

PRESENT

Hybrid meeting at the TTE Offices, Milton Keynes and by Zoom Conference call

10.30 am

Estyn Williams (Chair – Warwickshire)

National Councillors:

David Hockney* (Avon), Phil Ashleigh* (Essex), Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland), Reinhard Lindner* (Dorset), Allan Thompson* (Durham), David Edwards* (Hertfordshire), David Brown* (Lincolnshire), Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire), Stephen Longmoor* (Somerset), Margot Fraser* (Surrey), Tony Catt (Sussex), Martin Clark* (Worcestershire), Richard B Hudson* (Yorkshire)

Deputy National Councillors:

Peter Charters* (Berkshire), Brian Whitehead* (Buckinghamshire), Darren Morgan* (Cheshire), Mike Holt* (Leicestershire)

Other: Mike Atkinson* (South Regional Committee Chair)

Board Members: Sandra Deaton (SD), Adrian Christy (AC), Don Parker* (DP), Susie Venner (SV), Ritchie Venner (RV)

Staff: Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB), Sue Wressell (SW)

Minutes : Sue Wressell (SW)

Apologies for Non-Attendance: National Councillors, Deputy National Councillors, Others & Board

Alexander Murdoch (Bedfordshire), Susan Hayes (Buckinghamshire), Brian Freer (Cambridgeshire), Karen Tonge OBE (Cheshire), Jon Bayliss (Derbyshire), Andy Millman (Devonshire), David Adamson (Gloucestershire), Harry Jutle (Herefordshire), Tim Giles (Isle of Wight), Neil Le Milliere (Kent), Clive Hollingsbee (Kent) Tony Dias (Middlesex), Tom Purcell (Lancashire), Shirley Pickering (Leicestershire), Ivor Jones (Northamptonshire), Noel Sewell (Wiltshire), Mike Smith (BUCS), Kwadjo Adjepong (Appointed Director), Richard Ayers (Appointed Director), Ray James (Appointed Director), Jos Kelly (Elected Director), Steve Kemish (Appointed Director), Priya Samuel (Appointed Director).

* denotes attendance by Zoom.

| Agenda Item | Discussion | Decision/Action | Who | When |
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| 1 | <p>Chairman Opening Remarks, Update & Welcome EW (Chair - Warwickshire) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked JKB and SW for the administration of the meeting.</p> <p>Feedback from National Council is welcomed following this meeting and is to be sent to SW and copied to Estyn Williams (Chair – Warwickshire).</p> <p>a. Register of Business Interests None</p> <p>b. Obituaries EW (Chair – Warwickshire) asked everyone to remember those we have lost since the National Council last met. The meeting held a one-minute silence in their memory.</p> | | | |
| 2 | <p>Minutes from last meeting The minutes from 14 January 2023 were taken as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>AC (CEO) confirmed that a meeting had been held with the safeguarding team to discuss the issue of how sanctions were listed on the website for juniors. It was recognised at that meeting that there was currently no alternative for informing tournament organisers of any sanctions, but it was not felt that the information given would easily identify someone. It was agreed that the current practice would continue while an alternative could be explored.</p> <p>An update on the recruitment process to appoint a new Chair was provided by AC. First stage interviews were due to take place on Tuesday 2 May, followed by individual meetings of those put forward to stage 2 with the CEO, followed by second stage interviews on Monday 15 May. A member of the management team at Sport England will join the 2nd Interview Panel. The</p> | <p>Decision: National Council approved the minutes of 14 January 2023 by a show of hands</p> | | April 23 |

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| | <p>Nominations Committee would then put forward their recommendation to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The newly appointed Chair would be invited to the next National Council Meeting on 3 June 2023.</p> <p>TC questioned the due diligence being undertaken for the new Chair as with all Directors and it was confirmed that this was being undertaken by the recruitment company appointed to support the appointment process. Generally, new Directors are required to self-declare their good character, but the recruitment company undertake deeper checks.</p> <p>Concern was raised that the new Chair would be the first to be appointed by the Board as opposed to elected by the membership. Assurance was requested that the National Council would have some influence over the appointment. EW, Chair (Warwickshire) pointed out that the Articles had changed at the AGM in 2017 which meant that the decision of appointment rested with the Board.</p> | | | |
| 3 | <p>How will the new area management and delivery structure engage with clubs and leagues?</p> <p>EW, Chair (Warwickshire) welcomed Andy Wilesmith, new TTE Head of Table Tennis Development, to the meeting to provide an update on how the new area management will work with the local clubs and leagues to support delivery.</p> <p>AW's presentation had already been received by the Council who were happy to have sight of it before the meeting.</p> <p>AW spoke to his presentation, highlighting how the new areas support the work within the new <i>Table Tennis United Strategy</i>. He further explained the priorities for the Local Organising Groups and the Principles required for establishing the Local Delivery Plans. These would be different across the areas due to the different levels of participation and delivery currently taking place which would highlight different needs of growth and development for each area.</p> | | | |

