



Election Statement From Neil Hurford

My name is Neil Hurford. I play my table tennis in and around Oxford. In this Election Statement, I will tell you my table tennis story, what I will contribute to the Board and what I will achieve for you should I be elected.

My Table Tennis Story

I have played our sport competitively for over 50 years. I've played in more than 12 local leagues - in Lancashire, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Wiltshire. I've played in the county championships at junior, veterans and O-60s levels for more than 50 years.

During this time, I've always been a volunteer who has contributed to the running of table tennis at club, league, county and national level. I began my volunteer journey as the Secretary of a club in Stevenage more than 40 years ago. From there I quickly got involved in the running of the local league and was General Secretary of Hertfordshire for six years in the 1980s. On moving to Oxfordshire, I became first Chair and then National Councillor for the county. I run various team and individual events across the county.

Since becoming a National Councillor, I have become involved in table tennis at national level. I was a member of the Independent Review of Governance, and then a member and Chair of the Members Advisory Group. Through these roles I have a deep understanding of governance in our sport. I am a member of the county championships committee, running all aspects of the O-60s Section of the competition.

I use my knowledge of software to provide direct support to local leagues in implementing the TT Leagues league management system. It has been a privilege to work closely with so many individuals who really make our sport tick. And I have led the process of using TT Leagues in British League and the county championships.

What I Will Contribute to the Board and What I Will Achieve For You

At the heart of my reason for standing is to be able to feed-in my extensive experience of club, league and county table tennis into the decision-making processes of the TTE Board. Indeed, I want to provide a clear and effective voice for all volunteers from across our sport – these are the people that makes things happen.

I fully support the “strategy re-set” set out by the new TTE Chief Executive, Adrian Christy. This puts “table tennis first” and emphasises the key role of volunteers who should be brought more closely into the decision-making process. I will ensure that the voice of clubs, leagues and counties is heard in the development and implementation of the strategy reset. That will provide an effective route for uniting our sport.

But I'm in no doubt the Board has more work to do to improve transparency and accountability. I will ensure that in taking forward the “strategy reset” that the Board builds-in a high level of engagement with clubs, leagues and counties. I will ensure that both current decisions and future plans are shared with the membership and be subject to scrutiny. I will work with the Elected Directors so that we lead this process.

The new Member Elected Director will be most effective in delivering what the membership requires if they work constructively with both their fellow Directors and the TTE staff for the good of the sport. My experience is that we achieve far more, and more quickly, by building consensus – and that will be my approach.

My Business Background

I have over 45 years' experience working in the public and private sectors. Initially I worked in a Government Research Laboratory as an environmental scientist. I then moved into the private sector to focus on the commercialisation of science & technology businesses. I then set up a software company that developed and sold project management software. Along the way, I secured a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Cranfield School of Management in which I specialised in financial management.

My Life Outside of Table Tennis

You must be joking! But I thoroughly enjoy my regular walking holidays in the beautiful English countryside with my friend Christina.

Next Steps

I hope you will be able to support me by voting for me in the current election. If you or your colleagues would like to discuss any issues with me, feel free to drop me a line at neilhurford999@gmail.com