

Notes of MAG Meeting 1st October 2022

Present: Neil Hurford (Chair), Steve Pratt, Phil Ashleigh, John Andrews, Jo Green, Juliet Bertie, Steve Bertie, John Mackey, Susie Venner (Board Liaison)

Apologies for Absence: Sandy Nash

1. Chair's Introduction

NH welcomed those present to the meeting, which was first since a very important Annual General Meeting (see item 4).

2. Notes of Previous Meeting – 9th June 2022

Noted.

3. Actions

All would be handled under the respective agenda items.

4. TTE Annual General Meeting

The two key resolutions that were required to be passed in order to retain Sport England funding received the necessary majorities. Now that the TTE Board were responsible for setting affiliation fees, it was essential that the Board were pro-active in engaging with the table tennis community prior to setting the fees. This covered both the level of the fees, but even more importantly, the way that fees were structured. Indeed, there was an opportunity to show that the new approach would lead to more engagement than when they were set by leagues and counties at the AGM. This point had been made in the recent Board Report.

5. TTE Strategy Reset

This was continuing apace. The obvious questions arose as to how MAG could contribute to the development of the strategy and what the creation of new governance structure with Board and Area committees would mean for the role of MAG. The Chair would initiate a discussion with the TTE Chief Executive.

6. Appointments to the Nominations Committee

Under MAG's Terms of Reference, MAG was able to propose two MAG members to be part of the Board's Nominations Committee. The two members who undertook this role were SP and SB. The feedback on the contribution of the two MAG members to the Nominations Committee had been very positive. However, the MAG members tended to be involved in the process at fairly late stage and it was not always possible for them to make the effective contribution that they would like. NH wanted to make sure that our processes were robust so that we could contribute effectively to the Nominations Committee.

In the subsequent discussion, SP advised caution in involving too many people. The MAG members of the Nominations Committee needed to build their expertise over time. Continuity was also very important in ensuring effectiveness. He also emphasised that going-forward that he would welcome SB being given the chance to take more a leading role. SB emphasised that based on his experience it was essential that the MAG members be involved right from the start. PA said there needed to be a proper timeline so that MAG members could contribute effectively. Additional MAG members being involved in the process would provide continuity and make it more robust.

NH concluded by saying that if any other MAG members wished to be considered as potential MAG representatives to the Nominations Committee, they should contact him.

7. Recruitment of New Members of MAG

It was felt that until the role of MAG was clarified within the new strategy and structure, we should put recruitment of new members on hold.

8. Projects Update

The two outstanding project reports on “Recruitment and Retention” and on “Cost Effectiveness of Tournaments” had been submitted to the Board and subsequently published on the TTE website. This brought the project pipeline fully up to date, with no reports outstanding.

9. Any Other Business

- (a) **British League** – KB raised the issue of a team that had won Div 1 of WBL not being promoted to the Premier Division. This was an issue that could have been resolved quite quickly by better communication. It was noted that the British League conference had provided a useful forum for seeking the views of clubs and involving them in the decision-making process. It was recognised that decision-making for the British League has been brought “in-house”, but this made a consultative forum (such as the BL Conference) even more important.

- (b) **Competition Review** – SV noted that further consultation on the Competition Review was taking place. NH confirmed that a couple of dates had been pencilled in for MAG members to have a discussion session with Neil Rogers concerning the latest iteration of the Review. Once Neil Rogers returned from holiday, the date for the meeting would be set.

10. Date of Next Meeting

NH to arrange a meeting for December/January

December 2022