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| | <p>DM (Cheshire) spoke about the large amount of participation via the leagues, but this takes place in the evening. There is a gap between the end of school and before the evening league participation that needed to be looked at for juniors to play table tennis.</p> <p>Sharing of best practice across the areas will happen with the area Chairs Forum who will meet to discuss issues/priorities and work in their areas. TC (Sussex) would be keen to see updates from AW on how the areas were working.</p> <p>Adverts for the Area Chairs are currently out and AW was happy to discuss further with any member who might be interested.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) was happy that the areas had been established and hoped that this would grow to 10 areas instead of 7. AC (CEO) confirmed that this was a clear goal for the future but reiterated this was funding dependent.</p> <p>NH (Oxfordshire) thanked AW for his presentation and explained his personal experiences of working with his Area Manager, Alan Lane, which had been very positive.</p> <p>Members of the meeting split into four break out groups to discuss the Areas. Feedback was given to the meeting and Andy would take it all on board. This included support with facilities; how to get more table tennis into schools and maybe on the curriculum; finding volunteers to support; the relationship between the area managers and LOGs.</p> | | | |
| 4 | <p>Select Committee report on voting for premier clubs</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) spoke to the paper that had been written by the National Council Select Committee in consideration of the request by AC (CEO) to investigate how the voting structure might be reviewed.</p> <p>The Select Committee concentrated on Premier Club system as a way to provide more members with votes and it was noted that this was a narrower focus than that requested.</p> | | | |

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| | <p>During the discussion, it was acknowledged that the TTE voting system was a very complex one and a truly democratic system would be one member, one vote. An alternative might be to consider how voting rewards a contribution to the growth and success of table tennis in England - consideration perhaps given to other members of the sport who deliver and achieve a lot but have no say at an AGM.</p> <p>The Board had not yet discussed this in any way but wanted the system to be looked at in the bigger picture rather than just Premier Clubs.</p> <p>It was agreed that the paper would be sent to the Board for consideration.</p> | <p>Action: Select Committee report to go to the Board</p> | <p>June 2023</p> | <p>AC/SD</p> |
| <p>5</p> | <p>Competitions Review</p> <p>RV updated the Council that the next stage before implementation of the Review was for the two papers to be discussed at the first meeting of the Competition Advisory Committee to reach consensus. Recommendation would then be sent to the Board, ahead of its next meeting in June for approval.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) had been invited to the first Competition Advisory Committee in May and he hoped that discussion would take place on the Junior and Cadet programme. It was noted that the Competition Advisory Committee had already received the National Council Select Committee's paper and the Council endorsed this and agreed that it should be discussed by the Competition Advisory Committee.</p> <p>In the coming year, the new Area Network would be trialling some new competition formats with an area calendar for the lower-level events, in order to reduce travel for players and volunteers. This was welcomed and would help towards a carbon zero footprint.</p> <p>The Council received the paper from the National Council Competition Review Sub-Committee which highlighted their thoughts on the Senior National Championships. This was seen as a good Championships but some constructive feedback on improvements was provided within the paper.</p> | <p>Action: The National Council Select Committee Paper on the Competition Review was endorsed to be discussed at the Competition Advisory Committee</p> <p>Decision: Jon Bayliss to join the National Council Competition Select Committee</p> <p>Action:</p> | <p>May 2023</p> | <p>RV</p> |

