

# National Council Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020



**Location:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85129640333?pwd=L052dHc1TGkveEtlYm1mWjFNNzU3dz09>

Meeting ID: 851 2964 0333

Passcode: 803147

**10:00am**

## **PRESENT:**

Estyn Williams (Chair – Warwickshire)

**NATIONAL COUNCILLORS:** David L Hockney (Avon), Peter Charters (Berkshire), Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire) Susan Hayes (Buckinghamshire), Karen Tonge MBE (Cheshire), Alan E Ransome OBE (Cleveland), John Cowell (Derbyshire), Reinhard Lindner (Dorset) Phil Ashleigh (Essex), Dave Adamson (Gloucester), Harmesh Jutle (Herefordshire), David Edwards (Hertfordshire), Tim Giles (Isle of Wight), Clive Hollingsbee (Kent) Jim Bolton (Lancashire) Shirley Pickering (Leicestershire), Tony Dias (Middlesex) Gareth Pearson (Northumberland), Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire), James Kenny (South Yorkshire), Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) Margot Fraser (Surrey), James Skinner (Sussex), Martin Clark (Worcestershire), Richard B Hudson (Yorkshire)

## **Other:**

Mike Smith (British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS), Jill Parker -President (JP) Kim Mudge (SE Regional Committee Chair)

**Board Members:** Sandra Deaton (SD), Sara Sutcliffe (SS) Susie Venner (SV), Tony Catt (TC) Don Parker (DP) Tom Purcell (TP)

**Staff:** Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB) Greg Yarnell (GY)

**Minutes :** Victoria Wiegleb (VW)

## **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

**National Councillors:** Brian Freer (Cambridgeshire), Diana Jermyn (Cornwall), Neil Le Milliere (Kent) Martin Ireland (Lancashire), Malcolm Allsop (Nottingham), Charles Noel Sewell (Wiltshire)

**Board:** Simon Griew (SG) Steve Kemish (SK) Mark Quartermaine (MQ) Priya Samuel (PS)

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Agenda Item	Paper No	Discussion	Decision/Action	Who	When
1	N/A	<p><b>Chairman Opening Remarks, Update &amp; Welcome</b></p> <p>Estyn Williams (EW) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for their continued support and welcomed those whose meeting is their first as a National Councillor. EW also thanked JKB, VW and all the other staff for their support in ensuring this meeting runs smoothly.</p> <p>EW handed over to Sandra Deaton (SD) to announce this morning's news that our CEO, Sara Sutcliffe has been awarded the MBE for her services to Table Tennis in the Queen's Birthday list. EW proposed a formal motion on behalf of National Council to congratulate SS - <u>this was carried unanimously.</u></p> <p>Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB) ran through some Zoom call etiquette by asking all attendees to go on mute and to add Q into the chat box if they wish to speak.</p> <p>EW requested any declarations of interest be emailed to JKB / VW</p> <p>EW remembered the members of the TTE family who have sadly passed away – specifically Gerald Gurney and Heather Masters.</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b>  <b>congratulations</b>  <b>minuted to SS for</b>  <b>her MBE</b>                      Carried                      Unanimously</p> <p><b>Action:</b>                      Declarations of                      interests to be                      emailed to JKB /                      VW</p>		
2	N/A	<p><b>Approval of Minutes from 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b></p> <p>No amendments. These minutes were taken as a true record.</p> <p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>			

