

INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATION

FOREWORD

The present affiliation process was designed for a time when table tennis playing conditions and social attitudes were very different from those applying today. Much has changed. Many small venues have disappeared, and other attractions have drawn people away from the sport, as well as the impact due to the decline in British Industry. We are now in the situation that although a lot has been done to arrest the decline, unless we continue with positive action to replace lost venues, attract more new young people into table tennis, train players, officials and volunteer helpers, the gradual downward trend will continue.

A recent survey by Sport England has confirmed that the number of people participating in table tennis, many of whom have declared that this is the one sport they would like to do more often, far exceeds the number currently affiliated to ETTA.

The ETTA Funding Application for 2009/13, for securing financial and other support from Sport England, is aimed at exploiting this situation to achieve a substantial increase in the number of people involved in table tennis within the Association.

For the plan to be successful it is important that accurate membership details are available, so that the forecast and actual effect of development and other initiatives may be properly measured. The existing affiliation process is not suitable for this purpose.

Therefore, if we are to provide the information needed to achieve our outcomes within this funding application, and also have the ability to respond to government expectations affecting all national governing bodies of sport, which includes a willingness to strive for increased self-sufficiency, Individual Affiliation must be recognised as vitally important.

Additionally, competition against other sports for members and funds to "Grow, Sustain and Excel" in all our activities is now greater than ever and likely to increase. This makes it important to adopt an affiliation process not only better suited to our own governance needs and more acceptable to our external funding partners, but also attractive to potential members.

The Membership Committee recommendations, now approved by National Council, have the full support of the Management Committee and are commended to you.

Individual Affiliation is crucial for the future of table tennis.

ALEX MURDOCH
ETTA Chairman