

## MAG – Entry for Annual Review 2020

### The Formation of MAG

The formation of a Members Advisory Group (MAG) was the main recommendation of the Independent Review Panel on Governance. The Review recognised the need to improve the advice available to the Board and to ensure effective two-way engagement between the Board and the wider table tennis community. This would create a more effective, robust organisation that would be better placed to face the challenges of developing table tennis into the future.

Accordingly, MAG has been established as a source of strategic and operational advice to the Board on a broad range of issues relating to table tennis.

### Membership

Members of MAG come from all parts of the table tennis community – including players, clubs, leagues & counties, coaches, umpires, and schools. The 12 inaugural MAG members were: Craig Bryant, Kevin Buddell, Joanne Green, Neil Hurford, Brian Kean, David Maddison, Dean Nabarro, Sandy Nash, Raj Patel, Steve Pratt, Stuart Sherlock and Dan Simms.

During the year, three members of MAG (Brian, Craig and Raj) have stood down. As of the beginning of June, a recruitment process is underway to appoint three new members. We hope to have the new members in place by mid-July.

### Activities

MAG has adopted a project-based approach to its work programme – identifying discrete pieces of work for which it puts together a suitably experienced project team. Ideas for projects come from a variety of sources – from MAG members themselves, from the Board or from the wider table tennis community. The decision to go ahead with a project is taken jointly by MAG and the Board.

The projects that are currently underway or in the pipeline are:

- Ranking – we provided advice to the Board that was incorporated into the recent ranking consultation
- Volunteering – volunteers are the back-bone of table tennis, and this project is developing a strategy for enhancing the volunteer experience
- Coaching – we have brain-stormed the landscape of issues associated with coaching. The Board has identified two specific projects on coaching that they would like us to undertake that flow naturally from this overview of the coaching landscape.
- Changing the Perceptions of Table Tennis – modern social media platforms provide a great opportunity to change the perception of table tennis. We have presented ideas to the Board who have set up a Working Group on which MAG participates to explore this further
- Clubs – clubs are key drivers of development in table tennis. We want to engage in a dialog with clubs on how TTE can best help them and ensure they have a stronger voice
- IT Systems – IT is critical to any modern organisation, particularly one with a diverse membership base such as TTE. This project will explore the ways in which the various systems currently available can best meet the needs of table tennis.

So far, the project team for each project has exclusively consisted of MAG members. But as we progress with our project-based approach, we will aim to include non-MAG members so that we broaden the expertise available to us.

### Engagement with the Wider TT Community

Active engagement with the table tennis community is seen as important to the success of MAG. Now that we have a work programme in place, we want to ensure that we have processes in place for hard-wiring engagement with the membership into our operations.

In order to kick-start this process, we have started on a programme of engaging with counties, leagues and clubs via on-line meetings over the summer months.

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