

CEO Report, National Council

27 January 2024

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1. CEO Monthly Update

There has been one CEO update since the last National Council meeting and the link can be found below:

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/chief-executives-update-december-2023/>

2. Governance

At its December meeting, the Board discussed arrangements for the 2024 Annual General Meeting and agreed that it will be held fully virtually – there will be no hybrid arrangement.

As part of our compliance with the Code for Sports Governance, the early scoping of our Sustainability and People Plans were approved by the Board at its December Meeting and these will now be progressed to full development of the respective actions plans.

Significant work has been done on a thorough review of our Articles to ensure they are fit for a High Performing Governing Body. We have established a Working Group that has a mix of Company Members including National Councillor for Kent – Neil Le Milliere, League Company Member for Bristol – Rick Jemmott, Board Member – Jos Kelly, Members of the Articles and Regulations Committee – Estyn Williams and Joanna Keay—Blyth and Adam Edwards – TTE retained legal counsel. I would like to thank all members of the working group for their continued support of this work.

Further information on the outcome is an Agenda item for this meeting to form part of our wider consultation.

3. Board Meetings

There was a Board Meeting on 28 September and 7 December and the minutes can be found on the Board page of our website

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/about-us/our-board/>

4. Major Event Strategy, including World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026

Work has continued with the ITTF and WTT as we develop the NewCo that will be charged with the governance and leadership of the major event strategy. Key roles will shortly be recruited, notably an Independent Chair of the NewCo Board, an Independent Chair of the WTTTC2026 Stakeholder Board and a Director of Events.

We have also met all the funding conditions required by UK Sport and expect to receive a funding agreement shortly which will begin to release public funding for the WTTTC2026.

We are extremely excited to be hosting the first event of the major event strategy, the WTT Feeder Manchester. We can confirm a full entry into the draw as well as very encouraging ticket sales which are a key component of the commercial viability of the event portfolio.

We look forward to welcoming new and existing fans to the Manchester Velodrome from 1-4 February.



Table Tennis England

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5. *Table Tennis United* Implementation Plan 2024

The Senior Leadership Team has been working extremely hard on the next exciting phase of *Table Tennis United*. Much work has been achieved in 2023 as we set about resetting much of what we do to enable the future growth and success of table tennis in England.

With much of those changes now in place or underway e.g. Area Network, Staffing, Pathway Development Centres, Committee structure, we now look forward to leading future growth, and the Implementation Plan for 2024 and beyond is under construction and will be presented to the Board for final approval on 7 February. I plan to then present this at the next Company Members meeting on 4 April.

6. Members Advisory Group

Over the past 12 months, myself, the Board of Directors and members of the Members Advisory Group (MAG), including its Chair, Neil Hurford, have been considering the future of MAG in light of the governance structure reset that has taken place over the past 12 months to support the implementation of *Table Tennis United*.

During the period, members may be aware that the Annual Review in the last MAG Annual Report specifically referenced that the future of MAG was uncertain. Further, the MAG report to the September meeting of National Council explicitly stated that MAG members had decided to put MAG activities on hold pending a decision on its future by the Board. In consultation with Neil Hurford, the Board has decided that MAG will cease to operate with immediate effect.

For those unaware, MAG was created in 2019 to provide the Board with a wide-range of advice covering all aspects of our sport – including competitions, performance, coaching, development, governance, engagement and diversity and inclusion. The membership of MAG was such that it was able to draw on a full range of perspectives – players, coaches, parents, technical officials, club, league and county administrators and organisers.

The governance restructure that followed the publication of *Table Tennis United*, means that the Board is now able to draw on advice from a wider range of Advisory Committees and Standing Committees. These Committees draw on a similar approach to the one that has been adopted by MAG, i.e. a high level of expertise across the game, combined with a wide range of perspectives, and provide a further step in the process of ensuring that the Board has access to high quality of advice.

However, the Board recognised the outstanding contribution that MAG members made, particularly their ability to think, and debate, at a strategic level and it is those very skills that we are keen to retain. With that in mind, MAG members have been given the opportunity to express their interest in being able to advise the Board on key issues in table tennis through being part of the new Committee structure, thereby demonstrating continuity of the valuable voice each provides.

It leaves me to thank Neil Hurford for his outstanding leadership of MAG, and for the members who, together have contributed much to the growth and success of table tennis in England.

7. Actions from the previous National Council Meeting in October 2023

Action	Owner	Timeline
New process for a Chair of National Council to be started	Caroline Williams	Complete
SO 2 to be updated with the amendments listed	NLM	Complete
SO 19 to be updated with the amendments listed	NLM	Complete
RV to take the issue of JBL over 3 weekends to the next Competition Committee	RV	Complete This issue was discussed at the last Competition Committee meeting and it was felt that there were pro's and cons to this decision, the general feeling in the meeting was to proceed as planned whilst continuing to monitor the situation.
Inform where previous regional monies have gone.	AW to inform MC	Complete as below
Governance updates provided at the Committee meeting to be sent to NC at the next meeting	JKB	Complete and will be presented in the reports section
Counties to send in their responses to DE's paper. Answers to be compiled together and shared with Development Team	All/DE	November 2023
AW to review the recommendations within EW's paper and discuss with EW	AW	November/December 2023
A proposal on the TTE/NC layout of meetings to be sent to the NC Select Committee to review ahead of next meeting	AC	November 2023 – with Select Committee to progress
An update from the Articles Working Group to be given to the next National Council Meeting	JKB	January 2024 - Complete
List of finance report question to be answered and circulated	Sam Garey	Complete

Outstanding from April Meeting

Action	Owner	Timeline
Code for Sports Governance Action Plan to be shared with Council once finalised with Sport England.	JKB	Still not received

In Memoriam

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/obituary-jbl-elcc-and-hull-stalwart-richard-b-hudson/>

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/obituary-international-umpire-and-ranking-maestro-doreen-nightingale/>

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/obituary-malcolm-sugden-a-scottish-great/>

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/obituary-brian-baines-more-than-70-years-a-league-stalwart/>

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/obituary-noted-coach-mike-kercher/>

<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/obituary-christine-lewis-womens-british-league-pioneer/>