



## Chairs Report National Council

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jos Kelly to the Board and also thank all the Board members for their continual support and dedication to our sport. The Board allocation on the Advisory Committees has been agreed and the process is in place to appoint new Committee members from across the membership. The Advisory Committees to the Board are embracing a new structure involving staff and volunteers and as such I felt that until they are fully established, each Board member will support just one Committee.

In order to maximise the full value of the Advisory Committees, there will inevitably be a cross pollination with each team. It is important for the Committee structure to work closely with, and support, the Executive who have full responsibility for the operational delivery. Central to the success of this revised governance structure will be the collaboration of the Committees with their respective member of staff.

As outlined in *Table Tennis United*, we have a significant restructure in the Development team. As the implementation of change begins it will be very important to support the new environment.

The new operating model across the Performance team is also underway with some members of the team having moved on and recruitment for new staff and coaches in process. Although this may result in a slight disruption to activity, it will be kept to a minimum; this also presents an opportunity as we move forward.

During the last few weeks of 2022, I was involved in the recruitment for several new members of the GB Table Tennis Board with interviews for both the chair and two independent, non-executives. Despite the fact that these roles are absolutely voluntary we had a significant number of high calibre applicants. The following candidates have been appointed:

Chair:

Adam Walker: Founder and CEO of Oaks consultancy. He has a background in sports development working with the LTA and UK Athletics. Adam is currently Chair of England volleyball.

Independent Non-Executive Directors:

Louise Wright: CEO of Triathlon Scotland. Her professional background is physiotherapy and sports science. Louise has supported Team Scotland at Commonwealth Games and the Olympics.

Dr. Gurjit Bhogal is a practicing GP with a strong background in medical support for high performance sport. He is currently working with England women's cricket team and Aston Villa.

The full composition of the GB Table Tennis Board met in December, with Gavin Evans, to discuss the forward strategy to Paris 2024 and beyond. The need to work with the talent pathway of all the home nations was very clear, prioritising coach development as well as instilling a culture of Olympic podium aspirations.



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Adrian and I travelled to the Para World Championships in Granada for further discussion in connection with the 2026 ITTF Centenary Worlds and Para World Championships. Despite continually being assured of the desire and support to hold the event in London, it appears there are other Nations interested in bidding for the championships. Adrian and I met with the ITTF President and CEO in Amman to find a way forward for us to continue to be central to the process.

I have carried out a number of club visits recently and continue to be in awe of the input from our dedicated volunteers. There are so many local initiatives which we should capture and share.

I attended the Universities individual Championships in Nottingham which had a record entry. The amount of table tennis activity in the University sector has grown immensely and should be capitalised on when considering the sustain interest of those players between 18- 25.

Adrian, Susie and I travelled to Amman in December for the ITTF Summit which included the AGM and the European Extraordinary Congress where the 2023 budget was presented. Unfortunately, the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation AGM was cancelled and is now scheduled to be held in Oman in January. I was appointed Deputy Chair of the ITTF Nominations Committee being the only female on the Committee. Joshua Reynolds has been appointed to the ETTU Audit Commission.

Over the Christmas period the ETTU five-year strategic plan has been sent out to the member associations. It is also available to be viewed and read on the ETTU website. Feedback on the provisional plan is encouraged and can be sent directly to the European organisation or to me to input in the next Executive Board meeting in January. January 2023 will also see the launch of the experimental European Ranking.

As we approach the final months of my tenure, the Board has agreed a timeframe for the appointment of the new Chair of the Board of Directors. The discussion at the Board meeting highlighted the continual issue of the number of Board members on the Nomination Committee. As we now have four Elected Directors, if we include them all in the appointment process and adhere to the Code for Sports Governance, which requires a majority of independent directors, there is an impracticable number of nine Board members on the Nomination Committee – the Board is working to find a more workable solution.

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sandra



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