

NATIONAL COUNCIL COMPETITION REVIEW SUB COMMITTEE

Summary of the Competition Review

Over the last three months the National Council Sub Committee considering the Competition Review has carried out a significant amount of work and held meetings with several key groups and people. The committee of Richard Scruton, Liam McTiernan, Jos Kelly, Karen Tonge and myself have produced our findings and are listed below together with reports and proposals for some of the competitions.

A member of our committee is Liam McTiernan, who carried out much of the work undertaken by MAG and his involvement with the MAG finding proved very helpful to the committee.

1) Junior and Cadet Programme

The Talent and Performance committee have described the current junior and cadet programme as “not fit for purpose” and our sub-committee agree.

We have produced an alternative, building on the current structure which we believe can make a huge difference. It is built on the current structure, if decisions to implement are taken in the near future and this can be largely implemented for next season. We have discussed this with representatives of the Talent and Performance committee who are supportive of our proposal.

As has been discussed at AGM’s, National Council and elsewhere, clearly the performance standard of our junior and cadet players is well below what it should be and one of the reasons for this is because of the inadequate competition programme which is provided for our talented players. We believe that this can be addressed quickly and will help with our recovery.

See attached **Appendix A**.

2) Senior Programme

The committee have a series of concerns about the senior programme which have come to us both from our own investigations and from discussions that we have held with several key people in recent weeks.

We believe that the team events, as listed below, are largely satisfactory, including British League and the County Championships, but it is the individual competition where there needs to be real improvement. Our concerns are as follows:

a) The standard of play in most of our individual competitions is poor because the participation of our senior players is only low and this does not just apply to the top 10 ranked players but many taken from the top 100 in the current list, both men and women.

This is one of the reasons why we are lacking in players of the right standard of players coming through to eventually replace the current England senior teams, as well as seriously affecting the standard of top level play in England.

Some of the reasons for this are

- i) that there is currently no masters for our top 12 senior players.
- ii) the chances are very few for our emerging players aged under 21 or below, to play against other senior players, particularly against those who are currently in the England teams.
- iii) there is a lack of incentive for our players coming out of the junior age category to continue with their training to reach their full potential and the level of drop outs is too high for both boys and girls.

b) The cost of participating in the individual competitions for the players themselves is very high and is often so high that it is discouraging participation and this applies to both National Championships and Grand Prix.

c) The ranking system is not geared towards encouraging participation to the level it could be, and this itself could provide a significant incentive if reviewed.

Senior National Championship

See **Appendix B**, a document suggesting some changes to the Senior National Championships.

Grand Prix

See **Appendix C**, suggesting the continuation of the Grand Prix and a number of changes that we believe would create a greater incentive for players to participate and produce a higher standard of competition.

National Cup (Formerly Top 10)

A new form of National Cup would be introduced, bringing together 24 men and 24 women for a weekend of competition for the top senior, Under 21 and juniors which would go some way to redressing the issue of lack of competition in this country for the top and emerging players. See **Appendix D**.

1 Star and 2 Star Tournaments

There is an opportunity for the new regions, as proposed by Adrian Christy, to produce their own calendar for the regions and to encourage the participation of 1* and 2* tournaments within the large club facilities which has the potential of increasing the number of players participating in tournaments considerably throughout the country. See **Appendix E**.

3) VETS

The one area which does appear to be thriving with individual competitions is the Vets section, not only with the Veteran British League and the Veteran County Championships but the VETTS Society are carrying out a first class organisation for their competition programme and this is hugely popular for the over 40 section and there is no, or little, cost to the association.

The proposal includes suggestions, which if implemented could double the number of players competing in veterans age events in competitions sanctioned or organised by Table Tennis England.

See **Appendix F**.

Team Competitions

4) Senior British Leagues

The Senior British League is continuing to run well and is showing some expansion. There are, however, two points that should be addressed. See **Appendix G**.

Women's British League is also running well. The system to allow teams of a higher standard to enter at their own level will help the competition to grow.

5) County Championships

The opinion of the committee is that the County Championships should continue in its current form, and that the previous suggestion that it should be abandoned is strongly opposed by the committee.

See **Appendix H**. This has been produced following the meeting with key members of the County Championship committee with recommendations for help to be given to this important competition which runs at minimum cost to the association and is very cost effective for the counties and their players.

