



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

NEWSLETTER

December 2020

END-OF-YEAR MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

2020 was the most challenging year in living memory, but together we managed to #RESTART table tennis with a 100% safety record.

This remarkable achievement highlighted the incredible togetherness of the entire table tennis community and we wish to thank you for your continued support to our beloved sport.

Together, we will continue to work hard towards a brighter future and more positive steps forward in 2021.

Thomas Weikert, ITTF President
Steve Dainton, ITTF CEO

WTT MACAO

The start of a brand-new chapter in the story of international table tennis, the first glimpse into the sport's future was put on display from November 25th-29th, with the arrival of WTT Macao presented by Galaxy Entertainment Group.

A spectacular showcase offering a teaser of what to expect when World Table Tennis arrives in 2021, WTT Macao featured an elite player roster in exciting new surrounds as spectators witnessed history in the making with the first WTT trophies on the line.

A TRULY INNOVATIVE EXPERIENCE

Taking the sport in an exciting new direction, WTT Macao presented a fresh take on the international game with a host of innovative changes.

Set against the backdrop of striking new surrounds, players took to the octagon-shaped court with a new-look table standing before them. Featuring orange lines contrasting against a black surface, the table was fitted with a special LED panel and proved the perfect battleground for the jaw-dropping \$800,000 prize pool with each round offering a progressively larger stake.

Challenging tradition, a new scoring system was utilised for the event with the introduction of sudden death points, first to five-point games, and more. Split into six stages, the pressure was on right from the first ball with the unforgiving nature of the Battle Rounds leaving players with no margin for error.



Meanwhile, WTT Macao also raised the stakes in the Top 4 Seed Battle, granting preferential order in selecting quarterfinal opposition to the round's best performers for added competitive incentive.

The first-ever collaboration between WTT and strategic partner IMG Productions also saw the sport reach amazing new heights in broadcast innovation, with experimental techniques and an exciting new approach to production showcasing the pulsating action from every angle.

WTT Macao benefitted from a vast distribution rights network developed by IMG Productions, broadcasting the action on a truly global scale. The historic event was distributed across 141 countries throughout Asia-Pacific, Africa, Europe and Pan America, while new opportunities in Australia, Austria, Cambodia, Canada, Germany, Laos, Latin America, Mongolia, New Zealand, Pacific Islands, Philippines, Switzerland and Thailand broadened event exposure to a new audience. Accompanied by a contemporary motion-capture title sequence, and a youthful music composition, WTT Macao boasted state-of-the-art production standards, striking the perfect synergy between the event and the broadcasting experience as a whole.



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MA LONG AND SUN YINGSHA CROWNED CHAMPIONS



Exciting from start until finish, there was no shortage of drama at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion in Macao with thrilling contests throughout the two singles events.

Star performances aplenty, but expectations were blown out of the water in the women's singles race as China's Chen Xingtong produced some of her best table tennis to date with incredible comeback victories over fellow compatriots Ding Ning and Chen Meng leading her all the way to the final. The main plaudits, however, were reserved for Sun Yingsha with the no.2 seed beating Chen Xingtong (11-10, 11-8, 11-6, 9-11, 11-6, 11-4) to the highly coveted title.

The men's singles event also proved a happy hunting ground for China with three of the four semifinal spots going to the nation's players, but Sweden's Mattias Falck prevented a Chinese podium lockout after earning his first-ever win over no.1 seed Xu Xin. Falck was eventually bested by rising talent Wang Chuqin, but it was another Chinese star who stole the headlines as 'The Dragon' Ma Long roared to a commanding 5-1 victory over Wang (11-5, 11-9, 11-4, 11-5, 10-11, 11-8).

[READ MORE](#)

ITTF REFLECTS ON HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE YEAR. 2020 WORLD TEAM TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS CANCELLED AMIDST PANDEMIC.

Led by the ITTF President, Thomas Weikert, the ITTF Executive Committee (EC) met on Monday 21 December 2020 to discuss several matters related to the past year and important issues for the year ahead.

A year beset with challenging hurdles to overcome, ITTF CEO, Steve Dainton, paid tribute to the monumental work carried out in ensuring the sport's successful return through the #RESTART series. The European Champions League matches held by the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU) were also highlighted, showing that after a difficult 2020, there is now hope and belief that 2021 can be a success for table tennis.

Furthermore, a report from the Vice President of Finance, Petra Sörling, and CFO, Michael Brown, revealed that, due to the end-of-year events as well as the diligent and prudent actions taken throughout the entire year, the ITTF can still end 2020 without a financial loss.

On a more sombre note, with the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in Korea Republic in recent days, the ITTF Executive Committee, together with representatives from the continents, announced the cancellation of the 2020 ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships. The decision was made following a report from the President of the Korea Table Tennis Association (KTTA) Ryu Seung-min, who had been informed by the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency that no major international sporting events would be permitted in the country over the forthcoming months. It was therefore unanimously agreed to make the difficult decision to cancel the World Championships for the first time since World War II.

