

MAG Update Note for National Council – December 2020

This has again been a period of high activity for MAG, particularly with regard to pro-active engagement with members, volunteers, clubs, leagues and counties.

MAG Meetings

One MAG meeting has been held during the period, at the end of November. The main focus at the meeting was in reporting progress on current projects and in discussing topics for new projects. The next meeting will be held at the end of January. All meetings are held on-line and will be so for the foreseeable future.

Engagement Activities

- **Counties & Leagues** – a meeting with Bucks was held during October. The report of the discussions with counties has been published on the MAG pages of the TTE website. In the meantime, the offer for counties and their constituent leagues to have an on-line discussion with MAG remains open, if any further counties would like to do so.
- **Volunteers (TTE Advisory Network)** – these are the volunteers who are essential to the running of TTE activities. We took the opportunity to explain the role of MAG and how they could input into our activities. This has already led to one suggestion for a new MAG project on umpires.
- **Members (“Influencers”)** – these are the members who are passionate about our sport and who often set the agenda for discussions on social media. We took the opportunity to demonstrate that MAG represents all the TT community and that we want to hear all views. As expected, a very lively session. But those present welcomed the opportunity to have their views listened to.

Current Projects

- (a) **Volunteering** – The report has been published on the MAG pages of the TTE website.
- (b) **Ranking** – MAG has been asked to help with the next stage of consultation.
- (c) **Changing Perceptions** – We continue to feed into TTE suggestions for how table tennis can be presented in a way that engages with a wider audience through social media.
- (d) **Clubs Development** – Two further discussion sessions have taken place. The final session was by open invitation through the TTE website and social media. We have reached our target of consulting 50 leading clubs. The issues raised during the discussions will now be compiled into a report with recommendations to the Board.
- (e) **Performance** – Following our meeting with the Performance Team, a feedback report has been drafted. This was submitted to the Board which agreed its recommendations. Next step is for the Performance Team to develop an Action Plan to implement the recommendations.
- (f) **Diversity & Inclusion** – Two members of MAG are participating in this TTE initiative. Two meetings of the project team have taken place.

Project Pipeline

- (a) **National Club League** – This has emerged as a common theme from the discussions with clubs and is strongly supported by clubs. We have worked up a project brief ahead of other projects that will emerge from our discussions with clubs. The project brief has been agreed by the Board.
- (b) **Umpiring** – This will explore new ways to deal with the shortage of umpires for national events
- (c) **Coaching** – Two project briefs have been written. One addressing the “drop-out” rate for newly qualified coaches, and the other on how to increase the number of female coaches and coaches from minority ethnic backgrounds.
- (d) **Reducing the Decline in Players in 17-24 Age Range** – We are formulating ideas for a project that will identify how to address the significant decline in membership that occurs between 17 and 24 years

Next Steps for MAG

MAG continues to make good progress. From a standing start we have developed a mechanism for engaging with the membership and enabling issues that are of concern to be raised with the Board. We have also been able to undertake projects that provide advice to the Board.

Neil Hurford
Chair
Members Advisory Group
December 2020