

Welcome to my latest Newsletter,

Following on from my last month's update we are still in Stage 1 of the Table Tennis England's Five Stage Process, but much has been done by TTE in their planning. I took part in their Webinar last week and will share some of their thoughts with you.

We are still at the point of no table tennis to be played indoors. At some point Leisure Centres will open and maybe tables might be hired for play. From discussions that have taken place it is more complicated where, in our case, TT is being played in school premises. Testwood will have to decide how and when they let outsiders into their premises and what risks there will be for their pupils and staff as well as to ourselves.

See below the Ready to Return FIVE STAGE PROCESS which was issued 1st June.

Five staged approach

COVID 19: READY TO RETURN

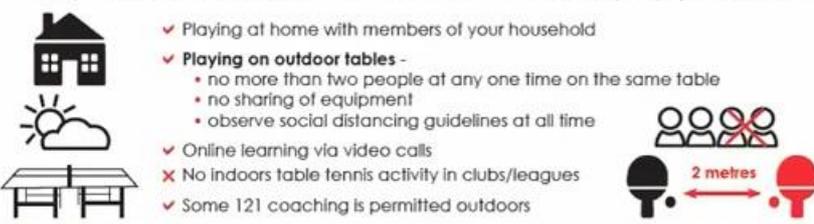
FIVE STAGE PROCESS



STAGE 1

Play and exercise at home and limited outdoor play (where we are now)

- ✓ Playing at home with members of your household
- ✓ **Playing on outdoor tables** -
 - no more than two people at any one time on the same table
 - no sharing of equipment
 - observe social distancing guidelines at all time
- ✓ Online learning via video calls
- ✗ No indoors table tennis activity in clubs/leagues
- ✓ Some 121 coaching is permitted outdoors

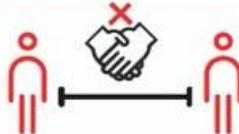


Please see our website for up to date information

STAGE 2

Limited club activity

- ✓ Some local club activity may be able to resume with restrictions in place, connected to hygiene, social distancing and space available
- ✓ 1-2-1/personal coaching may be able to return
- ! Competitive play is likely to be restricted to ensure minimum restrictions are met



STAGE 3

Preparing for localised competition

- ✓ Local competitive opportunities may look to resume with certain restrictions in place
- ✓ Table Tennis England to provide some ideas for clubs and leagues to consider



STAGE 4

Local competition resumption

- ✓ Local leagues to resume with restrictions, and some other competitions may look to resume
- ✓ Stage 2 restrictions may start to be lifted



STAGE 5

Full play and spectating in place

- ✓ Club, league, community and competitive play resumes with no restrictions in place



From 1st June 2020

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This document is **Stage 2 RETURNING TO CLUB ACTIVITY**. This is what I referred to in the previous newsletter, and this is the focus of the current discussions. As I said earlier we are still at Stage 1

Stage 2 support

COVID 19 : READY TO RETURN

STAGE 2 - RETURNING TO CLUB ACTIVITY

Hygiene recommendations:

<p>Do not come to the club if you are having any symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19</p>	<p>Players to use their own bats and balls..</p>	<p>..and touch only their own ball</p> <p>Use different coloured balls or mark to differentiate between them</p>	<p>Return opponent's ball by kicking it back or hitting back with racket</p>	<p>No handshaking/ slapping hands</p>
<p>No hand wiping on the table</p>	<p>No breathing on the ball to clean</p>	<p>Use hand sanitisers on entry and exit of venue, as well as pre, post and during training</p>	<p>Take responsibility for your own hygiene by bringing your own hand sanitisers</p>	<p>Wash hands regularly and before the start of any activity</p>

Stage 2 support

Spatial and facility usage recommendations:

<p>Keep a distance of 2 metres from your training partner at all times</p>	<p>Control number of participants using the facilities at any one time, by restricting session times and using a booking system</p>	<p>Separate tables with partitions, barriers or nets</p>	<p>Table areas should be a minimum of 5 metres by 10 metres</p>	<p>Train with the same person throughout the session</p>
<p>After play, wipe down your side of the table</p> <p>Wait 10 mins before others use the table</p>	<p>! When multi ball training the feeder should pick up all balls and the player and feeder stay a minimum of 2 metres apart at all times</p>	<p>Do not change ends of the table between games</p>	<p>Changing rooms and showers are not to be used</p>	<p>Appoint a 'hygiene' officer to ensure guidelines are being followed</p>

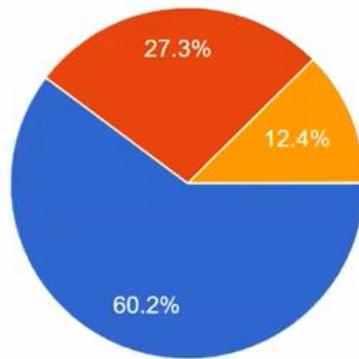
Injury and illness:

- Players are encouraged to not take part in match play and more vigorous exercise straight away, it is important to build up to match play and higher intensity play to prevent ill health and injury
- You should feel you are in the correct physical condition before considering a return to training and match play

Table Tennis England has just completed a survey with over 1000 responses. There has been much discussion as to how (and when) we will return to competitive table tennis. I can't see how we will be able to start our STTA League a) in October and b) in its present format. So have a look at people's responses to some suggested alternatives.

