

NCTTA Board of Directors April 15, 2013; face to face in Rockford, Illinois

In attendance: Willy Leparulo (WL), Randy Kendle (RK), Wanda Wong (WW), Chris Wang (CW), Kagin Lee (KGL), Kevin Li (KL), Joe Wells (JEW) Ed Toomey, Federico Bassetti, Joe Brown, Drew Ogden, “Big” Mike Hillard, Jorge Vanegas

Not in attendance: Abe Behnam, Brayden Glad, Andy Kanengiser, Nelson Gore, Seemant Teotia, Linda Leaf, Anson Bispham

Previous meeting minutes approved unanimously March 2013; Meeting started at 6pm central time

1) League Expansion

- Kagin leads the discussion and shows evidence towards playing more matches in College Table Tennis
- Lindenwood has a schedule of a lot of USATT tournaments as well as Collegiate matches
- Lots of competition that didn't count (ie) B team competition 30 percent; NCTTA providing a service beyond our main need
- REASON: Kagin stating to provide more competition for league play and to grow NCTTA and bring more ppl into College TT world

Ideas:

- a) **B team expansion**- encourage ppl to play more B teams, anyone even if they are not affiliated with the school. To grab anyone to play on this B team, not just from their school vs current NCTTA system that only allows staff, students
- b) **Alumni League**- KGL says play for 4 years and then what does the TT world offer...USATT with old hacks and there is potential disappointment. Past NCTTA players they should be dying to play in the league, infact miss NCTTA first year they are out and grab them and keep them going in league play
 - JEW wonders how many actually stay in the states, you may have to pull from past years of alumni; could be just alumni of College TT vs Alumni of a certain school
 - Checking elig. Would be difficult, we would call it an alumni league, but it would be a bit more flexible
- c) **Open League**- Permit non colleges and any club to join NCTTA, they would play with colleges and NCTTA clubs. Colleges would still play vs colleges, everything else would be just an open league. Perhaps a dilution of the NCTTA focus, organization of divisions would be disasterous
- d) **Parallel League**- NCTTA would run current league, but run the OPEN league as a separate league. Colleges could play in both. NCTTA running something for everyone.
 - Joe Brown states there is a business model already in major sports; USATT clubs may want to create a club team and play in this
 - Fede suggests this could generate an income
 - Joe Brown states that open league could be USATT sanctioned tournaments for the singles of the team event
- e) **New Organization that is a parent organization of NCTTA**- New Organization would run open leagues and College leagues; a parent organization of NCTTA. They would do all of the leagues and College TT would be part of those leagues. Huge administrative change. Very long term

Why for expansion?

- To play more; more ppl; more revenue; more growth
- decision to expand in redevelopment to invite the quality players to Nationals as we would run out of room
- WL and CW is concerned about an expansion would be a detriment to NCTTA in the state that it is now
- To play more vs not to play more; WL is based on the sport club budget and how much money they have to travel, host a tournament, hotel cost, gas/travel and geography. Some want to play more, others are comfortable where they are be it lack of money or motivation.
- RK if we go down any path we need to have the ppl to do it. The competence to do it as well.
- RK perhaps start this expansion be it Alumni or whatever in the more dense areas
- JEW mentions does it affect our UBIT status? (Karen question)

***From the 5 ideas stated**, the board went one by one to state what is the best idea to move forward on and Board unanimously liked the **Alumni expansion idea**.

- RK states what about the level, the concept still needed to be worked out, maybe do it in a small area
- RK a lot of the work needs to be from a person that is around year to year, a stable person. We need ppl in the position that will be around all of the time. Ppl come and go, to make organization grow and maintain it we need to have more stability (back to Alumni)
- Jorge Vanegas (guest): discusses how to fix holes in structure to motivate College Administrators to uphold programs vs College students and NCTTA having to maintain programs in schools
- Fede (guest): brings up the possibility of having Intramural table tennis culture, if the culture is accepted then the school may be more apt to supporting such programs
- KGL perception is that team play league is a hard sell in the USA, but NCTTA has an established concept we should try to grow out from what we have. Revenue wise provides stability, we need a paid staff member. We are a “hero based organization”.
- WL to start a writeboard on the ALUMNI expansion

2) NCTTA Ranking/Rating system (KGL, Kagin)

- KGL is talking about a chance in principle; a taskforce will be created to look at this and present to the board
- changing the method of rankings our teams
- KGL will choose the ppl: Seemant, Chris, Randy
- RK suggests about the taskforce in a newsletter

3) Athlete Survey (Kevin Li, KL)

- KL discusses the 18 surveys got back from the championships
- board believes the sample size should be a lot bigger
- questions should cover all sorts of situations
- questions about women's teams; competition enough or not; usatt sanctioned; eligibility; world university games, etc.
- BOD will look at this again to create a more accurate survey
- getting this done before June 1st

4) **Eligibility Requirements**

- UG's from 6 to 9hs; Graduate from 4 to 6 hrs
- discussion about full time credit hours or 12 hrs
- NCTTA goal (1 day) is to hit full time credit hours, but is that day today?
- Athlete survey would be particularly useful here to find out about eligibility
- It could be a large task for NCTTA to regulate b/c full time status is hard to define as students add/drop in different times
- WL against full time status for NCTTA at this time
- JEW would like to see the numbers of ppl that we lost from 6 to 9 in undergraduates
- Goal is to get closer to NCAA regulations; NCTTA be more professional
- Get more information from Athlete surveys/Canadian eligibility and brought up Mexican Collegiate Table Tennis association that they want to join NCTTA—how would eligibility work?
- WW and CW explains that there are .5 credits and that 20 credits equals into a degree which show that the elig. Remains a sticky topic

