



**TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND
2018 Annual Conference
Summary**

The 2018 Annual Conference of Table Tennis England took place at Hinckley Island hotel on Saturday 7th July from 11am- 1pm

The Board of Directors introduced themselves. It was explained that the agenda was in two parts – the first hour would be dedicated to a presentation from members of the Independent Review Panel. The second hour would be to discuss the Annual Review.

Independent Review Panel

Neil Hurford, Shaun Parsley and Phil Ashleigh were introduced as the table tennis members of the Independent Review Panel (IRP)

Neil gave a background to the report; Phil then summarised the report and Shaun presented the conclusions of the report. They then opened up to the floor for questions.

The main areas of discussion were on the following topics:

- Elected vs appointed chairman and make-up of the Board
- Will MAG replace National Council?
- How will MAG represent the views of the membership?
- Not everyone responded to the IRP so is it representative?
- Will clubs get a vote in the future?

The members of the IRP were thanked for their time, presentations, commitment and answers. It was acknowledged that some of the issues raised, such as voting rights, will be addressed in Phase 2. It was also acknowledged that establishing MAG is an important step and we will need to see how it is working in future months and years. It will be 'work in progress' initially.

Annual Review 2018

A new process for taking questions about the Annual Review had been trialled and deemed largely successful. Members were invited to submit written questions and a series of written answers were then published directly to company members and on the website. This new process did not however exclude attendees from asking further questions at the conference.

Having listened to feedback from 2017, the Annual Review was taken section by section.



Part 1: Chairman's Report

Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) stated that he felt that the fact that the new qualification event for the National Championships is at a different time of the year and at a different venue to the National Championships is disappointing. The response included that it was a new event responding to feedback about allowing players outside of the automatic rankings the opportunity to qualify for the event.

Part 2: Chief Executive Report- No questions or comments.

Part 3: Participation and places

Diane Webb (Hastings League) expressed disagreement with 'two-man league' players not being required to become player members. It was explained that some flexibility had been allowed in the introductory years to encourage participation but that in future it would be required for funded programmes.

Part 4: People and Profile

Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) expressed concern that there is a lack of tournament referees (not just umpires). It was acknowledged that a lack of officials generally is an issue and will be a renewed priority next year. In response to a follow up question it was agreed that officials need to gain experience as well as just qualifications.

Part 5: Performance

Peter Charters (Honorary Life Member) shared his view that England should be fully represented in any major tournament and was disappointed that in the upcoming European Youth Championships, England will not be represented in all categories. This view was shared by Alan Ransome (Cleveland), Dot McFarlane (Leamington) and Jose Ransome (Vice President). In response there was a lengthy debate about the setting of minimum performance standards versus automatically participating and/or denying young players an opportunity to prove themselves. Simon Mills confirmed that from next season winners of National Championships age groups will (if eligible) be automatically selected for European Youth Championships.

Part 6: Major events

Mike Holt (Hinckley) congratulated the association on the staging of the ITTF team World Cup as well as the ETTU Youth Top 10 and hope that England would stage more quality international events.

Noel Sewell (Wiltshire) commented that a highly trained umpire he knew was not getting invited to umpire abroad. In response, TOC have minimum quality standards but if someone feels they should qualify then they need to talk to TOC and understand the reason why and if mentoring is available (if suitable)



Part 7: Notable achievements- No questions or comments

Part 8: Competition and events

Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) felt there was an omission as the results of all the England European Qualification matches were not included.

Part 9: Awards and Thanks – No questions or comments

Part 10: Who's who – No questions or comments

Part 11: Financial reports – questions asked to be reserved for the AGM

Part 12: In memorium – No questions or comments

Any other comments were invited

Diane Webb (Hastings League) felt that overall there was a lot of information missing, like committee reports, that she would expect in a document that is meant to be the historical record for the association.

Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) stated that he felt this year's method of going through the Annual Review was an improvement on last year. He stated he would like to see a more detailed international report especially given the changes and decision being taken by the ETTU and ITTF on competitions

Sandra Deaton closed the conference and thanked everyone for coming.
The Conference ended at 1pm.