



## **Chairman's Report: Sandra Deaton**

As we venture to hopefully being able to participate again in our sport, we are aiming to move forward from the difficulties which surrounded the EGM and the very issues incorporated within that period of time.

The Board have identified some of the points raised during the EGM and are looking to find ways to address the most significant ones.

The concept of transparency and accountability frequently arose and we will be asking the membership through a survey what aspects they feel is their primary concern. There has also been a discussion with MAG to identify this as a project and report back to Board on their findings. It would be greatly appreciated if National Council can support and encourage the membership to identify their concerns and subsequently advise the Board.

The process has begun to find a replacement for a third elected director. There will also be three appointed directors who have completed their first period of time on the Board. We will be going out to advertise these positions and of course those who wish to serve a second term can apply. Two of these places are currently undertaken by persons completely independent of the sport. Although there is a real value to having people on the Board who have no bias in any function it is appreciated that there is a perception that it can be also somewhat restrictive.

The Nominations Committee recommended to the Board that the definition should be updated not to exclude player members subject to the setting out governance code criteria of "close connection". This was agreed and will be reflected in the advertisement of the positions.

It is really important to recognise that the Board of any governing body needs to be aligned with the skills set out in the governance code and experience and involvement of functions needed to deliver the sport. The appointment process allows the vetting of the applicants to fulfil these requirements and historically we have been very fortunate to have numerous applications.

The elected process requires the membership to recognise the needs of the Board and although it is possible to advertise clearly the skills needed, the sport is relying totally on the voting members to help to obtain the diversity of table tennis and world of work experience.

At the March Board meeting a discussion was held around the Mission 2025 document. Although some preliminary work had begun to undertake a five-year review it had come to a halt with the onset of covid. It was acknowledged that the crisis from the pandemic had gone on longer than anyone could have anticipated and the recovery would take longer to assess. The Board decided to defer for a few more months and arrange a full strategy day in late June.

At that meeting the Board will consider the landscape and decide if the 2025 mission is revised or replaced, how future milestones and KPI's are set and managed, who will be consulted and what the short-term tactical priorities will be alongside the long term strategic aims and directions.



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As I am sure it can be appreciated by all, the current strategic priority is to concentrate on “return to play” and supporting our clubs, leagues, counties and events to participate once more.

Following the consultation with National Council there has been further consideration of the 2021/2 affiliation fees. Although there was a desire to be open and transparent about the longer-term affiliation strategic aims, on the advice from Council the Board have removed this from the proposition and made the decision to concentrate on encouraging players to affiliate over the next 12 months so that we can aim to return to pre- covid delivery opportunities.

As a result of some underspend within the performance budget the department have been able to put some additional support into the talent pathway program. This will be reflected in the agreements within each category. The Board have welcomed this initiative but also recognised the necessity to manage expectations for ongoing subsidy which can only be considered around the level of future income.

The decision has been made to hold the 2021 AGM as a virtual concept. This was made on the basis of the lack of knowledge at this time on the social distancing and covid hygiene processes which will be required for in-house gatherings. It was considered that many of our attendees are within the highly vulnerable categories and may well be concerned when asked to physically attend.

My understanding is that there will be an International item on the National Council agenda so I felt it was appropriate for me to send in a report outlining my knowledge and appreciation of the different concepts.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my report.

Sandra



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