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Report from the Select Committee meeting on the 14 March 2023

Following the initiative from Adrian Christy, we discussed the criteria for clubs to receive votes at the Table Tennis England AGM or EGM and in any board elections.

This came up as a result of the meeting with Adrian Christy when he was proposing to give counties and leagues more votes if they provided benefits to TTE such as more ranked players, more coaches or staging more TTE events. The committee felt that this was not democratic and would not be likely to succeed at the AGM and, therefore, there is no further discussion on this point.

Considering the clubs, we had a discussion about it, and we felt that there was merit to give clubs who register as Premier clubs voting rights, but they would have to comply with the existing regulations for Premier clubs subject to the easing of the Premier club requirements for coaches as detailed below. The current Premier club regulations are:

- Provide venue details and key contact information, including committee members in key roles
- Agree to follow best practice, confirm a suitable constitution or governing document is in place, and operate in accordance with Table Tennis England's Equality Policy and Safeguarding Guidelines
- Encourage all members to join Table Tennis England as either free Supporter or paid members
- Have at least one Table Tennis England licenced coach

The committee understood the direction that Mr. Christy was coming from. One of his objectives was to expand the role of Table Tennis England to have a greater inclusion of clubs who's affiliation did not only come through participation in local, regional or national competitions. Important in this target are 50+ bat and chat groups who are developing well around the country and are bringing large numbers of players from the older generation into being regular table tennis players.

Another group that should be included are school clubs. There are many school clubs around the country but have little involvement with national governing bodies other than possible participation in the schools competitions. TTE could open the Premier Club opportunity to these clubs.

Where the Premier Club is a school club, there would be a requirement that they would be linked to a Senior Premier Club that offered coaching and competition opportunities for youngsters of school age.

There are also some clubs in universities who have little to do with affiliated table tennis, although they do participate extensively in the university BUCS competitions.

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The committee felt that it was valuable to include these groups in the associations work to provide a Premier Club opportunity for them which would include service provided by the association and, in particular, support from the new Area Managers and involvement with the 7 regional committees. It would also encourage their participation in Table Tennis England events that were appropriate for their members that could be created by the 7 regional committees. There would also be the opportunity of insurance and other similar benefits as well as receiving newsletters and information from the association.

Another area that the committee considered when considering voting rights for clubs, where they are involved in local leagues but only effectively operate to play in local leagues rather than providing other services such as coaching and development. It was felt that this opportunity should be open to these clubs as they do play a valuable part in the associations work and the committee wanted to be careful not to discriminate against them because they may not be able to comply with all the current Premier club requirements.

To assist with this the committee felt that there could be some difficulty for these clubs to have a registered coach but to say that these clubs would need to have access to Table Tennis England registered coach rather than having them as one of their members which should remove this particular problem.

As it states in the Premier Club requirements related above, all the rest of these should comply.

To register to have a vote as a Premier Club then the club should have a minimum of 20 members affiliated to Table Tennis England.

The voting structure would follow that all local leagues in term of value for both AGM, EGM voting and the elected representatives voting.

They would need to nominate a company member and be responsible for contributing to any deficit in the case of insolvency. The voting rights of counties would remain as being equal to the total number of votes from the clubs as well as the leagues so retaining 50% current level.

The committee felt that this would meet the objective of the proposals in that it would give strong supporters of Table Tennis England in the clubs the involvement in constitutional aspects of the sport which they do not automatically receive at the moment. It would also widen the scope of Premier club membership to include other parts of the table tennis community who are effectively currently excluded, so in general the Select Committee believe that the above would be beneficial to the workings of the association.

Alan Ransome
Chairman
National Council Select Committee