

National Council Minutes 16th January 2021



PRESENT

10:00am

Estyn Williams (Chair – Warwickshire)

NATIONAL COUNCILLORS: David L Hockney (Avon), Peter Charters (Berkshire), Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire) Susan Hayes (Buckinghamshire), Brian Freer (Cambridgeshire) 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) Neil Le Milliere (Kent) Jim Bolton (Lancashire) Martin Ireland (Lancashire) Shirley Pickering (Leicestershire), Tony Dias (Middlesex) Malcolm Allsop (Nottingham), Gareth Pearson (Northumberland), Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire), James Kenny (South Yorkshire), Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) Jos Kelly (Somerset) 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)

Clive Hollingsbee

Board Members: Sandra Deaton (SD), Sara Sutcliffe (SS) Susie Venner (SV), Tony Catt (TC) Don Parker (DP) Tom Purcell (TP) Simon Griew (SG) Steve Kemish (SK) Mark Quartermaine (MQ)

Staff: Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB) Simon Mills (SM) Matthew Stanforth (MS) Alan Cooke (AC)

Minutes : Victoria Wiegleb (VW)

APOLOGIES / NON-ATTENDANCE: NATIONAL COUNCILLORS:

Charles Noel Sewell (Wiltshire), Diana Jermyn (Cornwall), George Tyler (Lincolnshire)

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Agenda Item	Paper No	Discussion	Decision/Action	Who	When
1	N/A	<p>Chairman Opening Remarks, Update & Welcome</p> <p>EW welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them all for their continued support. EW also thanked JKB, VW and all the other staff for their support in ensuring this meeting runs smoothly.</p> <p>JKB ran through Zoom call etiquette for this webinar by advising all attendees they would be automatically on mute and that all questions will be answered if they are typed in the Q&A box or if they choose to raise their hand for the chance to speak.</p> <p>EW asked for any declarations of interest: CD (Shropshire) put a comment in the chat box about his COI. No other declarations of interest were raised.</p> <p>EW remembered the members of the TTE family who have sadly died – Bob Stannard, Ron Bayliss and Eric Todd.</p> <p>Internal issues within the Board</p> <p>EW brought to the Council the fact he has received many messages about the internal issues with the Board. EW felt the best way to address these issues was to have someone talk to the Council directly.</p> <p>At the invitation of the Council Chair, Mark Quartermaine (Senior Independent Director) spoke about recent issues which had arisen within the Board leading to the independent report from Peter Stockwell and the requisitioning of an EGM.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland), NLM (Kent), CD (Shropshire), NH (Oxfordshire), MA (Nottingham) DH (Avon) asked questions and commented.</p> <p>SV, TP, TC & SD (Directors) explained their views of the situation.</p>			

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	<p>In conclusion, the Council Chair thanked MQ and all who had spoken for their contributions and encouraged all company members to read the Peter Stockwell report and attend the EGM.</p> <p>Approval of Minutes from Oct 2020 and any actions arising.</p> <p>A vote was cast for the approval of the minutes – 100% approval was received.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>These were listed in JKB’s section of the CEO report –EW (Chair) referred to the item which asked him to organise consultation on:</p> <p>a. Format of Council meetings – this had been done. NH who proposed the item intended to submit a motion for discussion to a future Council.</p> <p>b. Select Committees – this had also been done and is covered below.</p> <p>Alan Ransome’s paper on Select Committees.</p> <p>At the last meeting this was adjourned until today & a protocol has been produced for a vote at this meeting.</p> <p>EW (Chair) welcomed AR (Cleveland) to speak and provide any further information National Councillors may need.</p> <p>EW (Chair) asked for National Councillors to vote on AR’s (Cleveland) motion:</p> <p>28 for (93%) 2 against (7%)</p> <p>Motion carried and Select Committees will be introduced.</p> <p>Discussions took place including the possible clash with MAG in which NH (Oxfordshire) confirmed he does not see a duplication of MAG; however, a number of people have drawn attention to the potential duplication with MAG, and NH (Oxfordshire) believes this is an important issue to capture. In point 6 this is partly covered, and NH (Oxfordshire) can live with that. Paragraph R12 was discussed, and an</p>	<p>Decision: Minutes approved by a vote of 100%</p> <p>Decision: Motion for Select Committees was passed with a 93% majority</p>	
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		<p>amendment was suggested to improve the protocol however NH (Oxfordshire) did not feel this will get in the way of this.</p> <p>CD (Shropshire) thanked EW (Chair) on the protocol for forming a simple document in which it provided the details he was looking for. CD (Shropshire) referred National Councillors to point R3 which is a common-sense approach.</p> <p>EW asked National Councillors to vote on the protocol:</p> <p>100% for</p> <p>EW confirmed this protocol was carried.</p>	<p>Decision: Protocol was passed with a 100% vote</p>		
		<p>Briefing on the progress of the consultation on the Ranking System</p> <p>SG (Board) spoke to National Council back in March 2020 and today brought everyone up to speed with the ongoing review of the ranking system.</p> <p>This has been a practical example of consultation with members, in a matter close to their hearts – SG (Board) thanked MAG and National Council.</p> <p>SG (Board) discussed 3 areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The overview of the process 2) The consultation held in 2020 3) Consultation being held now <p>SG (Board) had hoped to have implemented changes, but due to COVID this has not been possible. The following season of 2022 – 2023 will now be used and the bulk of 2021 – 2022 results will run parallel to the new system.</p>			

