



Introduction

1. Since the last National Council meeting one Board meeting has taken place which was on the 3rd March at the Senior Nationals in Nottingham.

Regular Updates

2. **Chairman's update** – Sandra welcomed every one and commented on the second excellent Regional club and volunteer conference in Nottingham. It was commented that the two conferences had been so successful that Regions could set up mini conferences resulting in more Regional Conferences and best practice being shared. The sharing of best practice and dissemination of information proved to be received very well. She had also attended some positive events such as the VBL, JBL and National League. Whilst there was no more positive news coming from UK Sport regarding funding, there were discussions that non-funded sports maybe able to access a wider support package of services.
3. **CEO report** – The current funding situation was described with the potential of loss of staff due to the 13% cut in overall funding. Whilst this was not where we wanted to be a lot of other NGBs had been hit harder and the impact on staff posts was greater. The final organisation structure was under consultation and had been presented to FORG the previous day. Commonwealth Games funding has also been reduced to £133k which is extremely challenging especially when one considers that there needs to be a £1k contribution to CGE for each attendee which will be £10k.
The organisation has completed its analysis of the new Sport Code of Governance. We are attempting to meet with the Head of Governance at Sport England to ensure that the changes we propose to make to our articles etc are appropriate and meet the Code. This is proving challenging as we would like this to happen prior to the next National Council meeting.

In respect of UK Sport appeal we have until 30 March to make a further appeal via Sports Resolutions. There is a feeling that there is not a lot to gain but looking at what the other NGBs are doing before making a final decision.

In respect of Board tenures, the Nominations Committee had met – Anna Lisa Tazartes and Phil Huggon are leaving the Board when their tenures finish. The Board thanked Anna Lisa and Phil for their outstanding contributions, especially through transitional and challenging times. We will be advertising for 3 new directors, two at least of whom would need to be independent. The net would be cast widely whilst considering the diversity of the Board. The Board reiterated its commitment to having a diverse, inclusive and well balanced Board

The office lease has been renewed for another 3 years with a 2 year break clause and then a further one after 6 months.

Following the change in Government and Sport England strategies, it was agreed that both the SLT and subsequently the Board need to revisit Mission 2025 and the operation plan. SS confirmed that the SLT planned to meet in April/May, including engaging the staff in an April

meeting and bring to the Board in June. It was agreed that the June Board meeting would be a 2 day meeting. 8th/9th June

4. **Head of Operations report** – The revised risk register was discussed with particular attention to the reds and those risks that had increased. This was more than normal due to the funding decisions from Sport England and UK Sport. No further changes were made by the Board but the challenging situation highlighted by the risk register was acknowledged.

An update was provided around Regional Finances being brought into the central Table Tennis England finances from both a process and accounting perspective. – it was going slowly and despite several communications there was still some mistrust and misunderstanding about this.

Budgets were then discussed. The 4 year budget 2017-21 was circulated and discussed. As discussed at a recent finance meeting a number of savings, via technology, would be created over the 4 years plus any staff that leaves their roles would be carefully looked at to see if it needed replacing.

The 16/17 actuals and forecasts were then discussed. A detailed forecast was presented for Core and the processes and procedures each department head were going through to manage their end of year spend. Each staff member explained the current budget situation and actions taking place to ensure anticipated spend was achieved.

National Council Update – Three main points were taken to the last National Council

- Changes to the AGM – this was agreed although discussion took place about National Council meeting not taking place
- Affiliation fees increase – this was widely supported
- The new Code of Governance for Sport and how it impacts National Council – a National Council sub group was created to discuss the code and would report in April.

It was agreed that positive conversations took place in the afternoon and the bullet points which appear in the minutes need to be looked at and integrated into our work. AER had also produced a paper. He had also asked for membership figures including a breakdown of Counties', Leagues and members. SS said that we would produce a report from the system but it might not be in the same format as the previous reports that used to be very manual and inaccurate. Whilst it might not provide a 'like for like' comparison this year it would be a new base level report for the future.

Dashboard and Decision papers

5. **Dashboard/Operation Plan** – The Dashboard was reviewed on a page by page basis. It was highlighted that membership in all categories were above last year's finishing numbers. This started a conversation around emails, segmentation, dynamic emails, open rate and unsubscribing. It was highlighted that ranking was key to members but we need to investigate more as to customer satisfaction and drivers to participate. TV was key to link to members and the general population; there is lots of demand and appetite for table tennis which needs to be tapped into. A recent example was Will Bailey who had 1.8m viewers on Instagram having visited Sports-Bible recently

Discussion then took place around drop-off and the challenge to understand why it happens, especially at 18 at University. Derby good example of where social table tennis is thriving.

