



NEWSLETTER

May 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE ITTF

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the ITTF continues to monitor closely the global situation in order to make the best possible decisions for the sport in these unprecedented times. Upon receiving comprehensive updates from the COVID-19 Task Force, the ITTF Executive Committee met on Friday 1st May 2020 and reached the following key outcomes:

- The current period of suspension of all ITTF events and activities has been extended up until the end of July 2020, with the situation being monitored closely for an eventual restart of ITTF events in August 2020.
- All World Veterans Tour (WVT) and Table Tennis X (TTX) events have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020.
- A decision about the status of the Hana Bank 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships will be made in June 2020.
- ITTF management have been asked to find ways to reduce operation costs overall, including the need for there to be some HR restructure in order to manage 2020 financial realities.

The ITTF Executive Committee will continue meeting online regularly, providing further updates on all upcoming decisions in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WORLD TABLE TENNIS



Who will be the host cities of World Table Tennis?

Cities and countries across the world are competing to stage an exciting programme of events, when the new era of World Table Tennis (WTT) gets under way in 2021, with bidding still open for interested parties to grasp this unique opportunity.

A completely revamped event structure is offering unprecedented opportunities to hosts and over 40 cities from all corners of the globe have shown interest to become the homes of WTT events, at all tier levels of the WTT event structure, from the Grand Smashes at the pinnacle, through to the WTT Series.

CLICK HERE to find out more and you can now also **FOLLOW WTT ON LINKEDIN!**



NEW WEBINAR SERIES

The ITTF High Performance & Development department has launched a new webinar series for players, coaches, referees and also the general public to stay connected to table tennis in times of social distancing with tips and inspirations offered by a panel of experts and professionals.

[READ MORE](#)



Education is the name of the game for the new webinar series.

NON-STOP FAN ENGAGEMENT

Despite no international events taking place at present, there has been plenty of exciting content on ITTF.com and the ITTF's social media channels to keep table tennis fans around the world entertained.

"ASK A PRO ANYTHING AT HOME"

Popular interview series "Ask A Pro Anything" continues to hit a screen near you, this time from the comfort of the players' homes! India's Sharath Kamal Achanta starred in the first episode under the new arrangement, with Hugo Calderano and Simon Gauzy next to join Adam Bobrow on the series sponsored by andro.

There is a twist to proceedings this time, as each player is faced with a quiz challenge. Who will end up top of the leaderboard, we wonder?! As ever, guests answer a whole variety of questions from the fans on social media, enabling table tennis followers to still connect with their stars even during quarantine. [WATCH HERE](#)



Click the image to watch Ask A Pro Anything at home!

TIKTOK

Always on the lookout to broaden its reach, the ITTF is officially up and running on TikTok. Fun, short-form videos and challenges are being posted daily to the platform, keeping the ITTF's new generation of fans engaged, entertained and in high spirits!

Follow the ITTF on TikTok! Profile name: @ITTFWorld1926

INSTAGRAM LIVE TAKEOVERS

Players have been taking over the ITTF's official Instagram account to call their table tennis friends and colleagues to a live audience, offering fans even more opportunities to get to know their favourite athletes on a more personal level.

So far the series has featured Kristian Karlsson (Sweden) with Patrick Franziska (Germany), Bruna Takahashi (Brazil) with Adriana Diaz (Puerto Rico), Kanak Jha (USA) with Hugo Calderano (Brazil) and Manika Batra (India) with Bernadette Szocs (Romania), and many more stars are set to join the party!



Click the image to watch the Instagram Live Takeovers!

[Follow the ITTF on Instagram](#)



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CELEBRATING THE SPORT IN STYLE ONLINE

“RETURN TO BUDAPEST”

To mark the one-year anniversary of the Liebherr 2019 World Table Tennis Championships, the ITTF celebrated those eight magical days in Budapest with a series of in-depth tactical reviews on ITTF.com, analysing how the key battles were won and lost.

