

**Where are we now?**

## **Rationale**

**The Butterfly 'More Schools' Project** investigated how schools could introduce practical sessions to interest students in playing and enjoying participation in table tennis activities.

It recommended **individual events** as the easy starting point for both intra-school and inter-school competitions. Events could be:

- A straight knockout
- A two-way knockout
- Played in a round-robin group system
- A combination of group and knockout systems

There is a fine balance between the number of tables and time available against the number of competitors when selecting an appropriate system of play. **The best matches in any event are those keenly contested by players of a similar standard.** Participation at the right level is key in order for players to enjoy their experience, continue to make progress and improve their playing ability.

In the Butterfly 'More Schools' Project **Team Competitions** were also addressed – but these were for a single day's event or progressive knockout events. Lose in the first match and you are out of the competition!

Templates for the above project can be found on [www.estta.org.uk](http://www.estta.org.uk) – follow links to Development and the Butterfly 'More Schools' Project.

Competition Managers working in School Sport Partnerships have created new opportunities for participation in table tennis in schools. Their work has been mostly to organise one-off knockout competitions within their Partnership/Borough mostly leading to the English Schools' Table Tennis Association County Schools' events and into the well established ESTTA Team and Individual Championships.

With the increase of interest in the sport, **the time is right to consolidate and move from one-off events into a regularity of play which can be achieved by the formation of local inter-school leagues.** This should provide sustainable growth.

Hence ..... **the Butterfly Schools' League Project!**