



## Chairman's Report

4<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Author: Sandra Deaton**

It is very pleasing and reassuring to see the outstanding efforts made by our table tennis family to return to participation and competitive play. We have surpassed 75% of our pre covid membership registrations. Our events are up and running albeit with some restricted criteria but there is a strong indication we moving forward.

As a Vice President of the ETTU, I attended the European Championships in Romania at the end of September. The event presentation was outstanding and an indication of the direction of travel the European competitions will take moving forward. Our Senior men's team reached the quarter finals with some exciting performances securing their entry into the World Team Championships.

Our women's team who had just qualified to take part in the European Championships came close to winning their group but unfortunately could not get across the finishing line. Sara Sutcliffe was our delegate at the AGM.

Over the past few weeks, the Board have taken part in three different training sessions, two virtual and one hybrid. This was a recommendation from the external Board evaluation which took place in 2020. All three sessions were extremely valuable and set out very clearly the legal and strategic responsibilities of the Board of a corporate organisation with a number of different stakeholders.

At the training there were some discussions around the availability of Board minutes. It was clearly explained that the majority of sporting organisations produce an explanatory summary for publications prior to the approval of the minutes at the subsequent Board meeting. Once approved and agreed they can then be available for external publication.

As the newly appointed elected director, Ritchie Venner will take on the role of chairing the Regional Forum. He has held one meeting to discuss the regional qualifications and there is a subsequent meeting planned to review the governance structure of the regions and how they can become fit for purpose in the current climate.

As I reported previously the Employment Tribunal brought against the Association by Tony Catt ruled against him. However, Tony has appealed and we are awaiting the result of the appeal. Tony continues to email with his critical opinions which he believes are legitimate complaints and due process is taking place.



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Sara and I will be attending the World Championships in Houston at the end of November. The ITTF AGM will be held on Wednesday November 24th in a hybrid format. The ITTF have held a number of webinars to give the details of many agenda items. The recordings of the webinars have been available for all to access. Tom Purcell as a member of the Umpires and Referees Committee and Sara on rules committee have been involved with the relevant propositions and as a member of the nominations committee, I have been central to the appointments of the committee members.

As a current ITTF Board Director I will be at the meeting in Houston alongside all the other European BOD representatives. There has been considerable discussion at European level around the propositions to enable a collective voice within the debate and subsequent voting.

Finally, at the National Council meeting I will have the opportunity to express my personal thanks to Sara as she leaves for pastures new. However, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Board to say a few words.

The sport will always remain indebted to Sara Sutcliffe MBE as she has transformed the association into a professional organisation. She leaves the organisation with a strong governance structure and robust good health. She has been with us for eight and half years and constantly and consistently worked with absolute professionalism, accountability, integrity, dedication and respect. She is moving to position where her skills and characteristic will be undoubtedly be maximised.

Having consulted with a number of sports recruitment agencies we have appointed Hartmann Mason to secure an interim CEO to lead the senior leadership team through to a permanent replacement in 2022. There is a press release and advert on the website.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Health and Successful 2022

Sandra



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