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	<p>With that end date in mind, SG (Board) advised they are working on the details of the system this spring. Development planned for the 2nd half of the year.</p> <p>Consultations were held last year, focusing on the principles and the type of systems:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Using a relative system will continue, where points are gained or lost.2) A better balance in the competing principles in particular the current system provides a disincentive – SG (Board) is looking at whether the points system can be altered to reduce this, but not impacting accuracy.3) To integrate ranking lists – this is being analysed to see if it can be done. <p>Whilst these main points are being worked on, SG (Board) advised the consultation is ongoing at the moment, but the document published before Christmas welcomes responses by the end of this month.</p> <p>There is an online discussion with Members on Monday 18th 2021 should anyone wish to attend. Anyone wishing to attend must advise SG (Board) directly and he shall forward that on to Neil Rogers.</p> <p>The 4 topics in the current consultation are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) How to deal with returning players – inactive players lose all their points after 12 months, but SG (Board) is now looking at a gradual system of point reduction.2) How to deal with new players – concerns over this have been received.3) How to deal with tournaments withdrawals and no shows. Consulting on the idea of players losing points if they do not turn up, and the opponent gains points.4) The question of how to integrate international results into our domestic ranking list. <p>Comment and discussions were welcomed.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) thanked SG (Board) for his hard work and complimented this document. 12 months ago AR (Cleveland) was worried about this but the questions being asked are the right ones, and in his view we will have a better ranking system.</p>			
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		<p>PC (Berkshire) commented on International ranking for Juniors & Cadets when they are self-funded – PC (Berkshire) is really concerned about this. He feels if they are truly representing England then their results should be included in the ranking scheme.</p>			
		<p>Board paper on future Affiliation Fees</p> <p>EW (Chair) advised new members of the National Council about the process of changes / policy relating to affiliation fees.</p> <p>SS (CEO) discussed the paper that was sent out to National Council and the proposal to keep fees the same for this season and welcomed discussion / questions.</p> <p>The Board would like to propose a standstill on the fee, but they do feel the time is right to set out what they think the next few years will look like. This has been done with a 3-year strategy, this does mean a more significant jump, but it is essential to areas of our work not covered by government funding.</p> <p>MC (Worcestershire) felt this was a detailed paper and he supports the annual increase. However, a strategy with a 25% increase for 2022 / 2023 and a further 25% increase for 2023 / 2024 MC (Worcestershire) feels will go down badly at grass roots level and he does not feel this will be passed at the AGM.</p> <p>NLM (Kent) in the Q&A box said he has been inundated with comments from counties and leagues objecting the proposal.</p> <p>DH (Avon) in the Q&A box commented that the average player will find it hard to accept £4 increase.</p> <p>TG (Isle of Wight) in the Q&A box asked what the purpose was of the £6 club membership at grass root levels and feel this is a money grabbing exercise.</p> <p>CD (Shropshire) endorses MC's (Worcestershire) slow increase comments. He does have 3 main concerns:</p> <p>a) The impact COVID is going to have on our sport over the short – medium term.</p>			