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| | <p>AR (Cleveland) recommended Jon Bayliss, the new Derbyshire National Councillor, to replace Jos Kelly on the Select Committee. This was approved by the National Council with a show of hands.</p> <p>It was further suggested by EW Chair (Warwickshire) that all reappointments to the National Council Select Committees and subgroups should be reviewed at the October meeting together with Terms of Reference. This was agreed and EW would provide a paper for this at the June meeting.</p> | <p>EW to provide a paper at the June National Council regarding Select Committee reappointments and TORs.</p> | <p>June 2023</p> | <p>EW</p> |
| <p>6</p> | <p>To receive the Table Tennis United Year 1 Implementation Plan</p> <p>AC (CEO) gave a presentation showing the Year 1 Implementation Plan for the Strategy <i>Table Tennis United</i>. A copy of the Plan can be found on the TTE website here. A designed version of the Plan was in production and would be put onto the website.</p> <p>The Plan highlights the four main high-level goals of work that will be focussed on over the coming 12 months, and some of the KPIs that sit under each goal.</p> <p>The new Head of People, Emma Sutherland, would be joining the organisation on 3 July 2023.</p> <p>Year 2, 3 and 4 would be planned out once the new Areas has bedded in, likely from around early October.</p> <p>Discussion was held on how our sector can expect to change in the years ahead and it was important to consider what they could be so we are best prepared. This included the way people consume sport, how relevant sports are to today's population, how World Class Programmes might be delivered and shared service models across sports which are already being looked at. Table Tennis would need to consider how it would respond to future changes like these and it was important not to be complacent; change is inevitable.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) spoke about of one the main points within the Competition Review being vets, but this was not mentioned in the Implementation Plan and vets would be excited to play in more local areas. This would increase the amount of participation. In addition, Veterans have</p> | | | |

a longer playing life of around 30/40 years. The vast majority of 9-year-olds are likely to drop off playing the sport at 18, although they may come back later.

AC (CEO) explained that once the Competition Review was finalised and approved by the Board, additional information regarding competition would be added, but our priorities of our limited resources will be focused on the Pledges agreed in our strategy.

NH (Oxfordshire) was relieved to see the items raised under “What Matters Most’ were very important to the sport and was appreciative of the progress made by the Board, CEO and staff over the last year.

SL (Somerset) felt that AR was right to add the focus around vets as there were very few younger players still playing the sport in his County and more consideration for vets would be appreciated.

MC (Worcestershire) asked whether the replacement Director for Emma Vickers would be a qualified accountant. It was confirmed that the primary requirement for the next Elected Director would be someone who was not only a qualified accountant but also with a strong strategic financial background.

EW, Chair (Warwickshire) asked that data from surveys should be shared with the membership to spark debate. He also felt it would be good to have data around metrics within the organisation, with membership, as an example, across different years and different areas. How much money is spent against outcomes. EW felt that Higher Education establishments could be focussed on more so that we don’t lose players during this period of their life.

AC (CEO) confirmed that the current Annual Report will be reviewed and changed over time so that members are more aware of the impact being made.

AR (Cleveland) was enthusiastic about the Plan and was happy to see that the Ping! Parlours would be part of the Plan moving forward as this would help to join up those people playing on them with the clubs and leagues in the local areas.

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| 7 | <p>Reports</p> <p>a. TTE Chair</p> <p>SD (Chair) updated on her conversations with Petra Sorling and Steve Dainton from ITTF about the World Team Table Tennis Championship 2026 Worlds bid. AC (CEO) confirmed that he met with the ITTF at the end of March in Singapore, which was warmly welcomed, who seemed keen for the bid but also for future major events in England which would raise the profile of the sport. UK Sport was still happy to consider supporting the bid and discussions were taking place with venues and partners in London to progress.</p> <p>A further meeting was due to take place with ITTF and UK Sport on Monday 24 April and TTE’s formal interest has been submitted to the ITTF to host the World Team Table Tennis Championship 2026.</p> <p>Discussions were now taking place about a 10-year Major Event Strategy, starting in 2024, that ITTF could support to bring events to England each year – the governance of this model was currently being considered. Discussions were underway with major cities around the country to see what appetite there was to support our aspirations.</p> <p>The Major Events Strategy was seen as a critical part of generating commercial and financial sustainability for Table Tennis England.</p> <p>Members would have received a survey to ascertain their appetite to watch live, international table tennis and data would help to determine the interest in England staging major events.</p> <p>A commercial rights valuation company was working with TTE to analyse our major event strategy.</p> <p>TC (Sussex) asked if England was looking to be an ITTF Hub, as with Singapore. AC (CEO) confirmed that TTE had already indicated keenness to do this when the ITTF were looking at more hubs.</p> | | | |
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| | <p>b. Board minutes</p> <p>It was confirmed that the Honorariums had been removed so that all Directors were being treated equally. An alternative way of providing a Board meeting only attendance payment for all Directors was being considered.</p> <p>c. CEO Report (including Management Report to the Board, CEO Updates)</p> <p>The Council received the CEO Report. The Action Plan for the Code for Sports Governance would be shared with the Council when it was finalised with Sport England.</p> <p>An update on the Russian and Belarusian Nationals would be provided when it was received from DCMS.</p> <p>AC (CEO) confirmed that a new system for Management Reporting was being used at the current time and the National Council would see this at the October meeting.</p> <p>d. Finance Report</p> <p>MC (Worcestershire) pointed out that the report was relevant to Q3 rather than the end of the year. He also noted that the Sport England support for the reduction in membership would be used to show a break-even budget at the end of the year, although the deficit increased at the end of each quarter. AC (CEO) explained that the £36K deficit in Q1 was mainly due to additional costs of providing staff with an additional cost of living rise.</p> <p>Jockey Club Services had confirmed that they were shutting down their shared service financial model, used by eight sports. An alternative supplier (New Suite) had been found and financial management would be brought back in house.</p> <p>TC (Sussex) asked about the Progression funding from UK Sport that is invested into Great Britain Table Tennis for the Paris 2024 cycle and whether it would be possible to see how that money was spent and how it was accounted for. AC (CEO) reminded those present that</p> | <p>Action: Code for Sports Governance Action Plan to be shared with Council once finalised with Sport England.</p> <p>Action: Update on the status of Russian and Belarusian Nationals to be provided when available</p> | <p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> | <p>When available</p> <p>When available</p> |
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Progression funding is not invested into TTE but into GBTT with spend accounted for to UK Sport. The financials are posted to Companies House for anyone to view.

