

**Select Committee on the Constitution Report to National Council**  
**29<sup>th</sup> March 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

Regulation Changes

Several members of the Select Committee and other National Councillors have raised concerns about the manner in which rules and regulations are introduced and communicated to members. This is with particular relevance to the recent revision of the affiliation and disciplinary regulations where there are concerns that these have not been subject to the usual consultation and may have unintended and detrimental consequences for some clubs and leagues.

This includes a lack of checking and challenging and a lack of relevant input by experienced and knowledgeable members of the table tennis community. It is felt that this has been a contributory factor to some recent decisions which have been unclear or have needed revision.

The Select Committee feels National Council members can make a valuable contribution to this practise and would like to see more direct involvement, more transparency and better communications.

It is also noted that TTE itself has been reviewing the process and the new 'Regulation Approval Flow Chart' will be made available to National Council.

We understand that this subject will be discussed in detail elsewhere on the agenda following correspondence from Avon Deputy Councillor, Clive Ellison.

Memorandum of Understanding

From the Committees perspective we made good progress with discussions regarding Memorandum of understanding up to June of last year and we felt we were almost there with an agreement. We were advised at the time by Nick Donald that he wanted to leave any further discussions until after the Olympics but there was nothing further coming through, although we are now aware that both Nick Donald and Adrian Christy who were the prime movers from the Board's perspective, are no longer with the Association.

From a National Council perspective we have gained a number of advantages that we felt were helpful from the Memorandum of Understanding and that was

- a) more independence for National Council
- b) the opportunity to elect our own General Secretary
- c) to be able to control our meeting agendas and minutes
- d) to have our own website section on the TTE website
- e) the understanding that Council would have part of each Council meeting which was private to Councillors.

Our other main objective was to restore the level of information that was being supplied to Council in advance of each Council meeting so Councillors were better informed of the current issues in the Association so we can be better prepared for the meeting. This had declined significantly for recent meetings and we were looking to have this restored and this was included in the draft which was never finalised.

We now have a new Chief Executive, Sally Lockyer, who has given all the indications that she would like to work closely with Council and a new Chairman and, therefore, we would be happy if the previous arrangement for supplying information from the Board and staff to members was reinstated, this would be more than satisfactory from our perspective.

#### Chairman

The Select Committee were of the opinion that there would be a significant benefit if the new Chairman was a suitable person with Chair abilities, who was a long standing member of the Association and was knowledgeable on the sport and Associations business. We understand that discussions are going on with a candidate and await details of the outcome.

#### Good Standing

The Committee remains very concerned about the fact that good standing has been abandoned by the Association and the motions required the Board to consider reintroducing the previous good standing arrangement in a bid to unite the sport rather than at the moment the Association having much less control over the competition programme and structure.

At the last meeting, Council agreed to a Select Committee proposal unanimously to ask the Board to reconsider introducing good standing and this has been lodged with the Board and we look forward to receiving details of the request at Saturday's meeting.

We are not aware of any progress but with recent development where even more independent operators they are holding table tennis tournaments with efforts are made to restore good standing or a similar partner agreement with these bodies that keeps the sport united with another group by the name of Matchpoint Sports (not the company that organised the World Ping Pong) are running tournaments with good prize money using club venues outside the auspices of Table Tennis England. We are pleased to hear that the new Chief Executive has reached out to the VETTS for discussions and, therefore, progress is being made

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with this important organisation. We hope that further information along these lines will be available at the Council meeting.

Another request to the Board was to share information about the result of the survey on the AGM changes which was for the first time to hold the meeting at 6:00pm on a Wednesday rather than a Saturday at the end of June or early July, as we were aware there has been some concern expressed about this move from members.

Team GB

The feedback that we have received is that the attempts to drop the England entry in ITTF competitions under GB has not made progress and the status quo will remain.

**Alan Ransome**  
**Chairman**  
**National Council Select Committee on the Constitution**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**