

MINUTES OF MAG MEETING - SATURDAY 2ND MAY

Present

Neil Hurford (Chairman), Kevin Buddell, David Maddison, Sandy Nash, Steve Pratt, Dan Simms, Joanne Green, Dean Nabarro, Stuart Sherlock, Susie Venner (Board Liaison).

1. Chairman's Introduction

Neil welcomed everyone to the first on-line meeting of MAG. He hoped the on-line approach would be successful and provide useful pointers to the future.

Unfortunately, he had to start the meeting on a negative point – Craig Bryant had decided to step down from MAG. Craig has wished MAG members well for the future. Neil had replied thanking Craig for his involvement in MAG and likewise wished Craig well for the future. He has a lot of skills, knowledge and experience which can be applied to benefit TTE and the table tennis community more generally.

Neil to formally advise TTE that Craig had stood down. Recruitment of MAG members to be discussed later in the meeting.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

- (a) **Letters of Appointment** – Not all members of MAG had returned their Letters of Appointment. Neil encouraged them to do so as soon as possible
- (b) **Attending Leagues & County AGMs** – Neil had discussed this with Sara Sutcliffe and it had been agreed in principle. But subsequently overtaken by events. To be discussed later in the Agenda
- (c) **MAG Annual Report** –MAG would have half-a-page in the TTE Annual Review. He would start drafting a Report following the meeting and would send this to MAG members for comment

3. Coronavirus Update

Susie provided an update on Board activities. The Board were considering a range of scenarios in assessing the impact of Coronavirus – from best case to worse case. It was early days for assessing where we were on that spectrum.

Sandy referenced a document produced by the German Table Tennis Federation which provided detailed guidance on the steps to be taken in re-starting table tennis training and competitive play. She would forward this to Susie.

Kevin noted that the resumption of table tennis at a time when some form of social distancing might be in place would provide opportunities for trying alternative match formats, such as the “pairs league” which had proved popular in Plymouth.

Local Leagues had universally suspended their competitions and many were now exploring how to bring competitions to an end even though a significant number of matches often remained unplayed. For its own league competitions (ie British League and County Championships) TTE had outlined how these would be brought to a conclusion. There had been various Facebook postings expressing concern that refunds were not being offered where entire weekends had been cancelled. Susie explained that discussions within the Board on this topic were still on-going.

4. MAG Ways of Working

Neil opened the discussion by saying that as MAG had now been in operation for 12 months, it was opportune to reflect on how MAG was doing in fulfilling its remit.

In the subsequent discussion, the consensus was that MAG needed to make an impact and the best way of making an impact was through the projects. Reporting back on progress on projects should be the core part of MAG meetings and after the usual formalities should be the first item on the agenda.

5. Projects Update

- (a) **Ranking.** The ranking consultation had closed and Simon Griew was now writing the report. Kevin said that on behalf of MAG he would be able to contribute to finalising recommendations from the Consultation. Susie would pass this on to Simon.
- (b) **Perception.** Dean reported that following the discussion he had led with the Board, a Working Group had been set up chaired by Steve Kemish. Dean was a member of the Working Group. The aim had been to identify some quick wins, but progress had been slow. Moving things forward would not involve a lot of resources – but some resource would be required. All members of MAG encouraged Dean to continue his valuable work in this area.
- (c) **Volunteering.** Steve reported that he had produced an interim report. He intended to discuss this with Greg Yarnall prior to finalising the report
- (d) **Coaching.** Neil reported that he had mistakenly believed that he had produced project briefs for the two coaching projects. But he had not done so. He would now do so.
- (e) **IT** – This had been circulated. Stuart confirmed he would like to be involved in the project
- (f) **Building the Network/Engagement with the TT Community.** Neil had produced a project brief. It was suggested that during the lock-down on-line meetings were offered to counties. It was agreed to make a start on this as soon as possible.
- (g) **Clubs.** A project brief had been prepared. It was felt that the next few months would be a good time to engage with clubs on-line addressing issues such as competitions and development.

6. Recruitment of New MAG Members

Neil proposed that we now move to recruit new MAG members to replace the 3 members who had stood down. Increasing the number of MAG members was a possibility – it would increase the skill base and make MAG more robust should others decide to stand down.

An invitation to apply would be published on the TTE website. Steve Pratt agreed to be part of the recruitment panel along with Neil. If any other MAG members wished to be involved, they should contact Neil.

7. Interaction of the Junior Performance Team with Players, Parents and Coaches

The issue had been flagged with the Board but not surprisingly given all the issues associated with Coronavirus, the issue had not been discussed in detail.

8. TTE Annual General Meeting

This was scheduled for 18 July. Susie confirmed that it would take place in some form if only to complete the formalities required by Company Law.

9. Any Other Business

- (a) **Consultation on British League.** Susie referenced this recent consultation. She asked if there had been an input on behalf of MAG into the consultation (to which the answer was no). A key purpose of the consultation was to establish what part the British League played in the overall TTE competition strategy. This might be one of the issues to discuss during the forthcoming conversation by MAG with clubs
- (b) **On-line Meeting.** In closing the meeting, Neil said he thought the on-line aspect had worked well. This view was shared by all participants. The need to avoid travelling made it much easier to schedule meetings. Nonetheless, there was a place for face-to-face meetings, particularly as new members joined MAG.

10 Date of Next Meeting

On-line meeting on Saturday 4th July at 11am. Neil to book the use of Zoom for the meeting.