

Chairman's Report

Sandra Deaton Paper: 10a



December 2021 saw the close of a chapter which has seen Sara Sutcliffe MBE as our CEO for eight years plus. We were able to thank her for the tremendous input she had in moving us into a professional organisation and wish her continued success in her on going career.

We were extremely fortunate to acquire the services of Adrian Christy as our Interim CEO and it is an understatement to say he has hit the ground running. In the short time he has been in post he has made a massive impact as he brings a fresh prospective with immense experience to help move the sport into the next era.

As was agreed by the Board we did go out to advert for a permanent CEO and of course Adrian has applied. We will be interviewing 4 candidates on 16th March 2022.

We are now moving forward to return to play within all function of our sport. We had pleasure to announce continued Sport England funding for the next cycle which is divided into specific time frames. Greg Yarnall will present to Council the content of our submission and how this moves forward for delivery.

I attended the World Championships in Houston at the end of November.

The ITTF AGM was held on November 24th when Petra Söring was overwhelmingly elected as the very first female ITTF President. The following persons were elected to the Executive Committee:

Wahid Oshido- Nigeria
Aalor Azevedo - Brazil
Graham Symonds - Australia
Lui Guoliang- China
Alsa Meshref - Egypt
Roland Natron - Hungary
Masahiro Maehara - Japan
Khalil Al- Mohannad - Qatar

A number of propositions were passed to enhance the move towards good governance. The Athletes commission presented a proposition to have both a male and female athlete representative on the Executive Committee. This passed with an overwhelming majority and it continues to become clear there needs to be an increase of ITTF female representation at every level.



Table Tennis England

Bradwell Road Loughton Lodge Milton Keynes MK8 9LA T 01908 208860 E help@tabletennisengland.co.uk

 tabletennisengland.co.uk



As a member of the Nominations Committee, I was central to the selection of committee members. Karen Tonge MBE was appointed as a full member of the Para committee, Tom Purcell remains a corresponding member of the Umpires and Referees committee, Sara Sutcliffe MBE has agreed to be an advisor to the Rules committee and I remain on the nominations committee until the AGM next year. A vacancy will arise for the position of Chair of the Nominations Committee, as the current Chair has been elected to the Executive Board.

Representatives of BPTT, UKSP and MLS (the company engaged to carry out a feasibility study) all travelled to Houston to meet with the ITTF around the 2026 World team and World Para integrated Championships. We had a very successful meeting held with the Petra Sörling, Steve Dainton and other relevant executives. Since the very positive meeting in Houston a considerable amount of work has been undertaken to move forward identifying the O2 ARENA as the preferred venue. In May, we are planning to host the ITTF President and CEO in London for an inspection visit of the venue and hospitality facilities. Discussions will also take place around the schedule and financial liabilities. We are very grateful to UKSP for their support both financially and logistically.

We are continuing with our centenary program as we look forward to our Senior National Championships and the Gala Dinner. We have been delighted at the response to attend the dinner as well as the take up for our Centenary Book. The finances of the Centenary programs have been carefully monitored by the Board with an agreement to underwrite a deficit. The potential liability has been significantly reduced as we move forward with the celebrations.

Included at the Gala dinner will be the announcement and presentation of the Pride of Table Tennis, National Volunteer and Young Volunteer of the year winners, and runners up. It was amazing to see the number and outstanding caliber of the nominations presented to the judging panel. There is an incredible amount of significant contributions being undertaken by the volunteer workforce to not only reinvigorate the sport post covid but to help drive increased participation and exposure at all levels.

It was the decision at the Board meeting in December to publish the minutes of the meetings as soon as possible. This has been actioned.

Sandra



Table Tennis England

Bradwell Road Loughton Lodge Milton Keynes MK8 9LA T 01908 208860 E help@tabletennisengland.co.uk

 tabletennisengland.co.uk