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3	<p><b>Format of National Council Meetings (paper from Neil Hurford, Oxfordshire)</b></p> <p>EW welcomed Neil Hurford (NH) to present his paper.</p> <p>NH advised this is not a paper that proposes any specific course of action, but more to determine what National Councillors preferences are for when we get back to normal with meetings.</p> <p>NH further discussed the paper which set out possibilities of physical meetings or virtual meetings.</p> <p>Alan Ransome (AR) believes we can get the best of both worlds, face to face and via Zoom. AR feels the benefits of the National Council physical meetings are beneficial for networking and getting to know each other.</p> <p>Chris Dangerfield (CD) via the chat agreed that this needs to be taken to a vote if National Councillors wish to take this forward.</p> <p>Tony Catt (TC) (Board member) via the chat agreed this is a good option.</p> <p>Gareth Pearson (GP) advised that the facility of a zoom call means more people could attend, saving on time with travelling, hotel stays and costs. However, GP felt that one meeting a year should be face to face.</p> <p>EW asked JKB for advice on a hybrid meeting – JKB advised in principle this could work like it did for the AGM.</p> <p>Jim Skinner (JS) via the chat advised he felt the zoom meetings are fine, but the workshop items at a physical meeting are beneficial. JKB advised the zoom meeting platform does allow a breakout room facility if National Council wanted to trial this route.</p> <p>Karen Tonge (KT) advised some National Councillors cannot access zoom and that hybrid meetings work in parliament.</p> <p>Alex Murdoch (AM) agreed both types of meetings should be held.</p>			
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		<p>Susan Hayes (SH) advised she has used the breakout options in other calls, and they have worked well.</p> <p>Richard Hudson (RH) asked on chat if we have any figures on how many counties are not represented because they cannot get on zoom? The meeting was advised we do not have figures, as many people are now using zoom effectively.</p> <p>TC asked on chat that if meetings are on zoom, do they always need to be on Saturday? EW said this a fair comment, but we are a long way away from this at the moment.</p> <p>NH noted a diverse range of opinion and that more consultation is needed.</p> <p>EW asked all NCs to the vote on whether to undertake further consultation on the paper – majority agreed by a show of hands. No one voted against.</p> <p>EW declared this motion as carried.</p>	<p><b>Action: NC to undertake further consultation on format of National Council Meetings</b></p>		
4	N/A	<p><b>Select Committee Proposal (paper from Alan Ransome, Cleveland)</b></p> <p>AR was invited by EW to present his paper.</p> <p>AR thanked EW and discussed the papers contents in detail to National Council. He explained that the wealth of knowledge with National Council could be utilised to bring together groups ('select committees') to look into specific areas in more detail and provide advice to the Board.</p> <p>Martin Clark (MC) advised he supports this proposal, and it is clear there is a wealth of knowledge available.</p> <p>NH advised he is the Chair of MAG and offered some perspectives on the paper. To take this forward NH expressed his need to understand how this select committee to be different from MAG. NH advised this type of activity is incredibly challenging and wanted to emphasise the level of hard work required to make this work.</p>			

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	<p>KT discussed MAG and how this is linked to the Board whereas what AR is proposing is not. This select committee would work differently to an advisory group.</p> <p>SH commented that she would be interested in knowing what the view of the Board or MAG members are on this. SD replied that National Council have the right to decide how they operate / work and the Board will work with it – however, SD asked how does this actually work echoing TC’s question on chat of who will set the subjects. The wealth of knowledge on National Council is without doubt but do NC require a political style committee to demonstrate that.</p> <p>Peter Charters (PC) advised he is in favour of small groups. However, he does not want this to be a duplicate of MAG.</p> <p>Susie Venner (SV) made National Council aware that she sits on both Board and MAG as an observer. SV was very positive about MAG. SV echoed concerns about duplication. Perhaps there were other routes, such as including relevant Councillors in MAG project groups. SV also noted that ‘select committees’ implies an adversarial process, the taking of evidence and questioning people. Whilst that may not be intended it is what is implied by the term.</p> <p>GP agreed with the content of AR’s paper.</p> <p>DH asked if AR could provide examples of the sort of topics, he would envisage committees addressing. The MAG was set up to advise the Board on such topics but accept that the level and types of experience in each group are slightly different. But not in favour of forming new levels of advisers to the Board.</p> <p>RL commented on chat that he thinks it is very important that National Council &amp; MAG are working together to help table tennis going forward.</p> <p>JS asked for the protocols before there is a vote.</p> <p>DH agreed with that view - Duplication is a waste of effort.</p>			
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		<p>CD advised that this seems like a sensible tool for council to have but would like to see the detail. Suggest the paper is approved in principle and then look to vote at the next meeting once more detail is presented.</p> <p>PC commented that he completely agreed with SV.</p> <p>JS commented that MAG can, and does involve views of National Council in their work and so in effect it is happening now, in a limited way, driven by MAG.</p> <p>SH asked NH how MAG invites non-MAG people to be involved? NH advised this has been done in an informal way to date.</p> <p>The meeting agreed to adjourn the paper until the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021 so that more consultation and consideration can take place.</p>	<p><b>Decision:</b> paper adjourned to 16<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020</p>		
5	N/A	<p><b>Effects of Covid on table tennis nationally and locally.</b></p> <p>EW invited SS to briefly advise National Council on the current situation.</p> <p>SS reported that membership is currently tracking at just over 50% compared to last year. The new Club Play has been a success and allowed return and new club level members to still take out membership. It is free this year, but it is expected to become a paid category in due course (much lower than Compete category). The license player membership (now called Compete Plus) is also tracking c50%. There is a negative impact of c£250K on revenue for this year.–However, due to the savings on expenditure it is expected that the association will break even this financial year.</p> <p>SS advised that senior leadership is now in the process of building the budgets for 21/22, based on only 50% of the membership revenue. Overall picture is cautious optimism for this year but there is concern for next year and beyond if membership numbers do not recover.</p> <p>Greg Yarnall (GY) advised the team have found it motivating and inspiring working with clubs up and down the country and echoed SS thanks to the clubs for their support.</p>			