The new Sport England targets were then asked about – none had been confirmed to date but following a recent meeting with Sport England they are likely to be around:-

1. Governance/Finance/Efficiencies
2. Commercial Income
3. Talent
4. Core Participation

Table Tennis England are asking for more detail around Actives Lives and to what level it can be segmented. Further updates will be provided to Board as more information becomes available.

6. **Board Dates** – The next four Board meetings dates were agreed:-

8th/9th June 2017 – Focus on Mission 2025

7th September 2017 - Worcester - Youth Top 10 following day, Board invited to stay

30th November 2017

2nd March 2018 – At Nationals

7. **ITTF Committee Nominations**

The following nominations were agreed:-

- Media – Susie Hughes
- Umpires and Referees – Stuart Sherlock
- Rules or potentially Women In Sport Commissioner, subject to ongoing discussions - Sara Sutcliffe
- Nominations Committee - Sandra Deaton already in post

8. **AGM** – A working party was established to review and create what the Annual Conference may look like. The second part of the discussion was around the changes to articles which would be shared with the Rules Committee and subsequently with National Council in April. Much of the discussion took place around ensuring that the membership had a voice both in respect of the 'member' Directors and should be represented on the Board in the role of Chairman or Deputy Chairman.

Papers for Discussion

9. **Network group Update** – The discussion focussed Regions and the positive action needed. In light of Mike Smith now leading on Schools, Susie Hughes will now lead on Regions.

Club focus group could play a key strategic role in linking regions to clubs and clusters with a club focus group planned for April.

The Regional Conferences also key place to engage clubs.

Conferences

British League is recommending to its members that:-

British League Conference now not going ahead and decisions made electronically

County Conference – still well attended and will continue

10. **Core Clusters** –The term 'core cluster' was not being clearly understood and needed to be revised. Currently using the term 'club and league support package' so that we can be clear about what is going to be the focus. However priority would be given to look at clubs/leagues/activity that could be supported as a 'cluster' as that would have a greater impact initially.

Questions were asked about prioritisation, communication, what engagement would look like etc. It was agreed that initially the proposed criteria would be taken out and it would be further considered and assessed as the programme evolves through the Expression of Interest phase.

It was made clear that any club who expresses an interest will be contacted by Table Tennis England either in person or over the phone but a prioritisation process would take place both in response time and support given.

It was anticipated that each staff member would have 3 to 4 clusters but currently not sure of numbers of clusters and expectations would have to be managed.

Limited resources would be allocated against collaborative working rather than a club or league working autonomously.

The model is still work in progress but further updates will follow including another paper to National Council in April.

11. **PING!** – PING! is part of the mass participation strategy of Table Tennis. It will be led by a National Team with area staff providing a minor supporting role with Ping Pong Parlours and Loop in the Community. There are 24 PING! cities in 2017.

TTE have a good relationship with a retail management company called JLL and it was anticipated that there would be 20 new Ping Parlours in 2017. Discussions have also started with another retail management company.

There was a lot of investigative work taking place around linking PING! to new technology and therefore understanding and measuring participation. Examples include:-

- Beacon technology – partnering with Vodaphone
- Vibrating solutions
- Wifi boxes
- NFC Chips

However it is not just about measurement – it is also about engagement with the players. Year 1 would be testing and trialling the new technology with qualitative results and year 2, subject to success delivering quantity.

Keith Thomas mentioned that his club had been proactively approached by the council in respect of supporting a Ping Pong Parlour to prevent anti-social behaviour

12. **ESTTA merger update** - Two days of meetings took place in late February which were very positive. Official handover of responsibility to Table Tennis England will take place on 1 September 2017, under the auspices of a Table Tennis England Board subcommittee – Schools Committee chaired by Mike Smith, deputy Chair John Arnold. The two main events (individual and team) would still be organised by the existing volunteers with TTE staff shadowing for 18/19. MS and John Arnold were working closely together. Regulations and their compatibility was not straight forward but they were being reviewed and worked on.

13. **Board social media engagement**

With social media becoming an increasingly more important way of communicating a discussion took place around the positive and negatives of individual Board members engaging with social media.

Response to National Council Comments made at January meeting

[Note – the left hand column contains the bullet points from the tables at National Council, the right hand side is a summary of follow up action]