

National Council Minutes 27th June 2020



PRESENT

Location: Zoom Conference Call

10:00am

Estyn Williams (Chair – Warwickshire)

NATIONAL COUNCILLORS: David L Hockney (Avon), Peter Charters (Berkshire) Susan Hayes (Buckinghamshire), Karen Tonge MBE (Cheshire), Alan E Ransome OBE (Cleveland), Reinhard Lindner (Dorset) Phil Ashleigh (Essex), Harmesh Jutle (Herefordshire), David Edwards (Hertfordshire) Neil Le Milliere (Kent) Jim Bolton (Lancashire) Martin Ireland (Lancashire), Tony Dias (Middlesex) Gareth Pearson (Northumberland), Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire), James Kenny (South Yorkshire), Margot Fraser (Surrey), James Skinner (Sussex), Martin Clark (Worcestershire),

Other:

Mike Smith (British Universities and Colleges Sports(BUCS))

APOLOGIES: NATIONAL COUNCILLORS:

Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire), Brian Freer (Cambridgeshire), John Cowell (Derbyshire), Dave Adamson (Gloucester), Shirley Pickering (Leicestershire), Malcolm Allsop (Nottingham), Charles Noel Sewell (Wiltshire), Richard B Hudson (Yorkshire)

Board Members: Sandra Deaton (SD), Sara Sutcliffe (SS) Susie Venner (SV), Tony Catt (TC) Priya Samuel (PS) Don Parker (DP)

Staff: Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB) Simon Mills (SM) Greg Yarnell (GY) ,

Apologies: Simon Griew (Board) Tom Purcell (Board), Steve Kemish (Board) Mark Quartermaine (Board)

Minutes : Victoria Wiegleb (VW)

Agenda Item	Paper No	Discussion	Decision/Action	Who	When
1	N/A	<p>Chairman Opening Remarks, Update & Welcome</p> <p>EW welcomed everyone to the call & thanked everyone from TTE for their support in setting this virtual meeting up.</p>			

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		<p>The following members of the Table Tennis community who have sadly passed away were mentioned. A minute's silence will be held when the National Council can meet again in person. Those members who have passed away and were remembered were Charlie Childs, Ronnie Allcock, Bobby Raybould, Peter Shead, Geoff Scruton & John Burtenshaw.</p> <p>The next National Council meeting is scheduled for 10th Oct – as of yet, it is not known if this will be in person or virtual. Council will be updated in due course. EW advised that the nominations will be invited a few days after the AGM for the Chairman of the National Council 2020/2021. EW confirmed that he will stand as a candidate.</p>			
2	N/A	<p>Approval of Minutes from December 2019</p> <p>No amendments – minutes approved.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>No matters arising.</p> <p>AR asked if the agenda was set to finish at 11.30am sharp or if this will overrun if need be – EW advised the meeting will finish when it is all completed but will adhere to a prompt agenda.</p> <p>JKB reminded the attendees that there is a protocol in place and that any questions raised must be typed in the “Chat” box.</p>			
3	N/A	<p>Return to Play Presentation</p> <p>GY shared his screen and presented the latest advice on being ready to return to play as lockdown starts to be eased by the Government. GY also shared the insight form the recent ‘return to play’ membership survey</p> <p>The following questions were fielded via the chat box or verbally:</p>	<p>Action: Presentation to be circulated</p>	<p>VW</p>	

