

Department Update: Chairman

For Information

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Chairman Report – September to November

My apologies for not being able to attend the National Council meeting on December 14th. On that date Sara and myself will be travelling home having met with the ITTF in Zhengzhou China to present the ongoing arrangements for the 2026 ITTF Centenary celebration which will include holding the World Championships.

On September 26th we held our quarterly Board meeting. As well as the generic agenda items the Board had a presentation from the strategy review sub group. It was felt that the basic principles of the “4 P’s” was still central to the strategy and the Senior Leadership team had analysed the operational concepts for the immediate future. It was agreed that more work needed to be done on the strategic aims and the updating of current and new targets.

The decision was for the sub group to meet again and discuss the strategic aims and how this aligns with the 2025 mission and cross references to the operational delivery. The Board will have a follow up presentation at the January meeting.

I informed the Board that the National Council meeting on September 14th had been very positive with a very good discussion on potential inputs for the 2022 English Table Tennis Centenary celebration. The Board also asked National Council to discuss the voting structure at their December meeting so that the voting review group can have some thoughts on the way forward.

There was an update on the meeting held by the MAG group on September 14th. The Board were informed the group are still finding their direction but they are beginning to work in a closer alignment with each other and starting to recognise potential briefs which can be debated to support the membership.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of two new Board members who have recently been appointed. The response to the application to sit on the Board was extremely high. Seven applicants were invited for interview. Five were able to attend, one Skyped in and unfortunately one person had to withdraw. The standard of the interviews was extremely high but the two candidates who have been appointed were outstanding. The two new Board members ideally fit into the required skills matrix of the Board.

The Governance and Risk group chaired by Mark Quartermaine have met within the last quarter as well as the Finance and Audit group which is now chaired by Doug Livingstone.

I have attended several Sport England lunches and seminars to ascertain the direction the organisation will be moving for the 2021-2025 four-year cycle.

National Council Meeting



I have also accompanied Sara and Simon at the UKSP seminars on their funding plans and concepts. I chaired a British Table Tennis Meeting in Milton Keynes to discuss the funding submission plan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Simon and Sara for all their hard work in putting together the initial submission for the potential British elite performance funding program.

We held a very successful European Table Tennis Union National Coaching Conference in the amazing Greenhouse facility in central London. It was an outstanding opportunity for our English coaches to be exposed to the experience of the German top coaches whose success at elite level is indisputable. It was very well attended by both English and European coaches. In addition to the outstanding presentation it was an ideal opportunity to network at every level. Special thanks need to be extended to all the staff but especially Aled Howell who was the lead organiser.

Finally, I hope the meeting goes well and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sandra