Player survey results – returning to table tennis

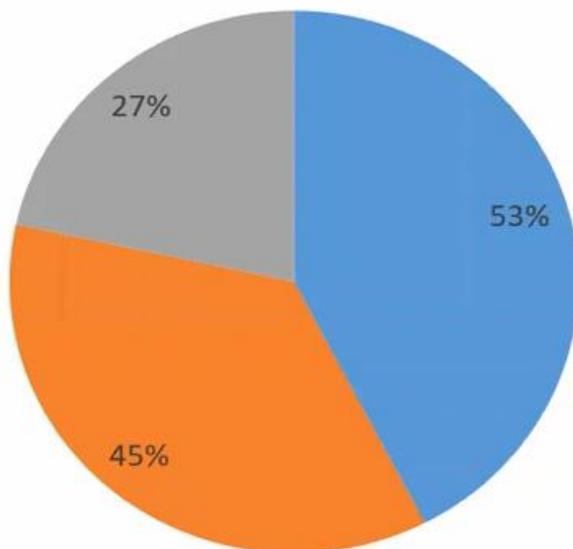
League and competitive table tennis is likely to be one of the last parts of the sport to return. Which of the below statements most accurately describes your feelings about league table tennis?
1,308 responses



- I would welcome a return to league table tennis utilising alternative competitive formats (if you tick this option, please...)
- I would only consider returning to league table tennis in the same format that we currently use
- I don't play any league table tennis
- I would welcome a return to league table tennis utilising alternative competitive formats (if tick agree, ask following qu...)

Player survey results – returning to table tennis

If enabling the local league season to commence, meant adapting the way in which your league operate, would you consider the following?



- Two a side leagues
- Matches without umpires
- Completing traditional league match over a number nights/weeks



CHAIRMAN'S NEWLETTER JUNE 2020



So that's the latest news from Table Tennis England. It does seem that we are still some way from reaching stages 3, 4 and 5. I am currently investigating funding that is being made available by Sport England. I know that some table tennis clubs have already received 'Coronavirus' related grants and I have been in touch with TTE regarding this.

STTA had another Zoom meeting last month, but with so much uncertainty there was not much decided. We still have to decide upon AGMs for both STTA and Waterside, suggestions have been made about an AGM using Zoom, but TTE discussions have highlighted the problems of voting and therefore coming to any meaningful decisions.

I have some more news which is not so good for the club. Wojciech has gone back to Poland. He and Karina came round to see us last week and they have decided that with a lesser Coronavirus threat in the countryside of Poland it will be much safer for them to return to live with his parents. He said that Sports Halls there are opening again this week so he can get back to playing TT. They talked about starting an Alpaca Farm. Here is a message that he sent to me to pass on to everyone:

'The time has come to say goodbye for now as I decided to move back to Poland. It's been 9 years since I joined the Waterside TTC family, first as a player in the Premier Division and later as a coach. I enjoyed every bit of my time with you guys and I met so many wonderful people and talented players. I hope you keep practising at home despite this current situation so you'll all be ready for the clubs to be open again sooner or later. I can't wait to start playing again! It's definitely not a goodbye forever so you better keep practising as I'll come back to check on you guys! (especially my students: Joe, Will, Toto, Lee, Louise, Adam, Henry, Charlotte, Carl, Trudy, Sid, Geoff, Steve). Special thanks to John Fox, Colin French, Trevor Mowle, Jeff Davies, Tony Huggett for doing a great job for table tennis and your support throughout these years. Apologies if I didn't mention everyone here, but I do remember about you guys. You're all welcome in Poland in my local TTC ! Stay in touch and spin to win! '

We will certainly miss him, but he hasn't ruled out a return when things get back to normal, whenever that might be!

So that's all for now folks. As soon as I hear any updates from TTE I will let you know. In the meantime do have a look at the Table Tennis England website and check on their Coronavirus updates.

Stay safe, best regards,

**Colin French
Chairman Waterside TTC**

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CHAIRMAN'S NEWLETTER JUNE 2020

