility, contact or interaction by Management with its members.
- ❖ Only some Counties, Leagues, Clubs and hence players, coaches and administrators were covered for Public and Civil Liability Insurance.
- ❖ Poor website with very few hits and no online payments for Players Licence and Events.
- ❖ Very little schools activity and declining overall participation for Table Tennis.
- ❖ No Human Resources (HR) approved staff contacts or Staff Handbooks.
- ❖ Limited Financial Protocols.
- ❖ No Health and Safety, Risk Management, Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) or Suspension policies in place.
- ❖ A shortfall in Regional development Officers (RDO)'s.
- ❖ Staff salary structure uncompetitive with some employees below the minimum wage.
- ❖ 15 Different Data Bases at Hastings and poor IT facilities

ETTA STATUS NOW

- ❖ Balance Sheet(ETTA Assets) as at 2002/03 £303K, **2007/08 £442K**
- ❖ **2008/09 Income Budget was £2.7M** an increase of over 50% from 2003/04
- ❖ **34 medals** won at Cadet and Junior Olympic, World and European Championships. Investments have been made in the Youth Development Squad/Talent Identification as well as changes with improvements in the Cadet/Junior talent and selection. This includes Des Douglas's experience and knowledge being put to excellent use in the ETTA's Junior Selection Panel. Our achievements have been recognised by the ITTF President who regards England, Russia and Germany as having the young talent, programmes and Management to challenge the Far East over the next few years.
- ❖ Awards from Funding Partners in 2008/9 were £1.88 Million an increase of over 50% from 2003/04.
- ❖ Volunteer Allowances increased every year: e.g. Mileage was 15p in 2003 now 26p with a proposed further increase to 27p.
- ❖ British National Training Centre Opened in Sheffield in 2007 with UK Sport Funding the first time Table Tennis has received any funding from them for an Elite Programme.
- ❖ The Ezine distribution has increased to over 5500 recipients; all NC Summaries and Departmental written reports are given to NC and published on the website. A monthly Chairman's Forum containing updates is on the website. Table Tennis News has been focused as an article based magazine. The website and Ezine continue to grow, these being the tools for communications in the 21st century. A far more professional and attractive Annual Management Committee Report, Directory, Rule Book and Event Programmes have been produced. We get up to 2000 cuttings a month from newspapers both provincial and local and we are receiving more attention from the national newspapers than for a very long time. Individual Registration has resulted in a massive increase in our data base of players.
- ❖ More Traders responding to Tenders, satisfaction of the Trade issue has been established with all of our funding partners as the present Chairman has **no pecuniary interests** with any company providing goods and services to the ETTA. This is in line with the ITTF "Eligibility for Office" regulations that state "A person connected in any way with the manufacture, sale or endorsement of table tennis equipment or with consultation on such equipment shall not be eligible as a member of the Executive Committee or President of Continental Federations", which are met by the present ETTA Company Directors.
- ❖ Eight Full Time Regional Coaches in place, some of whom have represented England at International Level. New skills award for Grass Roots and Schools in place. The UKCC/ Coaching Framework in operation with increased courses,
- ❖ A 4 year Whole Sport plan for 2005/09 was submitted to SE and increased funding from the previous 4 years was awarded and a 2009/13 Planning application was made to Sport England following consultation with the membership. Details of the various Intervention Policies are on the website and are included later in this document with further details will be submitted later. This application resulted in the **biggest ever award** for table tennis development namely **£9.3 million**. 2009 English Open is one of the four Major ITTF Pro Tour events **with \$172,000 in Prize Money**.
- ❖ The Management are much more visible regularly attending Club, County and League meetings as well as attending and competing in the ETTA Competitions Programme. The Officers and most members of the Management Committee are all still involved at Local League and County levels as players or administrators.
- ❖ A blanket Civil Liability Protection Insurance Policy for ETTA Members was negotiated and put in place which reduced the Counties, Leagues and Clubs Costs/Time, whilst providing the necessary "Duty of Care" to our membership.
- ❖ Vastly improved website with 167k unique visits and over 2.4M hits per month an increase of over 30% in the last 12 months. Online Payment system in place.
- ❖ Increased activity at Schools, government figures show nearly 300,000, 10% of the total 11 to 15's playing TT regularly. Participation of the over 16's based upon returns from the Annual Peoples Survey in the 2007/08 report Table Tennis increased its regular participants by 32,700 to 195,700 and was classified as one of the sports which "**Statistically showed significant change**". League Team Affiliations are still declining but at a much slower rate. 2008/09 Affiliated Persons Numbers from League/Club and IR returns declined by less than 0.5% from 2007/8. These figures do not include those involved in the TTK programme (13K), PESSCL (10K) and Club and Coach (4K).
- ❖ Full signed Contracts and Handbooks in place with assistance from an HR Company.
- ❖ Full Financial Protocols in place approved by Sport England and Tax/NI issues resolved.
- ❖ All governmental requirements in place as well as other best practice policies audited by Sport England (SE) and signed off.
- ❖ Nine Regional Development Officers in place.
- ❖ Staff salaries increased every year, now at a competitive level.
- ❖ Data Base improvements and further additional resources allocated to IT modernisation over coming months.
- ❖ Over 8,000 copies of the ETTA Laws of Table Tennis booklet are now distributed via the Leagues to every Team Captain.