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		<p>Question: Jim Skinner – in response to a statement that some people had indicated a willingness to do more volunteering post lockdown. “Do we know who has indicated they are keen to volunteer so they can be approached?” Answer: GY advised that the survey was anonymous.</p> <p>Question: Neil Le Milliere – “Biggest concern for lots of our clubs is definitely cost of facilities with reduced number of players/teams able to play.” Answer: GY advised this has come up on the club calls and although they have some suggestions on how this can be overcome it is mainly down to the clubs -one suggestion was to see if they need to increase their fees from £3 a session to £5. Another option maybe to split the sessions so two 50-minute sessions could be facilitated. Comment: Susan Hayes: “As a senior leader in a primary school I would suggest that clubs will not have a hope of using school facilities unless they have a clear and robust risk assessment in place.”</p> <p>Question: Sandra Deaton: “Are you aware if Sport England are working with local authorities to support cost on leisure facilities”. Answer: GY was not aware of any such scheme.</p> <p>Comment: Neil Hurford – “I think the TTE staff have played a blinder during lock-down. Fantastic range of very helpful, detailed information made available during very difficult circumstances. I hope everyone joins me in passing on a very big "Thank you, well done - and keep up the good work".</p>			
4	N/A	Mission 2025 / Impact Report	Action:	ALL	ASAP

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		<p>SS introduced the draft Impact Report and showed a video. All Councillors are encouraged to use the link to review and look at the detail. It is designed to show the impact of various programmes since April 2017 (beginning of the current funding cycle).</p> <p>SS then explained how the evolution of Mission 2025 had been paused to allow more time to understand the full impact of the Covid-19 crisis. The framework structure was provided to Councillors. There is an opportunity to provide written feedback and some zoom-based workshops will be set up.</p> <p>Question: David Hockney – “With regard to the Impact Report and Mission 2025, do we have a baseline from 2015 that we can measure progress against over the past 5 years?” Answer: Sara Sutcliffe: “We have baselines from April 2017 and where we do, we use it to measure progress, we will be in a much better position going forward as we have much better baseline information now.”</p> <p>Comment: Neil Hurford – “I looked through the Impact Report yesterday - a very impressive document. I'd encourage everyone to take a look” Comment: Sue Hayes – “I think it's really good and should be shared as widely as possible”</p>	<p>Send feedback form</p> <p>Action: Arrange Zoom workshops on M2025</p>	<p>SS</p>	<p>ASAP</p>
5	N/A	<p>Reports (change to the order of the Agenda)</p> <p>Chairmen’s Report SD welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for attending. Thanks were given to the SLT on their continued focus during this difficult time. The Board were also thanked for their continued support for being available to meet far more frequently during the last few months.</p> <p>SD welcomed Don Parker as the newly elected Board Director (Elected Deputy Chairman) to replace Charlie Childs.</p> <p>SD advised that the ITTF have now cancelled the World Championships in September. The ETTU this week have decided to go ahead with their European Youth Championships in Croatia in early</p>			

