

Home Nations Committee Meeting

Tuesday 9th March 2021 via Teams

Present

Mike Cohen - Chair Tennis Scotland

Ed Oakenfall - Host of the 2021 tournament and England representative

James Cooney - Tennis Scotland

Mark Lewis - Tennis Wales

Liz Slinger - Welsh Senior representative

Update on the 2021 Home Nations Tournament

After a general discussion it was agreed that the tournament over the early May Bank Holiday could not proceed. Currently, Wales and Ireland are unable to travel and hotels in England aren't opening until the 15th May. Given the level of uncertainty and a lack of a unified strategy across the home nations on a way out of lockdown all agreed to postpone the event until the autumn.

Ed was confident that, given two months notice, he would be able to source a venue to host the event later this year. Consideration would be given to playing in the autumn possibly at an indoor venue.

The committee agreed to meet again sometime in early June. Clearly there are dates already in the diary for senior events that will need to be avoided. However, it was thought that a weekend would be available and that players would possibly need to take a day off work because it would not be played over a Bank Holiday. **Action - All**

Team Selection

There was a general discussion as to how each nation was selecting their teams given that no competitions had been possible. In general the teams were largely similar to those nominated last year although consideration had been given to players coming into the age groups. There were a number of competitions scheduled that will give selectors further information on performance.

ITF Ranking points

There was general agreement that ranking points should be available for the tournament. It will require the host to pay the \$250 registration fee and players to have an I pin number. Ed has been in correspondence with the ITF who are keen to have us on board. Although the majority of players from England will have an I pin number that isn't the situation for the other Home Nations with Wales having relatively few players. Given the cost is relatively low (£5) it was felt that this was a worthwhile endeavour.

Ed agreed to ask Vets GB whether they would be prepared to fund this year on year. **Action -EO**

To discuss the potential to involve other Nations.

Whilst nobody was against the idea it would need careful planning and consideration as to whether it could be played over a Bank Holiday weekend. It was felt that it might be difficult particularly for those working to take additional time off work to compete. It was also discussed whether, given that that more people were playing into older age, whether the age groups could be expanded. Certainly there was an over 85 GB team competing at the world championships.

The committee agreed to revisit these ideas in the future. Given the current situation it was agreed that the current format would prevail for this year with a view to canvassing views on other proposals. **Action - All**

Date of next meeting 1/6/2021 via Teams