

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING October 19, 2013, Milton Keynes

The following is a brief summary of the National Council Meeting (October 19). It focuses on the discussion at the meeting rather than reporting the papers which are submitted in advance. It is intended to give members and interested parties an outline of the proceedings. More detailed information is available from the National Councillors who are the representatives of the constituencies and counties within the ETTA. They will also be able to act as a liaison point for players, clubs and organisations to feedback information to and from National Council meetings.

RELOCATION OF HEADQUARTERS OFFICE

Chairman Andy Seward explained in detail rationale behind the decision to relocate the ETTA's headquarters from Hastings to Milton Keynes and the considerable advantages this will bring to the sport, players and ETTA staff. The lease on the existing Hastings building expires in March 2014 and the building is due for demolition. Members of the Board have reviewed and visited six potential locations around the country.

Their criteria for new accommodation was summarised as:

- quality of facilities, accessibility and staff accommodation.
- playing facilities within the premises in terms of training and competition, residential accommodation for overnight stays, conference/meeting facilities and cost-effectiveness
- central England location would be preferable given infrastructure links
- close to or with another national sports governing body.

The Board unanimously supported the proposal to relocate to new premises being constructed with Badminton England in Milton Keynes at the National Bowl. This will include a national table tennis facility, which can be used for small events, national competitions and training programmes. By entering this agreement with Badminton England at this stage, the ETTA will be able to input into the project at the earliest opportunity and develop the concept of a national centre. A third sporting organisation is likely to join in the project.

This new purpose-built development it will not be available until the second half of 2015, so there will be a need to locate to temporary premises from the first quarter of 2014.

CEO Sara Sutcliffe told the meeting that Badminton England are 'delighted' that the ETTA is joining them in this new venue and that it is seen by all sides as a partnership not a landlord/tenant relationship.

RESTRUCTURING OF REGIONS

In line with the recommendations within the Portas report, the ETTA has been examining how to restructure and implement the new strategic direction in terms of being able to deliver our programmes and how to support the network. In order to have a focused and targeted approach we

need to have larger regions and are looking at how these are defined. The exact details still need refining and discussions will take place with staff so that we can work out the best structure and any redeployment required.

The staff have been informed about the relocation and restructuring.

REPORTS OF VICE CHAIRMEN

All VCs submit written reports in advance of NC and are then available for questions or to respond to comments from the floor.

Treasurer: As had been previously explained, Sport England require the ETTA to hit certain targets before further funding for 2014-2017 would be released. There will be a presentation to Sport England in mid December to demonstrate the progress made to date and a decision on future funding should be known by late January.

Administration: Approved the use of the National Safeguarding Panel.

Communications: Having established some basic procedures and systems, the communications focus would now be on a more proactive approach to media and news for members and players. Email newsletters will continue to members with short summaries and links to more detailed information on the website.

Competitions: There was some discussion about entry forms appearing late; queries about the calendar working party and venue issues with the British League.

International Relations: The Chairman and Deputy Chairman had accepted an invitation to visit their German counterparts who wished to open a dialogue into mutual areas of interest. The ETTA hopes to return the hospitality in England next year to further the relationship.

Marketing: Rebranding of the ETTA will progress when details of the relocation and restructure have been finalised.

Membership: Increasing membership is high on the agenda. However, it was flagged up that some Leagues/clubs continue to allow non-affiliated members to play, which is in breach of the regulations. Women's Committee has been established to increase participation among women.

Performance and Selection: The Sheffield performance centre is in the process of closing down. Self funding for some events has been clarified, although this does not give automatic entry. Plans for funding junior and senior programmes next year are under consideration.

TOPICS

There is a new 'topics item' where a National Councillor leads on a particular subject. The first one was how the ETTA could recruit new members. A full discussion was held about groups that play

table tennis outside the ETTA structure and how they could be encouraged to join. There were also many suggestions from the floor about how to make aspects of best practice, common practice.

ROUND-UP OF OTHER POINTS

World Championships of Ping Pong: The ETTA has been in discussion with the representatives of the WCPP and would wish to have some involvement in the event. More information will be available later.

British Table Tennis Association for People with Disabilities: Martin Perry (GB disability TT pathway squad) is participating in the high profile Rickshaw Challenge for BBC's Children in Need.

English Schools' Table Tennis Association (ESTTA): The table tennis in the Sainsbury's UK School Games was a great success.

Sport England: The Board and Executive is focused on meeting the targets outlined by Sport England, this will include the submission of a new three year plan. Sara Sutcliffe explained we are working closely with Sport England to ensure we provide exactly what it needs and therefore secure future funding for the sport. There will be an additional Board meeting in November in order to finalise plans to take to the meeting with Sport England in December.

Susie Hughes
Vice Chairman (Communications)
October 30, 2013

