

# **MEMBERS ADVISORY GROUP – DISCUSSION WITH TTE ADVISORY NETWORK**

**OCTOBER 2020**

# Why was MAG created?

- The main recommendation of the Independent Review Panel on Governance
- Improving the advice available to the Board
- Ensuring effective two-way engagement between the Board and the wider table tennis community

*MAG is part of the process of creating a more effective and robust National Governing Body that is better placed to face the challenges of developing table tennis into the future*

# Who are the members of MAG

**Member of MAG are volunteers from all parts of the table tennis community**

- Coaches
- Technical Officials
- Clubs
- Leagues & Counties
- Schools
- Event Organisers
- Parents
- Players
- Diversity

*Ensuring that MAG has expertise that covers the entire table tennis spectrum is important for MAG to fulfil its role. We have already increased the number of members on MAG to enhance its diversity and robustness. Further changes may be made – including the use of sub-groups to bring in specialist expertise*

# Who are the members of MAG?

Members'  
Advisory  
Group



Kevin Buddell  
(Coach, Club)



David Maddison  
(Schools)



Stuart Sherlock  
(Technical Official)



Jo Green  
(Coach, Club)



Dean Nabarro  
(Parent)



Dan Simms  
(Coach, Club)



Neil Hurford  
(National Councillor)



Sandy Nash  
(Coach, Club)



Steve Pratt  
(Club)

# Who are the Members of MAG

Members'  
Advisory  
Group



John Andrews  
(Coach & Tournament  
Organiser)



Steve Bertie  
(Player &  
Ambassador)



Phil Ashleigh  
(Coach & Club)



John Mackey  
(Technical Official)



Dave Randerson  
(Club & Coach)



Juliet Bertie  
(Female Ambassador)



Liam McTiernan  
(Club & Top Level Player)

# What is the role of MAG?

- A source of expert advice to the Board on key strategic issues
- Promoting and upholding the shared values of table tennis
- To be consulted by the Board on key strategic and operational initiatives
- To raise major issues with the Board, particularly issues raised by the membership
- To work with the Board as ambassadors in promoting table tennis
- To engage with the wider TT community

***Ensuring effective two-way engagement between the Board and the wider table tennis community is essential to the success of MAG***

# MAG Activities

- Projects
- Issues
- Engagement
- Reporting

# MAG Projects and Activities

## ***Current Projects***

- Ranking Consultation
- Volunteering Strategy
- Coaching Overview
- Changing the Perceptions of Table Tennis
- Clubs & Clubs Development

## ***Future Projects***

- Coaching – drop-out rate, and increasing BME coaches
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Clubs & Club Development
- IT Systems and Strategy
- How to reduce the drop-out rate of players in the 18-24 age bracket

***So far, projects have been exclusively undertaken by MAG members. But our intention is to increasingly involve members of the TT community with relevant expertise in our project work***



# Issues Raised with the Board

- **Performance** - how to improve the standard of our top young players by better interaction between the TTE Performance Team and clubs, coaches and parents
- **National Competitions** – poor communication on important changes to national competitions
- **“Ask Us Anything”** – Live discussion by Board and Senior TTE staff on issues raised by the membership. A step-change in how TTE engages with the membership

*We will raise key strategic issues with the Board when it is appropriate to do so. But it is not our role to offer a running commentary on the activities and decisions of the Board*

# Engagement, Communication & Reporting

- **Counties & Leagues** – all 39 counties offered discussions with MAG. Six discussions took place. A further one planned. Suggestions made for future MAG programme
- **Clubs** – wide ranging discussions with 25 leading clubs over 2 sessions on how they can be helped in their development activities. Third session planned for November. Possible fourth session by open invitation to Premier Clubs
- **Wider TTE Community** – TTE Advisory network. Also with “passionate individuals”
- **MAG Live!** – bringing together a number of engagement and communication methods into a coherent package. Live, on-line presentation and discussion of MAG Annual Report
- **Reporting** – annual reports, quarterly update notes, reports published on website

*Engagement with the wider table tennis community is currently our priority activity*

1. MAG and its role
2. Current MAG activities
3. What should MAG do next

*We are very keen for our forward work programme to be shaped  
by the table tennis community*

# Discussion Notes MAG & Role

notes added during meeting



1. MAG Activity generally good.
2. Query National Council role –
  - i. differences less formal governance for MAG. Independent
  - ii. MAG is a broader role
  - iii. NC elected members from all counties around the country
  - iv. Constructive relationship required between the two
3. Counties – positive viewpoint from Cleveland. Why not more? Discussed.
4. U12 no coaching/ performance decision – why not consult anyone? Communication Issue as much as decision issue.
5. Ask us Anything – was it open enough? Follow up question opportunity required to create a proper debate.
6. Query if MAG role is advice or recommendations? Where are reports? Volunteering report to be added. Increasingly recommendations.
7. Query board member attending MAG meetings. Ans – could evolve over time for more independence in future.
8. Requested copy of Powerpoint presentation.

# Future Work – What next?

notes added during meeting

1. Increasing membership and retention
  - i. More thorough look for areas besides the obvious age drop off.
    - i. More U21 events could immediately alter 18-21 participation. – How about U25 comp?
  - ii. Converting mass participation/ping players to competitions.
  - iii. Other independent groups playing, eg. U3A. – Organisations in good standing – is this still in place?
  - iv. Local leagues – Leamington as good example.
  - v. Constructive data driven.
2. Local league focus – venue assistance, resources for leagues and clubs.
3. TTE Communication – how to improve building communities – coaches, players. Leadership as opposed to management.
4. IT Systems – need for a pro active board **IT Strategy**. System integration. Value added.
5. Covid – could be disastrous. Communication of information good but missed opportunity.
  1. Damage limitation.
  2. More offers of help.
  3. Opportunities – people looking for home activities and more playing tt at home – grasp to increase membership.
  4. Big end of covid/season event? (Get back to table tennis event).

# Future Work – What next?

notes added during meeting

Members'  
Advisory  
Group

6. Voting System – EGM – leagues with no teams at present – CW confirmed next electoral register delayed so currently use last year annual return figures (until April 2021).
7. Communication via post – can this be reintroduced for those without email etc?
8. Volunteers / Umpires – how to get more involved and involved actively. TTE should encourage – sometimes seems the opposite.
9. Provoke more County interest, especially from local leagues. What can we do to encourage more participation?

Thank you

A sport for all, for life!