

Annual General Meeting 2019



Location: Hinckley Island Hotel

Date and time: Saturday 29th June 2019 – 13:00 – 16:00

7748/0720/JKB

PRESENT:

VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

INDIVIDUAL COMPANY MEMBERS

S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice President), S Hughes (Deputy Chairman) D Livingstone (Director), M Smith (Director, Honorary Life Member), S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director), T Purcell (Director, Vice President)

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS

D Hockney (Avon, Vice President), B Freer (Cambridgeshire, Vice President), KM Tonge MBE (Cheshire, Honorary Life Member, BPTT), A Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) E Williams (Warwickshire, Vice President), M Clarke (Worcestershire, Honorary Life Member), RB Hudson (Yorkshire, Vice President), M Mitcham (Berkshire), J Cowell (Derbyshire), A Millman (Devonshire), R Lindner (Dorset), P Ashleigh (Essex), L Smith (Gloucestershire, Honorary Life Member), D Turner (Hampshire), H Jutle (Herefordshire), D Edwards (Hertfordshire, Vice President), G Rushton (Lancashire), S Pickering (Leicestershire), A Dias (Middlesex), G Pearson (Northumberland), M Allsop (Nottinghamshire, Vice President), N Hurford (Oxfordshire), C Dangerfield (Shropshire), J Kenny (South Yorkshire, Vice President), C Bell (Staffordshire), B Davison (Suffolk, Vice President), M Fraser (Surrey, Vice President), A Catt (Sussex), C Sewell (Wiltshire)

LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS

A Powell (Bristol), B Whitehead (Aylesbury), M Howard (Milton Keynes), P Diver (Ely), B Kean (Trafford), R Chapman (Chesterfield), G Hesketh (Derby), P Hadley (Bournemouth), K Field (Southend, Vice President), D Adamson (Stroud), K Childs (Gosport/Fareham, Vice President), W Moody (Portsmouth), C Homewood (Bromley), D Goulden (Warrington, Vice President), E Shaler (Hinckley, Vice President), D Arnold (Lincoln), H Webb (North Middlesex), D Hayman (Wembley/Harrow), P Ratcliffe (Daventry), I Jones (Kettering), G Powell (Northampton), B Rimmer (Retford), I Folger (Sheffield), B Watkins (Tamworth), A Reeves (Walsall), B Hughes (Birmingham), M Macfarlane (Leamington, Vice President) R Whittaker (Nuneaton), B Leech (Bromsgrove & Redditch), L Reid (Evesham, Vice President), J Stalker (Malvern), D Brown (Worcester), N Bowland (Harrogate), B Hudson (Hull, Vice President)

NON-COMPANY MEMBERS

C Williams (Leamington), J Andrews (Colchester), J Snowdon (Milton Keynes), D Parker, M Shearwood (Worcestershire), D Morgan (Trafford), M Welch, M Starkie

(Derby & District), M Brown (Essex/Chelmsford/Brentwood), R Pitt (Braintree), J Ferguson (Warwickshire), A Thompson (Trafford), C Felder (British League), J Johnson (Southend), G Wood (British League), P Nichols (Northampton), P Goulding (Ilfracombe), A Smith (Glossop), D Macfarlane, R Patel (Berkshire), K Buddell (Plymouth), R Pickering (Leicestershire), D Green (Loughborough), E Baker (Loughborough), K Smith (Leicestershire), K Goodwin (Derbyshire), R Wilson (Kent), B Hughes (Birmingham).

Honorary Appointments

J Parker MBE (President)

P Charters, S Clarke, HJ Webb (Honorary Life Members)

M Ireland, D Macfarlane, D Parker, J Ransome, Ken Tonge, J Watts (Vice Presidents)

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

P Charters, HJ Webb, M Clark, M Smith, L Smith, S Clarke, A Ransome, Karen Tonge MBE

STAFF

Joanna Keay-Blyth (TTE Staff), Keely Armitt (TTE Staff), Greg Yarnall (TTE Staff), Matthew Stanforth (TTE Staff), Sandra Pelizzoni (TTE Staff), Christine Wetherall (TTE Staff), Chris Turner (TTE Staff), Ann Nixon (TTE Staff).

S Deaton (Chairman) welcomed all present and opened the Annual General Meeting.

