



## Chairs Report National Council

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Please can I extend my apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. Unfortunately, I have a previous commitment which has been confirmed for well over a year. I would like to thank Susie Venner who will stand in for me.

The Annual General meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> presents the sport with a very serious and difficult issue. We need to work together to find a way forward so that the sport is not the ultimate casualty.

The first consideration is "Why do we need public funding? Progressing the sport to give it the rightful place in today's sporting world, there is absolutely no doubt we have to:-

Embrace development, coaching, competition, talent pathway, performance, digital intervention, safeguarding, promotion, major events, relationships with local and international partners.

We can only achieve this with the financial support from Sport England and UK Sport.

All stakeholders, agencies, sponsors etc.. who provide any level of financial support have set criteria which have to be agreed and implemented.

The need for the Board to have the absolute financial responsibility for the sport is vital to be compliant with the Sports Code - the regulator for the receiving of public funding

For us to be compliant with the code and not lose our significant public funding it is a requirement for the Board to set the affiliations fees. I absolutely understand the concerns of the members, but we are committed to a full consultation through National Council and other member structures prior to the affiliation fees being agreed.

It will be important for the Board to remember that members will always have the final call on the fees as they can choose whether or not to affiliate. The Board has to see the financial input from membership as a vital partnership and make sure it is acceptable.

At the National Council in March, it was very clear that the resolution which lays out the involvement of the NomCom's committee in the elected directors process would be considered in a more favorable way if no candidates were ever excluded. This is absolutely clearly acceptable and all that is required from a compliance concept is the opportunity for the Nomination Committee to review and comment.



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Following on from the Senior National Championship, the junior and cadet championships were held in Nottingham at the end of April. An U17 category was introduced on the Saturday and although this effected the timing of the scheduling it was very well appreciated by the players.

There have been a number of meetings dealing with the 2026 World and Para World Championships. On the 14- 16 May we had a meeting with the ITTF President Petra Söring, CEO Steve Dainton, and Secretary General Raul Calin to visit the potential O2 Arena as the preferred venue. We used this time to move forward on the preferred bidding status and work along UKSP for support funding. We also be discussed how we can secure support for major events pre and post the 2026 Worlds. It was a very positive few days together identifying a number of important actions

The establishment of the reformed Great British Table Tennis organisation is well underway. We will shortly be going out initially to advertise for a Chair followed by advertising for two more independent Board members. Thanks must go to Adrian for securing further support from UKSP and speeding up the process.

It has been a really busy time for the ETTU. The Russian table tennis federation appealed the ETTU decision to ban Russian clubs from playing in the semifinal of the Men's Champion league and banning any Russian players from entering the up and coming European events - U13 Challenge, European Youth Championships and the European Individual competition in Munich.

The BoA decision to uphold the appeal on the Russian club's involvement of the CLM but dismiss the claim for Russian players to be allowed to play in the other competitions. The logistics of the decision to play the semifinal of the CLM is very complicated and may not be accomplished. As a result of the logistical difficulty the ETTU EB have requested the BoA reconsider their original decision.

The Russian Table Tennis Federation are considering further appeals with regard to their representative players being allowed to enter the up and chiming competitions.

Being part of the steering group for the competition review I was able to join the update on the insight obtained, the analysis of the content and the potential on going actions. It was an extremely thorough and comprehensive piece of work which of course will be presented at your meeting. I would like to take this e opportunity to thank Neil Rogers and his team for this successful acquisition.

I would also like to draw the attention of National Councillors to the significant number of international opens and events our junior, cadet, aspire and hopes players are experiencing at this time. The opening up of the flexibility to travel has given the performance department the opportunity to provide the international experience our young players require as they face the challenges of competitions abroad.



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Finally, I am so sorry we are saying a fond farewell to Vicky. I am delighted she has secured a substantial career post and I know she will be an incredible asset to the ECB. In the time she has been with us she has been amazing. I am sure you will all agree she has so many skills and attributes. Every day her reliability and dedication has made it a pleasure to work with her.

Sandra



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