6) National League Cup Competition

A case has been made for this to continue as it has been running for over 70 years and provides the opportunity for league teams to participate in which is appreciated by a reasonable number of local leagues and this is at little cost to the association.

7) National Cadet and Junior Leagues

The new cadet and junior leagues are organised normally in club facilities for club teams participating at junior or cadet level in leagues. These leagues run on four Saturday's or four Sunday's during each season. There is a total of 12 venues for cadets and 12 for juniors, with a total of 340 teams and more than 1500 players. The competition has been running for more than 20 years and has steadily grown over the period. It is all organised by Mike Atkinson who manages the competition with only minor assistance from Table Tennis England staff.

This competition is running very well and in the committee's view should remain a single competition and not be merged with other team competitions, as in the view of the committee this is likely to have a significant adverse affect on the success and popularity of this competition.

8) Local Leagues

The committee feels that local leagues should not be ignored, in fact a very large percentage of the competitive play in this country falls into this category and needs significant attention. It was not included in the original review.

See **Appendix I**.

9) Schools

The main schools competitions in England are the national team competition, the national individual competition and international championships. All of these competitions were started by the English Schools Association in the late 1960's or 1970's and have been running successfully ever since, except for the Covid period. The organisation of these competitions

moved from the English Schools Table Tennis Association to Table Tennis England 4 years ago and are now organised under the Schools Committee, which is made up of members from what was both organisations.

The competitions are very popular. The individual runs very well but there continues to be gaps in the organisation of some of the county competitions for the team competitions throughout the country, and a fresh look at helping the committee to find solutions here would result in wider participation and popularity, and this could come about with more coordination between other Table Tennis England schools activities providing encouragement for schools to enter the schools competitions.

10) International

There is a view within the committee that the loss of the English Open which operated regularly in the last century has been a loss to the sport and the board should examine as a matter of urgency, ways and means of bringing a similar competition to England every year, which gives the association the opportunity to host a large number of top players from overseas associations as well as giving the better players from England and throughout the UK the opportunity to participate in this event.

11) Social Event

It was also felt by the committee that there is a need for a national Ping type event which provides the opportunity for the many thousands of people who play table tennis throughout the UK to participate. This would be a one-off tournament or it could be one tournament in each region that provides this chance and could be a driver for these people to join the clubs and leagues in their local area.

One of the main reasons players play in the UK is the social aspect, which they feel Table Tennis England tournaments have lost. There is a high proportion of people playing (e.g university students) who don't play Table Tennis England competitions. This social event would generate one-off revenue & convert players into full members.

This could be run by Table Tennis England over a weekend in the events calendar.

Targeted at VETTS, seniors & juniors plus those in age bands 18-24 (e.g the hundreds of players that play BUCS university tournaments).

Social event could be run in the evening after play e.g bar, meal, get together etc.

No ranking or Table Tennis England membership or one day membership required.

Motion to National Council from the Competition Review Sub Committee

This meeting approves the National Council Competition Review Sub Committee proposals. This paper is to be forwarded to the Table Tennis England board and the boards new Advisory Committee for Competitions for their consideration.

Alan Ransome

Chairman

National Council Sub Committee Competition Review

28th December 2022

APPENDIX A

Junior and Cadet Programme

Clearly there are currently only three events which are adequate for the English programme.

- a. The Junior and Cadet National Championships
- b. The Junior and Cadet National Cup
- c. The Junior British League

In total this represents only 7 or 8 days in total of the right level of competition in England for players who are likely to be selected for the England teams for the European Youth Championships and other important international competition.

To be fit for purpose the programme requires a minimum of at least 20 days of the right level of competition in this country. Major changes need to be made to the junior and cadet programme to facilitate this as follows.

1. The Junior and Cadet National Championships to continue as now.
2. There could be two National Cup events for juniors and cadets. The first one in the early part of the season could be for 24 players in each of the four age categories. This competition would consist initially of 4 groups and 6 with each player having 5 matches in the first stage. The top two players would move to the 1-8 section, the third and fourth to 9 – 16 and the fifth and sixth to 17 – 24. This would mean in the second stage each player would have a further 6 matches and as 1 match played between the player in their opening group would be carried forward. This would take 2 days to play with each player having 11 matches in all and finishing with a position of 1 to 24.

The second National Cup should be as now in January or February with top 10 on a full round robin basis, 9 matches in total.