- ❖ All nominated candidates from England to the maximum allowed on both the ITTF and ETTU Committees have been elected, Martin Clark is an Officer of the ETTU, Alex Murdoch is an elected member of the ITTF Board of Directors and Peter Bradley is a Full Member of ITTF Equipment Committee. The ETTA hosted an ITTF Executive Board meeting in London during 2008 which included meetings with members of the London 2012 committee.(LOCOG)
- ❖ Further International events programme submitted to our funding partners.
- ❖ England presented with the ITTF prestigious "Contribution to Women in Sport Award"
- ❖ The ETTA has achieved the Intermediate Level of the Child Protection in Sport Standards and the Preliminary Level of the Equality Standards. We have included disabled players in our UK School Games events and were asked to pilot the inclusion of players with a Learning Disability in 2008. Will sign the Partnership Charter with the English Federation of Disability Sports (EFDS) in March, we will be one of only 4 sports to have done this.
- ❖ Agreements of corporate and business support for Table Tennis received from Sainsburys PLC, Fred Perry Clothing, Karmarara (UK Top 50 Design agency) and Rockstar Video Games.

RESPONSES TO THE "NEW AGENDA"

I have shown against each of these "New Agenda" actions proposed, our prime Intervention Programmes which were included in our plans submitted last year to Sport England, presented to National Council and posted on the website.

More Places to Play (Intervention 1/2.)

We all agree that dedicated facilities are critical for our sport, its players and administrators. Over the last 6 years investments of over £3M have been awarded via the Government Community Club Development Programme which requires Match Funding from outside sources to Table Tennis covering 12 venues. Detailed proposals were included in our Planning Application to Sport England which resulted in an initial award of £2M for facilities. The National Facility and Club Officer left last year to take up another post; however, a consultant was immediately put in place and the Full Time Post was included in the recent funding award application. Facilities are already included in the Regional Development Officers Programme and they are constantly updating the mapping procedure.

Grant Aid Service for Leagues and Clubs. (Included in a number of the Interventions)

"Awards for All" has continued and the direct result has been over £1M for grass roots relating to table tennis excluding locally negotiated awards and facility projects. The whole process and application of awards for the community has changed and now includes County Sports Partnerships, Local Sports Networks, Council Sports Development Officers etc, details have been circulated on these opportunities via a number of sources and the Regional Development Officers have this area as a clear mandate within their work programmes to support local Clubs and Leagues.

Progress in Schools. (Intervention 5/6)

A programme has been in place for the last four years, reported on widely, called PE, School Sport and Club Links (PESSCL) strategy which has involved the appointment of many local PESSCL paid Coaches working with a large number of young people at schools. The recent funding from Sport England just announced includes £800K for the PE and Sports Strategy for Young People (PESSYP) which replaces PESSCL. Close links have been established with the Greenhouse Charity (Table Tennis for Kids project which has 14 full time coaches and over 13,000 young people playing regularly) by way of regular meetings, approval of direct affiliation and liaising/supporting their fund raising event at the Albert Hall last year.

Coaching Review (Intervention 3)

The strategy and initial concept behind the appointment of 8 Regional Club Coaches, the first time for two decades that the ETTA has had full time Regional Coaches appointed, has been well publicised. Further changes are already being planned as part of a Coaching Review involving amendments to work programmes and you should bear in mind that the initial funding for this project was via approval and funding from each of the Sport England Regional Sports Boards and not a National Award.

It is agreed that the Government's initiative and investment in the UK Coaching Certificate (UKCC) and recently announced Coaching Framework will take time to instigate which is why we obtained increased timescales in the Government's initial timetable to help our coaches during this changeover period. The Coaching Department has been closely involved in the Table Tennis Skills Programmes involving both ETTA and ESTTA.

