



**TABLE TENNIS.
FOR ALL.
FOR LIFE.**

NEWSLETTER
June 2020

WTT WEBINARS WTT

As part of the roll out of World Table Tennis (WTT) which launches in 2021, special webinar sessions have been held in order to inform all ITTF Family members about what WTT is all about. This forms part of the ongoing updates on WTT since last year and continued discussions with Member Associations and Continental Federations on the planned changes from 2021. A total of 215 registered users tuned in to the global webinar on 28 May 2020 and a further 80 users went online for the second webinar held for members located in the Americas on 17 June 2020.

Topics included the origins of WTT, the vision and mission, ITTF institutional benefits, WTT from an external viewpoint and WTT events, before concluding with a Q&A session for participants to field their questions to the WTT panelists: ITTF CEO & WTT Director Steve Dainton, ITTF Marketing Director & WTT Director Matt Pound, ITTF Secretary General Raul Calin, WTT Commercial Strategy Consultant Philippe Le Floc'h and WTT Event Strategy Director Stephen Duckitt. [READ MORE](#)

WTT FORUM IN CHINA

On 9 June 2020, World Table Tennis held a live forum on Chinese online platforms, discussing numerous hot topics for the future of the sport. The first ever WTT Forum was a resounding success with a record number of over 800,000 attendees tuning in to catch the live stream on Chinese online platforms.

The aforementioned WTT panelists were joined in the Q&A discussion sessions by a number of star athletes: Ma Long (China), Ding Ning (China), Timo Boll (Germany) Tomokazu Harimoto (Japan), Kasumi Ishikawa (Japan), Quadri Aruna (Nigeria) and Lily Zhang (USA).

Since the players are at the heart of what WTT stands for, their opinions on both the present status and future of the sport are essential as part of the wider discussion on how to take table tennis to new heights. [READ MORE](#)

TABLE TENNIS UNITED

The world has been suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the entire table tennis community has been severely affected by an extended period of no events. Aimed at helping to tackle the serious challenges the sport faces ahead, the #TableTennisUnited campaign was launched.

Powered by the ITTF Foundation and supported by the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) and World Table Tennis (WTT), the donation campaign has been brought about to support athletes, coaches, umpires, national associations and field projects who are all in need of a helping hand in these difficult times.

The campaign will look to provide support in key areas including financial assistance, important know-how, information and vital equipment to help protect the table tennis community from the impact of COVID-19.

[READ MORE](#)



Check out the #TableTennisUnited social media campaign: #PassTheBallOn



EVENT UPDATES

- The Executive Committee agreed with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of Busan that the Hana Bank 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships will be postponed to the early months of 2021 due to the fact it would be unlikely that the majority of teams would be able to travel to Korea Republic for the previously agreed provisional dates in September 2020. The exact date of the Championships will be decided at the next Executive Committee meeting on 10 July 2020.
- In terms of the 2020 calendar, the ITTF is exploring the possibility of staging alternative events, which could be implemented for the remainder of 2020, in case the COVID-19 pandemic does not allow the staging of full open international events as originally planned.
- The ITTF is monitoring the situation closely with regard to staging this year's Men's and Women's World Cups.
- The ITTF is looking into the possible options for staging the 2021 World Individuals Table Tennis Championships in USA, but it will not be possible to host the Championships on their original dates (17-26 June 2021) pending the final dates of the Busan event.

All events held will follow a strict COVID-19 protocol, which prioritises the health and safety of all participants.

[READ MORE](#)

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS

MEET THE SUPER SWEDES

The ITTF aired an exclusive video interview featuring three legends of the sport with Jan-Ove Waldner, Mikael Appelgren and Jörgen Persson providing fascinating insight into their iconic careers in "Meet the Super Swedes." Over the course of the one-hour video, the trio review classic match footage from the events that helped to shape the course of table tennis history.

How did they overcome the might of China? What made Team Sweden so special back then? How did they stay friends despite their fierce rivalry? All of these burning questions are answered as well as many funny stories retold! [WATCH AND ENJOY!](#)



Click to hear from the legendary trio!

#ASKSTEVE AND #ASKTHOMAS

Two leading figures of the ITTF family, ITTF president Thomas Weikert and CEO Steve Dainton have both featured in exclusive interviews in recent weeks to talk all things table tennis.



In the #AskSteve episode, Steve Dainton updated fans on how table tennis has been tackling the COVID-19 crisis, the latest on World Table Tennis, the future of the World Championships and how the sport can grow to reach new heights in the coming years. [WATCH HERE!](#)



Then in #AskThomas, Thomas Weikert discussed a number of important topics including the ITTF's stance against racism and all forms of discrimination, the ITTF's role to uphold good governance values and how the table tennis community is standing together in these challenging times through the #TableTennisUnited campaign. [WATCH HERE!](#)

CONTENT TO COVER THE CONTINENTS

Celebrating the global appeal of table tennis, the ITTF has been running a week-by-week campaign, promoting the sport continent-by-continent.

ITTF IN EUROPE WEEK

The month of continental-focused content kicked off with ITTF in Europe Week. Whilst in lockdown, two of Europe's finest women's players connected with one another via an Instagram Live Takeover, as Austria's Sofia Polcanova logged into the ITTF's official account to give Romania's Elizabeta Samara a call! The ITTF also published a special video looking back at the very best of Germany's Dimitrij Ovtcharov, featuring a breathtaking compilation of Dima's most spectacular shots throughout his career. Delving deep into the archives, fans were also treated to classic all-European encounters from years past, including the dramatic 1993 World Championships men's singles final between Jean-Philippe Gatien and Jean-Michel Saive.



