

Chief Executive's Update

May 2023



Appendix

Question Time Questions & Answers, Wednesday 17 May at 3 pm

Q1

It would appear from selections to the Elite Pathway squads and WTT events and Schools internationals that TT England are focusing on the Cadet age group and younger and "giving up" on the current juniors aged 17+.

Has there been a shift in approach to place the emphasis and opportunities on Cadets and younger and belief that our older juniors are not able to compete at the level required abroad and so are being marginalised with less and less opportunities?

A1

In order for us to achieve our Olympic aspirations we have to make decisions bearing in mind the resource we have.

We have shifted our strategy to ensure players are starting younger and critically are learning the right behaviours at a young age to ensure our environments are world class.

Our national training squad is massively important to us, and it is important these athletes get the right amount of opportunity to train and compete. We have world class coaches in our pathway now and this program will be ramped up to ensure NTS achieve their capabilities.

Q2

What is the board's view on employing staff who have multiple roles with other governing bodies/organisations eg any combination of roles or positions held within the GB squad, TT England elite pathway and Club level.

Is there a possibility of a conflict of interest where this occurs or being "spread too thin" or do the board feel this situation engenders greater consistency in approach or something else?

A2

In summary:

- There are no roles where a member of staff is employed by another body
- In respect of TTE and GBTT all roles are employed by TTE
- The relationship between TTE and GBTT is a contractual one to allow UK Sport funding to be invested into our Olympic programme

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- Part of that investment includes being able to look across the pathway and performance programme of each home nation and to be far better joined up – so this can only be a positive thing
- There is nothing in the arrangement that weakens the position of any home nation, in fact it strengthens our respective environments when we bring the best players together to spar with each other, and the best coaches together to learn from each other.

Q3

In a time when TTE state they want to value and retain volunteers, why is the cost of issuing a coaching licence so high when compared to other licences/certificates (below) which in most cases, require far more stringent checks?

A coach renewal licence costs £24 for one year, £72 for 3 years, renewable only in July. This after DBS, Safeguarding costs etc are paid by the coach before a licence is issued. Surely it is a simple admin process to check the coaches file and see that DBS etc are all in currently place and then authorise. That should take a few minutes for each coach and should not be a costly process. Most club coaches take no money for what they do.

Also why have validity for a year from 1st July? If a coach takes an initial course and qualifies, the "free licence" may only be effective for a short time. Spread the workload for your admin and issue a yearly licence from the date of first qualifying would be an improvement for everyone.

The following examples, though not directly comparable, give an idea of values.

- Driving licence £17 for ten years
- Passport £82.50 for ten years.
- Firearm and Shotgun certificate Grant £79.50 for five years, renewal £49 for 5 years. This includes criminal record checks and other relevant Police systems, all included in the cost of certificate.

These all have extra biometric measures for I/D purposes.

Maybe a small admin fee of £5 would be more appropriate to check the DBS, safeguarding or even First Aid would be more appropriate and would be welcomed by coaches. The included insurance is not much of an incentive either.

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A3

We are always conscious of the cost, particularly for coaches who are volunteers and as such the cost of the Coach Licence has not changed for at least four years.

- The Coach Licence (<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/coach-and-teach/coach-licence/>) works out a 79 pence a day and offers many benefits to our coaches, including:
 - £10 million public liability insurance
 - Access to the Coach support page on the TT Learning zone
 - Discount on the TT Kidz programme and many other benefits
 - Access to the UK Coaching coach support and learning

While acknowledging the examples given, Coach Licencing is often compared to other sectors where a 'licence to practice' is required, such as Gas Safe (formerly Corgi) where the cost of membership is considerably higher. But the comment is noted.

With regard to the Coach Licence having a fixed date annual renewal, this is not correct – it is a rolling renewal.

Q4

A number of players only play in summer leagues however, they are required to pay a full year's membership for this period, sometimes having to then pay another full year just a few months or weeks later.

This doesn't seem fair – what is the thought on this?

A4

We understand this and are currently reviewing as part of the consideration of our membership proposition. The point is well made and something we will look closely at.