

Chairman's Report

Date: 27th June 2020

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Period: June 2020



Chairman's report for National Council

I hope this report finds you all continuing to remain safe and well. It has been a difficult time for all with unprecedented restrictions on our normal everyday life.

The opportunity to play our sport in the usual environment has ceased and for many of our membership it has produced a gap in their lives.

As an association the Board has had to make many difficult decisions in the response to the COVID 19. The underlying principles in all the actions has been centred around safety, fairness, transparency and communication.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the work of senior leadership team who have introduced many new initiatives to keep our participants in touch with the sport. The virtual relationship through webinars and the website communications has meant our clubs, coaches, and valued volunteers have had the opportunity to remain in close contact. In many ways we have been a trail blazer for new ways of contact and participation opportunities as well as many inspirational concepts which have come directly from the membership and shared across the country.

Thank you to Sara and the team for all their dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sport England who have supported the whole industry through these difficult times.

It is now time to move on and think about how we can "return to play". It is quite clear that there will be a number of difficulties for our membership to overcome at county, league and club level. Although we followed the original timescale for the AGM propositions, as time moved on in lockdown and the realisation of what we will face became more evident, the Board made the decision to maintain the current affiliation and subsequently removed the propositions. Of course, this means there is no necessity to vote at the AGM but the main driver for this difficult decision was to give clarity and support to the membership.

We are hoping that the membership will in return support the governing body with their affiliation renewals. A reduction in membership income will inevitably affect the programmes we can deliver. (Coach education, competitions, website, development, Schools, TTKidz, talent pathway, performance etc.)

Please can I ask that National Council support the desire to maintain the number of affiliated players and encourage the normal renewal process amongst their county, leagues and clubs.

Although as yet we have no clear Covid 19 direction for indoor sports we have made the decision to plan for the TTE season to start in September. In doing this there are a number of caveats to cover for periods of delay so that those wishing to register for our county competitions and national and British Leagues can be aware of the refund process.



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The International scene is also very uncertain and incredibly complex as all the nations have different Covid criteria for running events and championships. The ITTF have made the decision to cancel the world championships until early 2021. The ETTU are still considering the European Championships in September and an alternative date for the European Youth Championships to commence on September 4th. There are many factors that need to be confirmed before the ETTU could possibly agree to continue with these events.

However, the ITTF have continued to move forward with the establishment of World Table Tennis which is the organisation which will deliver all the ITTF world tour and major championships. We have had several virtual meetings with this organisation.

in order to continue to move forward with our major events strategy.

Thank you for your time.

Stay safe and well.

Sandra Deaton