

Personal Election statement

I have been involved with Table Tennis for much of my life in one form or another: from a TT family, playing since I could hold a bat; a brother who represented the county and an enthusiastic mother who in her seventies, broke her hip diving (she claimed!) to return a ball. My involvement expanded through local league to the county association, organising county and schools' tournaments. I am the county General Secretary, National Councillor, and member of the National Council Select Committee and since 2017 I have been the South West Regional Chair. I co-founded the Somerset Sabres Table Tennis Club out of a local school and helped steer it to much success fielding teams from local league, to British League (junior and senior), right through to European competition and being ranked inside the top 50 European clubs.

My three sons took up the sport with my encouragement and proved far better players than I ever was. The youngest even winning titles at national level. Throughout the last decade I became a familiar face on the tournament circuit travelling nationwide attending every type of tournament from one stars to National Championships, from British League to Grand Prix. This exposure has given me excellent visibility of the sport and a good understanding of what goes on and the challenges, and frustrations, of making this sport happen. It has enhanced my personal passion for, and commitment to, seeing Table Tennis grow and flourish.

I am and always will be, a strong advocate for the membership, I'm unashamedly forthright when an issue needs managing. I have challenged TTE on more than one occasion and had some robust interactions, even having the dubious honour of facing their QC when I was trying to support a mother and her children in a safeguarding matter. As a member of the Select Committee, I was active in submitting propositions to this year's AGM, aiming to strengthen the membership's influence and ensure members remain at the heart of the sport. I am also a pragmatist and campaigned hard to ensure the voting went the right way for two crucial propositions to secure the £11m Sport England funding our sport relies on.

Outside of my involvement with Table Tennis, I have a long and successful professional business career that equips me with a wide range of skills and experience to complement those already possessed by the board. My board level experience ranges from global multi-national corporations through small start-ups, to charities fighting child trafficking; from heading up £100million+ operations to new companies yet to have any revenue streams. Among my core professional competencies are strategic development skills for achieving key business objectives and man management skills for getting the best out of personnel which are any organisations most valuable assets. These days I work for myself, predominantly as an independent business consultant. This gives me the flexibility to expand my involvement with Table Tennis and the time to devote to this role with commitment.

My objective in standing for this position is to be a catalyst that gets the membership and the leadership working much more closely. I believe a chasm has opened up between the 99%, who are the players, organisers, administrators and enthusiasts that are out there playing and running table tennis week-in and week-out in clubs, leagues and counties, and the 1% who are in the driving seat at Table Tennis England but who aren't listening well enough to what the members need and want. We need members' to feel they are genuinely valued but also that they're getting value. We need common agreed goals so everyone involved with the sport is pulling in the same direction. Let's focus all the effort into growing and improving table tennis rather than what we've seen so much of over the last few years, which is many different areas pulling in different directions. One sport, one direction. This is a fantastic sport with enormous benefits for every section of society; let's not keep that such a big secret.

If members want someone on the board who will strive to ensure their interests remain central to the decisions being made, then please ask your company members, for both your county and your league, to back me in the upcoming ballot. For more information, please visit www.joskelly.com