Top junior and cadet ranking points to be given for these competitions. The venues should be in the Midlands to minimise the cost to the players and their parents.

3. The realignment of the 4 Star tournaments should take place with the 4 best 4 Stars being selects. As 4 star selects these tournaments would be encouraged to run with Junior, U17, Cadet and U13. They should also be run with team events on the first day for junior and cadet teams, dependent on the size of the hall and the number of tables. The entries could be limited to a manageable number with preference upon ranking, plus perhaps some wild cards for the entries received before the closing date. There would be requirements for the top players who wish to be selected for England to participate in a minimum of 3 of these 4 Star tournaments. The tournaments should be split geographically between north and south on an equal basis and should be spread throughout the calendar. Top ranking points to be given for 4 star selects.

Another initiative connected with the 4 Star select tournaments should be an invitation to a European Association to send a Junior and Cadet team of say 8 boys and 8 girls to participate in the 4 Star playing team and individual competitions plus the organisers would host an

international match at the 4 levels, junior and cadet boys and girls, on the Friday evening prior to the competition. This would mean that the 4 Star tournaments would be very strong and represent a tournament well worthwhile participating in for the better English junior and cadet players.

With regard to the remainder of the 4 Star tournaments some of which are only played in club venues would keep 4 Star status but not select.

4. England to host an English Junior Open Competition as part of WTT or as a separate Junior Open bringing international teams to England to participate. There have been a significant number of applications from Europe to host the WTT Junior event for next season but none from the UK. This should run with team events in the first half and individual in the second, and should be open to as many of the higher ranked English players as allowed by the WTT system.

5. The Junior British League running at present with two weekends.

6. A new competition Cadet British League on the same basis as the Junior British League.

This would provide the minimum of 22 days of top competition in England for the best juniors and up to 30 days for the best cadets.

Participation in foreign tournaments would still be encouraged but may not be as frequent as present which would reduce the costs significantly for both the Association and parents.

The above programme would not be difficult to implement and if approved by the new Board Competition Advisory Committee and the Board itself, this could be implemented for next season 2023-24.

7th November, 2022

APPENDIX B

Senior National Championships

For the Senior National Championships, the qualification tournament should be discontinued. The entry of 64 men and 64 women in the men and women's singles, would run over three days.

Friday afternoon and evening would continue to be the Under 21 and mixed doubles. On the Saturday there would be 16 groups of 4 with the top 2 players qualifying for the men and women's singles knockout stage. This would leave 32 players, the first round of the singles being played on Saturday evening with the last 16 onwards on Sunday, together with the finals. The men's and women's doubles would be played on Saturday with a maximum entry of 32 pairs in each event, with the semi finals and finals being played on Sunday.

Basic expenses would be paid for the top 10 men and women. There would be big prize money for the winners of the men's and women's singles. The competition would be played at a venue in the centre of the country and there would be a 10:00am start on each day to avoid extra hotel costs.

An alternative to discontinuing the qualification event would be to run an open qualification competition on the Friday of the main event with groups and the winner qualifying. The top 48 player entry would be automatic in the main draw with the remaining 16 places filled by the 16 qualification group winners.

Either method would reduce the cost to the players to enter the National Championship except for the top 16 players and would reduce the cost of running the full competition for the association.

22nd December 2022

APPENDIX C

Competition Review Sub Committee – Report on Grand Prix

It appears from the competition review that the Grand Prix are scheduled to be disbanded for next year and from the information received it is far from clear what kind of event they are likely to be replaced with.

In the view of our committee, Grand Prix should be continued but on a significantly different basis to the past.

a) There should be a minimum of 5 Grand Prix spread throughout the country, one in the North East, South West, Midlands, South East and South West.

b) The Grand Prix should be organised by either clubs, leagues or counties in the areas listed above. They could be offered by Table Tennis England to clubs, leagues, counties in these areas and would be subject to application.

c) The budget for these tournaments should be pitched to a level where the organising committee can at least break even or make a small profit. This can be adjusted by some of the measures listed below and possibly if needed, a small subsidy from Table Tennis England. It should be run by the officials, volunteers in the area with only one member of TTE competitions staff assisting at the event and this is how it used to be in the early days of the Grand Prix.

d) The high cost of entry fees should be reviewed as this is a barrier for some players and results in a lower entry.

e) Grand Prix should continue to be a 2 day event running on a similar schedule as at present but play should not begin before 10:00am which would reduce the requirement for hotel accommodation on the Friday and Saturday evenings.

f) The tournament needs to be more cost effective than is the case at the moment. It has been suggested by the players that prize money should be dropped, therefore, the main cost would be the venue and the playing equipment. Dropping the prize money could have the negative effect of reducing the incentive for some of the top players to participate. To continue with prize money would require a larger subsidy from the association.

