

NATIONAL COUNCIL

PRELIMINARY LETTER AHEAD OF MEETING ON SATURDAY 13 APRIL

To: All National Councillors

Copies (for information) to: Deputy National Councillors, The President, All Directors, Staff designated by the CEO, Representatives of BPTT, BUCS and VETTS

Dear Colleagues

National Council Meeting – Saturday 13 April 2024

The next National Council meeting will be on Saturday 13 April 2024. This meeting will be a hybrid meeting - so you can either attend in person or on-line. The meeting is scheduled to start at 10.30 am with a target finish time of 2.30pm. There will be a break of one hour for lunch.

Those listed above are invited to attend the on-line meeting, though Deputy National Councillors only attend if the National Councillor is not available.

Papers, topics, motions and written questions are welcome from any National Councillor and from others who receive this letter. I will always try to include them on the agenda. If you can send suggested agenda items to me by Friday 15 March that will be helpful. Please send them to Sue with a copy to me. Please include at least a brief note explaining the issue which can be included with the papers to help Councillors discuss it with their members in advance. (A note is not needed for a written question).

The amended Minutes of the meeting on 27 January are attached with the changes highlighted. The updated Action List from the meeting is also attached.

TIMELINE FOR THE MEETING

Friday 8th March - Preliminary Letter ahead of meeting

Friday 15th March – Receipt of questions, motions, suggested agenda items etc

Friday 29th March – Publication of Agenda plus other relevant documents

Saturday 13th April – Date of Meeting

STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING

As part of the process of moving towards a more autonomous National Council, I suggest that the initial part of the meeting involves both National Councillors (plus invited representatives) and TTE Staff/Board Members. However, once the relevant items have been dealt with, the meeting will be National Council (plus invited representatives) only. Jo Keay-Blyth and Sue Wressell will be present throughout the meeting to ensure the smooth-running of the meeting.

INITIAL THOUGHTS ON THE AGENDA

Here are my current thoughts on the topics that we can usefully discuss at the meeting.

Introduction & Welcome to the TTE Chair

I have asked Nick Donald to say a few words about his background and his initial impressions from his first six months in the role of Chair of Table Tennis England.

A More Autonomous National Council and Further Governance Reform

The Chair of Table Tennis England will outline his thoughts on how National Council can become more autonomous within the context of further governance reform. In addition, the Select Committee on the Constitution will provide further guidance on the practicalities of how we can move towards a more autonomous National Council.

TTE/Board Reports

There will be the standard reports from TTE Chair, CEO, Finance and the updates to the index of Articles & Regulations.

Implementing “Table Tennis United” - Diversity & Inclusion and Investing in People

This is an important part of the Table Tennis United strategy. Accordingly, I have asked Emma Sutherland (Head of People) to provide an overview of the important steps that Table Tennis England are taking in this area.

Coaching & Officiating Training Courses

It is understood that Table Tennis England are overhauling how these courses will be structured and delivered. But this overhaul has been going on for over 12 months. An update from Table Tennis England on the progress in overhauling these courses would be useful.

County Affiliation and Membership

This is an on-going discussion initiated about Hertfordshire about the challenges faced by County Associations. If you have not yet responded to the questionnaire circulated with the minutes – I would encourage you to do so. Please send your responses to Dave Edwards.

Yorkshire County Centenary Celebrations

In April, Yorkshire will be celebrating the Centenary. Yorkshire was the first County Association to be formed. They have been able to use their Centenary celebrations to secure development funding from various sources. It occurs to me that other County Associations will be celebrating various anniversaries of their formation – if not, 100y years, then 75 or 50 years – and following Yorkshire’s example this may provide an opportunity for development funding.

Reports from Select Committees

The Chairs of the Select Committees will have the opportunity to update us on recent activities.

Election of Chair for 2024/25 Season

We will need to confirm the arrangements for the election of Chair for the 2024/25 season in-line with our Standing Orders.

Date Of Next Meeting

Looking at the calendar, Saturday 6 July seems free of conflicting events, and will be two weeks ahead of the TTE Annual General Meeting, which has been set for Saturday 20 July. We will confirm the date of the next meeting at the meeting on 13 April.

I look forward to seeing you either on-line or in-person on 13 April.

Neil Hurford
Chair
National Council