

PING Stratford-upon-Avon – update to Town Council July 2021

Cllr Kevin Taylor Mayor

On 29 March all of our current Table locations became available again. Guidelines will be available on all tables clearly indicating social distancing and table hygiene requirements. Bubbles of six or two households will be able to participate again.

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/get-set-for-outdoor-table-tennis/>

During April, May and June we have introduced a further five tables around the town initially in Joseph Way, Burbage Avenue and, thanks to Stratford Town Trust, Rowley Fields will now have a table. The other two tables are currently being utilised by Bridgetown Primary School and Broad Street Primary School.

StreetTT Stratford upon Avon

On a trial basis, the PING project will also be utilising # a recently created system called StreetTT (StreetTT.com)

StreetTT is the first mobile application to connect urban Table Tennis players in a worldwide online Table Tennis league.

The StreetTT app empowers players to submit their own match results by scanning an opponent's QR code. These results provide the basis for a universal Elo rating and detailed game statistics for each player. Players can view how they rank out of their city, club, country and globally.

Players create and attend meet-ups anytime, anywhere, to turn Table Tennis tables across Stratford upon Avon into a network of exciting match venues. StreetTT is community moderated so that club and town moderators can create one off tournaments/cups and award the results from their competitions. (subject to current guidelines bubbles of six or two households)

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Anyone, of any ability, can become a player and any 2 players can begin playing and submitting results; players do not need a club. For existing Table Tennis clubs, bars and street collectives, the organisers are invited to become StreetTT moderators to create a club and add members; the league can be searched by club name to show a ranking of players within a club.

PING Parlours

Due to the current increase in empty retail units due to the effects of the pandemic we are also investigating with SDC and Stratforward BID the possibilities of converting an empty unit into a Ping Pong Parlour. This would provide assistance to the property owners while converting the unit into an area that would create a free activity in the town centre. This could obviously only take place once restrictions allow and the site would follow all the relevant Table Tennis England guidelines with regards to COVID-19.

Table Tennis England Events

Table Tennis England will also be celebrating 100 years in 2021. We are hoping to assist with this celebration in Stratford-upon Avon later this year, if restrictions permit. They are also busy creating a promotional campaign for the Commonwealth Games in 2022 when all our tables will be re-branded with the necessary Commonwealth games logos and again, subject to restrictions, events created to celebrate the games.

In June 2021 the Pride of Table Tennis National Awards took place , Stratford upon Avon Town Council had been nominated in the “ Partner of the Year “ category and I was incredibly honoured to be representing West Midlands region in the “ Contribution to Table Tennis “ category. Sadly, neither the Town Council nor I were successful on this occasion.

TTKidz

As the recognised leaders in the sport, Table Tennis England has developed an incredible new programme for all children to enjoy... they will learn new skills, the importance of teamwork, get fit... and have fun! It's available in Table Tennis Clubs and Schools throughout England. Great news that due to the influence of the PING Project in town all of our Primary schools will be introducing the TTKidz programme into their sports curriculum – In September / October we will introduce the inaugural Stratford-upon-Avon Schools League.

In June we hosted Table Tennis England for the day filming at Hodgson's Green discussing the benefits of the PING project. Later they filmed at Broad Street Primary, Bishopton Primary, Scholars Mews Care Home and Stratford Leisure Centre. The films will contribute to the 'Return to the Table' campaign, a table tennis campaign set to launch on 26 July and run through to 27 September. The aim is to give confidence, motivate and invoke passion to get back to playing, coaching, volunteering or officiating.

Over the past couple of months we have seen lots of people pick up the bat again and national competitions recommence. However, we must

not forget that there is still a large part of our table tennis community which has not been able to or had the confidence to get back into the sport yet.

Messages, stories and advice from our own community will be delivered throughout the campaign on the Table Tennis England website. There will also be a two-week period between 30 August and 13 September during which they will be inviting clubs, leagues, coaches and community venues to run their own open days, club competitions or any activity that can build confidence or motivate people to play, volunteer, coach or officiate.