

**Select Committee on the Constitution Report to National Council**  
**25<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

The Select Committee on the Constitution is made up of:

Alan Ransome OBE – Chairman

Alex Murdoch

Neil Le Milliere

Susie Venner

Estyn Williams

Tony Catt

Memorandum of Understanding

It was noted that there has been no further progress with the discussions on the National Council Memorandum of Understanding with the Board since the last meeting, which was in June of last year. As the person who was responsible for proposing this in the last instance, Adrian Christie has now left the Association, and one of the other board members who has been heavily involved in this, Nick Donald, has also posted his resignation. This whole subject is presumably being left over to a time when the new Chief Executive, Sally Lockyer, has had a chance to consider this, possibly with a new Chairman, at which time, this or a suitable alternative, can be considered.

New Chairman

The Committee have given careful consideration to the appointment of a new Chair. We understand that this matter will be on the agenda for Council. The Committee believes that as the new Chief Executive is not from the sport that it is important that a new Chairman is from table tennis, and the Committee believe that the level of commitments which has been given to the role by previous Chair's, including Sandra Deaton and Nick Donald of late, is what is required, and that two or three days per month is not sufficient to carry out work effectively. Therefore, the Committee also believe that the person to be appointed should have a good knowledge of table tennis and has had positive involvement at national level for some years.

The Committee have asked for a meeting with the Nominations Committee to discuss all of this and we are hopeful that that meeting will take place shortly.

Good Standing

With regard to the VETTS Society, we understand, and the Chairman of the VETTS is a member of the Select Committee, that they have removed the reference to any good standing from their constitution and are continuing to progress their own association which is growing in terms of the number of members and the number of events for people in the over 40 age bracket which are being held nationally.

With regard to the BUCS Universities, discussions have been proceeding with regard a Memorandum of Understanding with them. With regard to their main competition, which is a league which is participated in by more than 100 universities, our feedback is that BUCS are not interested in progressing this with the association. BUCS are ready to discuss some form of agreement with regard to their National Championships.

### Proposal

The proposal from the Select Committee on the Constitution is that Board reconsider the previous good standing arrangement and look to reunite the sport with the large bodies which had an association with Table Tennis England under the former agreement.

### Team GB

We understand from the information provided by the Scottish Association that there are moves by senior members of the English Association to drop the entry from England into the World Championships in London 2026 and replace it with a GB team. The Committee agreed with Scotland that this was damaging, and there was very little knowledge of this proposal within the sport, and in particular to National Council. This was only introduced because of England's failure to produce good standard women's team and this needs to be rectified as soon as possible.

There is significant benefits by having seven national associations within Great Britain for votes at the various World, ITTF and ETTU meetings as well as having much larger entries possible for some European and World events. Therefore, this item should be fully discussed within TTE before any further moves are made in this direction.

### 2026 World Championships

The Committee were concerned that the arrangements had been put in place for a separate company to run the WTT event including the World Championships, which means for the first time in the 100 year history of TTE the Elected Members of the Board had no involvement in the organisation or finance of major competitions which was regarded as completely unsatisfactory and this matter should be discussed in Council and raised with the new Chair and CEO.

The purpose that was given to the membership for setting up this separate company was to take away the risk from Table Tennis England of a major bankruptcy in running the 2026 World Championships if ITTF and other funding partners were not able to meet their commitments at the time of the Championships and there was a major loss. This may be valid but to do it in a way that completely excludes the input from the elected board members is completely unsatisfactory and this was never discussed in the AGM or the National Council.

### Disaffiliation

The Committee has received a report that there are serious discussions which are taking place within a County Association and that the County and a number of local leagues are considering disaffiliation.

The Committee are concerned about this and would like to ensure the Board are doing all they can to retain the current arrangements with County Associations and the affiliation of local leagues, and recommend that this information that we have received is discussed by the Board and action taken to retain the status quo.

Alan Ransome  
Chairman  
National Council Select Committee on the Constitution

10<sup>th</sup> January 2025