

Board Meeting Minutes 3 April 2024



PRESENT

Location: Teams Call

Meeting: 6.30 - 8pm

Board Members: Nick Donald (ND) Chair, Adrian Christy (AC) CEO, Don Parker (DP) Deputy Chairman, Kwadjo Adjepong (KA), Richard Ayers (RA), Mark Boote (MB), Kath Curran (KC) Sally Hughes (SH), Ray James (RH), Jos Kelly (JK), Ritchie Venner (RV), Anna Whowell (AH)

Staff Attendees: Joanna Keay-Blyth (JKB)

Part Attendees:

Minutes: Sue Wressell (SW) via recording

Apologies:

Agenda Item	Paper No	Discussion	Decision/ Action	Who	When
1, 2 & 3	N/A	<p>Welcome</p> <p>ND welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Kath Curran and Anna Whowell, who were attending their first meeting since joining the Board in March.</p> <p>Directors introduced themselves to KC and AW. Following this, KC and AW introduced themselves to the Board.</p> <p>There were no apologies received. SW was unable to attend and would prepare minutes from the recording.</p>			
3		<p>The Autonomy of National Council and further governance reforms</p> <p>The Board received the paper which set out the proposals for the Board to consider, specifically creating the necessary independence for National Council, the broadening of the</p>			

Board Meeting Minutes 3 April 2024



	<p>membership voice and the relevant representation on the Board from the Table Tennis community. Following the meeting, feedback on the proposals would be sought from the National Council at its next meeting and this would be brought back to the Board for decision ahead of the AGM in July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ND took the Board through the paper, especially around the context of the paper and the conversations with Sport England, which he believed would help the Board in its deliberations. • Directors gave their thoughts about the content and layout of the paper and what it was trying to achieve. • Directors were generally positive about the content of the paper and recognised the proposals being put forward and what they were trying to achieve. Communication and collaboration were key to moving forward with the proposals and some directors believed the paper could be softened and less confusing in the way it is written, ahead of being shared with Company Members. • The Chair was encouraged by the views expressed by the Board members and agreed that there was a clear sense of direction about working together for the benefit of the sport, broadening engagement and making sure TTE is communicating in the right way. He was further encouraged about the discussion around the change of name of the National Council and the major reforms planned for the Council. • The Board went through the proposals within the paper in detail. • An MOU with National Council would be considered, to describe the route of information flow between both organisations. • Discussion was held on the proposal to remove funding for National Council meetings after a 12-month period. It was agreed that the funding would be reviewed over the coming 12 months, as part of an overall governance review of the membership, voting structure, and following the major reforms expected of National Council. • It was agreed that the word advice would be included in Proposal 9.1. • Under Proposal 9.2, discussion was held about Resolution 9 and the relationship between National Councillors and their Counties and the relationship between Counties and TTE. This was an area of ambiguity within the current Articles. • It was noted that National Councillors step down each year and are re-elected and it may be the same person who is elected every year for many years. The paper was 			
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Board Meeting Minutes 3 April 2024



		<p>asking Counties to consider allowing someone to only be elected for a set period of years, to assist with succession planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was pointed out that some counties do not have other willing volunteers to step into the role of National Councillor and succession planning can therefore be difficult in some counties. It was also suggested that counties be encouraged to seek more diversity when considering their National Councillor. • Point 9.4 of the paper, seeking to understand what governance relationship TTE would like with the counties, leagues and clubs, would be removed from the paper going to Company Members and would be revisited at a later stage. • It was recognised that in order to be compliant with the Code of Sports Governance, the Board would need to be able to review candidates put forward by the membership for the Elected Director position and put forward only those who were suitable to sit on the Board. The Board would be very clear about the candidate skills and requirements, when putting forward information for an elected member so that it was fully understood by the membership when nominations were sought. • It was agreed that the paper would be slightly redrafted to ensure the language was collaborative and would be shared with the Board for further review ahead of it being sent to the Company Members. 			
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The meeting closed at 8.48 pm

Decisions

Board approved the paper to be slightly reviewed ahead of being sent to Company Members.