AC (CEO) further explained that GBTT was a separate company, set up with all four home nations and England was the Lead Home Nation. It was set up because Great Britain Table Tennis is not recognised by the International Table Tennis Federation and it was the only way for UK Sport to provide British funding for table tennis, through a recipient body. As the Lead Home Nation, TTE has an agreement with GBTT, which is run by an independent Board of Directors and Chaired by Adam Walker. Each Home Nation is a Director of GBTT. AC, as CEO of the Lead Home Nations, is the Accountable Officer.

e. MAG Report (including report on director elections)

MAG was asked to look at the director appointment and election processes and a project team was put together to look at two questions; how could the process be more streamlined, and should the election/appointment processes align with the AGM cycle?

The project team determined that due to the complexity of the two systems for appointing and electing directors and that a change such as this would require Article changes, it would be far simpler to leave the current system as it was and not align with the AGM cycle.

They did, however, feel that online voting was a more streamlined process, and this was being taken forward proactively.

The Project Team recognised that additional support for the Returning Officer, to bring the team of scrutineers up to six people was very important to help support the challenge of annual election of Member Elected Directors. Members of the Council were asked to put forward names of anyone they knew who would be keen to assist as a scrutineer.

f. Other Reports (including Select Committees)

There were no other reports.

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| | <p>AOB</p> <p>NH (Oxfordshire) spoke about the County Championships and reported that all the matches had now been played, all the results were on the website, and he wanted to thank RL (Dorset) for his support with the administration of the biggest competition in the county championships.</p> <p>The County Championships Conference was due to be held on Saturday 10 June, at Aldersley Leisure Centre, coinciding with the Under 11 and Under 13 National Cups.</p> <p>EW, Chair (Warwickshire) thanked NH and the team for all the work that was undertaken for the County Championships.</p> <p>JKB asked whether the next meeting of the Council could be held online only, as it was six weeks from the current meeting. EW agreed that a request would be sent out by the office to see what the preference was.</p> <p>EW, Chair (Warwickshire) thanked everyone for attending and any feedback would be well received and should be passed to SW and copied to EW.</p> | <p>Action: A survey to be sent out asking for meeting preferences by the members</p> | JKB/SW | ASAP |
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The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

| Action | Owner | Timeline |
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| Select Committee report on Premier Club voting to go to the Board | AC/SD | June 2023 |
| The National Council Select Committee Paper on the Competition Review was endorsed to be discussed at the Competition Advisory Committee | RV | May 2023 |

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| EW to provide a paper at the June National Council regarding Select Committee reappointments and TORs. | EW | June 2023 |
| Code for Sports Governance Action Plan to be shared with Council once finalised with Sport England | AC | When Available |
| Update on the status of Russian and Belarusian Nationals to be provided when available | AC | When Available |
| A survey to be sent out asking for meeting preferences by the members | JKB/SW | ASAP |