International Events in England. (Full Plan submitted to potential Funding Partners)

I and most others, including our International colleagues and UK funding partners do not agree that "the Junior/Cadet Europe Top 10 in Sheffield last year which was the wrong event at the worst time" and approval for the cost of this event was given by National Council. The European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) changed the format for the European Championships which resulted in the reduction of International matches.

We have in place or being planned International Matches within the new European Nations League, an India versus England test series and of course The English Open 2009. This is part of the ITTF Pro Tour Circuit being staged at the EIS in Sheffield (where the British Table Tennis NTC is located) from 28th October to 1st November 2009. This event was part of a full plan submitted to potential funding partners last year covering up to and beyond 2012, the response to date from these partners has been very positive.

There is a mention of three events being cancelled and I can only assume that this refers to the proposal for events at Bridlington, the details of which have been fully documented and circulated to our membership. One cannot play in a venue not completed. He talks about all the money he raised for these International events (none from 1997 to 2003) but does not mention how these impacted the ETTA Assets which were reduced by over £150K following the improvements in the ETTA financial standing under John Prean during the late Eighties.

ETTA Website (Intervention 7)

Significant modernisation investments have been made over the last 5 years to improve the Website. Work in progress is taking place and plans have been approved for more improvements of this important communication tool over the next couple of years. We have received many compliments not just from our members but also from our funding, corporate partners and international colleagues regarding how professional and innovative the website has become.

The outcome of this is the significant growth with over 167K "unique visitors" and over 2.4 M "hits" a month with an "online" payment system.

The communication tool Ezine is circulated to over 5500 members, following massive improvement/investment in our data base and IT equipment. In addition the ETTA has a "You Tube" video programme with 124K individual video views.

A comprehensive result service from the Tournament venue requires significant investment which was included in our planning application to Sport England and a Results and Ranking service also for the Clubs and Leagues. Decisions relating to these are being considered as part of the ETTA Budget following the initial awards of £10.8M for the next 4 years and we are working with our funding and corporate GB partners such as Sainsbury's PLC, on a whole range of communication activities as well as Facebook and Google on Social Media.

National Team Concerns (Intervention 9)

The new team inherited the Academy problem in 2003 and despite every effort it had to be closed due to insufficient funding. No contingency plans had been put in place to overcome the massive reduction in funding from an average of £700K a year to £285K a year whilst under the previous team. This reduction had been included in a plan submitted in 2002 to Sport England by the previous Chairman. This made the closure inevitable.

There is a mention of a few players who attended the Academy. However, not all were there throughout the 5 years indicated and no mention is made of the 20 plus others who attended or where they are now. The plain fact is that it gets progressively harder as a player climbs the ability ladder. The easier part (but still very important) is the beginning when techniques are developed but to get to where Paul is now, and onwards and upwards from there, is by far the most difficult to achieve. We had to work with this limited funding which was only awarded to 8 young nominated players for two years. You are now aware that additional funding was subsequently negotiated by us with UK Sport for the Elite GB squad which resulted in 34 medals being won at Cadet and Junior Olympic, World and European Championships as well as the England Women's Team winning promotion to the top division at last years World Team Championships. Liam Pitchford is mentioned who actually came through the Club, Performance Centre, Youth Development Squad, (YDS) and Talent Identification programmes which had received no investment from the ETTA before 2004. There is no mention of Danny Reed who played and won Junior team gold two years ago at the EYC. Danny, like Liam, did not come through the Nottingham Academy and was also part of the club and YDS programme.

Funding has now been awarded by Sport England to the Talent Programme. Also, a further initial funding of £1.2M for the GB Elite Programme has been awarded by UK Sport.

Better value for the Licensed Players. (Intervention 8)

A figure of £300K is mentioned, the 2007/8 accounts show £235K for fees and licences to run our Competition Programme and the budget for 2008/9 is £248K. **This income** stated does not take into account any expenditure for the cost of venues, staffing and administration/Technical Officials expenses to run our large, excellent and increased competition programme. Inevitably some problems have occurred at events in our massive programme of competitions but you can be assured these have been addressed and discussed at committee prior to the paper submitted to Council. The Calendar Working Party (CWP) which includes members from across the spectrum of our competition programme has a difficult task when allocating dates with so many events and they do a great job and we are now working on a three year calendar for events. A Competition Review, involving all parties who are responsible for our competitions, has been underway over the last 12 months and update reports have been given to National Council and others.

Umpires and Referees. (Intervention 4)

It is clear that the decline in our Technical Officials has been going on for decades and needs to be addressed.

