

Chairman's Report

Sandra Deaton

Paper: 10a



At last, we can plan for the return to play and begin to believe we are moving back to playing on the table. I would like to thank all the staff for their professionalism throughout this difficult time and for their unwavering support to clubs, leagues and competitive play.

It would be remiss of me not to mention and thank the thousands of members who have stood side by side with us throughout the pandemic. They have been appreciative of all the input from the governing body and are now looking forward to the 2021\22 playing season.

Personally, I was delighted to be present at our younger players National Championships (U10-13 and the Cadet and Juniors). Despite the restriction required to keep everyone safe and the loss of some of the seeded players through positive covid tests, both competitions went extremely well. Those playing were delighted to be back on the table and despite the long absence from competition, their spirit and desire to win was evident throughout. It was also very pleasing to hear the gratitude from the players and parents to the events team.

An incredible amount of time was taken in preparing for the AGM and as anticipated it was a very long general meeting. I understand there is a paper before Council to ask for support for an EGM to revisit the proposition for an article change from three to four elected directors. This will enable myself and other Board members to express their opinions on the principles around the elected director process and revisit the results of the large number of AGM resolutions.

The Board Talent and Performance subgroup has been established with Don Parker leading the way. There was an open and transparent process for the two co-opted members with seven applications. Three candidates were interviewed and all three showed their knowledge in current performance concepts resulting in all being appointed to the subgroup.

The ongoing funding submission to Sport England was completed and sent off within the requested time frame. The Board had significant opportunity to input into the submission with Greg Yarnall and the team bringing it all together.

I am sure you all had the opportunity to enjoy the coverage of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the success of the GB athletes. The performance of our own athletes were indeed a mixture of success and some disappointment. Just to have three players qualifying in their own right was indeed a triumph. Our expectations for Liam Pitchford did not materialise. Paul Drinkhall demonstrated he had every right to be there and for Tin Tin Ho it was a huge achievement to qualify by right and put in a good performance against the current Commonwealth Games champion. It is now important that our senior performance squads concentrate on the up and coming European and World championships in preparation for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.



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Congratulations to the Para athletes on their immense success in Tokyo.

The ETTU development program have run a series of talent identification camps to put together a group of young talented players from across Europe who will be given extra training support throughout the next year. It is a pleasure to report we have three of our aspire squad players who have been selected to be part of this European elite squad.

It was an honour to attend the celebration for Charlie Childs held at his beloved Generation 2 club in Fareham. It gave me the opportunity to announce the establishment of the Charlie Childs coaching grant scheme set up in his memory. The scheme is funded by the club, his family and Table Tennis England to support coaching and coach education. My thanks to Priya Samuel and Lois Peake who have pioneered the whole process working closely with our coaching and development departments. I also met many of the league representatives from this south coast region and was delighted to hear of their positive approach to returning back to play and the establishment of grassroots competition.

The European Championships takes place in Cluj Romania from September 28th. The annual Congress will be held on Saturday October 2nd. In addition to this main general meeting there will be an extraordinarily meeting called by the Executive Board to ask the membership to remove the constitutional regulation which does not allow any of the Executive Board to be nominated for a position on the ITTF Executive Committee.

This is as a result of the ITTF EC bringing a resolution to the AGM in November allowing Continental Presidents to be nominated for the ITTF EC. For the ETTU President to be considered in the election at the ITTF AGM both propositions have to pass.

The candidates for the ITTF President and Executive Committee have been announced. There is only one nomination for the Presidency —Petra Sorling. There are however, a number of candidates for the 8 Vice Presidency roles.

Sara will update you on the current situation with the Employment Tribunal which Tony Catt has brought against the Association.

Sandra



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