

# The Catt's Eye View

## National Council – Make it worthwhile

June 2025

This article should be read in conjunction with the [paper](#) prepared for the March 2025 meeting. Whilst the paper was discussed briefly with largely positive agreement, there were no actions set to follow up or progress any of the suggestions.

So, I am looking to build on the ideas presented in that report. Looking forward rather than bemoaning the previous relationship between the National Council and TTE Board and management.

Many counties struggle to find people willing to attend National Council meetings on their behalf. This is because there is a perception that it is a talking shop and serves no real purpose. Other than being a forum where people air their content at various things going on. At times, the NC has almost been the unofficial opposition to the Board and management. This is not a healthy position and it is little surprise that many people see little benefit in attending.

We need to move forward making National Council a useful resource to the Board and management. There are many people who attend with considerable experience and willingness to give up their time to improve how table tennis is run in this country.

It is welcome that counties are now allowed to have more than one attendee at meetings. This should enable smooth succession planning and greater store of knowledge to disseminate to the management committees of the counties, leagues and clubs.

Rather than select committees, we should set up “Working Groups” on each aspect of governance, administration or competition. These working groups would be made up of people interested in those aspects of the sport. Hopefully, they may also have people from TTE personnel at various levels participating in the groups.

Working groups could be set up for.

- Membership and fees
- Competitions and ranking lists
- Coaching
- Clubs
- Leagues
- Schools
- Regional groups

This list is not exhaustive.

For example, TTE should review the structure of membership fees. The working group would meet to discuss options for fee structure, target markets, age groups, products, services etc. The working group would meet two or three times or as often as necessary as well as corresponding between meetings. The group would then produce a paper with their findings and recommendations.

- TTE would take advantage of the expertise within our community. At no cost to TTE.
- More time could be given to in-depth discussion of specific issues and analysis than is normally made available in Board or other committee meetings, including National Council.
- The paper could be brought back for presentation and discussion to the next NC meeting or even Board meeting.
- A robust plan could then be made to make any alterations or to implement the suggestions.

National Councillors could opt to be a member of at least one working group depending on their interest/expertise. The groups could perhaps meet as break out groups at the National Council meeting.

## The Catt's Eye View

TTE personnel could attend the groups as subject matter experts. Possibly even lead the groups. It would often be helpful for SLT and Board members to attend to provide or receive information.

Previously, the SLT has looked upon any input from members as interference. We need to rebuild trust that these groups would be on the basis of critical friends looking for positive outcomes and sessions rather than to find fault and blame.

The Chair of National Council could be the co-ordinator for the working groups. Possibly ensuring that matters referred to the working groups are being followed up. Possibly to receive progress reports. To ensure that papers are made available to the community as soon as they become available.

This is not going to happen without being driven by National Council and supported by the Board and management of TTE.

There is a lot of untapped expertise in National Council. Lots of people willing to give up their time for the betterment of the game in this country.

Hopefully food for thought.

AND ACTION

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