Other important decisions undertaken during the meeting saw the EC approve the 2021 ITTF World Ranking, as proposed by the ITTF World Ranking Working Group, while the ITTF Nominations Committee for the period 2020-2022 was confirmed with details to be released in the next week. It was also agreed to open applications for the Head of Integrity position that would oversee the ITTF Integrity Unit in the future, further enhancing the ITTF Governance system which will see the new ITTF Tribunal also being implemented in 2021. [READ MORE](#)

ITTF WORLD PROFESSIONALS MAKE DEBUT AT CHINESE TABLE TENNIS SUPER LEAGUE

The 2020 Chinese Table Tennis Super League is set to be held between 21–29 December in Changlong, Guangzhou, following the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games format. Nine men's and nine women's teams will compete in a two-stage tournament format where the teams compete in a round robin in the first stage before the top four teams lock horns in knockout stage action.



A historic campaign in the making, the 2020 season welcomes six foreign association players, with Lin Yun-Ju joining the Shandong Weiqiao Club, and five female stars forming an “ITTF World Professionals” team: Adriana Diaz (PUR), Lily Zhang (USA), Jeon Jihee (KOR), Doo Hoi Kem (HKG) and Cheng I-Ching (TPE).

Although it's not the first-time players from foreign associations have featured in the league, it is a first for an independent international team to be competing, thanks to the joint efforts of the International Table Tennis Federation through their High Performance and Development Department (ITTF) and the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA). [READ MORE](#)

UNIVERSITY OF TABLE TENNIS – AN EDUCATIONAL PROJECT FROM BRAZIL



On 19th November 2020, the Brazilian Table Tennis Confederation (CBTM) officially launched the University of Table Tennis, an initiative offering training for professionals looking to work in the sport in a coaching, officiating, or managerial capacity.

The purpose of the University is to offer a complete development training programme within Brazilian table tennis, inspiring new professionals to explore key areas within the industry. The importance of training women is a key factor within the University's planning, promoting gender equality across the board with men and women sharing all spaces. [READ MORE](#)

SOUTH AFRICA TABLE TENNIS BOARD CELEBRATES THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

The United Nation's System's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is aiming to help tackle the issue of violence against women, an important hurdle to clear particularly in 2020 which has seen an alarming rise in cases across the world against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Marking the occasion in conjunction with International Human Rights Day, the South African Table Tennis Board lent its voice to the discussion by holding a dedicated online event in support of the UN campaign titled: “Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights”. The event focused on a range of topics including the opportunities offered in rebuilding society and sport after the global pandemic, which exposed the existing pandemic of violence against women. [WATCH HERE](#)

NEW NATIONAL TABLE TENNIS CENTRE OPENS IN KAZAKHSTAN

The National Table Tennis Centre, a newly constructed venue in the city of Karaganda, has officially opened in Kazakhstan. The opening ceremony took place on Monday 23rd November and was attended by the country's President, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

A grand achievement and a big moment in Kazakh table tennis history, the National Table Tennis Centre meets the best international standards featuring a playing hall with a capacity of up to 18 tables! The new centre also boasts a practise hall with nine tables, a set of exercise equipment, a medical office, a conference room, in addition to professional flooring and lighting. Covering a total area of 4500 square metres, the centre allows for the staging of both national and international tournaments, as well as training camps. [READ MORE](#)



New National Table Tennis Centre in Kazakhstan

2020 IN REVIEW: ITTF HIGH PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

A year of uncertainty brought about by the global pandemic, 2020 has presented many a hurdle for the sport to overcome. However, it has also been a year of perseverance and when ITTF High Performance and Development's big plans for 2020 encountered a major setback, the team adapted and took table tennis online. Take a trip down memory lane with a look back at the online services offered by ITTF HPD department over the course of the year. [WATCH HERE](#)

#TABLETENNISUNITED FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN UP AND RUNNING

With the COVID-19 pandemic still dominating headlines across the globe, #TableTennisUnited is still open for support, assisting National Associations, players, coaches, clubs and more during these difficult times. If you or your organisation have been adversely affected by the impact of the virus, do not hesitate to contact the campaign. You can apply for support through the #TableTennisUnited [application form](#).

Watch the ITTF Foundation's video on just some of the wonderful initiatives the campaign has helped over the course of the year: [WATCH HERE](#)



BRONZE FOR PARKINSON'S WORLD TABLE TENNIS DAY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ITTF Foundation's formation of the ITTF Parkinson's World Table Tennis Championships was formally recognised at the prestigious 2020 London Sports Business Awards, receiving third place in the "Best Sports Governing Body Initiative" category.

While the 2020 Parkinson's World Championships was unfortunately postponed until September 2021, you can relive the emotional story of the event's inauguration in 2019: [WATCH HERE](#)

