

## **Braithwaite Incumbent: Candidate for Vice President**

USATT has a strong basic foundation with established Programs such as:  
High Performance Plans, With Goals for the future  
Regional Training Centers, for our Junior, Elite and Handicap Athletes,  
Competitive exposure for our Top level Juniors to train and compete in Europe and Asia  
serving our need for future development, etc.

### **THE PROJECT**

However, there are many parts to the development process of Table Tennis in the United States and in addition to the above mentioned Programs, there is a MAJOR Project which I believe would impact our (USATT) Programs tremendously and improve our Athletes performance considerably. That Project is:

#### **“STATE ASSOCIATIONS”**

State Associations existed approximately forty or more years ago but was short lived because of Politics. It’s an integral part of our development process and is already being discussed at the Board level. This Project has also been recommended by the United States Olympic Committee (USOC) representative to be considered as important to our continuation. My GOAL for the future is to fully avail myself to the cause of establishing State Associations and to the development of this Project by actively working in a UNIFIED effort with the Board, our Headquarters and our Membership to produce results for our Athletes.

### **THE PROCESS and HOW IT WORKS**

Each State in the United States is bigger than many Countries around the world and many of these countries have a representative Association; so in order for us to regulate our activities and expand significantly, it seems quite logical that representation and accountability need to be in place to enable us to move beyond our present status by establishing a NETWORKING SYSTEM of Associations and incorporating hundreds of much needed Membership participation. Development is a Team effort. We cannot succeed with separate individual Agendas. By first establishing USATT Affiliated State Associations in three or four States where the sport is most popular, we would BEGIN the build-up process. Clubs would communicate their concerns to their State Associations representatives who in turn would communicate with the USATT. This systematic procedure would provide the most practical channel of communication and information for expansion. State Associations would also be instrumental in helping to implement and over-see well Organized League Team Systems in various Divisions. As we GROW and as the process unfolds from States to Regions, the ultimate goal for the first time in our 73 Year history would be established... a USA National Table Tennis League System in much the same way they now exist in such world powers as China, Japan, Sweden, Korea, Russia, England, Belgium etc. State Associations are an invaluable Contribution in terms of Communication, Information, Membership Participation, Membership Expansion and GROWTH.

“The law of floatation was not discovered by contemplating the sinking of things, but by contemplating the floating of things which floated naturally, and then intelligently asking why they did so.” - Thomas Troward

You have the power of the vote and YOU would ultimately determine the Floatation of USATT Programs both current and future, to continue moving forward. Vote for Growth:  
**ONLY WHEN THE SPORT SUCCEEDS, SHALL WE SUCCEED**  
Vote: George Braithwaite for Vice President. Thank you.

## **CURRENT ISSUES**

### **Additional Revenue**

The United States Olympic Committee (USOC) recently informed USATT that their Annual base funding had been reduced drastically from approximately \$250 K to \$168 K. for the year 2007. This setback has created great concern and has now become a high priority in terms of finding ways to create additional revenue sources. There are many Avenues that can be explored but I believe the most effective at this point in time would be to access the “Fortune 500 Sponsorship Featured Listings” Web site and proceed from there. All Major Sports Sponsorship Corporations listed, have experienced Public Relations Representatives who would help us fulfill our needs.

### **Restoring USATT-USOC Relationship**

As a result of the cut back in funding, it is obvious that USATT has lost some credibility with the USOC. As a Board member, I am Knowledgeable of some inadequate actions taken by a few members of the Board but I am confident however, that this can be corrected and we can restore our good faith and relationship with the USOC by: (A) Applying a rule that only the Executive Director should communicate USATT concerns with the USOC. This would eliminate perceived thoughts that we are incapable of resolving our own affairs and that this diminishes our ability to focus on and promote significant Development Programs. (B) The USOC has allowed USATT some flexibility and therefore our plan to reform would be phased in by 2008 according to the guideline procedures outlined by the USOC for us to follow. For this reason the 2006 election is for a two year term which would coincide with the election process for other Board members whose terms would expire at that time also.

### **Strategies for getting our players in the top ten in the world**

The United States has always had talented players throughout the decades but our disadvantage has been the lack of a constructive and well organized system. Establishing State Associations would help to achieve this. However, to accomplish a world ranking in the top ten is by no means an easy task. Physical Preparation and Top level Coaching combined with high level Competition, which includes competing in ITTF Pro Tour events in different continents on a regular basis, is an absolute necessity to achieve the USOC ideals of getting players on the Medal Podium at the Olympic Games and other Major Championships. To begin the preparation, our vision must be focused on long term goals and our attention must be centered on the younger generation of players. We must also employ the services of a reputable Coach or Coaches who are experienced and have the knowledge to communicate the skills required for the Physical, Technical and

Sports Psychology aspects in order to achieve. Helping the Board to interact more effectively with each other I would make an honest appeal to the Board asking members to have a mutual respect for each other and each other's opinions. I would emphasize the fact that we are a family and that we were elected to serve our members not ourselves. I would mention that we need to be less critical of each other and that we have two years in which to put our house in order and work together as a Team in good harmony. I would once again emphasize that we need to have more Development Programs on our Agenda and we need to make a conscientious effort to focus more on finding ways to implement Programs for our Athletes and focus less on Governance issues on which too much time and energy is spent. The USOC believes that until the Board and governance issues are resolved they question if the group can address and be truly committed to a long-term plan. Finally I would remind members that this is a Sports Organization and we need to talk more about the sport. The qualities that I possess to help USATT attain their proposed strategies can be accessed by reading my Campaign Statement. I am also a member of the USATT HALL of FAME for Outstanding Achievements and Talents as a Table Tennis player. Thank you.