

NOTES OF MAG MEETING MONDAY 20th DECEMBER 2021

Present: Neil Hurford (Chair), Sandy Nash, Dave Randerson, Jo Green, John Andrews, Phil Ashleigh, Dan Simms, Kevin Buddell, Steve Pratt, Steve Bertie, Juliet Bertie, Liam McTiernan, David Maddison, Susie Venner (Board Liaison)

Apologies for Absence: John Mackey, Dean Nabarro,

1. Chairman's Introduction

NH welcomed those present to the last meeting of 2021. He welcomed Adrian Christy (Interim Chief Executive) to the meeting. The first part of the meeting would be given over to a discussion with Adrian to hear about his background in sports governance and his plans for his new role.

2. Introduction by Adrian Christy

Adrian outlined his 25 years of experience working in the Governing Bodies of various racquet sports – tennis, squash, badminton and now table tennis. He had also worked in Local Authority Sports Development and for the National Coaching Foundation.

All sports Governing Bodies are operating in a fast-changing environment – particularly with regard to funding priorities, tackling inequalities and recovering from the pandemic. Getting table tennis back again in terms of participation, competitions, and coaching would continue to be a priority for the next year. But in these changing circumstances all sports needed to be agile, and we must continue to explore new ways in which people from all backgrounds could play and participate in our sport.

Good governance and strong finances would continue to be the solid foundation on which to build – both in terms of bringing new people into the sport and achieving the success for players and teams at national level. His own experiences at Badminton England had clearly shown that securing external funding required the development of critical assets that were attractive to sponsors and other partners. This was a critical first step that required commitment over the long term.

Adrian was pleased to be joining Table Tennis England at a point at which it was embarking on its Centenary celebrations. He was looking forward to working with the volunteers in table tennis who are so crucial to the delivery and development of any sport.

3. Note of Previous Meeting – 11 Sept 2021

Noted.

4. Actions

All would be covered by the various agenda items.

5. Input into the TTE Strategy Development Process

Members of MAG had met with the Chair of Table Tennis England to input into the strategy development process. We had emphasized that the only way to make significant change was to focus on just 2 or 3 big things and make them the entire vision and forward thinking focus for TTE management for the next 2 to 3 years.

The three key priorities MAG members had identified were:

- Identifying new sources of funding,
- Changing the perception of table tennis
- Greater focus on diversity and inclusion

The next stage was the most important, namely developing the strategy and 'road-map' as to how these priorities would be implemented.

6. Projects Update

- (a) **Clubs Development** – a further meeting of the Action Plan group had taken place. Most of the 27 issues identified in the report would be considered for inclusion in the new TTE "Clubs Strategy" that was currently in development. Once the Clubs Strategy had been produced we would identify which issues (if any) had not been addressed. Of those issues that were unlikely to form part of the Club Strategy, there were two projects that were being taken forward by MAG.
- (b) **Decline in Players in 17-24 Age Range** – Data collection was about to start to provide insights into the age-profile of the TTE membership. This would be supported by more informal discussions with members on the reasons behind them deciding to leave the sport or deciding to return.
- (c) **Transparency & Accountability** – NH had started the process of re-drafting the presentation so that it is more in the form of a report.
- (d) **Ensuring that National Competitions Benefitted Clubs** – data collection can now be started using data this is now available for British League competitions in 2021/22. Specifically, we can investigate how many of the teams belong to "real" clubs and how many to "clubs of convenience".

7. MAG Participation in TTE Initiatives

- (a) **Diversity & Inclusion** – JB provided an update on the working group in which she and SB were involved
- (b) **Competition Review** – Following the recent round of consultation, the next stage would be to make specific recommendations for the future competitive structure.

8. Date of Next Meeting

NH to investigate dates in March.

9. Costs of the Meeting

The direct costs of the meeting to TTE were £0.00