

## Regional Forums

Date: 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Author:



Period:

Paper:

Regional Chairs' Forum

13th November 2019

Meeting at TTE, Milton Keynes

Present: Tony Catt (TC) (Chair), Mike Caudrey (MC), Shirley Pickering (SP)(East Midlands) Jos Kelly (JK) (South-West), Kim Mudge (KM)(South-East), Alan Ransome (AR)(North-East), Karen Tonge MBE (KT)(North-West).

Apologies: Brian Davison (East)

Not represented – East, London, West Midlands, Yorkshire

TC opened the meeting setting out the agenda and referring to the review prepared for this meeting. There was a discussion about the history of the Regional Chairs Forum and the duties undertaken over the years. The meeting was to try to work out a way forward to make the regions effective.

Neil Rogers joined the meeting

Points discussed.

- The events can be run in any format, not mandated.
- Eligibility of players did not seem logical
- Regional events have become 2nd tier events as players ranking in top 10 as at February cannot take part.
- Previously regional events were qualifiers for the National event. It was thought that this was popular and effective.
- People would rather see an u18 event as well as the current age groups.
- Toolkit for running regional events is due to go out this week.

Note from Neil following meeting

Following up briefly on the query from Regional Forum related to IR Finals team format (AvX, BvY, Doubles, AvY, BvX) and whether players 3 and 4, if relevant, could be included in singles3 and singles4 - it appears that this approach deliberately reflects an established format as part of the ongoing drive for domestic processes to prepare players for their step into European competition – in this instance, the team format in question is used for 2, 3 or 4 player teams in the ETTU Corbillon Cup, and is also consistent with the European Youth Championships for the Cadet age-group.

General issues raised.

- No interaction between TTE and the regions.
- Wondered at the priorities of TTE.
- Regions organised coaching and officials' courses.
- General consensus of disappointment at the loss of regional development officers and, to a lesser extent, regional coaches.
- Counties used to be stronger, if the counties are not working, then the onus falls on the local clubs.
- Regional coaching should be reinstated, although it is still run in some regions.
- New initiatives launched by TTE tend to by-pass the regions.
- There is no communication with the current development officers who cover several regions.
- Who is attending meetings with local sports partnerships?
- Initiatives from Mass Development, such as ping pong parlours do nothing for regions.

Pride of England

- Popular with RCs
- Most regions deal with the nominations from clubs and counties. Considered by committee and then put forward for awards.
- RCs ensure that nominees meet criteria.
- Pride needs to be for different categories
- Run biennially



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- Same people tend to do all the jobs, so finding new nominees is difficult.
- Pride encourages volunteers.
- Publicity is important
- There should be press releases and social media posts to ensure publicity

#### Organisation of the regions

##### East Midlands

- Were well organised when Sandra Deaton was chair.
- 4 meetings per year were held until the last 18 months.
- Northampton is in disarray
- Leicester (Mike Smith & SP) & Derby have been taking part, although Derby is wavering.
- Nottingham has plenty going on, but nothing run by the county
- Region still runs monthly coaching
- Regions need to be co-ordinated.

##### North- East

- Regional committee meets before NC and RCF meetings.
- Colin Davison became ill and has now resigned.
- There are agenda and minutes from meetings as well as email discussion.
- AR has now nominated himself to take on RC duties going forward.

##### North-West

- Used to hold meetings, but now meet at events or communication by telephone and email.
- Regional coaching undertaken by Brian Jackson and Tom Purcell.
- Negative meetings meant that meetings became unattractive.
- Need to look at what works

##### South

- Lack of volunteers
- DT took over from Brian Lamerton
- Regional coaching is undertaken by Derek Seager and Ken Phillips at Cippenham. Ken McLeod runs events concentrating on building up numbers of young girls. To keep them playing – paid for by region.
- Most counties and clubs have their own coaching set up
- Region extends from Isle of Wight up to Oxfordshire.
- DT wants Neil Hurford to take over, but NH has been too busy
- John Burtenshaw organised and paid for a regional meeting which had 19 attendees. The next meeting with no sponsorship had 2 attendees.

##### South-East

- Communication needs to be into counties, leagues and down to clubs.
- Originally Kent had no committee – now stronger
- Surrey and Sussex took part in a committee
- Sussex chose to take no further part.
- Surrey took away its venue
- Few officials and minimal recruitment

##### South-West

- South-West was run for many years by John Burtonshaw. When JK took over, apparently there was a committee of 26 people, but when he contacted them, nobody wanted to take over.
- In the South-West region, the main issue is geography is the region is too large.
- Now most of the activity is by co-ordinating between clubs and coaches.
- They have held Skype conference calls, but counties largely do their own things.
- Problem with Plymouth and lack of other venues.

#### Regional qualification events around the regions

East Midlands – the qualification will take place at Draycott TTC. Just need the paperwork to be produced.

North-East – committee set up and meets on the Wednesday before the forum. The qualification will be held at Ormesby and simply needs to be booked.

North-West – has been booked since the dates were published. To be held at Halton.

South – DT had been planning to hold this at Cippenham. However, Charlie Childs had sent a message to advise that 2 people have been asked to run the event. DT was puzzled about this.

South-East – qualification organised to take place in Ashford TTC for London on one day and the South-East region on the next day. Alex Mercer to run the sessions on 21st/ 22nd March 2020.

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South-West – there is a question mark over Joola Plymouth. If the qualification is not held in Plymouth, the South-West region may have a problem. DT suggested that the SW could come to Christchurch, although geographically this may not suit.

Action plans

Action Responsible

- 1 Consider having a pooling system for parents travelling costs to competitions. Neil
- 2 Issue Toolkit for regional competitions early in w/c 16 December. Neil
- 3 Consider having a “proper” Regional Championship – from 2021. Neil
- 4 Should try to include Juniors in future regional competitions – and not drop U11s. All
- 5 In future, use a Regional Chairs Forum in the Spring to discuss/agree the arrangements (including date/s) for regional competitions. Tony/Neil
- 6 Review how Pride of TT Awards are broadcast. TTE
- 7 Investigate using Sport80 for access to regional information. TTE
- 8 Investigate use of tele/video conferencing for future meetings. Tony
- 9 Investigate the lack of regional accounting information. Tony



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