One of the major concerns expressed by them in the early days was the conditions and allowances affecting recruitment and retention. Every year since 2004/5 we have increased the Volunteers and Technical Officials allowances from 15p per mile to the 27p proposed for the 2009/10 season plus significant increases in the meal allowances. A request was made by the umpires for financial support when attending overseas events, this was approved and for the first time a contribution to their costs is now being made. Our officials have been concerned about long days and poor working conditions and these are being addressed and are ongoing. These actions show our commitment and determination to improve the conditions for our Technical Officials.

Consultation has taken place over some time on this matter and this culminated in recruitment and retention programmes included as part of our funding planning application last year and details will be announced in the near future.

International Representation. (UK Sport International Influence Policy was submitted to UK Sport last year)

On behalf of the ETTA we have nominated and had elected the maximum of all England's quota of candidates, including Martin Clark/Peter Bradley and Alex Murdoch mentioned previously. We have members on the ETTU and ITTF Committees/Panel/Working Groups covering now Finance, Equipment, Nomination, Youth, Umpires and Referees, Ranking, Technical and Women.

We maintain that our candidates nominated and elected have the necessary requisites which follow the ITTF/ETTU mandate over the last few years requiring CV's of Nominees to ensure that their experience, qualifications and background meet the requirements of Committees and Boards. We also nominated Colin Clemett in 2007 as an ITTF Honorary Life Member which was approved by the ITTF.

I am still concerned that my wife was personally attacked via FTT and by others in regard to her nomination and election to the ITTF Nominations Committee (a voluntary role amongst many others she does). Her nomination for an ITTF committee followed personal requests by members of the ITTF. Her name was put forward, with her CV, for the ITTF Nominations Committee which was supported by UK Sport who fund our delegates. She also serves on the ETTU Women's Working Group as well as being involved with the ITTF in this area.

The cost of attendance at meetings is approved and funded by UK Sport through the BTTF not the ETTA via an International Influence Strategy annual application and quarterly reporting system.

I question that Alan believes that his Chairmanship of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF) is the only "true decision making position". Let us be clear, this is the CTTF and not the Commonwealth Games Council for England (CGCE), Alex Murdoch represents the ETTA on this Council, who are the responsible body, recognised by our funding partners, in the decision making and voting process for all sports participating in the Commonwealth Games. I am sure those who have been elected from around the world for the ITTF Board of Directors and other Committees would disagree with his prognosis. How you can compare 80 years ago with today when the membership of the ITTF and ETTU has grown considerably over these years, incidentally for many years the ITTF Headquarters were in England. The last ETTA member of the ETTU Executive Board was Alan who failed to be re-elected at his last attempt. He could not, of course, serve on the ITTF Executive Board as regulations prohibit such an appointment because his Trade interests preclude him.

Conflict Of Interest

I agree this is an important issue as do many in the Table Tennis fraternity both at home and abroad including our funding and corporate partners which was quite clearly stated by UK Sport during our funding negotiations for the 2009 English Open (Covered in the Treasurers letter attached) and at meetings during our other funding applications with Government and Sporting Agency Officials.

The Trade Committee when initially set up in 1991 but did not meet safeguard criteria of financial/Trade issues by the Auditors instigated and investigated by our funding partners.

They proposed a number of changes during the late 1990's and early 2000's to overcome this significant problem of the Officers and, in particular, the Chairman of the ETTA having significant "pecuniary interests with a company providing goods and services to the ETTA."

They did at that time recognise the difficulties faced with the Chairman already elected and in place but proposed a number of changes, recommendations and requirements for then and in the future.

These included appointing the Treasurer, who was elected by the membership, responsible for all Trade matters, not the VC Marketing who was previously chosen by the Chairman as with other Management positions. In 1996 they reported that the Independence of the Trade Committee was "seriously undermined", as at the time they were not elected by National Council following a nomination process and that all members of the Trade Committee should be elected by National Council following a nomination process.

It was reported in an Audit that the Chairman of the ETTA, whose role is to represent the Association, had also represented companies in negotiations with the Association. They believed this was a "real conflict of interest".

The issue was subsequently discussed and a clear recommendation by the Auditors that in the Medium to Long Term the ETTA should exclude members from positions of influence who hold pecuniary interests with a company providing goods and services to the ETTA.

The ETTA at that time agreed that this policy should be considered by the Association prior to the election of a new Chairman. This was never, as far as I can see, ever raised or discussed with the membership in the intervening years before the 2003 election.

The Treasurer of the ETTA has made his own comments on this matter which are in a separate letter.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT.

John Hilton European Singles Champion 1980.

