

Table Tennis England Board Update Call – Confidential Summary for the Board

Attended: Clare Briegal (Chair), Sally Lockyer (CEO), Don Parker (Deputy Chairman), Richard Ayers, Paul Bishop, Katharine Curran, Sally Hughes, Jos Kelly, Liam McTiernan, Leanne O’Leary, Ritchie Venner, Anna Whowell

Additional Attendees: Jill Parker (President), Richard Scruton (TTIE Ltd Chair) for items 1 and 2.

1. World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026 – Operational & Financial Update (TTIE Ltd)

The Board received a comprehensive update on preparations for the World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026, now imminent.

Operational status

- Event delivery has moved fully into operational mode.
- Venue preparation at the Copper Box and associated training venues is underway.
- ITTF President is due to arrive shortly ahead of the Championships.

Ticketing

- Net ticket revenue has exceeded £1.0m, above the initial target but below the mid-range aspiration.
- Approximately 60% of sales are from the UK; around 10% from China (lower than historical comparators such as Doha).
- ITTF and WTT are confident that late ticket sales will increase, particularly following completion of group stages and publication of the main draw.
- Strong expectation of sell-out crowds for semi-final and final days.

Financial position

- Latest forecast shows total income of [REDACTED] against expenditure of [REDACTED], resulting in a forecast [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] is **fully underwritten by the ITTF**, meaning no direct financial exposure to Table Tennis England.
- UK Sport funding remains significant and supportive, including contingency funding linked to increased team numbers.
- [REDACTED] raised a question about funding of the TTE team to take part in the World Championships. It was confirmed that the cost was approximately £15k - £20k and this was taken out of the UK Sport funding, not from TTE funds
- Ticket sales remain the principal opportunity [REDACTED]; other commercial upsides (hospitality, merchandise) are limited.

Risks and mitigations

- Risks from team withdrawals due to affordability and external factors (e.g. visas) are being actively managed by ITTF.
- Accommodation costs remain the single largest area of expenditure.
- Cashflow continues to be tightly managed with regular support from ITTF/WTT.

- The long-term viability of the wider Major Events Strategy will be reviewed post-Championships once residual funds are known.

Governance

- TTIE Ltd operates as a Special Purpose Vehicle under the UK Code for Sports Governance due to public funding.
- The CEO of Table Tennis England also acts as CEO of TTIE Ltd; the Board noted wellbeing considerations and confirmed that structures will be reviewed following the Championships.

2. ITTF Annual General Meeting – Propositions and Voting Position

The Board was briefed on the forthcoming ITTF AGM to be held during the Championships.

- The AGM will be dominated by proposals for a revised ITTF Constitution.
- Significant feedback has been submitted by the Oceania region, highlighting governance, independence and voting structure issues.
- A governance forum and continental meetings will take place in advance of the AGM.
- Additional propositions relate to table tennis rules changes.

Next steps

- Board members will be provided with Oceania’s constitutional feedback.
- A recommended voting position for England will be circulated ahead of the AGM.

3. Audit & Governance Matters

ETTU Audit Commission

- The Board unanimously approved the re-nomination of **Josh Reynolds** to remain on the ETTU Audit Commission.

Declarations of Interest

- Board members were reminded to submit outstanding annual declarations to support the external audit process.

4. Gender Eligibility Policy

The Board held an extended discussion on the proposed Gender Eligibility Policy, particularly the naming of the former “men’s” category.

Key points

- The Board reaffirmed its support for the core policy principle: protection of fairness in the female category.
- The principal area of concern related to tournament naming rather than policy intent.
- The Board noted:
 - Legal and funder expectations to progress the policy for the coming season.

- Results of previous consultation, including member support for an “open” category.
- The need to balance inclusion, clarity, and reputational risk.

Decision

- The Board agreed to adopt the category name **“Men’s Open”** on a **transitional basis**, with a formal review after one year to assess impact, feedback and alignment with wider sport.

5. National Council, DSAR and Deferred Items

- Due to time constraints, the following items were deferred and will be progressed by paper or at a subsequent meeting:
 - National Council feedback and implications for budgeting.
 - Update on Data Subject Access Requests (DSAR).
 - Conflict of Interest Policy review, pending National Council input.
 - Board review feedback, to be aligned with forthcoming values work.

Key Decisions

- Re-nomination of Josh Reynolds to the ETTU Audit Commission approved.
- Gender Eligibility Policy approved with the competition category named **“Men’s Open”**, subject to review after one year.

Key Actions (Post-Meeting)

- Circulate recommended voting positions for the ITTF AGM.
- Complete nomination paperwork for the ETTU Audit Commission.
- Progress deferred items (DSAR, National Council feedback, governance policies) outside the meeting cycle.