As another alternative to dropping some or all of the prize money could be the Grand Prix points system should be reintroduced with prizes at the end of the season. These prizes could be in the form of hotel vouchers which can be used by the players to meet the cost of future events. This would create a 20% saving against prize money as the association would be able to reclaim the VAT and would be just as valuable as cash to the players who enter due to the use of the hotels for tournaments at British League etc. Recognising the significant level of hotel accommodation used by teams and players in Table Tennis England competitions, sponsorship agreements could be sort with one of the major hotel chains to reduce the costs further.

g) There should be a requirement for players who want to enter the National Championships to play at least two of the Grand Prix, possibly three without this they would not be eligible to enter the National Championships.

The players in the top 10 senior rankings would be offered basic expenses to play in the Grand Prix, travel and contribution towards hotel if required.

Top ranking points, the same as the National Championships, would be provided for the Grand Prix to help to make them as attractive as possible to the players.

22nd December 2022

APPENDIX D

The National Senior Cup

A National Cup event for men and women would take place each year, the first half of the season. There would be an invited entry of 24 men and 24 women. The top 12 would be automatic from the ranking list plus the top 6 Under 21's and the top 6 juniors. Vacancies to be filled by going down the senior ranking list.

At a meeting of the MAG committee looking into the future of the performance programme for juniors and cadets, Sam Wilson made a very valid point, and he was England number 1, Under 21 at the time, and he had never played either Liam Pitchford, Paul Drinkhall or Sam Walker in any competition which demonstrated the lack of opportunity for our best up and coming youngsters to have the benefit of playing the best players.

The system on Saturday would be that they would play 4 groups of 6 with 5 best of 7 games. On Sunday the two winners from each group would go into a final group of 8 players which means that they would have 6 matches, best of 7. The players who finish in 3rd and 4th position would play off for places 9 – 16 and the players 5th and 6th position from 17 – 24. This would mean that the top 8 players would all play each other over the weekend unless they did not finish in the top 2 in their Saturday group.

The venue would be in central England, and play would start at 11:00am to avoid hotel costs. A venue with 12 tables would be required.

22nd December 2022

APPENDIX E

1* and 2* Open Tournaments

1* and 2* open tournaments would be encouraged to be played in club venues throughout the country coordinated by a new area development panel.

These tournaments should be run with the minimum of form filling and administration for the organisers and the association would encourage them by keeping their costs or charges as low as possible.

Ranking points would be awarded.

The dates would be flexible. The dates would be requested by the organisers coordinated by the new area panels and approved by TAP. Entry as an open tournament would be open to players from everywhere but with entries from players local to the hosts strongly encouraged. All the 1* and 2* tournaments would be included in the Table Tennis England calendar and be promoted on the Table Tennis England website.

22nd December 2022

APPENDIX F

VETTS Society

Present: Jan Johns – VETTS Chairman
 Susie Venner – VETTS Deputy Chairman
 Ritchie Venner
 Andy Eagles
 Jos Kelly – Competition Review Sub Committee
 Alan Ransome – Competition Review Sub Committee

Alan Ransome opened the meeting by suggesting that there was significant potential for players of VETTS age group 40+ to play more competitive table tennis than is facilitated at the moment.

There is a top level catered for by the VETTS Society, the Vets British League and the Vets County Championships which were in the region of 1000 players in total and this was reflected by the membership of the VETTS Society.

However, there were another 20,000 which were players of VETTS age that are Table Tennis England members and do little more in terms of competitive play than to participate in the local league structure.

A proportion of these players were members who have considerable interest in playing table tennis but do not have the playing standard and the personal finances and the level of interest to participate in the current VETTS programme, the British League or County Championship. These players may be interested in participating in competitions within their regions where the cost is lower and the distance to the venue would be relatively short and would not require the costs of hotels.

It was agreed by the meeting that this segment of the membership lacked support from the National Association and have significant potential for growth if it was handled in the appropriate manner and promoted positively.

