

## NOTES OF MAG MEETING SATURDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

### Present

Neil Hurford (Chair), Kevin Buddell, David Maddison, Steve Pratt, Sandy Nash, Phil Ashleigh, Liam McTiernan, Juliet Bertie, Steve Bertie, John Andrews, John Mackey, Susie Venner (Board Liaison).

#### 1. Chair's Introduction

It had been another productive period – engagement activities had continued apace, reports had been published on the website, we had been invited to participate in important TTE initiatives and we had shown we could handle important issues in a sensitive and productive way.

#### 2. Notes of Previous Meeting (26 Sept)

Noted.

#### 3. Actions

- Review of Mission 2020 – SV reported that the impact of Covid-19 had delayed progress on this.

All other actions were either in hand or would come up during agenda items.

#### 4. Current Projects

- Ranking** – NH reported that Simon Griew would welcome further involvement and input from MAG as the on-going ranking review moved to the next phase. As a first step, MAG should prepare a short “re-cap” report on MAG’s views on key issues relating to ranking. SV to follow up on whether anyone from MAG should be involved in the TTE ranking group.
- Diversity & Inclusion** – JB provided an update on the involvement of JB & SB in the Diversity & Inclusion Group at the 4<sup>th</sup> November meeting. The background was that TTE felt it was an appropriate time to review its approach to diversity and inclusion. The initial discussions had been wide-ranging but would subsequently focus on specific actions. JA mentioned his involvement in “Ping Pong Parkinson’s” which was a very active group ahead of the forthcoming World Championships. JB would share the stats on diversity.
- Club Development** – the “Clubs 3” session had gone well, and the perspectives expressed were consistent with those from “Clubs 1” and “Clubs 2”. The three sessions had provided a lot of data for a report. Plans were now being made for “Clubs 4” which would be via “open invite”. The invitation to participate had been published on the TTE website and would be promoted via social media.
- Engagement with Counties & Leagues and with Individuals** – one further session with a county (Bucks) had taken place. The report from these meetings has been updated and published on the TTE website. The session with the members of the TTE Advisory Network had gone well and subsequently a suggestion for a project had been made by one of the participants. The session with “influencers” had provided the opportunity to outline and discuss the role of MAG to a number of people who were active on social

media. The presentation made at these sessions had been posted on the MAG Facebook page.

- e. **Perceptions** – DN had raised with TTE possibility of exploiting the opportunity of the current ITTF event to gain coverage on social media. This had probably been the only international sporting event taking place with spectators present. Hence it was a unique opportunity. An interview with Liam Pitchford and Gavin Evans had subsequently taken place which had been posted on Facebook.

On a related point, it was noted that the clubs and coaches webinars during lock-down had been well received, and showed what could be achieved. It was hoped that TTE would maintain the momentum by having a series of similar events planned for the rest of the season. NH would raise this with the Board. Now that the competition diary was so clear, it was a good opportunity to consider a revised competition structure – which would mean a new structure could be in place for when table tennis resumed. The key thing was to use lock-down 2 and the suspension of competitive play in a productive way, as had been done in lock-down 1.

- f. **Coaching Projects** – NH to organise Zoom meetings to develop the project briefs.
- g. **IT Systems** – NH to convene a Zoom meeting with DS & JA to work out how to take this forward.

## 5. New Projects

- a. **MAG Live!** – NH would pull this together with LM, SN & KB. The concept is that MAG's extensive engagement activity will culminate in presenting the MAG Annual Report via Zoom and/or FB Live.
- b. **Streamlining the Operation of TTE's Advisory Network** – NH to advise the Board of MAG's view that Zoom offered the opportunity to reduce the cost of various committees and advisory group meetings. As part of this process, the approximate cost of meetings should be recorded in the minutes of meetings. This should all be part of a process of supporting and helping volunteers who were so essential to TTE. For example, reducing the need to travel to meetings would be welcome by most volunteers.
- c. **Reducing the Decline in Players in the 18-24 Age Group** – NH, LM & JA to write a project brief.
- d. **National Club Leagues** – NH had produced a first draft of a project brief. It was felt that the key issue was "how do we move on from here" and implement a new approach. A greater focus on "real clubs" would also offer the opportunity for more spectators. NH would revise the brief accordingly and submit to the Board.

In discussing the issue of a clubs league, it was recognised that it was essential experiment with new ideas and embrace innovation – even if these were only tweaks to

existing systems. This led to a broader discussion. Perhaps MAG should raise with the Board an initiative around networking and being able to draw on the wide range of skills that exist amongst the table tennis community. In this way TTE/SLT would have access to a much broader range of expertise. Some MAG members had experience of developing skills databases in membership organisations.

- e. ***Umpires*** – NH would convene a meeting of JM, SS and DR to discuss a possible project and prepare a project brief.

## **6. Issues Raised with the Board**

- a. ***Performance Team*** – a draft report had been produced and various revisions incorporated. The report would be submitted to the Board for consideration at its December meeting. SP noted that we needed to factor in the need for us to follow up with how the recommendations were taken forward.
  
- b. ***Ask Us Anything*** – a feedback report would be submitted to the Board

## **7. MAG Sub-Groups**

To be discussed at a future meeting.

## **8. TTE Competition Review**

NH to inform the Board that we are willing and keen to be involved in any way that will be helpful.

## **9. Any Other Business**

- a. JA noted that it would help the smooth conduct of business if documents had a version number and date. NH would implement. LM would set up a common drive using Google Drive to facilitate the access to documents and minimise email attachments which are difficult to manage.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

Saturday 23 January 2021 at 10.30am

## **11. Cost of the Meeting**

The direct costs of the meeting to TTE were £0.00.