Joe Brown and Drew Ogden leave at 9pm central time

5) **Rules Changes**

- a smaller group can address these and report to the board

6) **Women's Table Tennis**

- advancing singles players without competing at the Division/Regional level
- (ie) Kansas division has 1 woman player, she doesn't have to drive, but NCTTA doesn't have a record of this player
 - CW suggests a solution (train the DD's) that there should be the player mentioned in the excel sheet, no matter if they played or not. Could even make a default player name, default team name, put them in a match Jiaqi beats default player, gives them zero rating but it will show up in our system.
 - eligibility form also needs to be turned in; requiring that they appear on an excel sheet

Recruitment of Women

- again Athlete survey to find out who actually bothers to recruit women
- KGL suggests having pre packaged templates/materials to help club's recruit women's TT players; schools set up recruitment tables for 1st couple weeks of each semester or during the whole year
- must come from pipeline (highschool) but the Highschool TT champs didn't have one girl on any of the teams
- Fede: suggested that it would be worth to see how many teams are organized by girls.
- Fede/Kevin Li are formed by international women coming in to form women's teams
- WL is highly involved with women's college tt in Canada, more women's schools vs the American divisions
- RK: this is a US wide problem of 10:1 Men to women's problem
- KL stigma against TT in this country;
- WW, Big Mike weigh in: clothing is a factor; ppl look a certain way will attract others

- Fede: in gym you find men in the basement and women in the dance studio doing zumba, very little crossover, many studies about this. *TT is lifting weights analogy*
- TT is = to weight lifting; it makes it something that a woman wouldn't want to envision themselves and be comfortable in doing an activity and how other ppl see you (very important for women).
- WW: feature more about the "average Jane" to de stigmatize the impossible unattainable woman player; feature more about women in media in NCTTA

7) Competition Schedule change for Future

- the issue was brought about the lack of time in the Spring semester with Division teams; Division singles; Regional team and singles and then the Championships - is there a possibility to alleviate the traffic jam that we face every year
- next year in Pennsylvania the champs are a week earlier

Option 1: Leave everything the same

Option 2: Move Division Singles to Fall:

- 1 Fall Team meet, 1 Fall singles meet
- 1 Spring Team meet; Regionals / Nationals (for ppl that make it)

Option 3: Move Everything to Fall:

- 2 Fall division meets, 1 Fall singles meet
- Spring is for Regionals and Nationals (for ppl that make it)

Option 4: Move Everything to Fall with 1 Fall meet:

- 1 Fall meet (1 RR), 1 Fall Division singles
- Spring is for Regionals and Nationals (for ppl that make it)

Option 5: Fall teams (2)

- 2 Fall Meets
- Spring only singles; Regionals and Nationals (for ppl that make it)

Discussion on Options:

- KL suggests Option 3 as a good viable option saying we shouldn't make or not make rules based on a small percentage of Spring admits.
- CW- says it is a time issue; WL- we want to make some more time for ourselves in case of weather problems and schools coming back after winter break for more time.
- KL- suggests the issue with coordinating travel time for schools and individuals where the Division team tournament; Division Singles tournament; Regional Team tournament and Regional singles tournament are all so close together.
- WL- brings up Canadian mishap and time crunch to get VISA's, it is needed to create time
- KGL rules out Option 5; RK, WL disagrees; WW it could be good to possibly get more singles players since it is the only option
- CW supports Option 4 (1 Fall RR meet) no redemption; they pay for just 1 tournament? We advertise a whole scholastic year, it strips our membership
- WL championships much later could be an option
- *RK suggests why not change format instead of a full RR, just split them up in RR groups of 2 and then top 1 or 2 play cross over and lower the amount of matches per tournament.

-WL- Could keep the same format 1 Fall meet; 1 Spring meet with singles too or even suggest adding the possibility for Fall singles being accepted (which wasn't done in the past)

-WL: Relax the rules of each division to have their own autonomy? Mark Wei says it would be mass confusion and ppl would wait until the last weekend possible

-RK strapped to our rules "by tradition", we don't have to stick with this

-CW: allow for flexibility of having of having singles tournament in Fall

-KGL: says that attrition is going to be a factor in Monroeville and we need to take care of this to have enough time to get ppl in the hotel; JEW mentions maybe Stay to play (hotel within registration fee)

-Fede: Fall semester is a better semester for Table Tennis b/c of more people then Spring; WL it is the start of a traditional American College year

---- discussion about Regional Competition schedule (day of problems)---

- a) 1 day Regional tournaments difficult; Midwest did Saturday night and Sunday day=1 night vs 1 day which is probably 2 nights
- b) 1 day regionals: Done to prevent schools from having to spend too much money on travel/hotel
- c) Suggestion of having a 2 day tournament but running into costs for facility and hotel issues
- d) Problems stemming from defaults of players being too tired, indifferent (perhaps change of rule that once top xyz is figured out then matches don't have to be played to its entirety)

WL: a baby step approach to develop language for a motion to allow for Fall division singles meets can be in the fall or must be in the fall.

8) CONNECT CONFERENCE in Milwaukee

-WL will attend; KGL will attend; JEW says he will attend

-BOD can meet in Milwaukee August 24th on Sunday for a face to face mtg

-WW is moving to Korea and can't attend; CW, KL and RK would be flown in

MTG adjourned 9:51pm Central Time