It was accepted that the proposal from Adrian Christy, CEO, to establish seven area committees with professional support from Table Tennis England facilitated the opportunity for this market to be developed.

The venues for regional competition could be facilitated in table tennis clubs that have 8 tables or more at competition standard and this could be managed with local volunteers running the competition following the same model as the National Junior and National Cadet League and the competition model already promoted by Nottingham Sycamore club and others currently who organise 1* or 2* tournaments. The role of the regions would be to produce a calendar for their region including all of the competitions into which the players registered in these regions could participate and encourage and promote entries into these new competitions.

The competitions could follow two formats; team or individual. The team competitions would follow a similar format to the National Junior and National Cadet League where teams of three would be entered, the competition would be over four Sunday dates spread throughout the season following a 3-a-side format with either 6 or 9 sets for each match so that the players would be playing 3 or 4 complete matches on the day which would be 8 or 9 individual sets per play. These could operate at both over 40 or 60 age category.

The individual events would be open tournaments which would generally operate on the basis of qualification groups of 4 or 5, with two players qualifying into a separate knockout competition and could run at 40, 50, 60 and 70 age categories. It would be open to individual tournament organisers to decide which age categories and which format they wanted to follow.

The second tournament type would be rating tournaments where players would enter and dependent on their rankings would be put into a group with players of a similar standard, and dependent on the ranking this round-robin group would be of 8, 9 or 10 players and would play round-robin during the day, each group would be played on 2 tables so with 12 tables, 6 groups could participate at the same time. It would be intended that these competitions would be promoted on a low cost basis with ranking points available.

The venue costs would be paid either through the entry fee for the team competition payable to Table Tennis England in the same way as National Junior and Cadet League. The individual tournaments would be entries to the clubs hosting the event with a small levy and ranking fee paid to Table Tennis England. In this way an excellent competition for players who are motivated to participate in competitions at this level at a low cost with a short distance to play. They would generate significant local interest in the sport for the host club and generate income for the organisers which could help to facilitate their club programme. The regulations for running these competitions should be as light as possible to encourage the organisers to go ahead. The entry forms should be as easy as possible to access and complete in order to encourage participation. An incentive to the organiser would be that the competition would provide a financial benefit to their club, not only from running the event but from the provision of light refreshments being offered to the participants.

This would be relatively straightforward to establish. It would be promoted through the association with the full support from the VETTS Society.

Like the National Junior and Cadet League it would be likely to start on relatively small basis but as interest within it grew larger participation would follow. This would mean that Table Tennis England were providing a service for significant quantity of the membership who gain little more at the moment than just purely participating in local leagues within their geographical area.

This programme has the potential to at least double the number of veteran players who have a competition plus licence with Table Tennis England which would in itself generate significant extra revenue for the Association. Although, the tournament levy/ranking charge should be low for each competition it would also generate extra revenue too, as well as bringing a lot more players taking advantage of their membership.

Before this programme can be implemented a number of details that would not be resolved, including overcoming the split ranking system, between Table Tennis England and VETTS Society.

There could be concern about date clashes but we do not think that this would be such a problem, as events clashing are not the issue, it is where people clash in terms of where there are two events on the same day for the same people that can create a difficulty. In the vast majority of cases here it would be different people participating which should work well. In any case, the new area committee would co-ordinate the calendar to help to make it work as well as possible.

Some more time would need to be spent on this before implementation but it does not seem to be too difficult to resolve these questions.

21st December 2022

APPENDIX G

Senior British League

The financial costs of clubs entering the Senior British League as well as the Women, Junior and Veterans has been increased substantially over the last decade and has now reached the level which means that clubs are starting to consider the viability of the cost of participating. This could have a dampening effect on the future growth of the competition.

a) One example of this is in the Senior British League if a club is short of a player for a particular weekend of matches then the registration of the reserve to play as little as one match is £40 and this adds up to significant costs which are already implemented for entry fees and venue costs.

b) British League needs to be better value for the clubs, currently some clubs are paying between £5,000 and £6,000 in total for their entries alone, never mind the travel and hotel costs. This figure includes costs of teams in JBL, WBL and VBL as well as Senior British League.

c) Top ranking points would be given for the Premier League and the Championships Division.

d) The suggestion from the CEO to increase and improve the marketing for the Premier Division would be implemented. The introduction of TTE TV has been a good step in the right direction but more needs to be done to improve the marketing of the Premier Division.