1. A minute's silence was held for members for the table tennis family who had sadly departed this year.

2. Report of Standing Orders Committee (7733/0619/DLH)

S Deaton (Chairman) introduced the report of the Standing Orders Committee.

D. Hockney (Avon), on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, welcomed any comments. No comments

3. Adoption of Standing Orders (7734/0619/DLH)

The standing orders were adopted unanimously.

4. Appointment of Tellers

It was agreed that Caroline Williams (Warwickshire TTA), Paul Nichols (Northampton) Keely Armitt (Staff) and Greg Yarnall (Staff) were appointed as tellers for the meeting. The tellers were reminded that they could not vote or take part in debate on matters for voting.

5. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absences: M Quartermaine (Board Director), D Paterson (Board Director), K Thomas (Board Director), P Bradley (Reading), J Michael Wright (Honorary Life Member), J Arnold (Vice President TTE), D Jermyn (National Council

Cornwall), M Holt (Honorary Life Member), C Wilson, J Blackband (Vice President), L Dare (Norwich), B Mitchell (Manchester), T Marshall (Wirral), R Williamson (Lancaster & Morecambe), D Webb (Vice President) Mike Smith (BUCs and Honorary Life Member)

6. Declaration of Business Interests

S Deaton invited anyone with a business interest to declare it now.

A Ransome (Cleveland and Honorary Life Member) declared his interest as a director of Tees Sport and Ransome Sporting Goods. C Dangerfield (Shropshire) declared his interest as a director of TT365 Ltd.

7. Minutes of Annual General Meeting 7th July 2018 (7738/0619/AN)

S Deaton asked for any points of accuracy. A few minor errors were highlighted.

8. Matters Arising from Minutes from last AGM

Any matters arising from the minutes of the AGM not covered by the agenda.

No points of accuracy.

9. Propositions

- **Proposition 1 – Membership and Voting (7739/0619/AN)**

Comment – S Deaton, Chairman - This was withdrawn by the board as the proposition was unlikely to be accepted in its current form and needs more consideration.

Comment – T Purcell, Board Member – there were a number of recommendations in Proposition 1 which were not feasible and therefore there will be a further review and discussion.

- **Proposition 2 – AGM Date Range (7740/0619/AN)**

This was accepted by a hand vote as it was acknowledged as it is difficult to fit in with all the events that are run domestically and internationally.

A request was made that members are given as much notice as possible in order to be able to plan in advance to attend.

Comment – T Catt, Sussex – the last Saturday in June would be a recommended date. It would be good if we could decide next years AGM date today and plan the dates for 2021 in advance.

Reply – S Deaton, Chairman – due to International obligations it is difficult to determine the diary commitments, however, agree that as much notice as possible should be given.

Comment – A Ransome, Cleveland - I would be willing to support the last week in June or first week in July which has always worked. Agree with TC that 9-12 months advance notice would be the preference.

Reply – S Deaton, Chairman – With various competitions and events like the European Championships, members and Company Board members are at times required elsewhere and therefore need a certain level of flexibility.

Hand vote took place – 75% in favour of the proposition is needed as it is a change in articles.

The motion passed by: 68 For, 5 Against, 0 Abstentions

- **Proposition 3 – National Council Meetings (7741/0619/AN) (NC)**

Proposition proposed by M Clarke.

The proposition was for 4 full meetings with all reports to take place.

Previously NC had agreed to reduce to 3 meetings. This was originally on the basis that the 4th meeting would be a shortened meeting on the morning of the AGM.

TTE board had reduced the number of meetings it was willing to pay for down to 2 in January 2019. It had been thought that NC would be replaced by the Members Advisory Group. The IRP has recommended disbanding NC as it was deemed to be “broken”, but the Board has chosen to keep it running. The Governance Rules preclude the NC being a formal council as that would mean that it would fall under those rules, which include maximum tenure of NC of 8 years, counted retrospectively. There had been a breakdown in trust between the Board and the NC, if it had ever existed. Poor leadership of NC in 2018/9 had led to a complete breakdown and no meeting had been organised in April. It is thought that with good leadership the NC can be restored to being a useful part of the TTE Governance structure.

