



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

**NEWSLETTER**  
July 2020

## WORLD TABLE TENNIS

### LIU GUOLIANG: CHAIR OF WTT COUNCIL

The future of the sport is brighter than ever upon news that Liu Guoliang has become Chair of the newly formed WTT Council. Taking overall leadership and responsibility for pioneering the future of table tennis in his new role, Liu Guoliang is an extremely well-respected leader within the global table tennis community, demonstrating the perfect calibre and richest of career achievements.

Following a stellar playing career, in which he won gold medals at the Olympic Games and World Table Tennis Championships, Liu has since overseen serial success as the head coach of the Chinese National Team, and as the President of the Chinese Table Tennis Association. [READ MORE](#)



### KHALIL AL-MOHANNADI APPOINTED TO WTT BOARD

Khalil Al-Mohannadi's appointment to the WTT Board sees another well-respected leader within the global table tennis community helping to oversee the future growth and success of the sport.

Mr. Al-Mohannadi brings a wealth of experience to WTT, having contributed greatly to the success of the ITTF both in his role as Deputy President and previously as Vice President. Meanwhile, as President of QTTA since 1995, Al-Mohannadi has successfully increased the profile of table tennis in Qatar and the Middle East region. [READ MORE](#)

## WTT ANNOUNCES KEY PARTNERSHIPS

WTT is delighted to have entered into a broad, long-term strategic partnership with IMG, a global leader in sports, fashion, events and media. The extensive alliance, which commences in January 2021, includes global media rights development and distribution, production oversight of WTT events, betting data and streaming rights for IMG Arena, non-exclusive sponsorship representation, as well as the general mandate to grow the sport of table tennis globally. [READ MORE](#)

In addition, WTT announced four further partnerships to help elevate table tennis to the global sports elite: 160over90, part of the Endeavor network alongside IMG, is helping WTT to formulate a global promotion strategy. PumpJack Dataworks is helping WTT in its mission of enhancing table tennis fan engagement. Gemba, a high-end consultancy providing insight and strategy to the global sport and entertainment industry, is supporting WTT with its sponsorship and media rights valuations. Superunion is providing branding expertise to ensure that WTT benefits from a standout visual identity, which resonates with WTT's core values and its audience. [READ MORE](#)



## WTT PRESENTED TO AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Aired with a view to better educate and fully integrate the region within WTT's plans, a special webinar was held on Wednesday 8 July 2020, specifically for ITTF Family members located in Africa.

Twenty-eight member associations attended the webinar, as well as the Africa Table Tennis Federation (ATTF), who expressed their full support for WTT. Significantly, the webinar was attended by the recently appointed WTT Council Chair, Liu Guoliang and WTT Board Member, Khalil Al-Mohannadi. [READ MORE](#)

The Arab Federation also hosted a special webinar, updating all in attendance about what to expect with the arrival of WTT. A total of 88 umpires representing 22 nations took part in the conference.

## GOVERNANCE PROGRESS

The Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) has published the findings of the third governance review for its full and associate member federations, with the ITTF making significant progress on its path to showing good governance.

The ITTF has moved up from group B to group A2, the second highest rated group. Moreover, the ITTF has risen 10 positions up to 11th in the rankings, having finished 21st in the 2018 report.

The report covers the subjects of Transparency, Integrity, Democracy, Development and Control Mechanisms. The ITTF has improved in all five areas, scoring particularly highly in terms of Transparency.

As per the recommendation of ASOIF, the ITTF will now start a process to assist Member Associations and affiliated Continental Federations to enhance their governance standards. [READ MORE](#)



*The ITTF Executive Committee at one of its meetings in Prague in 2018.*

## EVENTS UPDATE

The Hana Bank 2020 World Team Table Tennis Championships in Busan, Korea Republic, will be staged between 28 February and 7 March 2021 – a decision reached by the ITTF Executive Committee, who also penned out plans for hosting “bubble” or regionally based tournaments for the remainder of the 2020 calendar.

The suspension of all ITTF events has been extended until the end of August, with the ITTF World Tour events in Czech Republic and Hong Kong China cancelled, due to ongoing travel restrictions and potential risks to health and safety. The ITTF places on record its thanks for the hard work undertaken by the Czech Table Tennis Association and Hong Kong Table Tennis Association towards the preparation of the events.

# DIGITAL CONTENT

## ITTF IN ASIA WEEKS

The ITTF's continental spotlight weeks returned with the focus shifting to Asia for back-to-back weeks of streamlined content.



