

ITV to show National Championships LIVE! 2016



For the first time, the National Championships will be televised live on TV4.

The channel will broadcast a 3hr slot on the afternoon of Sunday March 20th, with the Men's Doubles, Women's Singles and Men's Singles finals shown live.

There will also be highlights of earlier finals, interviews and coverage of the presentation ceremonies, plus special guests and features. Table Tennis England's commercial partners Female Sports Group (FSG) have been instrumental in bringing the deal to fruition.

Table Tennis England Chief Executive Sara Sutcliffe signed the contract this week. She said: *"It's fantastic news for our sport that the Nationals will be televised live, particularly on a terrestrial channel where viewers can watch at no cost to themselves. ITV4 have a fantastic portfolio of live sports & will bring experience, innovation & prestige to their coverage. We're delighted to be working with them, & with FSG, who have worked tirelessly on our behalf to make this happen."* *"We know from Commonwealth Games viewing figures & from other research that there is a real appetite & enthusiasm for televised table tennis, and believe this is just the first step to seeing more of our sport on TV."*

Niall Sloane, Director of Sport at ITV, said:

"Table tennis is a fast & exciting sport which is perfect for TV coverage. Many viewers will remember it as a mainstay of ITV's flagship World of Sport programme in the 70s, 80s." *"With English players on an upward trajectory on the world stage, this is the perfect time for us to introduce it to a new audience, and we're confident it will be a huge success."*