Comment – N Hurford, Oxfordshire, we are all passionate about support for the NC and the role they play. The NC has a great knowledge but unfortunately the meetings are not as effective as they should be. Their roles are very important. It decides its own procedures and therefore disagree that the AGM is the place to agree this proposition. The number of meetings does not make them more effective. A way forward needs to be agreed for them to be more effective with a structure that follows a strategy. I would ask you to vote against the motion – asking in favour of a process of how the NC should meet.

Comment – T Catt, Sussex – I speak as the ex-chair of the NC. MAG is in the early stages with different points of government structure but work together nicely. The board are saying that they will pay for two meetings and any more should be funded by themselves. The price is what you pay in return and the value is what you get.

Comment - A Ransome, Cleveland – The NC has played a key role in this association for over half a century. The NC is a safeguard for members as they have lots of information and experience and therefore able to have good and valuable conversations. The NC is a two-way process. The councillors are given the information and take part in the debate who then go back to the county meetings to

discuss with members – the councillor is more or less an MP. There is a two-way system in Cleveland and it does work, however, the democracy has been diluted.

Comment – B River, Nottingham County – The last thing we want to see is further erosion. The feedback from my councillor is that there is an erosion of information coming through. AR clearly explained the benefits of having a councillor. There will also be an erosion of membership rights. The members will eventually say they need to form grass roots at a different level. I agree with AR, who has been a councillor over a considerable amount of time. I want my councillor to be properly informed and properly represented at meetings

Comment – K Childs, Gosport, Fareham Vice President – The terms of reference need to be reviewed and the calendarisation needs to give value for money.

Comment – C Dangerfield, Shropshire, Former NC Chair – Expressed the following: the NC is vitally important, it is the only level that is democratically elected. In my opinion the board do not value the NC although they will disagree about this. The issue is that they have made a decision to cut the number of meetings in half, they have reduced the quality of the reports provided to the NC and have informed staff members to no longer attend. Today I will be supporting the proposition.

Comment - S Hughes, Deputy Chairman – I feel it is appropriate that the board member speaks on behalf of the board. The EGM approved the IRP which included the NC, however, the conclusion was that the way the NC was working was ineffective, unconstructive, unhelpful and poor. It was an independent recommendation for the board to continue to support two meetings per year as it was recognised the level of experience the councillors bring. For the future of the NC a constructive relationship needs to be built with a quality working relationship not quantity. The NC can hold as many meetings as it wants, however the board will support two. It is a case of mandatory safeguarding with a dangerous territory of achieving what you are asking as it falls outside the code of governance. The board showed good will in keeping the NC even after an independent recommendation to get rid of it.

Comment – M Clarke – Realistically the board do not have the right to remove the NC. If the proposition fails it will be the demise of the NC.

Reply – S Deaton, Chairman – In April 2017 the NC voted themselves to go down from 4 meetings to 3. The board had no decision in this. In 2018/2019 the board is proposing to reduce from 3 to 2 meetings.

The motion passed by 31,820 17,566 to restore 4 meeting per year.

Preliminary steps have been put in motion to organise the annual election of the NC Chair and papers should be coming out later this week. The board will meet with the new NC Chairman to discuss going forward.

- **Proposition 4 – Affiliation Fee Reduction (7742/0619/AN)**
- **Proposition 5 – Affiliation Fee maintained at £16 (7743/0619/AN)**

Membership Fees

These two propositions were discussed together as they were related

Proposition 4 - The reduction of £7 per person was proposed in order that the money could be used by members to pay TT365 directly for their League Manager system.

This was on the basis that many members felt that the only benefit provided to them by TTE was the League Manager system. Points were made that the reduction in fees would have various knock on effects to many projects and that would be reduced or disappear if the membership fee reduced.

Sport England would see a dramatic reduction in membership income and would wonder whether it should continue to support table tennis at the same level or at any level in the future. This was proposed by David Moles, Chelmsford TTL & Brian Taite, Haywards Heath League, neither of whom were present at the meeting to propose the proposition and nobody else was willing to. It was agreed that Phil Ashleigh would be the proposer in order for it to be put to the meeting and seconded by John Stalker as the Chairman felt the proposition should be voted in.

