

Appendix 9

**From: Shaun Fitzpatrick <jambutterandplasterit@btinternet.com>**  
**Sent: Thursday, September 28, 2023 5:15 PM**  
**To: Sue Wressell <sue.wressell@tabletennisengland.co.uk>**  
**Cc: Clive Ellison (Filton) <clivere@blueyonder.co.uk>; ar@alanransome.info**  
**Subject: Comment from Avon**

Hi Sue,

I see my Deputy has already sent this attachment to you, so I'm doubling up to make sure it goes to National Council.

I'm not sure on protocols, being new, but two things strike me as being topics for discussion are: Area Plans - nothing much appears to have happened about these in Avon (read Bristol) although reportedly TTE staff have visited the area. Bristol has largely been ignored over the years despite being one of or if not the largest league, especially if you add in Bath. It appears this may be happening again despite us having the biggest growth potential. What's happening in other Counties and is it being delivered fairly?

Juniors - we are now running BJJ/Cadets and Bristol JL and nothing is happening now to the south of us. What reports do or should we get about Junior participation?

Shaun Fitzpatrick  
National Councillor Avon County  
Chair B&DTTA

## **TTE Communications**

The Sport England "A Code For Sports Governance" provides a set of requirements for Tier 3 with the following paragraph in its commentary

"Transparency enables stakeholders to have timely access to important information about the organisation, thereby improving the accountability of the organisation, and helping with stakeholder engagement (Requirement 3.3)".

I personally maintain the Bristol League websites as one of my voluntary roles as well as being a member of the Bristol Executive Committee and deputy National Councillor for Avon. I am trying to keep the websites informative/busy and would like to include outward facing material in addition to league business. As a result I regularly review the TTE website each day. There is the occasional news article I can use but at the operational level I see issues. There is too much operational material being published in a stealthy non transparent manner which in my opinion does not meet the spirit of the Sport England requirement.

An organisation like TTE will have a very volatile mix of stakeholders and will not know who many of them are so direct communication to them is often not possible. This means that communication via the TTE website is the main means of engagement. My concerns are with when and how documents are published on the website and how people are made aware that something has been published.

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

These seem to take between 6 weeks to 3 months to become available in their proper location. There is no news article to say they have been published. They are often published first in the pack of National Council material rather than in their proper place on the TTE website. I can understand that National Councillors are important stakeholders but they are not the only ones.

My view is the target for publishing should be within one month after the meeting with a news article to say when they are available.

### **National Council Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the previous meeting are usually published as part of the preparation pack for the following meeting. For the current upcoming meeting this means the minutes will be published in October for the previous meeting held at the beginning of June. The draft minutes do get circulated promptly to the National Councillors but other important stakeholders do not get to see the minutes in a timely manner.

My view is the target for publishing should be within one month after the meeting with a news article to say when they are available.

### **Members Advisory Group Minutes.**

The last set of minutes published at the time of writing this are for a meeting held on 1st October 2022. These were published in the MAG archive at the end of January around 4 months after the meeting. The MAG archive rather than the MAG page appears to be the repository for minutes. I have seen references to MAG meetings being held in January and April this year but no minutes in the archive.

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Web archive copy from 25th September

<https://web.archive.org/web/20230925124410/https://archive.tabletennisengland.co.uk/Members%207%20Advisory%20Group%20archive/Minutes/>

Assuming MAG still exists (the TTE website suggests it does) then in my view the target for publishing minutes should be within one month after the meeting with a news article to say when they are available.

I am less troubled by the absence of an Annual MAG Report for 2022 or Quarterly Updates since 2021 even though the TTE website says they will be produced. If they duplicate other reports then that is just extra work to produce them with little benefit. However whether they are or are not produced the TTE website should reflect what is actually happening.

### **General Meeting Minutes**

These were published fairly promptly this year.

My view is the target for publishing should be within one month after the meeting with a news article to say when they are available.

### **Electoral Register**

There are periodic updates published during the year with several already this year. As far as I am aware there is no communication to tell stakeholders when it has been revised. There have been no obvious changes this year that bother me but trying to spot what has changed requires comparing the latest version with the previous so the publishing is not transparent. Earlier published versions are no longer being archived on the TTE website which adds to the difficulty of spotting changes.

In my view the publishing needs to be accompanied with a notification to the main stake holders ie League Company Members and National Councillors who can forward to other stakeholders in their organisation. It needs to be clear what has been changed.

### **Articles and Regulations**

Using Regulations Part J: AFFILIATION & REGISTRATION as a case study. This was published on the 6th February this year. As an interested stakeholder I only got to find out about it during some discussion on the TT365 admin.forum. I had to retrieve the prior version from the Web Archive (Wayback Machine) in order to see what had been changed. There is no TTE website archive for these. In this instance nothing had changed that was a concern to me but in my opinion the publishing fails the transparency requirement.

My view is that League Company Members and National Councillors are key stakeholders so should receive direct notification about the revised publication of this specific regulation and what has been changed. Other regulations may have different main stakeholders.

### **Organisation Charts**

TTE stopped publishing their organisation charts a while back but were effectively addressed by the "our team" page which was a duplication so the loss of the charts did not concern me. Last week the "our team" page was removed from the TTE website without explanation on the site. I raised a help desk query to find out what was happening. The explanation provided

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"page is under going maintenance. This is temporary, but we cannot confirm when this will be available again. This page only contained the names, job titles and photos of staff and while we are going through some recruitment of the vacant roles, this was the appropriate time to conduct maintenance".

An outward facing organisation with the size and role of TTE should have a visible organisation/structure for its stakeholders. The website maintenance is an excuse not to make it available and the explanation shows it is a low priority to put up a temporary replacement if the maintenance will take some time. If roles are vacant then it needs to be clear to stakeholders if temporary replacements for the roles are in place or not.

### **Area Manager Network**

At the General Meeting I recall a request being made for a periodic communication about progress. The page on the website has no communication about anything that is happening and the names/photos of the Area Managers have just been removed with no explanation.

Clive Ellison  
Deputy National Councillor for Avon