



## Grant Misbach Candidate for Treasurer USATT

My goals are:

1. Greater transparency – giving more information on finances, board meetings, etc. both in the magazine and on the website.
2. To support a strong Executive Director --- who will provide continuity over the years.
3. Stronger code of ethics – which spells out better what is, and is not allowed and how to handle conflicts of interest.
4. To run independently with my only purpose being a love of table tennis and a desire to further this great sport.

Some good progress has been made in recent years, but more can be done. I also want to help implement the changes that the USOC has mandated, clear up the lawsuits and help further the good programs that have recently been done to promote both junior, elite and senior table tennis.

It appears that a big question is, does the USATT want to work closely and in cooperation with the USOC? Or do they want to go it on their own with the possibility of little or no funding from them and also the possibility of no longer being an Olympic sport? That needs to be considered very carefully. The USOC has gone through some very rough times and it appears that it has greatly improved its organization. Now they want all the sports under them to do similar improvement. To me it would appear pure "suicide" to go it on our own. But some would apparently still want to commit suicide than reform and give up their special interests and special agendas that do not always benefit table tennis as a whole. Working closely with the USOC, even if we do not agree fully with all they want, certainly would not hurt table tennis and could be of considerable help to the sport.

If the decision is to go with the USOC program, then I believe it should start with my first three goals of greater transparency, supporting a strong

competent Executive Director that is insulated as far as possible from "politics" and a stronger code of ethics (which is probably the most important of the three).

As to what I could contribute to the Board, I would like to tell you my experience with the Huntsman World Senior Games. These games were started 20 years ago with about 250 participants the first year. It has grown every year and now has over 9,500 participants, 22 sports, over 2,000 volunteers and has all 50 states represented and over 50 other countries. I applied for and became the Director of table tennis 15 years ago because they couldn't find someone to run the sport. I had no experience in running a tournament and had never been in any competition outside of Utah, and applied for the position because I wanted to compete in the sport at St. George, Utah. We started out with six tables in a church gym and about 35 players. We have changed venues three times as we grew and are now in a great facility in a fairly new convention center. Participation has increased every year and is now approaching 200. Last year we had foreign players coming from 9 different countries.

A big reason for this success is their motto "to promote worldwide peace, friendship and health". The part I and others have concentrated on is the Friendship aspect. A year ago a husband and wife, who are among the top veteran players in England, came for the first time. At the awards banquet the husband, Derek Scofield, asked to say a few words. He said he has been to many many tournaments over his lifetime, and this is the most friendly and hospitable tournament he has ever attended. He said they would be back, and they were this year. Two other players came this year even though they couldn't compete because of medical problems. But they said they just WANTED to be here. One said that his best friend was here. Many great friendships have been made. Another person who is in charge of a big tournament in California, commented to us that we have "good synergy" meaning we work together so well. That was impressive to him.

So I hope I can bring this "good synergy" to the USATT Board. I have also been involved in fund raising in different ways and hopefully can help in this area. But before effective fund raising can be done, I think the Board does need to get its "act together" first.

Whether or not I get elected to the Board as Treasurer, I very much appreciate this opportunity to express my feelings about this sport that I love so much. And I will continue to help further this great sport in whatever capacity I am in. Thank you.

Personal information:

Grew up in Minnesota and Oregon

Graduate of BYU

MBA from University of Utah

30 years banking experience as a V.P. in business lending with extensive experience in analyzing financial statements and business planning (originally majored in accounting and planned to be a CPA)

Past president of Utah County Bankers Association

Former Board member of BYU Alumni Association

Past President of the Utah Student Education Association

Member of the USATT Senior Committee

Gold and Silver medalist in the Nike World's Veterans tournament

Director of table tennis at the Huntsman World Senior Games for 15 years

Gold medalist four times at HWSG

Inducted in HWSG Hall of Fame October 11, 2006

And finally, just an all around nice guy (according to my mother)

I will appreciate your vote.

