

## Minutes of Board Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Table Tennis England Boardroom, Milton Keynes – 10am - 4pm

### In Attendance

| Board Members                                      | Invitees  |
|--|---|
| Sandra Deaton (SD), Chair                          | Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB), Head of Operations and Governance                        |
| Susie Venner (SV), Elected Director (Deputy Chair) | Greg Yarnell (GY), Development Director, for EDI item                         |
| Adrian Christy (AC), Chief Executive               | Samantha Garey (SGarey), Head of Finance and IT, for Finance and Budget items |
| Ray James (RJ), Appointed Director                 | Neil Hurford (NH), for MAG item   |
| Steve Kemish (SK), Appointed Director (SID)        |   |
| Tom Purcell (TP), Appointed Director               |   |
| Priya Samuel (PS), Appointed Director              |   |
| Ritchie Venner (RV), Elected Director              |   |
| Emma Vickers (EV), Appointed Director              |   |

SD (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed her sincere thanks to all for attending in person.

### EDI

Inclusive Employers provided a presentation remotely to the Board.

Discussions took place after the presentation and conversation flowed with ideas and thoughts from Board members including the 'Programmatic to Established' step change, the importance of diversity of thought, black history month, making inclusivity an all-year-round initiative not just a once or twice times a year "roll out event", attitudes to diversity, women in sport as coaches, lived experiences, the EDI Roles being recruited & the lack of women of colour on Boards.

### Update on actions and decisions made since previous meeting

No questions were raised on the actions.

Minutes were approved electronically.

## Talent & Performance Report

Matt Stanforth joined the meeting virtually and, along with RV, updated the Board on T&P.

**Decision** was made to reduce the ranking override for Senior to top 75 and to remove the override on Juniors/cadets, effective from 1 August 2022

## Finance Report

### Approval of Audited Accounts

The Board were taken through the accounts in detail during the meeting.

The accounts were signed off by the Board.

## Governance & Risk Report

JKB was welcomed to present to Board and asked if anyone had any questions on the Report. None received. Areas that needed Board Approval were discussed and decisions were as follows:

- a. Governance Statement – Approved
- b. Schools Regulations – Approved
- c. ToFR Strategy Working Group.  
AC provided an update to the Board on the progress following various meetings / discussions he has held over the last few weeks. The focus is to try and move this forward with the management team working on the strategy reset and they come back to Board for final approval in September.
- d. ToFR Nominations Committee – Approved

## Management Report 22/23

AC wants to provide Board with updates regularly on progress towards the Business Plan outcomes. The management report can be shared with National Council for example and will be a completely honest report detailing the ups and down's, what is happening, and it can be an opportunity for the sharing of other information. Discussions took place covering misunderstandings, effort, impact, the blockers, financial reporting, and the presentation of the report.



## **MAG Update**

Neil Hurford (Chair of MAG) joined the meeting physically and provided an update to Board.

### a. Transparency & Accountability

This document is now completed, and NH feels there are some core items which need to be addressed including standards expected by the membership, the reality of those expectations & how we understand the Table Tennis community and engage with them.

All the actions from the transparency project are now agreed, and NH will ask for this report to be published on the website.

After in depth discussions on MAG's progress, ability, service and support it was agreed that NH will circulate data on tournaments.

The Board wishes to recognise MAG's hard work on reviewing matters such as the British League and the cost of competition.

## **National Council**

### a. Update and Constitution Paper

SD discussed the response from Board on the NC Select Committee and an in-depth discussion took place.

The Board went through each item in the report in great detail and discussed their thoughts and way forward. After much deliberation and conversation, the Board agreed the formal response to the Select Committee to be sent to the Chair and added to National Council Papers.

## **Strategy, Finance & Structure Reset**

AC took the Board through the documentation in three parts – Strategy Reset, Finance Reset and Structure Reset.

The Board will own the strategy reset and approved the direction of travel. The Board gave the approval to proceed to the further drafting of the Reset.

## **Board Nomination**

### a. Welfare of employees, participants & volunteers

JKB advised that as part of the Code of Sports Governance, it is required that a Board member who is responsible for the welfare of employees, participants, and volunteers.



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Board was asked to take this away and come back to JKB if they would like to fill this role, this could be one of the new Board Members when they join

## **AOB**

The Board agreed to add their name to support the establishment of an independent body to lead safeguarding in the UK.

## **British League**

The Board was presented a matter relating to a 'one off' reset relating to elements of the British League.

A discussion took place on the reasons for the proposal and also the risks associated with it including any potential challenges and ensuring the integrity and fairness of the competition.

The discussion concluded by the matter being returned to the British League Committee for determination.



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