

Chair Report, National Council

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I am now into my sixth month as Chair and I continue to witness 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. I was delighted to attend the WTTTC in Busan, Korea in February and to present the Swaythling Cup and to welcome our first WTT event to Manchester in January. Performance and influence on the international stage are important but equally so are broadening the reach of the recreational game in England and facilitating a competition structure which is valuable and sustainable. I saw some wonderful matches at the recent National Championships and the talent on display at the JBL weekend in Derby was very encouraging.

Attending external events, meeting our stakeholders and promoting table tennis in England, is a key part of my role. Less glamorous, but fundamental, is improving the effectiveness of our Board; ensuring that the Board can govern to allow the Executive to deliver on strategy, while ensuring our governance structure is robust but that it does not constrain our ability to be agile and forward thinking.

The proposals we are discussing at National Council are designed to improve the effectiveness of our governance structure, through broadening the membership voice, including representation on the Board. Through a deeper level of engagement we can become a more relevant, visible and sustainable member- based organisation.

At the end of last month we welcomed two new Board members, Kath Curran and Anna Whowell and we thanked Steve Kemish for his service. Kath and Anna together, bring significant sports marketing experience and expertise in the field of EDI, adding greater diversity to the Board. We expect them to play a full part in helping to shape our future, together with you as volunteers. We must challenge ourselves to communicate effectively and speak the language that resonates with our target audience, if we are to attract new participants and grow our sport.

I was humbled to attend The Pride of Table Tennis Awards during the National Championships and speak with the rich diversity of nominees. Their stories and contributions were truly inspiring. It re-affirmed my belief that the key to our success as experienced administrators and governors is in identifying and inspiring the next generation. "Our success is about growing others."

Nick Donald – April 2024



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