

Chairman's Report

19th June 2021

Paper: 9a



As we move out of lockdown, we are beginning to see the return of participation. Once again, I would like to thank Sara and the staff for all the support and guidance, they have given to the membership to keep them up to date with the covid criteria as well as the numerous webinars to deliver coach education, club development and league support.

As I write this report it is a pleasure to welcome Richie Venner to the Board following his election victory. Congratulations to Richie on a very comprehensive win, however it is disappointing that only just over 50% of the membership took time to vote.

We went out to advertise for three appointed directors as those currently in place have completed their first periods in office. We received 20 applications with a wide variation of skills and table tennis experience. The Nominations Committee reviewed the applications and invited 7 candidates for interview. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Dr Emma Vickers, Ray James and Kwadjo Adjepong to the Board. The announcement of the new appointments is here <https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/news/archived/three-new-directors-appointed-to-our-board/>

Doug Livingstone and Dee Paterson decided not to consider a further term of office on the Board and Mark Quartermaine is very accepting of the new appointments. They have all taken on additional work responsibilities which will require more of their time going forward. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all three of them for all the input, support and guidance they have given to the sport, the Board, the staff, and me personally. I wish them continued success and good health.

With 20 plus resolutions to debate at the AGM it will be a difficult and potential time-consuming general meeting. To be able to accommodate everyone it will be necessary to keep to the time restraints from all those wishing to input to the discussion. There will be an opportunity for all Company Members to trial the voting structure before the meeting.

It is very disappointing that there has been a very small take up on the offer for the Board and /or SLT to attend the either league or county meetings. This gives the membership the opportunity to discuss directly their points on governance, transparency and very importantly the required support on return to play. The availability of attendance is still readily available to any organisation.

It is good to see that over the next few weeks we are planning to bring back some of our national competitions. This is of course subject to continual government guidance within a healthy and safe environment. If we are able to deliver this planned level of competition it will require extremely complex organisation and major input from the events team.



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Sara and I attended a meeting with the MAG project group on accountability and transparency. It was a very worthwhile debate and we will bring this to the Board at an opportunity when it can be debated at length. I reiterated that within the perimeters of some confidential discussions there is always desire from the Board to be open and transparent.

At our last meeting it was decided that the subject of publishing Board minutes would be deferred till we could have a physical meeting however it has been included an agenda item in the Board only section for the meeting on June 3rd.

I hope National Councilors will be attending the National club, coaching and volunteer conference on line this Saturday June 5th. It has a very extensive agenda on many of the topics central to grassroots participation. Incorporate in the day will be the Pride of Table Tennis Awards virtual presentation which gives the association the opportunity to thank our vast number of volunteers and specifically honour the winners at national level.

As I write this report the ITTF has just notified member associations that the AGM will be held in November at the time of the re-arranged World Championships in Houston, USA.

In my role on the ITTF Nominations Committee I have been central to setting the detailed criteria required for both the elected and appointed positions within the ITTF governance structure. There will be elections for the President and Executive Committee, and appointments by the Nominations committee for the ITTF committees' chairs and members. We are allowed three additional nominations so the Board will be discussing this at the forth coming meeting.

The European Table Tennis Union are holding the postponed individual European Championships in Warsaw from June 21st.

The Annual review document is being prepared and we will to be announcing the date of the Annual Conference shortly.

Sandra



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