e) The costs of participation would be more acceptable to the clubs if the value of participating was improved. To increase the number of teams in a division from 8 to 10 would mean that there would be 10 days of play rather than 7 as at present, each season. 10 days are already allocated in the calendar so finding new days would not be necessary. This possibility, if agreed by the board, should be put to the clubs to seek their response.

f) The democracy of teams participating in the British League has been lost. Since it's inception in 1979 there has always been an annual conference until the last 3 or 4 years when this was abandoned. The reason for this was that the attendance was poor as clubs were not prepared to invest the cost and time of travel to participate unless there was a particular item on the agenda they wanted to discuss.

Modern technology has moved on and it is now possible to hold an annual conference like National Council with a mixed attendance by Zoom or by personal attendance at minimum cost. With this, the opportunity for clubs to vote on rule changes should be restored and this would be far better than a very small group from the committee being given this responsibility.

22nd December 2022

APPENDIX H

County Championships

A very good meeting was held with Stan Clarke, Dave Goulden and Jos Kelly. The County Championships, to some degree, were under threat at the beginning of the Competition Review but as a result of comments from National Council, as I understand it from some of the board members, this position has changed. However, as part of the review rather than looking to cancel the County Championship in our view we should be looking at ways to make it better. The biggest problem for the County Championship that was identified with the cadet events were some counties were only able to field one girl for the county matches, which was disappointing, which means some matches would be forfeited and the visiting girls who played in the match would get one singles set rather than two.

In the majority of cases, the county matches are played over one day or one weekend at multi table venues. To try to help with this lack of girls' situation it was felt that the boys and girls' competition could be divided into separate boys' match, 3-a-side, and a separate girls match 2-a-side. The boys would, therefore, have 6 sets and the girls would have 5 sets, 4 singles and 1 doubles.

It would be required that the county would need to enter both a boys' and girls' team to participate. It was believed that this would make it more interesting and rewarding from a girls perspective and encourage additional participation. It was also felt that under the CEO regional plan that regional coaching on a monthly basis could be re-established with emphasis on having significant girls' participation, and this could help the counties to recruit more players of a suitable standard.

Another proposal that could help is that there is a rule in the County Championships at the moment which significantly limited the eligibility for each county and that the players have to live in the county or be born in the county and if the player is living on the wrong side of the county border to play in that county, unless they can prove they have absolutely no involvement at all in their county of residence, they are not allowed to play for that county. If this rule were changed this could also help to increase the number of girls playing in the County Championships.

There could still be a limit for example, the player could need to live within 25 miles of the county border which would avoid a wider county of choice situation.

The recently introduced traditional age category in the County Championship is for over 60 players proving very popular. It was felt that this could be promoted more widely and the rule relating to a separate women's competition should also be considered for this as currently only one women's place in the senior County Championship and to increase it to two could double participation. The same principle would apply as the same county playing two matches at the same time on two tables, one men's, one women's as above.

The decision-making on the County Championships is traditionally by voting at the Annual Conference and, therefore, Mr. Clarke and Mr. Goulden were interested in the above to be

discussed at the County Championship committee and it be considered for proposition to the next Conference.

21st December 2022

APPENDIX I

Local Leagues

The committee's view of local leagues is that they are autonomous and generally run very well and provide important and vital opportunities for competition at local bases throughout the country, and the association should do as much as possible to encourage participation into these competitions.

A new structure has been proposed by the Chief Executive for 7 regions and part of the responsibility of these regions should be to assist local leagues with the provision of new and better facilities including specialist table tennis clubs. In the early days one of the main reasons that local leagues expanded was that many clubs that operated in company works canteens and similar facilities but due to the general changes with business this has significantly declined over the years.

The second key recruitment route was youth clubs with table tennis and this has also declined, so there needs to be help with providing local enthusiasts with better and more club facilities and this can be a key objective of the new areas.

Ping Pong Parlours and Ping! programme.

Table Tennis England has made significant progress over the last decade with the Ping programme, however, much of this has not impacted on the local leagues and clubs in the areas where they operate. Special attention by the new areas committee should be introduced so that where there is local Ping activity there is a clear substantial link to the local clubs and leagues and the programme initiated to encourage new participation to join the clubs and then in due course be members of teams in the local leagues.

22nd December 2022