

Select Committee of the Constitution Report to National Council

The Select Committee of the Constitution is made up of:

Alan Ransome – Chairman

Alex Murdoch – Deputy Chairman

Malcolm Allsop

Peter Charters

Chris Dangerfield

Richard Hudson

Jos Kelly

Neil Le Milliere

Diane Webb

The Select Committee and its panels have met several times since being formed at the April Council meeting.

The Terms of Reference are

1. To explore the opportunities for revision of our Constitution as allowed by Sport England guidelines. Examining Constitution of other National Governing Bodies similar to ourselves and look for improvements that would give their members more input into the protection of the sport. Take account of the Governance review following the EGM in 2017.

2. Examining the effects that the change required by Sport England to move the decision making body in table tennis from National Council to the Board in 2013, highlighting the benefits of the move to the sport as well as identifying any weaknesses to consider how they can be restored in the future.

The Select Committee have divided into two panels, one panel looking at Governance and the other at Constitution.

The Governance Sub Committee

Alan Ransome – Chairman

Alex Murdoch – Deputy Chairman

Chris Dangerfield

Alex Murdoch

Diane Webb

In particular the Governance panel have looked at the Governance review from 2017 and 2018 and at the Board response. One of the main outcomes from the review was the formation of MAG (Members Advisory Group) and the panel have been reviewing the series of reports that have been produced by MAG and from that are looking into the effectiveness of MAG and the outcomes.

Quite clearly a great deal of time and effort by the MAG members has gone into the production of the reports and the work associated with producing those reports which is appreciated. The panel are continuing with this work and will produce a report to a future Council meeting.

The Constitution Sub Committee

Alan Ransome – Chairman

Alex Murdoch – Deputy Chairman

Malcolm Allsop

Peter Charters

Richard Hudson

The members have been looking closely at the current Articles of our Association, in particular the involvement that the members have in the running of the Association and the involvement of the Board.

The panel have reviewed carefully the Guidance code from Sport England and what the requirements are for Sport England. The group have also looked carefully at the Articles of twelve other National Governing Bodies who are in a similar position to table tennis and have produced reports on each of those Governing Bodies and how they have interpreted the requirement's, which vary considerably.

The twelve sports are:

Fencing

Judo

Golf

Badminton

Handball

Archery

Canoeing

Basketball

Gymnastics

Taekwondo

Netball

Squash

The way that the Boards are elected also vary. What is clear is that three members of the Board need to be independent. The definition of that independence does vary.

Each Governing Body is required to have a Nominations Committee or similar to manage the nomination/election process. Some of the Governing Bodies allow eight Elected Directors, and in some cases this is subject to a ballot of the members or a vote at the AGM.

Currently Table Tennis England have three Elected Representatives. The panel were aware that this was going to be a matter on the Agenda for the last AGM in July and have considered the outcome of the vote at the AGM whereby approximately 74% of the members voted in favour of the Berkshire proposal to increase the Elected Members from three to four. Just less than the required 75%.

The panel understands that Peter Charters, on behalf of Berkshire, is intending to put this matter again to an EGM to be held later this year with the objective of increasing voting

members to four, so that next time there is a vacancy on the Board, an election can take place if the vote is successful at the AGM. The Select Committee having considered all of the aspects of this, including how other Governing Bodies elect their Board members, is supporting Peter Charters proposal.

Alan Ransome
Chairman
Select Committee of the Constitution