[Click to watch Dima in full flight](#)

ITTF IN PANAM WEEK

Heading across the Atlantic, it was then time to celebrate ITTF in Panam Week. "Ask A Pro Anything at home" returned with a Pan American cast, as Brazil's Bruna Takahashi and United States' Kanak Jha joined host Adam Bobrow for another fun episode of the series. Takahashi also made an appearance in the week's Instagram Live Takeover, this time in the company of Puerto Rico's Brian Afanador.

Classic throwback matches were aired for fans to re-live the very best contests involving Pan American star names, such as USA's Lily Zhang's epic 2019 Women's World Cup victory over Japan's Miu Hirano and Brazil's Hugo Calderano defeating world no.1 Fan Zhendong at the 2018 World Tour Grand Finals. Calderano's incredible career to date was celebrated again with the showing of ITTF's exclusive film "Hugo Calderano – Outside the Venue."



[Click to meet "The Thrill from Brazil"](#)

ITTF IN AFRICA WEEK

The third week of the ITTF's continental extravaganza saw the focus turn to Africa. The Instagram Live Takeover for the week was a rerun of an episode featuring Egypt's Omar Assar and Nigeria's Quadri Aruna. The pair's famous yet friendly rivalry on the table was epitomised by their 2018 Africa Cup battle, one of the #ITTFsmashBack videos for the week. Meanwhile, a trio of special episodes allowed fans to get to know Olympic record-breaker Olufunke Oshonaike, Team Nigeria and up-and-coming talent Hana Goda from Egypt.



[Click to meet Egypt's rising star](#)

ITTF IN OCEANIA WEEK

Rounding off the continental spotlight series was ITTF in Oceania Week, which saw two "Smash Down Barriers" videos highlighting the inspirational tales of Kiribati's Regina Ritiata and Fiji's Kope Taberanibou. The week's content line-up was further complimented by a special "TableTennis For NepALL" feature starring Australia's Melissa Tapper and the "How's Your Aussie Slang" challenge with Benjamin Gould. William Henzell's epic encounter against Kristian Karlsson at the 2015 Men's World Cup was the pick of the bunch among the week's #ITTFsmashBack matches.



[Click to watch "Smash Down Barriers"](#)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS WORKING THROUGH PANDEMIC

Despite facing adversity from the COVID-19 crisis, National Associations across the world have continued their table tennis mission through the global pandemic.



In Kosovo, delegates and association members were invited to an online virtual meeting hosted by the Table Tennis Federation of Kosovo (FPPK) to discuss topics such as the current situation, issues faced and post Covid-19 preparation. A series of video lectures were also aired centred around umpires and referees, administration and management, anti-doping and more. The FPPK has also initiated the drafting of its new constitution, which is fully aligned with the ITTF's vision for the future, updating its outlook towards fundamental principles for good governance.



USA Table Tennis (USATT) has also been embracing the power of technology to help keep the table tennis conversation going stateside. Keeping the ball rolling with informative videos on their YouTube channel, USATT recently concluded its #PongPositive interview series featuring the likes of Lily Zhang, Kanak Jha and celebrity doctor Daniel Amen. USATT is also currently halfway through its "Ask A Champion" series with sporting icons Zoran Primorac and Jean-Michel Saive making recent guest appearances.



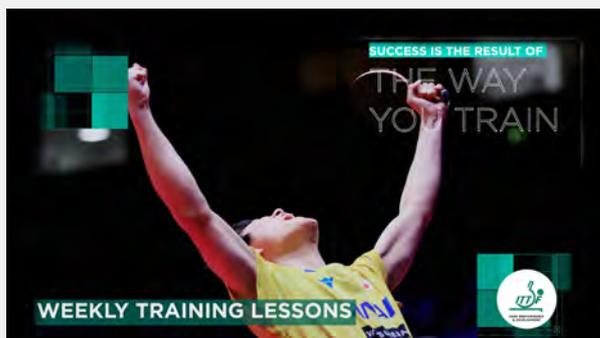
Over the course of lockdown in Spain, the Real Federacion Española de Tenis de Mesa (RFETM) has delivered an exciting programme of content. Quarantine readings were presented to athletes putting the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games in the spotlight, while online training was also made available to athletes and coaches. Quarantine interviews with players were aired on Instagram live and the RFETM also launched the #YoMeQuedoEnCasa Challenge to keep fans active during lockdown. 'Round Table' debates were also introduced with the women's table tennis 'Round Table', featuring Spanish star Galia Dvorak, proving highly successful.

HIGH PERFORMANCE, DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION

"TABLE TENNIS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS"

From the beginning of May, the ITTF Education department has been running a webinar series "Table Tennis at Your Fingertips" with the goal to keep the table tennis community connected during this extraordinary time of COVID-19. Panelists have included the likes of Timo Boll, Xiao Zhan and other big names of our sport, including prominent experts sharing their personal insights, experiences and thoughts on various topics which affect players, coaches, referees, umpires and the general public.

[CLICK HERE](#) to check the Webinar schedule.



[Click to watch the Weekly Training Lessons!](#)



Timo Boll among the guests of the "Table Tennis at Your Fingertips" series.

WEEKLY TRAINING LESSONS

The ITTF High Performance & Development department has also launched a brand new "Weekly Training Lessons" series. Every Friday, the team is bringing you lessons, focusing on technical and tactical elements that will help you get the most out of your table tennis training. [READ MORE](#)