

The Catt's Eye View from the Chair

The meeting started with a minute silence in memory of Bill Moran, who was an International Umpire and National councillor for many years. There was also mention of Bill Bailey, who was attached to the Swindon League for over 50 years. It was mentioned that if anybody wants to remember someone noteworthy, that they should send in information in preparation of the meeting.

Each person present introduced themselves to the room. This was to help Abigail Gabb to identify people and also for anybody that had not been to meetings previously. There was some resistance to repeating this action from the previous meeting. There was a suggestion that only new people should introduce themselves. I do not think that this would be right as it would be quite nerve-wracking for a new delegate to stand up in front of the whole meeting.

Sara Sutcliffe advised that there is to be consultation on the Government's sport plan going forward. As a NGB, Table Tennis England would be giving input into the consultation directly with other NGBs. It is possible for anybody to comment on the consultation online. If anybody does this, TTE would appreciate a copy of comments made to help their own deliberations.

Sara set out the 6 priorities that TTE is currently focussing on.

- Sport England Targets
- Rio
- Website
- Continuation of CRM launch
- To run an outstanding national championship
- Sport England Bids for the next cycle

Sandra Deaton introduced Greg Yarnell, who has just joined TTE as Head of Workforce. His role is to manage the volunteer workforce – coaches, umpires, referees and other volunteers. This will involve training and retention of existing employees. He is managing the new coaching database

The board minutes that were provided in preparation for this meeting were considered to be very useful and it was suggested that the consideration of board minutes should be a separate agenda item in the future.

It was suggested that the Head of Department reports produced for NC and the board meetings should be posted on the website in future.

Simon Mills presented the Coaching and Performance report. The coaching conference held recently was thought to have been successful with 14 attending although only 8 people had signed up in advance.

Information from the new Coaching portal, which went live on 15/12/15 showed that there are 318 fully licenced coaches. A further 42 have paid fees, but have one or more of the

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requirements outstanding to complete their licence. There are a further 170 coaches that are no longer licenced that need to be approached to encourage them to become licenced again.

TTE is currently recruiting for a Talent Pathway Manager. There are a further 2 talent development centres planned and TTE will be asking for tenders from clubs/areas that would like to set up a new centre.

The operations and financial report was presented by Jonathan Bruck and Keith Thomas. It was felt that the detail of the report was improved. Martin Clark had prepared and submitted a set of questions in advance of the meeting and this were dealt with point by point. It was felt that it would be useful if a separate paper could be prepared in this respect as NCs were unlikely to remember much of the detail as it was provided at the meeting.

TTE is constantly looking at costs. The recruitment of extra staff is a cost. But TTE is looking to save money by outsourcing the back office finance function to Jockey Club Services, which is cheaper than employing somebody to do some functions in-house.

The Marketing and Communications report was presented by Gerry Cronin. The implementation of the new CRM has been successful and has already enabled better and more regular communication with individual members.

Emily St John presented the Development report which centred around Loop, children and young people and Priority Zones. Since the development is an important issue, it was agreed that the main discussion for this meeting involves be a development strategy, which would involve the consideration of volunteers, facilities strategy and a review of the Priority Zones.

Emily confirmed that table tennis packs had been provided in 126 work places, 26 clubs and 7 universities. A new schools offer is being released next week.

Tom Purcell was asked about the board's reaction to the Voting Review issues from the previous meetings. He said that the board was going to consider this and would probably take another year to come back on this. He was pressed to deal with this as soon as possible.

The main topic for discussion was Clubs and Volunteers and was presented by Alan Ransome. This is being dealt with in detail in a separate document. It was agreed that the National Council would put together a paper with our findings to go to the board for its consideration at the next board meeting.

Wiltshire has commissioned a trophy in memory of Andy Seward.

Tony Catt
National Council Chairman