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		<p>b) What value do you get for local league player affiliation? They feel this is a tax in which they have no choice but to pay.</p> <p>c) The 54% of membership income is a lot of money, and the majority of this was “taken” automatically which has upset a lot of people. There are a lot of people who have paid and supported the auto renew system & have now been stung, whereas those who did nothing have got away with not paying anything. CD (Shropshire) feels that anyone who paid should be credited and this proposal is poorly timed, and now is not the time to increase fees.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) agrees with MC (Worcestershire) and CD (Shropshire) and feels the time is wrong for this increase and feels there will be a negative impact. AR (Cleveland) suggested this is put away and brought back out next year when everyone is back playing.</p> <p>AM (Bedfordshire) concurs with the above comments.</p> <p>TC (Board) advised that he has said at Board level that when we are looking at recruiting membership back, this needs to be clearer, so they all understand how much TT does for them.</p> <p>SH (Buckinghamshire) feels there is a danger to increase fees and it may give out the wrong message. However, those who paid their fees this year have received a service with all the work that has been done during these COVID times – it is important the Membership knows this.</p> <p>SS (CEO) will take these points raised by National Council back to the Board.</p> <p>With regard to the earlier comments from CD (Shropshire) SS (CEO) advised that all those who were set up with auto renew did receive an email advising them that their payment would be taken, and they had a period of time to stop this, or to request a refund.</p> <p>SS (CEO) also thanked SH (Buckinghamshire) and reiterated the comments about the work the Governing Body does and how much work has been done during this time.</p>	<p>Action: Board to discuss National Council comments on fees</p> <p>Action: Agenda item for 24th April National Council Meeting for update</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>VW</p>	<p>March 2021</p> <p>April 2021</p>
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		<p>NLM (Kent) feels there is no recognition for those who have paid. Under finance on the Board Report apparently there is going to be a surplus, so he feels there is room to do something for those who have paid by way of a credit etc.</p> <p>SD (Chairman) echoed SS (CEO) points and advised that when this was looked at in Oct 2020 it was hoped some normality would resume. SD (Chairman) advised that whenever a decision is made about fees, the Board always considers how this affects the membership and how to make this fair.</p> <p>SD (Chairman) agrees there could be improvements in communications to show the membership what is happening.</p>			
		<p>Performance</p> <p>a) Presentation by the Performance Team</p> <p>Matt Stanforth presented to National council and a copy of this presentation will be sent out with these minutes.</p> <p>b) Paper from Peter Charters (Berkshire)</p> <p>MC (Worcestershire) noted Peter Charter’s comment in bold that stated “England should not lose the next generation due to lack of finance”. MC (Worcestershire) advised that after taking out other income, we spent just over £52,000 on performance. He found this intriguing as to why we are now spending so much less?</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) thanked Peter Charters for his time and thought on this paper. AR (Cleveland) provided a background on Peter Charters to National Council and discussed finance, his own personal expertise, honesty and parental contributions.</p> <p>NH (Oxfordshire) discussed MAG and the report that they have worked on with Performance.</p> <p>RL (Dorset) put a question in the Q&A box asking how you define success?</p>	<p>Action: Presentation to be sent to National Council with minutes</p>	<p>MS / VW</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

