



Board Meeting Summary 10th September 2020

Chairman's Update

SD welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for their continued support.

SD advised that Vijaya Panangipalli (VP), Hayley Foster (HF) from Sports Recreation & Alliance are on the call observing the meeting for the External Board Evaluation that is currently taking place.

Declarations of Interest

SD declared a new interest. Her daughter Nicola is an occasional paid contracted coach within the talent programme

Apologies

None.

Agreement of minutes from 4th June and matters arising

TP updated the Board on recruitment of Regional Chairs. Mike Atkinson has been appointed to the South region.

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as a true and accurate record.

Chairman's Report

Following the 'Ask us Anything' there was a discussion about ensuring we use social media positively.

In response to a question, SD confirmed that the UK Sport Aspiration Fund is specially for the GB men's team (named players) aiming at Olympic qualification.

SD updated the Board on the upcoming ETTU elections and committee nominations. Igor Levitin (Russia) and Pedro Moura (Portugal) were unopposed as President and Vice President candidates. England had nominated SD for the Exec Board and 8 other candidates for committees. SV asked if there was more than could be done to help canvass our candidates. SD explained that the Exec Board appoint the Chairs who in turn select their members from the nominations.

CEO's Report

SS updated on discussions to clarify the para classifications for Birmingham 2022.

SS confirmed that the latest Covid restrictions announced made by the government on 9th Sept do not affect the current guidance for organised sport (which is defined as sport organised in accordance with NGB guidance e.g. clubs, leagues but not social ping pong).

SS also updated generally on Sport England funding processes.



Table Tennis England

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Head of Operations & Governance Report

Latest membership renewals tracking at just under 50% currently.

After discussion about the Annual Returns process the Board agreed to change the date from October to end March each year. The Regulations will be updated.

Return to Office plans (October re-opening) are currently being finalised. Staff survey results discussed (overall positive feedback on the handling of the crisis for staff) and Board assured that staffs individuals needs and welfare being looked after.

Process Review Group (subgroup of Governance & Risk Committee) vacancy to be filled from within the Board.

Finance Report

Board reviewed the latest financial impact forecast. Largest unknown variables being membership renewals and the recommencement of national competition. Further scenarios will be considered at end of Q2.

Operations Reports

Board reviewed the departments operations reports and asked a few questions regarding website and brand refresh, use of Ping Pong Parlours by coaches/clubs, membership communications and promotions and British League competition decision dates.

MAG

SV provided an update on MAG activity, thanking Neil Hurford for his proactive leadership.

Board had a very positive and detailed discussion regarding the MAG volunteer paper, Board endorses the principles of the paper and agrees that 'volunteers' are a strategic priority for the association. It was agreed to forward to the executive for a proposal, resource implications and budget to come back to the Board meeting in December.

Performance Strategy

The performance team joined the meeting and made a presentation about the performance programme. Questions and discussion following including the need to address the gaps in the club/coach structure given that there is limited time for athletes with national coaches. It was acknowledged that there are still gaps in the pipeline with girls but there was a lot of promising work common from the Hopes and Aspire programmes.

DL observed the importance of athlete and coach wellbeing – creating the right culture and ensuring a balance between performance and wellbeing.

SV and SG made observations about communications and this was acknowledged. A specific communications plan regarding the programme is being worked on.



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Proposed Development Dept Restructure

GY joined the call and presented the proposed restructure of the Development Team

The presentation was well received and noted. The increased use of webinars provides different ways of offering support. All clubs/leagues will still have designated point of contact. SD asked specifically about needing to ensure we can still provide advice about partnerships e.g. utilising CSPs, local authorities.

Governance Action Plan Review

The Board paper was referred to and no further questions were asked. The paper was noted.

Diversity Action Plan Review

SS advised that whilst work had been undertaken by staff on reviewing the Diversity Action Plan it was felt there was wider value and benefit to tap into by creating a working group to include representatives of Board and MAG. Board agreed.

Update report for December Board meeting with intention of bringing revised Diversity Action Plan to March board meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

Noted that updating the policy is still work in progress. SS to continue and take to Governance & Risk Committee.

AOB/Board only time

M2025 strategic – agreed that it is still not the right time to complete substantive work due to the unknown impact of coronavirus. This will be reviewed early 2021 with a wider board sub group including elected directors.

Discussions continue offline about any distinction of the role of elected directors.

New company members were approved.

Date of next meeting 10/11 December.



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