



International Update – Sandra Deaton

Paper: 4

I am sure many of you will have seen the public recording of the differences within the Executive Committee of the ITTF. It is extremely disappointing that there is this internal squabbling and secondly it is exposed through the national and International media.

I am a member of the ITTF Board of Directors, a member of the ITTF nominations committee and the Vice President of Finances for the ETTU and I like all other members of the International body, I only receive the details following the consequential actions.

It has been announced that the ITTF AGM will be held on September 18th 2021 and this meeting will include the elections for the President and the Executive committee.

The ITTF have asked National Associations to put in an expression of interest in holding the AGM. England have registered to be considered and we are looking at trying to secure this along with a WTT Star Contender event.

I attach below a resume from Petra Sorling who has announced her intention to stand for election as President of the ITTF.

<https://mailchi.mp/svenskbordtennis.com/pingisnytt-februari-5017438?e=a6dec9b356>

I have had a personal conversation with some of the Executive Committee who are equally disappointed at the internal issues they are dealing with and feel this will only be sorted when a new administration is elected.

Tom Purcell sent through some points which had been raised by the officials following the WTT events in Qatar. I have sent those on to the competitions department in the ITTF. None were major issues and arose around the delivery of the new concept. However, it is always good to be aware of the teething problems and learn from them.

I am pleased to report that the ETTU Executive Board have a combined working group with the some ITTF EC members and staff to debate and discuss the issues which directly affect the European nations. The main focus is on the restricted entry into the WTT events and the ranking system.

The European continent is different to most of the other continents as it has a strong club structure which provides an earning capacity for our top players and a pathway for the elite junior players. Although it is undeniable that for global table tennis to exist it has to move forward with top class events and significant prize money. However, it is also important that there is availability in the competition framework for all levels of development.

The WTT introduction of the feeder, junior and international events is a step towards addressing the pathway for players to compete internationally. In addition, the ETTU are looking to enhance the European competition structure offering a potential European Tour with significant prize money.



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The International system for obtaining ranking points continues to be a major issue for many players. The discussion between the ITTF and the ETTU is very much centred on this topic and my understanding is that there will be serious consideration to awarding ranking points for both team and individual continental championships.

This has been a difficult year for all national and international bodies. In addition, the ITTF have had to introduce a direction of travel for their ambitious competition framework. This has undoubtedly caused issues both internally and with the relationship of some of the member associations. Consultation and dialogue are key to the way forward and it is vital remain part of the conversation.



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