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	<p>SH (Buckinghamshire) put a comment in the Q&A box saying she is delighted to hear about local coaches being invited into live training sessions, however she would like to hear from MS about home coaching to ensure continuity in approach.</p> <p>SD (Chairman) spoke to National Council about Performance including, regions, age (starting young), club structure, financial support, and travel / competitions.</p> <p>SM (Director of Sport) provided National Council with an update on Performance and how we determine success.</p> <p>PC (Berkshire) commented on SD's (Chairman) earlier discussion about Regions and how these are missed and that it is unfortunate for the youngsters in this area and suggested this was looked at again.</p> <p>Action plan on Performance to be discussed with National Council when it is available.</p>	<p>Action: Discussions with National Council on Performance Action plan when available</p>	SM / MS	
	<p>ITTF matters - topic requested by Alan Ransome (Cleveland)</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) felt this was not covered in any of the reports from Board and wanted to bring it to National Council, so they are informed by way of this paper.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) was concerned that in the ITTF we are not at the "top table" and requested this be put on the agenda for the next National Council meeting. EW (Chair) requested AR (Cleveland) submit this for the next meeting.</p> <p>SD (Chairman) advised that she <i>is</i> still on the Board of Directors for the ITTF and will be until the next AGM in Sept 2022. This was discussed on Day 2 of the Board meeting and is covered in the Board summary report that National Council has been sent.</p>	<p>Action: AR (Cleveland) to submit report for agenda on 24th April</p>		
	<p>Chairman's report SD (Chairman) welcomed questions from National Council - none received.</p> <p>Board report AR (Cleveland) asked if the Code of Conduct can be sent to National Council.</p>			

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	<p>JKB (TTE Staff) confirmed that the Code of Conduct is not a paper that will be circulated as it is for Board only.</p> <p>EW (Warwickshire) suggested that the Code of Conduct should be available on the website so that it is available for potential directors when they are considering applying for appointment or election.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) also noted under “volunteers” there is a paper on MAG which he also requested a copy of.</p> <p>NH (Oxfordshire) advised this paper has been published already under the MAG section of the website.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) asked if the AGM Timetable can be issued.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) raised his concern over the ITTF changing the age group from Under 18 to Under 19.</p> <p>SD (Chairman) confirmed the Under 19 change was unanimously passed at the ITTF Board of Directors meeting. ETTU congress will meet next month. The Board agreed that we cannot be out of sync with the ITTF / ETTU on this, and how we do this and at what level is a further decision which will need to be made.</p> <p>CEOs report</p> <p>SS (CEO) welcomed discussion and questions.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) was pleased to see we are now included in the Olympic funding – however he brought up some inaccuracies in his view regarding the public level of investment.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) also asked for more information on Tokyo and Liam Pitchford’s support.</p> <p>SM (Director of Sport) advised that Liam Pitchford is still receiving the Aspirational Fund which is helping towards Tokyo until the players qualify. There is also additional funding that UK Sport will make available.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) asked about the Sport England fund we do not appear to be included in, called the Return Programme for clubs.</p> <p>SS (CEO) advised we are staying closely linked to any pot of money that is available and will bid for any that we can.</p>			
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		<p>Other reports</p> <p>Talent & Performance – No Questions</p> <p>Operations and Governance – No Questions</p> <p>Mass – No Questions</p> <p>Development & Volunteering – No Questions</p> <p>Competitions and Events – No Questions</p> <p>Marcomms – No Questions</p> <p>Finance – MC (Worcestershire) was disappointed that the report was for Sept Q2 and so felt the information is out of date. SS (CEO) advised that the Q3 reports were only available 16 days ago hence this is why the report was for the earlier date. The Q3 has now been delivered and will be looked at by Finance in the coming weeks.</p> <p>AR (Cleveland) asked what was being done to prepare for loss of membership and raised his concern over this, however he does not feel the association are doing enough.</p>			
		<p>AOB</p> <p>NLM (Kent) asked that in future if papers National Councillors receive are not meant for wider distribution then please can this be highlighted.</p> <p>EW (Chair) welcomed feedback from today’s meeting.</p>	<p>Action: Highlight any papers to National Council that must not be circulated going forward.</p>		
		<p>Meeting Closed 2:00pm</p>			

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<u>Action</u>	<u>Owner</u>	<u>When</u>
SS will take points raised by National Council about fees back to the Board	SS	March 2021
Affiliation Fee discussion to be revisited on 24 th April NC Meeting	VW	Added to Agenda
Presentation from Performance Team to be sent out with minutes	MS / VW	ASAP
AR (Cleveland) to submit report for agenda on 24 th April re ITTF Matters	AR	1 st April 2021
Highlight any papers sent to National Council that must not be circulated	ALL	ASAP