I fully support Alex Murdoch and his team, as I firmly believe he has done an excellent job over the last 6 years putting our sport back in the right direction again.

I have known him for a long time and he loves our sport and has and will continue to dedicate himself to helping and supporting players at all levels. He has the right attitude, approach and commitment with table tennis as his prime concern and he has given our sport the opportunity, with the recent funding announcement, under his leadership to continue the great progress table tennis has made.

Dave Humble Chairman Mossford TTC and the West Essex League

Among the many reasons why I support Alex and his team, I believe that the accent on youth to be the most important to grass roots.

The energy and availability of Alex to the whole Membership, is in my experience unprecedented. He seems to be available whenever needed and never shirks replies to questions.

I am Chairman of both Mossford TTC and the West Essex League.

It is no co-incidence, in my opinion, that since Alex came on the scene some years ago Mossford has more than doubled in overall size and the junior content increased to close on a hundred and rising. Further, the West Essex League is thriving with playing standards rising and average player age falling.

Without the close communication between the Executive and grass roots this would have been very unlikely to have happened. It certainly did not under the previous remote regime.

Obviously there is still much to be done and I wish every success to Alex and his team and would be extremely disappointed for grass roots if there is a change.

Sandra Rider, TT Player, Coach and Administrator from Yorkshire

I am completely supportive of Alex Murdoch staying in office as the Chairman of the ETTA and also his team. They have already made a significant difference to the Association and I will give Alex my full backing to stay in office for a significant period of time.

Jim Clegg, League Representative Member, Coach and Tutor in the North West

At our last Monthly meeting this Tuesday, we discussed this new move from Alan Ransome.

We in Preston are happy with you and your team, and we intend to vote for you again.

Peter Clarke Chairman Bedfordshire County Table Tennis Association

I wish you well in the forthcoming election, and I do hope appreciation of all the hard work you and your Team members have put in over the last six years will result in your being re-elected to carry out the plans that are so vital to the development of our Sport.

I believe your tireless work has benefited table tennis enormously. The complexities of seeking funding, and the need to establish how many play, are but two of the challenges few other people would be willing to tackle.

You certainly have my full support in your bid for another term as ETTA Chairman.

Our sport is one in which many local league players rarely interest themselves in the game's administration or matters above league level, let alone its development. Many are quite happy to turn up, play their matches and go home, thankful not to be lumbered with a job. But I think that the table tennis people who *do* take an interest, who do look at the website and the ezines, and, dare I say it, do subscribe to the magazine - these certainly recognise the value and integrity of you and your Team.

They also know you (and Val, of course) participate at all levels. As well as travelling the world for English table tennis, you play in leagues, in tournaments and for Bedfordshire. And you are willing to visit and talk - approachable and available. I personally value your participation as our County Treasurer and General Secretary.

Cicely Palmer, League Representative Member Malvern

"So Alan Ransome is not putting up a name for the position of Treasurer. Is this because he cannot get anyone to take on the extremely difficult, time consuming and very often completely thankless job or is it that no one else will work with him?"

Nobody who remembers how Alan Ransome claimed that no one else would be able to do the job of chairman and raise funds as well as he had done can honestly look back on Alex Murdoch's time in office with his other officers and not accept that the ETTA has been brought very efficiently into the 21st Century. Apart from our much sounder financial position the introduction of the ezine is a great way of reaching grass root members.

With Alex, Peter and Martin all still playing not only in local leagues but VETTS and other competitions it means that everyone has a real chance to speak to them, listen to them and be heard.

They must be given the opportunity to continue the job they have done so well."

Duncan Jones Chairman Bristol and District Table Tennis Association

"In 2007 I asked Alex whether he was able to come to Bristol's AGM and present an award to Aubrey Simons, our President. Not only did he turn up and present the award, he went the extra mile and spoke at length to me and anyone else who wished to discuss table tennis matters (no matter how small). He was genuinely interested in what we were up to in our league and his love of the game was evident. I know that Alex travels to many such events around the country and that grass roots league players appreciate being able to get their opinions across occasionally. With such a heavy workload, that sort of commitment is to be applauded."

Keith Ponting, ETTA Life Member

I am pleased to endorse Alex Murdoch's nomination for the forthcoming election of Chairman of the ETTA.

As a member of his current Management team I am very aware of the many hours he spends working for the ETTA. He is not a remote Chairman and is always willing to visit counties, leagues and clubs. He is a regular at events within the competition programme, either as player, umpire or spectator and is happy to engage with our members to discuss any issues they have. He is also a frequent visitor to Head Office at Hastings in support of our excellent staff.

