

Chair's Report



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| Presented by: | Nick Donald, Chair |
| Presented to: | National Council |
| Date: | 27 January 2024 |
| Paper No: | 12a |
| Outcome: | For information |

It is a real privilege to have been appointed as Chair of TTE. I am now into my third month in the post so I thought it helpful to give some initial impressions and observations having spent many days and hours meeting with staff, members and our wider stakeholders. I have made visits to Clubs and I have attended the Jack Petchey Team Schools Finals.

I was attracted to the role by the opportunity I saw for developing a membership-based organisation, spanning performance and recreational sport and one which is relatively accessible and affordable and one which can be played within, and across, generations. My interactions to date have confirmed to me that it really is a sport for all for life.

I have witnessed a huge amount of passion, enthusiasm and realism for the development of our wonderful game and for the implementation of our *Table Tennis United* strategy. The award of the World Team Table Tennis Championships in 2026 is additive to this. I have also witnessed a team, under the leadership of our highly regarded CEO, which has a can-do attitude but understands that we cannot do everything.

A key part of my role is to ensure that the Board can govern. In this area we need to improve our cohesion in order to improve our effectiveness. We need a re-set to build trust and respect, both within the board and within the wider administration of our game.

Sport mirrors society and we can feel overburdened at times as governors and administrators of table tennis, often as a result of societal change. Societal change is a given and the Board needs the tools to ensure flexibility and agility in being able to respond to natural change, including the way in which sport is consumed in what is a competing environment of choice. As administrators we must all be conscious that we put up our own barriers, often with good intention but with unintended consequences, that hinder the development and enjoyment of our great game. We often don't wish to, or are too slow, to recognise this.

I see many opportunities to grow our sport, despite the human and financial resourcing constraints but to do so we must all demonstrate "courageous integrity" i.e. doing the right thing. I hope I can count on your support to enhance the organisation's cohesion, relevance, and visibility and for us all to better connect for the benefit of the membership and the wider game. In doing so we will learn and develop together which I feel is vital in bringing forward the next generation of players, coaches, officials and administrators.