Watch Sathyian Gnanasekaran take on Simon Gauzy at the 2019 Men's World Cup

Kickstarting the fun was "ITTF in West, South and South-East Asia week" as the ITTF's social channels promoted table tennis across the three regions. The week commenced with an electric showing of the Top 10 points from the 2020 ITTF World Tour Platinum Qatar Open. In-depth videos were also aired later in the week, putting India's Manika Batra and Thailand's rising stars at centre-stage. The #ITTFsmashback match replays showcased memorable victories for Iran's Noshad Alamiyan, India's Sathyian Gnanasekaran and Singapore's Feng Tianwei.

Next up was "ITTF in East Asia week" to celebrate one of the sport's strongest regions. Kicking off the action was the epic final between Japan's Hina Hayata and Chinese Taipei's Cheng I-Ching at the 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Oman Open. The #ITTFsmashback matches featured Japanese teenager Tomokazu Harimoto's iconic victory over Chinese legend Zhang Jike at the 2018 ITTF World Tour Japan Open, a brave win for Japan's Mima Ito over China's Liu Shiwen at the 2018 World Team Table Tennis Championships, and Liang Jingkun's last-gasp triumph over Jeoung Youngsik as China came back to defeat Korea Republic in the men's final of the 2019 Team World Cup. Meanwhile, fans were also treated to exclusive interviews with World and Olympic champion Ma Long of China and teenage ace Lin-Yun Ju of Chinese Taipei.



Watch Mima Ito's epic match against Liu Shiwen at the 2018 World Championships

## KOREA AND AUSTRALIAN OPEN WEEKS

During the weeks originally scheduled for this year's ITTF World Tour Korea and Australian Opens, the ITTF social channels nevertheless kept fans entertained by playing some of the best action over the history of both events.

The pick of the Korea Open #ITTFsmashback matches saw an all-Chinese showdown between Xu Xin and Ma Long in the 2016 final and an all-German battle between Timo Boll and Patrick Franziska to decide the 2017 title. In the women's competition, Feng Tianwei and Kasumi Ishikawa lock horns in the 2017 gold medal match.

The standout Australian Open #ITTFsmashback matches saw Vladimir Samsonov claim a then record-breaking 27th ITTF World Tour men's singles title in 2017; the fierce rivalry between Liu Shiwen and Ding Ning came to a head at the 2018 women's singles final; last, but certainly not least, the 2019 men's singles final produced some explosive table tennis as Xu Xin overcame Patrick Franziska.

Further content related to the Korea and Australian Opens was published on ITTF.com in the form of original player interviews, throwback features and compilations of standout moments from the events.



Vladimir Samsonov makes history Down Under.

## TABLE TENNIS UNITED

Launched in June 2020, the Table Tennis United donation campaign was set up to assist players, coaches, umpires, National Associations and field projects during these difficult times and the response to the initiative has been most encouraging.

More than USD 250,000 has been raised thus far from 51 generous donors with six initiatives already benefitting from the support, while a further 42 are currently under consideration. To help accordingly with the specific needs, World Table Tennis has been tasked with finding solutions for players while the ITTF's main duty is to support its members, the National Associations. Support allocated towards the ITTF Foundation field projects is being specifically tailored to assist participants and their families with basic food packages, protective sanitary kits and locally produced information pamphlets.



*The Table Tennis United donation campaign is benefitting field projects worldwide.*

The ITTF would like to thank everyone who has already donated to the cause. For those wanting to show their solidarity with Table Tennis United, the campaign is still running. [DONATE HERE](#)

## HIGH PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

ITTF High Performance and Development continues to enjoy an active presence during the off-season with a host of content specifically tailored towards helping players go back to the table, while the first ever International Umpire exam proved an overwhelming success.

### RETURN TO THE TABLE: PART TWO

Following a prolonged period away from the action, it is time to reintroduce some structure to your training routine with expert guidance from ITTF High Performance Elite Coach, Massimo Costantini.

In Part One, Costantini touched on how to map out a gradual return to the table, where to begin, duration of sessions and more. The second part of the series takes you on an intense three-hour journey, compiling a list of drills and useful advice to help bring your game back up to speed. [READ MORE](#)

### 4 LESSONS WITH MASSIMO COSTANTINI

ITTF High Performance & Development has been bringing you Weekly Training Lessons to enhance your drills. During the session break, join Massimo Costantini as he shares insights into training and coaching practice and theory throughout "4 Lessons", held on four consecutive Fridays from 17 July 2020. [READ MORE](#)



*ITTF High Performance Elite Coach, Massimo Costantini.*

### ITTF INTERNATIONAL UMPIRE EXAMINATION

The first global online International Umpire examination has been concluded with great success, with 878 candidates from 99 member associations completing the process. It has been hailed as an exciting step in the new digital era of educational efforts by ITTF High Performance & Development. [READ MORE](#)