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	<p>September. SD informed National Council that Board had decided not send any England teams due to insufficient guarantee of safety and also players having missed so much education time recently.</p> <p>Comment: Karen Tonge “Can we record under Obituaries that Charlie Childs was Deputy Chairman as well as Board and V-P of TTE; that John [Burtenshaw] was Regional Chairman 1997-2016 of SW and Vice P of TTE. He was not known to us in his coaching capacity”</p> <p>Question: Alan Ransome asked whether consideration of the Annual Review will be on the AGM agenda and there will be time for members to ask questions? He also noted that there will be some voting in the AGM, however he understood that this wasn’t going to happen this year.</p> <p>Answer: SD advised there will still be items that need to be voted on (show of hands) during the AGM – Standing Orders and Vice Presidents etc. The zoom polling function or ‘hand up’ button will be used. The Annual Review will be published next week seeking written questions. There is very limited scope for verbal questions at the AGM this year.</p> <p>Board Report SD welcomed any questions on the June 4th Board minutes.</p> <p>Alan Ransome commented that it was understandable to cancelled the National Junior/Cadet Championships but could there be consideration of hosting them before the end of the calendar year? SD agreed it was disappointing and that his comments would be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Question: Gareth Pearson – “On 28 Feb board report it mentions that website was being re-tendered. Has that been progressed?”</p> <p>Answer: JKB confirmed that the website has been approved by the Board and that Jask agency are now appointed. Work starts imminently and by Christmas the majority of the work should be done.</p> <p>Question: EW asked if any of the membership could suggest any ways in which they feel the website could be improved?</p> <p>Answer: JKB advised this is not possible now, the scoping work had been completed. The surveys were done in 2019 and the feedback from them has been taken in consideration for the planning.</p> <p>CEO Report Nothing more to add to report.</p>	<p>Action: Amendment to obituary section of report</p>	<p>VW</p>	<p>Complete</p>
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	<p>Furloughing of staff was discussed in brief. Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games continuing on track.</p> <p>Question: David Hockney – “When will the new categories of membership be notified to members? Presume as part of the renewal of membership fees promotion?” Answer: JKB advised first comms went out on Friday 26th June– individual notifications will be sent out week commencing 29th June. Comment: David Hockney – “Jo I have not seen anything in my email box re membership. Did it go to all members as per a normal newsletter?” JKB to check.</p> <p>Question: Gareth Pearson – “To help with managing the changes around membership fees is it reasonable to assume that with fees remaining the same for 2020/21 will they return to the AGM proposition figures for 2021/22?” Answer: JKB advised this hasn’t been decided yet – due to unprecedented times this isn’t appropriate at the moment.</p> <p>Question: Neil Hurford – “Is it possible for TTE to provide some briefing material which we can all use locally to encourage members to renew in order to protect the National Governing Body for future years”. Answer: JKB - Absolutely – this was in the first comms sent out on 26th June. Some responses have come back in which have been answered.</p> <p>Comment: Alan Ransome OBE asked about Ranking Review. AR was pleased to note that the Board have agreed to maintain the current system. AR does believe as a result of this, the ranking system will improve. AR also thanked the development department for their help on the application process for Sport England grants.</p> <p>Question: Peter Charters – “I have read somewhere amongst the many documents in circulation at the moment, that training for 'Elite Athletes' only would be permitted”. Answer: that is correct in accordance with Government and UK Sport guidance.</p>			
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		<p>Comment: Karen Tonge – “TOC arranged a Level 1 Zoom training session with 60 participants, some have now passed the test paper. Those progressing Level 1 to 2 have had sessions on Zoom with myself, Tom and Alex as well. Exam tests now taking place in gardens across the country for Level 2”</p> <p>SS added to finance report that the audit was completed remotely and that the audit report was clean – and thanked staff for their work. Work continues on reducing the deficit.</p> <p>MAG Report No further comments on this report were needed.</p>			
6	N/A	<p>Member Survey</p> <p>GY discussed in brief the member survey. The slides will be made available</p> <p>Comment: Susan Hayes – “I am aware of these initiatives which are fantastic in themselves but I am constantly being asked what is being done to link these initiatives to clubs and leagues”</p>			
		<p>AOB</p> <p>Alan Ransome OBE asked if the dates for the next meetings can be confirmed ASAP EW advised he will liaise with SD / SS</p> <p>Gareth Pearson asked about membership fees again as he felt his question earlier wasn’t clear. GP asked about the current 5-year plan on membership fees which has been abandoned in the last 2 years for understandable reasons. He felt it would be a good idea to set out what the next few years will look like with fees. SS agreed and would refer it to Board in the coming months.</p> <p>JKB reiterated the need for protocol on the Zoom call for the AGM and no verbal questions will be answered. It was suggested that everyone looks at the Annual Review when it comes out next week and any questions are raised beforehand. Thanks given to everyone for following the protocol.</p>	<p>Action: Board to consider revised fee strategy</p>	<p>SS</p>	

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<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>When</u>
Feedback Forms to be submitted	ALL	ASAP
Set up Zoom Meetings on M2025	SS / VW	ASAP
RTP Presentation to be circulated to NC's however this is already on the website.	VW	Presentation ready – will send with minutes
Amendment to obituary section of report	VW	Completed
Discussion with Board on the NJC	SD	Next Board Meeting
Check comms went out to David Hockney	JKB	ASAP
5-year membership plan to go to Board	SS	ASAP