The constant character assassination he endures would break lesser men but he has handled this with great dignity and just gets on with the job he was elected to do, working in the best interests of the ETTA and its members.

In a letter to Table Tennis News some years ago I did make the point that the Chairman of the ETTA, whoever that may be, should be completely free of involvement with the trade in order to avoid any conflict of interests. I believe this is absolutely crucial as there is now far more scrutiny concerning these matters. You may recall that a former ETTA Chairman made a great issue of this very point. Alex has no such involvement, is completely transparent, and has satisfied our funding partners and sponsors in this respect.

Much progress has been made with many issues since 2003 and there are some very exciting events in the pipeline. There is still much to do but don't put this in jeopardy and I ask that you give Alex and his Management team the opportunity to continue with the work that lies ahead.

Ron Boucher, Committee Member with County, League and Club organisations.

Receiving the "Campaign" literature from Alan Ransome, has unsettled me on several counts.

At first I thought it was an "official" publication circulated by the ETTA. I then wondered about the personal expenditure in money to produce and circulate such a document. American Presidential elections come to mind.

My main reason for opposing Alan's candidature is the same as when he was defeated in 2003. It is impossible to be the Chairman/Director of a Sports Body and allow that a Company that you own to bid for contracts to supply equipment and services to that Sports Body. By winning the contract it must be intended to make a profit, this in turn will result on a financial gain for the person running the Company. No amount of safeguards will be able to deal with this "Conflict of Interest". This disqualifies anyone in this position high office in competing posts.

I hope you are successful in your campaign; I can assure you that I think you are the best candidate to lead the sport in its forward drive.

Ken Field, Chairman of the Southend & District Table Tennis League and the Essex County Table Tennis Association

1) I have been Chairman of the Southend & District Table Tennis League for 14 years. Since you took over as Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association in 2003, you have regularly communicated with me and sought Southend's input on such major issues as Player Registration and shown an interest in what has been going on in our League. This involvement has led to my Southend colleagues feeling part of the overall scheme of things of the ETTA. Prior to 2003, in 9 years as Southend's Chairman, I never received a single communication from any member of the top Management team of the ETTA: in consequence there was a fairly apathetic attitude towards the ETTA.

2) During the past 6 years, the junior scene in our area, has greatly expanded and a large part of this, centres around a club known as TT-on-Sea. This was set up by the ETTA's Eastern Region Development Officer, Greg Yarnall and continued by his successor, John Andrews. The coaching was overseen by the ETTA's Regional Directors of coaching Aaron Fennel and currently, Natalie Green. Locally, we now have some 60 juniors and much of this is due to the local activities of the ETTA during the past 6 years.

3) As to who is best suited to run the ETTA at international Level, to organise Open Events or to best lead us into the 2012 Olympics, I cannot say, as I have no experience at that level. But what I can say is that, I firmly believe that you personally, have massively strengthened the ETTA's involvement at Grass Roots level, which is the bedrock of English Table Tennis.

Good luck with the election

Derrick Marples, Well known Coach with International Experience and a Company Member.

In support of our Chairman, Alex Murdoch, and as a table tennis player for over sixty years, England Captain and Coach, Chairman of Derbyshire where we have three senior teams and two junior teams in the County Championships, I feel I must identify to all other enthusiasts just how hard working our Chairman is. He has just negotiated a fund of 9.3 million pounds from Sport England which is the highest amount table tennis has ever received. This shows his personal leadership skills when negotiating at the highest level. Leadership of this kind has long been a necessity for our sport, and something all progressive sporting organisations require in order to achieve the highest standards. His leadership from grass roots right through to international standards is evident. One example of this is the appointment of 8 Regional Coaches who have work programmes to develop table tennis with young people. Additionally he leads a committed team which operates sound financial principles. Finally, being a very likeable Chairman, he is extremely approachable, helpful and willing to discuss problems with local committees, local leagues or individually. With his appointment I am sure table tennis will progress in the right direction and take recognition of our game to the highest international level.

Paul Whiting, South West Experience Coach with International Knowledge.

Under the present chairmanship of the ETTA I have been impressed with how far we have moved forward in developing localised club table tennis facilities. This is not only a great asset in terms of the actual facilities but there is now a variety of coaching at grass roots levels, including the introduction of community coaches and accredited clubs.

The emphasis on the intended growth of table tennis leading up to 2012 and the opportunities this opens up, post 2012, for increased participation is very positive and aspirational.

The need for volunteers, in coaching, administration, and the running of local leagues, is very important too. They are an extremely valuable resource and are rightly recognised by the present administration for their important contribution to the sport with the annual volunteers awards dinner.

