



## Candidate for Club Director Board Position for USATT - Mike Babuin

**ABOUT ME:** Hello USATT Members, my name is Mike Babuin and I am hoping to serve you as Club Director in the next few months. Some of my friends asked me why – and I quipped that I am a glutton for punishment. In truth, the only reason I have for that question is to offer some leadership, sound advice and experience to the new Board which largely, is still getting its feet wet. We all have witnessed the implosion of the previous Board and frankly, what I have seen from that was more than disturbing. I am relieved that a new Board now exists and want to help them get on track to do the things that matter –which starts with the USATT membership first.

In this current election period you are lucky to have myself and Will both volunteering to serve you. He is a worthy representative of table tennis and has done much for the sport. Fortunately, so have I. I do believe I bring a few things to the plate that makes me more suited to represent you, and that is my previous experience working with the Board for our sport, my knowledge of its governance and by-laws, and my understanding of the relationship and interaction with both ITTF and the USOC. These factors while considered by many to be not apparently applicable to the universe of local clubs and centers, actually are – in fact, quite a bit so. What happens at the higher levels trickles down to the rest of us – sometimes that is good but more often it is not. If you support me for this position, I will represent the needs not only of clubs and centers – but the average USATT member – who otherwise has little to no voice. I do care, and I care enough to still want to improve things for us all.

This time I am not producing youtube videos or hitting social media hard – if you want to see my position on things just look on youtube for what I produced a couple of years ago. Most of those problems sadly – still exist and have not been fixed (*simply search my name on youtube to check it out*).

I will represent you always and will provide common sense decision making. I could talk all day about the problems we face – but you all know what those are already.

If you don't know me, I am a Regional Umpire, long time Tournament Director, ITTF Coach, past Board member of USATT and the ITTF and currently serve as the High Performance Director for Triangle BTT in North Carolina. Table Tennis is my passion and despite its problems, I truly love the sport. I also am a bit of an amateur historian for table tennis as well.

In a nutshell, I believe these things (*below*) are crucial to USATT and must be addressed.

- 1) Member Services (*much work needs done on this*);
- 2) Tapping into the 18-20 million recreational table tennis market that exists in the USA;
- 3) Developing and implementing a plan for action in our schools for the sport;
- 4) Developing an operational budget that doesn't deplete our net assets;
- 5) Embracing new initiatives which help us market USATT in the USA and globally;
- 6) Developing a professional league in the USA to nurture a career for our Elite Athletes;
- 7) Lay the groundwork for building a sustainable National Training Center in the USA; and most importantly,
- 8) Embracing the membership as a unique asset that can help all of the above.

Previous Board experience is a valuable resource to consider when considering who shall represent you. There is less of a learning curve and more ability of a person to function seamlessly and efficiently in carrying-out their duties when they have relevant knowledge behind their belt. In other words – no learning curve. Many of you know me personally, many others do not – but I will guarantee you one thing – which is I **always** look out for the rights of our members, and try always to employ common sense into decision making – especially when difficult actions are required.

Thank you for your time – ***I need your support and am asking each of you to talk to other USATT members and ask them to also give me their support as well.*** I hope to have the great honor of serving **YOU** through USA Table Tennis in the near future. *Mike*