

Chairman – National Council Report
For information
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My initial term of office as chairman of Table Tennis England came to an end this year and the process of another chairperson changed from an election to appointment as per our revised articles. There were three applicants including myself, all of whom were interviewed by the nominations committee which included the other elected directors. It is my privilege to once again be given the opportunity to be chairman of Table Tennis England and I will work hard to support and deliver the 21st century initiative we must embrace for every one of our stakeholders.

Since the last National Council meeting in February there have been two Board meetings with our next one scheduled for September 26th. There have been some important issues for the Board to deal with, resulting in some significant operational changes.

The Board's emphasis, with the introduction of the back of house membership and TT Leagues was to make sure that the process was robust. The effect on the membership was their prime concern as well as the financial implications around a reduced income from the affiliations. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those national councillors who openly worked with our operational staff to deliver the product. The support of many of you was paramount in achieving the right decision for our sport both today and the future. I would like to make special mention of the help, support and expertise given by Neil Hurford. His input has been invaluable throughout the whole process and he is continuing to work with the deliverers to give help and advice.

All our Board are members of either the Governance or the Financial and Audit sub groups with regular meetings for both either face to face or as a conference call. The 2019 election of the deputy directors saw the introduction of two new Board members, Tony Catt and Charlie Childs, and Susie Hughes was elected for a further term with Keith Thomas deciding not to stand. We have also had three non-executive directors resign – Mike Smith, Kelly Skeggs and Andrew Nixon. This now gives two vacancies on the Board, one appointed member and one independent director. The nominations committee will study the skills matrix and identify gaps so that we can advertise for directors with the appropriate skills.

I am continuing to work very closely the European Table Tennis Union and the International Table Tennis Federation. Our relationship remains strong. Sara and I attended the World Championships in Budapest in April both being at the AGM when England won the Best World Cup trophy for the delivery of the Team World Cup. Much of my time was working with the ETTU to secure the best option for the scaled down Team World Championships in 2021.

Despite the want by some of the smaller nations to return to an entry of 96 the ITTF Board of Directors continue to support and agree to a finals maximum entry of 32 with a diverse qualification process. European teams will undoubtedly need make sure they work hard to secure the allocated places.

The European elections for the presidency and executive board members takes place in Warsaw 2020 and the International elections are in 2021. There is significant background work being undertaken to secure the best options for the future of the sport including the support the National Associations require to increase participation and performance.



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The Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation Championships were held in India in July. England's performance on the table was very good indeed securing great results. However, off the table things were not so positive as the elections for chairman and deputy chairman took place. The current chairman Alan Ransome (who had been chairman for 26 years) was defeated by the Indian candidate Vivek Kholi but our nomination of Susie Hughes for deputy chair was indeed successful, resulting in retaining a significant English place on the executive. Thank you Alan for all you have done for Commonwealth Table Tennis and I hope you are able to stay involved in some capacity.

In my role as ETTU Youth Committee chair I attended both the European U21 championships (March) and the Youth Championships (July). England were well represented at both. It was my great pleasure to present Tin-Tin Ho with the U21 Women's Doubles trophy which she won with her Austrian partner. In the Youth Championships in July I felt that the improved standard of our players coupled with their increased passion to win resulted in much better performance with some really close opportunities to achieve higher places.

I am delighted that the Commonwealth Games Federation have included Para Table Tennis in the 2022 Games in Birmingham. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sara and Simon for an outstanding presentation which was so well received and I feel sure a major factor in the positive result.

We are continuing to work with the ITTF for the 2026 Centenary celebrations to bring a festival of our sport to London.

Finally I hope that we can move forward with a strong and positive relationship between the Board, the staff and all our national councillors. The combining of expertise of all can only serve to move our sport in the right direction.



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