Meanwhile on social media, fans were treated to full match replays and special features on the standout performers of the tournament, looking back at how An Jaehyun, Chen Meng, Mattias Falck, Liu Shiwen and Ma Long stole the headlines in the Hungarian capital. [SEE MORE](#)



Liu Shiwen and Ma Long the stars of the show in Budapest.

BEST OF ITTF WORLD TOUR

This year’s Japan, Hong Kong and China Opens had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but fans are being treated to the best of the action from previous editions of the tournament trio during exactly the same weeks that the events would have taken place.

Following a successful rerun of the Japan Open in late April, fans are enjoying even more classic action – in the form of full matches, highlights and best points – surrounding the Hong Kong and China Opens during these first two weeks of May.



Fans have enjoyed an action-packed month of classic matches across the ITTF’s digital channels.

“WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS REWIND”

The month of May has traditionally been one of the busiest in the history of the World Table Tennis Championships. From 1979 in Pyongyang up until 2018 in Halmstad, all of the best stories are being retold in the form of a daily live blog as if the events were happening in real-time and precisely on the corresponding day of previous years.

From the iconic victories and history-making moments of all-time legends to the shock results that brought new names into the limelight, this is the perfect table tennis time machine for fans to dig deep into the archives across ITTF.com and social media. [READ MORE](#)

STAY HOME, STAY FIT!

Every week, the ITTF Education department is providing **expert tips** on how to keep up with your training while at home, covering all areas of technique, fitness and mental training to get you ready for your return to the table.

To keep your mind as active as your body, here is a list of the **online learning resources** available to you from the IOC and WADA.



Austria’s Daniel Habesohn staying calm and relaxed at home.

ITTF FOUNDATION: KEEPING THE DREAM ALIVE

The ITTF supports the ITTF Foundation's decision to reallocate Foundation funding to alleviate the severe impacts of COVID-19 on Dream Building project partners. The crisis has hit the most vulnerable communities the hardest and the lockdown has prevented the provision of basic needs, food, clean water and valuable information for many communities, having major consequences on their survival.



The "Slum Ping Pong" project in Kampala, Uganda, using table tennis as a tool to provide access to education for young people in slums.

Over the past weeks, the ITTF Foundation has been receiving updates from project leaders in the field to explore the best ways to help them during this crisis. The 2019 projects had to stop all activities and the 2020 projects start date has been delayed.

Although currently unable to run activities, these programmes are more important than ever before and some project leaders are already working to help people affected by COVID-19. The Foundation budget was therefore reallocated in order to provide EUR 20,000 spread between all field projects. As an act of solidarity, two Dream Building projects, Ping Pong Alkmaar and Levallois, donated their share to projects who need it more.

Activities range from a radio station sharing official information about the virus in Uganda to providing sanitary kits in India and providing food to families in Ecuador and Kenya. The ITTF Foundation is proud to work with these projects and will do everything possible to support them in these challenging times.

Find out more about the Dream Building Projects for [2019](#) and [2020](#).

WORLD TABLE TENNIS 'AT HOME' DAY

The annual celebration of the sport, as organised by the ITTF Foundation and supported by the ITTF, the sixth edition of World Table Tennis Day took place on 6th April 2020, and while the COVID-19 pandemic prevented physical activities from happening this year, people were still able to celebrate via specially arranged social media initiatives.

Physically distanced but socially united, fans, players and legends all sent in their videos from home in order to make the **"WORLD'S LONGEST TABLE TENNIS RALLY."**

The level of coverage was incredible, featuring more than 190,000 people representing 156 ITTF member countries and territories. The other 70 members still have time to join in a second, even longer video being made to show all the celebrations.



Click the image to watch the world's longest table tennis rally!

If you already sent footage to us but forgot to tell us your name and country, just **upload it again** with the information of your country in the file name or contact the ITTF Foundation **via email** before 15th May 2020.