

## **MINUTES OF MAG MEETING - Saturday 14 September, 2019 at Milton Keynes**

**Attending:** Kevin Buddell; Jo Green; Neil Hurford; Brian Kean; David Maddison; Dean Nabarro; Sandy Nash; Steve Pratt; Dan Simms. Susie Hughes (facilitator, Deputy Chair TTE)

**Apologies:** Craig Bryant; Raj Patel; Stuart Sherlock.

### **1. The Governance structure of TTE and the longer-term strategy - Mark Quartermaine**

Mark Quartermaine, Senior Independent Director, led a discussion about how MAG fits into the Governance of Table Tennis England and its role as a strategic advisory body.

He felt that MAG would be most effective if there was:

- a) an alignment on strategic objectives and TTE's long term Mission 2025;
- b) a two-way communication channel with the Board;
- c) an ability to challenge constructively.

The subsequent discussion highlighted some issues, including:

- a) how best to initiate and progress projects
- b) MAG is advisory to the Board, - the interaction is with the Board not the staff;
- c) time-scales should not be rushed;
- d) there needs to be personal interaction between MAG and the Board, particularly on the presentation of reports and feedback;
- e) feedback and updating needs to be relevant and timely;
- f) MAG and Board should have a named 'sponsor' for each project;
- g) TTE remains an organisation that is structurally complex. There would be advantages to streamlining/simplifying the structure of the organisation.

### **3. Chairman of MAG**

Brian Keen nominated Neil Hurford for the position of Chairman. NH accepted and was supported unanimously. Neil said he hold the position for 18 months.

### **4. Updates on projects**

#### **a) MAG1 - Ranking**

An update on next steps from the Ranking Policy Group Working Party was provided.

Next stage is consultation with MAG and membership on options.

### **b) MAG2 - Coaching**

The project plan was presented. There was discussion that it had identified the issues and raised questions, but not provided advice based on the questions - and how far should MAG go to answer questions and/or provide advice/recommendations.

Next steps: Submit project outline to Board.

### **c) MAG3 - Volunteers - SP**

Project plan presented. Project to look outside table tennis; cherry pick good practise, how attract, keep reward. Look at leagues. Identify two or three key things. Brain storming: Duke of Edinburgh, volunteering, think outside the box, non-TT, needs to be outside traditional frame, make volunteering attractive.

### **d) MAG4 – Engagement/Sub-groups - NH**

There was a discussion on how to engage with wider membership. Communicating with members in new ways, eg social media. Identify groups. In the meantime, NH would be developing his own “personal engagement” plan – contacting neighbouring clubs, leagues, and counties to update them about MAG and raise its profile. He’d share this with other Members of MAG, who could decide for themselves which elements might be appropriate for them.

### **e) MAG5 - Perception - DN**

This was recognised as a long-term, on-going project. The focus was on the external rather than the internal audience. Discussion about need to recognise the need for change. Modernise the perception of the sport. Tap-in to outside knowledge, expertise. Recommend focusing on one or two challenges and opportunities. It was recommended that DN present his ideas to Board at its December meeting.

### **f) MAG6 - IT - NH**

On hold.

## **5. AOB**

Next meeting Jan 11, 2020

Would welcome a Board member addressing MAG where appropriate (poss Simon Griew on ranking in Jan meeting)

SH to continue attending meetings as direct and ongoing link with the Board.