

## MAG – Update Note for National Council

### January Meeting

MAG held its first meeting of 2020 on 11 January. Simon Griew (Board Member) provided an overview of the Ranking project and the forthcoming consultation. MAG members would respond individually, and Kevin Buddell would lead in producing an overall response from MAG. MAG members would also be encouraging all TTE members with an interest in ranking to respond to the consultation.

### Projects Update

#### *Existing Projects*

- **Changing Perceptions/Profile** – Dean Nabarro led a discussion on this issue with members of the Board and the Chair of National Council following the Board Meeting in January. Dean’s proposition is that there are many opportunities to beneficially change the perception of table tennis, but it requires a new approach based on collaboration with existing media figures and formats. Fully embracing social media is essential to reaching a young audience. Following the discussion, a small working group has been set up to take the project forward. This involves Board Members, TTE Staff and MAG. If any National Council would like more information about this project, please contact Neil Hurford in the first instance.
- **Ranking/Rating** – MAG was impressed with the thoroughness and rigour of the consultation on the ranking system. Kevin Buddell is leading in producing an overall response from MAG. We have confirmed that we would be delighted to be involved in next steps following the consultation.
- **Volunteering** –The project is currently underway. If any National Councillor would like more information about this project, please contact Neil Hurford.

#### *Projects in the Pipeline*

- **Coaching** – two project briefs are currently in preparation. namely a) women and ethnic minorities in coaching; and b) drop-off rate of coaches. We recognise the need to call on wider expertise to undertake these projects. If anyone on National Council with relevant expertise would like to be involved, please contact Neil Hurford. Likewise, if anyone on National Council would like to suggest someone who should be involved please contact Neil Hurford.
- **Engagement with the Wider TT Community** – for MAG to be effective, it needs to have deep roots in the various constituencies of the table tennis community – leagues, counties, coaches, umpires, schools etc. We are drawing up an engagement plan. MAG has already received invites from counties and leagues to attend AGMs to explain the role of MAG and the work it is undertaking. If any National Councillors would like a MAG member to attend a county AGM please contact Neil Hurford. Obviously, attendance will be dependent on availability and other commitments.

## *New Projects*

- **IT Systems** – IT systems already play a key role in the smooth, cost-effective operation of all TTE's activities. There are already a number of systems in active use, including TT Memberships, TT Leagues, Tournament Software and Club Spark. This project will consider the appropriate governance arrangements for the strategic development and integration of these systems. A route map will be developed which identifies which identifies those areas of TTE activities that could be improved by the better use of IT. The first step will be to produce an outline project brief. It is recognised that this project will need to draw on expertise from across the table tennis community.
- **Clubs** – Clubs are key drivers of the development of table tennis at both local and national levels. Accordingly, we are developing ideas for a project on clubs. This will cover how TTE can best support clubs and how clubs can be given a bigger voice within TTE. If anyone has any suggestions relating to the scope of the project, please contact Neil Hurford so that they can be included in the project brief which is currently under development.

## **New Appointments to MAG**

Two members have decided to stand down from MAG. One for reasons of ill health, the other because of the heavy demands of club commitments. Whilst no final decision has been made, we expect to undertake a recruitment process to replace the two members who have stood down. As with the initial appointment process, this will be a fully transparent process open to all eligible members.

## **Next Meeting**

We are due to meet again in April

Neil Hurford

Chairman

Members Advisory Group

February 2020