

MAG Update Report: November 2020 – March 2021

This has been a period in which MAG has continued to pro-actively engage with clubs, leagues, counties, members and volunteers whilst undertaking important project work. We have also been consulted by TTE staff both on an ad hoc basis on specific topics.

MAG Meetings

Three meetings of MAG have been held during the period – in November, January and March. Topics discussed focussed on engaging with the table tennis community and ensuring we are managing our project work effectively. The next meeting will be held at the beginning of June.

Engagement Activities

- **Counties & Leagues** –The report of the discussions with counties has been published on the MAG pages of the TTE website. In the meantime, the offer for counties and their constituent leagues to have an on-line discussion with MAG remains open.
- **Volunteers (TTE Advisory Network)** – these are the volunteers who are essential to the running of TTE activities. We took the opportunity to explain the role of MAG and how they could input into our activities. This has already led to one suggestion for a new MAG project on umpires.
- **Members** – we took the opportunity to explain the role of MAG to a number of members who we know are passionate about table tennis and have expressed views on the future direction of our sport. We outlined the work that had been undertaken and what was planned next. As expected, a very lively session and those who participated welcomed the opportunity to have their views listened to.

We have now undertaken 15 engagement sessions and engaged with about 150 members from across the table tennis community – clubs, leagues, counties, coaches, volunteers and members. Further sessions are planned.

Projects Update

- (a) Clubs Development**– following two further engagement sessions with clubs we have now concluded our consultation with leading clubs on how they can be assisted in their development role. Thirty-nine clubs engaged in the process through four on-line discussion sessions. The fourth session was by open-invitation enabling any club with more than 50 members to participate if they wished to do so. An initial feedback report has been published on the website. It captures the key issues raised during the four engagement sessions with clubs. The feedback report is available on the MAG pages of the TTE website. The main report has now been drafted and we will be consulting with participants both on how the various issues have been prioritised and on the recommendations to the Board.
 - (b) Volunteering** – the report on Volunteering has been published on the website. In line with our main recommendation, the Board has agreed to appoint a new post of Volunteer Coordinator.
- (a) Performance** – The report on Performance was published in mid-February. We are continuing to work with the performance team on the implementation of the Action Plan. We will be engaging with leading coaches on MAG's next steps on performance and a discussion session has been scheduled for early April.

- (b) **Diversity & Inclusion** – Two members of MAG are participating in this TTE initiative. The priority areas have been confirmed as communities that are ethnically diverse, women & girls, disability, and lower socio-economic backgrounds. The correct use of terminology had been addressed. A key point was agreed to involve members who are from communities which are ethnically diverse and ask how they would like to be described, as ultimately the consensus of the D&I group was that the overall decision should be made by the individuals it affects.
- (c) **National Club League** – This has emerged as a common theme from the discussions with clubs and is strongly supported by clubs. We have worked up a project brief ahead of other projects that will emerge from our discussions with clubs. We will be meeting soon to start this project.
- (d) **Reducing the Decline in Players in 17-24 Age Range** – We are about to start a project that will identify how to address the significant decline in membership that occurs between 17 and 24 years, and how players can be encouraged to return to the sport.
- (e) **Accountability & Transparency** – we are exploring ways in which accountability and transparency can be enhanced.

TTE Consultations

We continue to be a source of ad hoc advice to TTE.

- (a) **Ranking** – We provided input into the second phase of the ranking review. Particularly topics that we discussed was how to handle returning players, new players, withdrawals/no-shows and integration with ITTF results. We also discussed the challenges of the ranking system for young girls which often made it difficult for them to secure ranking points.
- (b) **New League Product** - We were asked to input into the development and marketing of TTE's new league product. This is a short-format competition based around 2AS and 3AS formats. It was clear that packaging a shorter format in a standard way would be of interest to leagues and other organisations that run league-based competitions.

Nominations Committee

Under its Terms of Reference, MAG is eligible to appoint up to two representatives to sit on the Nominations Committee. We proposed two MAG members, namely Steve Pratt and Steve Bertie and they have joined the Committee.

Future Priorities

Our sport faces a significant challenge in re-starting table tennis as we emerge from the restrictions of the pandemic. Our main priority over the next 12 months will be assisting that process and ensuring that we not only build back, but build back better.

Members Advisory Group
March 2021