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	<p>Club survey is showing 60% of clubs returning to some form of play. Challenges exist for clubs based in leisure centres or school facilities which are not reopening yet. A third of leagues are looking to get started in the next few weeks. Some leagues are considering their options on how to run / accommodate play. A handful of clubs have advised they will not reopen this year at all.</p> <p>JS asked if we believe there will be further restrictions after the announcements about local lockdowns? GY advised at this point he does not anticipate significant changes but the guidance can change quite quickly, which will be passed on.</p> <p>NH thanked GY and his team for doing a fantastic job during lockdown and helping provide advice to the membership.</p> <p>TP asked if there has been any clarity on the advice given out on by Sport England on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct – GY advised no. This is frustrating. Majority of other sports are also in the same situation, so we are not alone.</p> <p>TD asked if the bubble of 6 rule stills apply. GY advised this is still the case for adults in the areas not affected by the restrictions. Bubbles of 15 for under 18.</p> <p>AR advised that half of his county are in local lockdown, yet the other half of the county is not which does not seem workable or fair. GY has picked this up with Sport England and chased them on this for a clarification.</p> <p>KT asked if advice was on the website re: competitions as some players are looking to enter competitions. GY advised he will check this as it should already be on the website.</p> <p>TD wanted clarification on the 10pm closing time, and if this applies to table tennis clubs. GY advised this is only relevant if the club owns a bar / café.</p> <p>AR mentioned he had sent a written question in advance of the meeting. SS confirmed she had responded to him and the answers would be attached as an annex to the minutes.</p>			
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6	N/A	<p><b>Development Team Presentation</b></p> <p>GY shared a presentation which will be available to everyone.</p> <p>A final call was given for Pride of Table Tennis nominations including the new category – local lockdown hero.</p> <p>EW invited any questions.</p> <p>SD thanked GY. She emphasised to National Council that the restructure is proactive not reactive, and that it is important the clubs and development have “go to” people so we do not lose the continuity of working in partnerships.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> GY Presentation to be shared</p>		
7	N/A	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p>a. Chairman’s report SD advised the ETTU committees have appointed 4 of our nominees Karen Tonge – Deputy Chair – Para Simon Griew – Deputy Chair - Ranking Committee Susie Venner – VETTS Matthew Stanforth – Coaching AR noted his concern that England has no member of the ITTF Board of Directors following the elections. SD advised she withdrew her nomination once she had been elected as ETTU Finance Vice President.</p> <p>b. Board report SD provided an update on the Governance Action Plan Review and the 5 principles: structure, people, communication, standards and conduct, policies, and processes. SD confirmed we are Code compliant.</p> <p>Sport England funding processes were raised by EW and SS advised that Sport England has confirmed the grant of c£1.9m for 2021 / 2022. Funding flexibility is available applications can be made to move ring fenced money into other areas Sport England continue to be supportive.</p>			



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		<p>Martin Clark (MC) congratulated SD on her Finance Role on ETTU Executive Board. MC also said it is great news that Sport England are now more flexible on the funding pots. MC asked for thanks to be given to Sam Garey (SLT) for improvements on the finance reports.</p> <p>AR felt we are in an incredibly dangerous position at the moment due to Covid, and that the Board should be encouraged to spend whatever is needed to ensure the membership is secured.</p> <p>c. CEOs report SS had nothing to update but was happy to take questions. No questions raised.</p> <p>d. Other reports AR had a question on the performance report and advised it is good to see that live table tennis is happening this weekend with European Youth Top 10 in Berlin. AR was concerned that there was no England representative at this event yet Wales and Ireland both had cadet girls qualified. SS noted his concern and offered congratulations to the players from Wales and Ireland. SS commented that the Hopes and Aspire squad work that is going will hopefully mean in a few years we shall see England players in the top 10 and qualified for this event.</p>			
8	N/A	<p><b>Ask us Anything</b> No comments were raised.</p> <p><b>MAG Report</b> EW noted that on the MAG web page there is a project report on coaching – not to be discussed now but to draw attention to people that this is worth looking at. NH mentioned that MAG has offered meetings with all counties although there has not been much take up - this offer is still available to everyone.</p>			

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9	N/A	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>TP discussed the membership changes and how it is vitality important that National Councillors encourage their leagues and clubs to consider the Club Play category This does not cost anything but will ensure they are protected by Public Liability Insurance and the association can better understand how many people are activity engaged and playing. we get a record on who is playing.</p> <p><b>Next meetings:</b> 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021. 24<sup>th</sup> April 2021.</p>			
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<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>When</u>
Any declarations of interests to be emailed to JKB / VE	ALL	ASAP
GY presentation to be available to everyone	GY	Completed
National Councillors to undertake further consultation on the future format of meetings and 'select committees'	EW	Before next meeting 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2021