

KENT COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated to Table Tennis England (TTE)

President: Ted Tydeman

Chair: Phil Cox

Vice chair: Bob Baker

Secretary: Mark Romano

Treasurer: Steve Bispham



We are disappointed to advise that despite chasing TTE for official responses to Kent's Position Statement these have failed to arrive. We have written a commentary on this below.

Kent's Position Statement which is attached was issued to TTE on 22nd February 2021 and circulated to the TTE board as we requested. We asked that they respond to our recommendations by 5th March for the key issues and 26th March for the remainder. Following TTE issuing dates for submission of papers to the AGM by 2nd April, we formally advised TTE on 28th February 2021 that we would need all their responses by 19th March.

A constructive Zoom meeting of Phil Cox and Mark Romano was held on 26th February with Sara Sutcliffe, Sandra Deaton and Doug Livingstone (DL). DL was delegated responsibility for co-ordinating their responses and we held a further Zoom meeting with DL on 4th March. Kent wished to deal with TTE in an open, transparent and constructive manner and volunteered not to circulate the Position Statement until TTE had an opportunity to include their responses. It was agreed by all that a positive start had been made.

Kent advised TTE that we required responses which allowed the Position Statement to be issued swiftly, by latest 19th March. On this basis, we advised we were prepared to accept responses from TTE where they could make a commitment to act or review by a certain target date. On 15th March, as no responses had been received, Kent sent a further chasing email. On Tuesday 16th March TTE's response included:

"We have been very transparent that the written responses to your in-depth questions would take some time. Doug is of course a volunteer who has a day job and other Board responsibilities especially as we are coming up to our year ending".

We understand that you will be sending out your paper and are disappointed it will not include our responses. We will get the information to you very shortly and this can then be forwarded as a separate document to your contacts."

To confirm, Kent has not received a single official TTE response to any of the 24 recommendations made.

Kent's Position Statement was critical of TTE and was delegated by the TTE Senior Leadership Team to a director who is a volunteer with limited time available to provide the necessary responses in a timely fashion. If TTE felt responses to our report were important and wanted to meet our timelines, they could and should have allocated the necessary resources to expedite this process. On 17th March, KCTTA Committee discussed TTE's failure to meet 19th March deadline together with their reasons, TTE had almost four working weeks to respond, the Committee voted unanimously to go public with this Position Statement.

At the start of this process, we were slightly nervous of raising our heads above the parapet, we tended to focus on what we could improve in our County. The evidence of poor governance in a number of areas was so strong we felt we had to do something. Kent urges all Counties, Leagues and their respective Company Members to examine what has been happening over a

prolonged period of time, look at the various papers that staunch long term supporters of our beloved game have issued in the recent past and over time and come to your own conclusions. Unfortunately, lone voices have little power, whereas County and League Company Members collectively can be a much more powerful voice for change, as your voting entitlement proves.

We believe everyone involved in TT wants the sport to flourish and be successful at all levels. If we are able to assist in this by holding TTE accountable for their governance and other areas of our sport on behalf of the members, then we will very much hope that you will join us and others in supporting the changes we believe are needed to improve our sport for the better for all involved.

Please feel free to circulate the attached Kent Position Statement and this commentary to as many of the table tennis community as possible.

The KCTTA committee would be grateful for any views you have on the serious issues that we have raised. Please feel free to email:

Our Chair, Phil Cox pcox21@live.co.uk

Our Secretary, Mark Romano markttromano@gmail.com

Thank you for taking the time to read this commentary and the KCTTA Position Statement. We intend to forward to you TTE's responses when these are received.

Authors: Phil Cox
 Mark Romano

19th March 2021