The ETTA website has improved year on year in terms of content and quality and has developed into a valuable information resource.

Under the chairmanship of Alex Murdoch English Table Tennis has moved into a new era, developing a strategic vision for table tennis into the future, producing a sound club structure with qualified coaches operating at all levels.

Dr. Ayoade Ademakinawa Bsc (Hons), Arch RIBA, PhD.

This letter is my personal recommendation for Mr. Alex Murdoch. Up until the present moment and still on-going, I have been in close contact with Alex in my constant travel around the world covering almost all ITTF Professional tournaments in the capacity of "ITTF Official Photographer"

The amount of effort and organisation required in planning these events could not be overestimated. Alex had witnessed most of them. He is known throughout the International Table Tennis World and here in the UK due to the immense effort and times he and his Wife Val, invests in attending these events.

The whole International Table Tennis scene warms to Alex whenever he shows up. I have no doubt in my mind that his popularity has brought more recognition to English Table Tennis awareness abroad. I find Alex to be consistently pleasant, tackling all occasions with dedication and a smile.

Besides being a joy to be with, he is also able to present creative and productive ideas and communicate its benefits.

Though Alex is an asset to the ETTA as its present Chairman, he is also extraordinarily helpful in other areas of youth developments and building up player's profile.

I highly recommend Alex to continue to lead the ETTA as its Chairman. Such person is what is required in our quest for a successful and more glamorous image for Table Tennis in the light of the forthcoming 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Email Comments made by Adham Sharara ITTF President.

Excellent E-zine, the best I have seen so far. Great design and very informative. Good work.

Elite Support

Open doors with China at the highest level of training opportunities with National Team level athletes

Open options to train with North Korean players in England or in North Korea Provide the missing link to a targeted group of young players by assisting in finding some sponsorship financing to give them the "push" necessary to get them to the next level, and to develop a group of English players that could challenge the current TT hierarchy

Participation and Popularity Support

Provide ETTA the TV ratings for the Beijing Olympics as measured by ASOIF for the Chinese Market and the UK Market, as well as the IOC's TV ratings based on 35 world markets for Athens and Beijing.

Find a sponsor or sponsors willing to underwrite the cost of an English delegation of 10 persons to visit Japan (one week or so) and see first hand the "Mama-san" programme as well as the TT parlors (mini halls) in Convenience Stores.

Provide information regarding outdoors TT projects in Barcelona and elsewhere.

I enjoyed our meetings today and I am very impressed by the multitude of programmes in which ETTA is involved. I am sure that it will all pay off eventually at all levels.

2009/13 INTERVENTIONAL PLANS AND PROGRAMME AGREED DURING OUR FUNDING NEGOTIATIONS.

1. **Club Development** – developing a national network of high quality, accredited clubs with the capacity to grow participation and improve player and volunteer satisfaction.
2. **Facilities** – developing a national network of high quality specialist facilities and an outdoor table tennis table initiative.
3. **Coaching** – building a modernized workforce of qualified coaches at all levels.
4. **Volunteers** – developing a well trained and supported network of Technical Officials, Organisers and Helpers.
5. **Children & Young People** – providing entry routes, competition, coaching and leadership opportunities designed for a life time involvement in the sport and expanding the Fred Perry Cup and linking with the Street Games Initiative.
6. **Adults (16+)** – bringing table tennis into the workplace and encouraging women into sport.
7. **Marketing & Communications** – raising the profile of the sport via a strategic, multi layered, and fully integrated brand marketing and communications campaign. Raising the profile and participation of table tennis through a series of social media initiatives (create a demand for social and informal participation).
8. **Competitions** – creating a single unified pathway that helps player development and is motivating, inspirational and appealing to all via a National Competition Framework.
9. **Talent development** – building a clearly defined talent development system that increases the breadth and depth of the talent pool.
10. **Adding Value** to the 2009/13 Sport England Planning Application with Sainsbury's and other partners.
11. **Playground to Podium (P2P)**. Table Tennis is one of the Six Sports selected to be part of this programme involving young players with Disabilities and to provide opportunities of coaching, competitions and Development Centre's for them.
12. **Premier League 4 Sport Project** Four Sports including Table Tennis have been selected to be part of a new initiative to link community sports clubs with Premier League football clubs. Premier League football clubs are to offer thousands of young people the chance to get involved in Olympic sports in a groundbreaking £3.8 million partnership with the Government. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said; All 20 Clubs in football's top flight will link with community sports clubs to attract young people in their area and offer them opportunities in badminton, judo, table tennis and volleyball.
At the last Management Meeting small working groups were set up. These included both volunteers and staff aligned to each of these Interventions and New Projects. Their remit was to report back with proposals for Management to discuss and enable the overall ETTA plans to be finalised and the 2009/10 Budget Forecast to be agreed. All of this will be put in the public domain and submitted to National Council.

