



Chairs Report National Council

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As I come towards the end of my term in office, I look back and remember so many moments that I have had the pleasure to experience.

A consequence of being a recipient of significant public funding means it has been necessary to completely change our governance structure, and while at times, there have been some difficult decisions to make, our sport moves forward as a professional organisation.

The journey of reforms continues as we extend the Advisory Committees to the Board and establish the new Area network, including seven new Local Organising Groups, to support the implementation of *Table Tennis United*.

I was delighted with the delivery of the Mark Bates Ltd Senior National Championships in Nottingham. We remain continually grateful to Mark Bates and China Taiping for their support. They were delighted with the standard of the promotion of the event as well as their involvement during the weekend. Congratulations to all who were involved.

I have continued to attend a number of competitions as well as clubs and league visits. The Senior National Championships qualification event attracted a record number of both men and women. It was good to see the younger players competing at the finals, aspiring to play as best as they can against our current senior top players.

The Junior British League continues to be an outstanding event with an unprecedented number of young players.

I also had the privilege to attend the Primary Schools Home Nations International Competition which was hosted in this country. There was a significant number of primary school players showing great potential as England secured the team gold in both boys and girls as well as the girls individual gold medal. Ireland won the boys gold medal with England taking the silver.

Recently, I had a face to face discussion with the ITTF President, Petra Söring, who confirmed the 2023 ITTF Summit is still planned for the end of August. I also met with the ITTF Group CEO Steve Dainton who remains supportive of our plans to work together towards a long term major events strategy. Adrian recently travelled to meet with the ITTF staff in Singapore for further discussions involving their support to bring major international events into England, including the 2026 World Team Championships in the ITTF's centenary year.



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I attended the junior league in Leicester and witnessed a considerable number of cadet and junior players competing locally in a team and division format. The Leicester league insisted on the participants affiliating to the TTE as an entry requirement to this junior league. There were five different clubs with representative teams. The Area Manager for Table Tennis East, Chris Turner, also attended, giving him an opportunity to catch up with the activity in the county.

I was also privileged to be at the ETTU Top 16 in Montreux to witness Liam Pitchford once again put us on the international stage, winning his European Top 16 bronze medal. The team dynamics between Gavin Evans and Liam during his journey were central to the success. My congratulations to them both.

As I write this report, I am attending the ETTU U21 Championships in Sarajevo. England has representation from Marie Baldwin and Connor Green. Anna Hursey is also playing, representing Wales. The close relationship which is developing amongst the Home Nations is evidenced as Stephen Jenkins is the coach in the corner for all three players.

I am delighted to welcome our new staff members as they take up their roles to deliver *Table Tennis United*. The appointment of Gavin as our full-time Head of Performance Development and also Emma Vickers as Head of Pathway Development, are central to our Olympic aspirations.

As an association we are moving into the implementation of our new strategy. This will mean the introduction of new and revised operational concepts. If success is to be achieved it is important we work together, with our operational team, giving them the support they will require.

Sandra



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