

National Council Competition Committee Report
January 2024

Committee Members:

Alan Ransome – Chairman

Karen Tonge

Jon Baylis

Liam McTiernan

Dear Councillors,

The first issue we would like to raise is the one that was discussed following submission from Jon Bayliss from Derbyshire at the last National Council meeting relating to the Junior British League.

Jon Bayliss has advised the Committee

1 - Junior British league

The competition review has increase JBL to 3 weekends from 2 weekends

Without a consultation with the clubs

Checked with people at the last JBL and could not find anyone who was in favour of this so it should stay as 2 weekends

We need to have a zoom call with all clubs to understand the problems and get their views

The reasons against that were raised are

A) its addition cost to parents and coaches and clubs

More travel cost - including flights for Ireland Scotland and channel island

More hotel cost

More food cost

Extra Flights

B) additional cost to TTE

Travel and expenses

Venue hire costs

C) Additional time

Extra weekend in a congested calendar

Top players already struggle to make two weekends

Top ranked players often are with clubs abroad and they are struggling to get contracts that release them going to three will make that harder

Clubs will need to have corner coaches at more weekends putting even more strain on the clubs and their coaches

Volunteers will have an extra weekend putting more strain on the volunteer and officials and we already don't have enough

Jon Bayliss

National Council Competition Review Sub Committee

It appears from the information that we have received despite the discussion at the last National Council meeting that the Association are planning to go ahead with the three weekends for next season without any consultation with the clubs. The feedback that the committee have received is that there are several prominent clubs are not in favour of this and, therefore, we are requesting that this is reviewed prior to a final decision being made and that there should be a conference of the clubs called by Zoom in sufficient time to be able to stay with the current arrangements should that be the majority of the view of the clubs who are participating in the conference.

Until recently, the British League decisions have been very democratic in that proposals lodged with the clubs and with the clubs invited to discuss and vote on any changes at the conferences. This was also the case under Keith Pontin and Chris Dangerfield Chairmanship and we do feel that it is in the interest of the sport to retain democracy rather than having important decisions imposed on the club, taken by members of Table Tennis England staff who's experience of table tennis is limited.

The National Council Competition Committee did include this matter as part of its review this time last year and suggested that the three weekends was not a good way forward and that the clubs could be consulted on the possibility of a new competition Cadet British League and this should be discussed with the clubs and if there was an interest in going ahead then clubs would have the option to apply to join, or not.

We have not had an opportunity to discuss this with the Competition Advisory Committee who appear to have taken a decision to go ahead with a number of competitions in the competition review on the basis that they will give them a try and change it if they do not work. In our view is not the right way forward as if these competitions do not work, which may well be the case, it would create disappointment and inconvenience for TTE members.

2 - National Cadet and Junior League

The Committee discussed the recent correspondence with regard to the recent National Junior and Cadet leagues and the feedback that we have is that these competitions throughout the country are running well and are valuable part of the competition programme. The general feeling is that they are good and should continue as they are. Our review as stated in our comments on the competition review was that the current arrangements for running the competition with Mike Atkinson in the key position should continue.

The one feedback we did receive was that the amount of funding given to the venues for staging the events is lower than the actual cost for some of the venues and that this should be reconsidered in the light of this.

3 – Committee Members

With regard to the membership of the committee, I am pleased to be able to confirm that Karen Tonge, Jon Bayliss and Liam McTiernan are all willing to continue. We could accept one or two more Councillors into the committee if anyone with the right experience was interested in joining the committee.

Alan Ransome

Chairman

National Council Competition Review Sub Committee

16th January 2024