ACTION PLAN SUPPORTING THE AGREED INTERVENTIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES

1. In addition to the present 9 Regional Development Officers and 8 Regional Coaches this will be increased to cover 10 Regions, with changes in their work programmes to assist our members and increase grass roots participation.
2. Improved and direct communications with our members will follow from the Individual Membership Programme proposed which will be user friendly. An extended and improved Website to include Regional Sections and for Leagues to be able to contribute directly to the ETTA website. The website will have added focus to the Calendar section.
3. A programme to help local volunteers and assistance to local organizations to recruit additional volunteers. The ETTA must make life easier for these volunteers, reduce paperwork, bureaucracy and give them the support they need. The ETTA is in need of more Technical Officials including Referees, Umpires and Tournament Organisers. A specific programme is planned for this area.
4. Clubs of all sizes and facilities are essential for the growth of our sport and this area is included within many of the Interventional Policies and initial funding included in our recent award. An Outdoor Table programme is being planned in conjunction with a number of potential partners.
5. Coaching and Coaching support is critical not just to improve standards but to help increase Table Tennis participation. The introduction last year of the Regional Coaches who will all qualify as Tutors will assist in the Qualification and Quantity of Coaches. More coaching qualification courses being put in place.
6. Young People playing table tennis has increased significantly but this has not resulted in any real impact as yet in League/Club participation. The new funding has given us extra income to help in this process via the Government's 5 Hour School Sports Initiative. It is though essential that the Local Leagues, with support from the ETTA, increase the Junior League structure and/or make their regular league programme more accessible for young people. The Fred Perry Urban Cup is being expanded; we are working with the Street Games Project and with the Table Tennis for Kids Charity.
7. We are putting together, with Sainsbury's, a number of initiatives which were included in the planning process. These will include Table Tennis in the Workplace, Women in Sport, Marketing and Communications.
8. Social Media is a significant part of today's society and we need to capture more of the 160,000 unique visitors to the ETTA website. We are working closely with Facebook and Google via a venture with one of our partners.
9. We have a large and excellent competition programme and a Competition Review is being conducted to ensure that we have a complete National Competition Framework which meets the needs of our present membership and attracts new members.
10. A new increased and supported Talent Development and Identification programme is being put in place to give more opportunities for young players with training and competitions towards a clear goal of increasing the England Talent Pool at all age groups.
11. The Playground to Podium (P2P) strategy has been approved involving young players with disabilities and we are putting together plans to provide opportunities for coaching, competitions and Development Centres for them.
12. Premier League 4 Sport Project is in the planning process and will include visits to Football Clubs and a location mapping exercise is taking place for potential Table Tennis Clubs.
13. The ETTA has not just looked at the next four years but has started, with our Funding and Corporate Partners, a Full Transformation Programme over a 10 year period which will employ the latest and best practice from the corporate world with support from these key Business Partners.
14. We have plans for a Ranking System to cover Local Leagues and a potential results service for these Leagues on the Website. The ETTA must though provide the correct and easy to use IT tools for this to work and give the necessary support for their implementation.
15. TV coverage of our sport is not good enough and discussions have and are taking place to improve this with a number of partners.

Please give your support to the campaign for re-election of the Officers and your Management Team. Let our sport continue to move forward and not step back into the old ways of the last century.

We have been given an opportunity by our Funding Partners and others, based upon the significant progress made over the last few years and the road ahead looks exciting.

We can with your support grasp these opportunities and others in the pipeline as part of our ongoing negotiations and the close relationships we have with our funding partners.

Our sport requires a united, committed, dedicated and determined membership working together on behalf and for our great sport, with Staff, Volunteers and Partners there to serve you the Table Tennis Fraternity.

DON'T BE COMPLACENT – USE YOUR VOTE

**TO GIVE OUR GREAT SPORT THE OPPORTUNITY IT DESERVES ELECT
ALEX & PETER FOR A FURTHER TERM**

Contact Alex Murdoch by phone on 01462 671191 or Email alex@harwoodltd.co.uk

Contact Peter Bradley by phone on 0118 958 5365 or Email peter_B@btopenworld.com

Contact Martin Clark by phone on 01 527 831534 or Email martin@martingclark.co.uk