



TABLE TENNIS WALES

Minutes of TTW Board Meeting 13th May 2021 via “Teams”

Present- Nicki Arthur (NA), Rhian Pearce (RP), Catherine Jones (CJ), Steve Heydon (SH), Ben Rose (BR), Ben Stirling (BS), Neil OConnell (NOC), Dennis Bromage (DB), Mostyn Lewis (ML), Karlijn Asveld (KA), Peter Francis (PF), Susie Osbourne (SO)

Apologies – none

NA opened the meeting welcomed everyone present.

Action Points – The Board reviewed the action points from the previous meeting. These were;

A.P.1 NA/RP Coms plan following expiration of Lloyd Bell contract

A.P.2 RP to update Risk Register

A.P.3 ML/SH to update Governance Action Plan (7 Principles)

A.P.4 NA to progress “Effective Boards” questionnaire

A.P.5 All directors to document learning from EGM

A.P.6 SH and SJ to meet re Antidoping

A.P.7 BS and BR to meet re grassroots to performance

A.P.8 RP to Report Concerns re New GB structure to TTE. (short deadline and Chair approving vote)

A.P.9 All directors with budget requests to submit to RP

The Board was satisfied that all actions were completed or being progressed, A.P.7 to be carried over until July meeting

Declaration of Interest- none received

Where are we as a Board – NA asked each Director individually their thoughts on where we were as a board, replies (briefly) as follows ;

- We have great structures, but can't put them in place because no one has returned other than performance group. This makes it seem as there is a long way to go until things we have put in place filter down to all players.
- We have been distracted (covid). We need to set our strategic priorities, and get plan back on track.
- Frustration around returning to play in the community game, its easier with performance. Frustration over how long things take, but it takes time to do things right.
- I see huge steps forward with regards to Sport Wales funding, more money being invested, no clawback, I can really see positive steps.



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- The building blocks are in place, we have been distracted with covid and other things, but we are getting going Amanda Bennett spoke of us evolving from an association to a business which is good.
- We have been distracted over the last 12 months but did an outstanding job over covid as we couldn't have done more or better. For me it is how we support clubs and leagues to get back playing.

NA echoed the comments, she asked everyone to assist RP on the Strategic Priorities.

A.P.1 Directors yet to submit Effective Boards Questionnaire to do so.

Strategic Priorities – NA reported that SH had listed his strategic priorities as;

- Governance – Update Articles
- Community Council
- Euro Vets bid (parked)
- Safeguarding – Achieve or work toward Level 3
- Innovation – Covid has made us work differently, innovation should continue (perhaps summer leagues, young players complain its boring, change to teams of 2 to keep them engaged)
- New TT Leaders – need to train some for use in schools e.t.c., as we won't expand without coaches

RP reported that there is a need to review Safeguarding policies in line with legislative changes. We are now able to deliver SG courses, not just to our own staff, but outside people as well. We need to get out to clubs.

PF said that we need to look at the skills gap on the Board. The Articles will take time, and we need to show the hours Directors are working as we are a volunteer board.

A.P.2 NA/RP to circulate Strategic Priorities, all Directors to comment

The meeting had an extended discussion around the Strategic Priorities, and how to implement them in an innovative way.

BR outlined the success of the TT on the Go packs with almost 1000 in circulation

Community Council – BR presented on a proposal regarding the Community Council. The Council name would be changed to a Game Advisory Panel (GAP). The idea being that the GAP could advise TTW Board on ways to close gaps that may occur e.g. If player numbers returning to the sport following covid, ideas on how to close this gap could come forward. 2 new logos for the GAP were examined by the Board and a logo incorporating a table tennis bat was decided upon with some amendments.

A launch video is planned with assistance from Lloyd Bell.

A.P.3 BR to circulate script for video launch of GAP, Directors to submit suggestions for characters.

The method of broadcast of the film was discussed and included all media channels open to TTW including social media, streaming and TTW youtube channel.



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SH asked how we measure success of the GAP, BR replied with some measurements. KA asked if there could be a cost versus return measurement done. BR agreed to speak with KA outside the meeting regarding this.

A.P.4 BR to speak with KA regarding cost and evaluation of GAP

SO stated that the School Sports Survey/National survey revealed approx. 40,000 report that they are playing the sport, so it was not about participation, it was more around how you understand their needs and provide the right environment for that audience to entice them to play and interact with Table Tennis Wales.

BS said, and how you affiliate them.

PF informed the meeting of the Young Guns initiative with canoeing on Sunday morning. This has allowed canoeing to increase their membership exponentially. BR stated that there is not enough people in the conversation. He asked how much the GAP was likely to cost.

The Board voted on whether to adopt the GAP and unanimously agreed to proceed.

A.P.5 RP to circulate costs involved with GAP to Directors

Budget – KA suggested holding off budget discussion and Board sign off until after the meeting of the finance sub committee as this meeting would inform the budget. This was agreed.

A.P.6 RP to circulate Draft Budget to Directors following meeting of Finance sub committee

AGM – The Board discussed the date of this years AGM SO informed the meeting that completion of the articles before the next funding cycle was not necessary, only that progress must be made. The Board agreed on October for the AGM.

AOB – Several directors had comments for on the new Selection Policies

A.P. 7 – Directors comments to RP by email