Comment – C Dangerfield, Shropshire, – I would like to make sincere thanks to the people in the Table Tennis family for their support – I have had hundreds of messages of support. I am dissatisfied in the way the governing body has conducted themselves and the internet has blatantly been used to promote a one-sided view. There is no download facility for TT365 and the board have never approached for integration. TTE have promised that it will be equivalent and be ready for the next season – they cannot copy ten years of data and experience. On 10th August TT365 will have accounts and all data permanently deleted so do not wait and think it will be ok.

Comment – T Catt, Sussex – TT365 did a fantastic job and it was a good system. I have seen the TT league system and it seems to work. It would be an act of vandalism for TT365 to be turned off as it will be a loss of valuable information and historical information needs to be kept going forward. The TTE TT leagues will come out of affiliation fees, the NC are asking for more meetings and with initiatives for the 9-13's if the affiliation fees are halved how far do you expect the fees to go?

Comment – Ken Bill?? – Looking at the financial figures if the membership fees are reduced there will be a loss of £200,00 next year to our sport.

Comment – M Howard, Milton Keynes – We have the luxury of not using either systems – we use our own after a couple of years running a system in tandem with TT365. There is nothing stopping any league from doing the same.

Comment – B Kean, Trafford – As a coach fundamentally for children’s leagues people spoke earlier about the standard of future talent and what we are seeing on a European stage. In the cadet and junior leagues children cannot get around the country to the matches and tournaments. Taking more money out of the association will have a massive effect on Table Tennis.

Comment – B River, Nottinghamshire – TT leagues works perfectly. There is a fear of taking on a new system. TT365 tried to make amendments and were unable to do so. The new firm has been extremely helpful and can amend and adjust it to give us what we want. There will always be scepticism. It will be a god send to people utilising it. The membership includes people who do not play Table Tennis (volunteers etc). Proposition number 5 seems to be more practical. I would like to propose that you support the management and go with the new system.

Comment – A Ransome, Cleveland – It has been a difficult issue. A lot of people would acknowledge that Chris Dangerfield and TT365 has been effective and would express my gratitude in this effect. In my county there have been numerous discussions and they have given me discretion.

Comment – J Stalker, Malvern – In the future financial report can we see the cost of league manager.

Reply – Sara Sutcliffe, CEO – In response regarding the Operational questions. There have been numerous statements to imply that TTE did not have any discussions with CD and TT365 – this is 100% not the case. There is no monopoly in a league management system and it is a dangerous situation where you have to work with one company. It is interesting that Chris Dangerfield has chosen to leave the meeting, as there has been a massive conflict of interest and he has used the platform solely for his commercial venture and I would ask you to think about that. TTE have been in dialogue with TT365 about a number of GDPR breaches. Chris Dangerfield has made a threat that if you want to keep data you will need to continue with TT365 or it will be deleted, Chris Dangerfield has no right to delete this information. In 2017 the rejection of the code of governance damaged our relationship with Sport England and it has taken a lot to rebuild the relationship. They are aware that our AGM is taking place and they are aware of the motions proposed. TT365 has been effective and Chris Dangerfield states that he will be continuing, I hope that he does and he succeeds. However, for the purpose of TTE it was not financially viable to pay for a product that has increased by an extreme amount alongside taking £200,000 out of the sport.

Comment – S Hughes, Deputy Chairman – TTE have paid for a good system for three years, however, neither party could reach an agreement to move forward – that is business.

Proposal 4 was defeated 13143 (22%) for and 37848 (74%) against

Proposal 5 was accepted by a show of hands (88 for, 0 against). So, the TTE fees will remain at £16 for seniors and £8 for Juniors.

10. Receive and approve the financial report, including the Directors Report, Treasurer and Auditors Report and audited accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2019 (7736/0619/AN)

Written questions had been answered and any outstanding questions would be answered in writing as soon as possible.

Proposed by S Clarke, seconded by D Turner.

11. Reappointment of Auditors and authorise the Directors to agree their remuneration (7737/0619/AN)

Hays McIntyre were re-appointed by a unanimous show of hands. The firm audits other sports and give advice about best practice which has been useful to TTE.

Proposed by K Tonge, seconded by M Smith.

12. Election of Standing Order Committee

The Standing Order Committee was re-elected by a unanimous show of hands.

Proposed by M Smith, seconded by R Hudson.

Comment – S Deaton, Chairman – I would personally like to thank June (Watt) for everything.

13. Any other competent business

Comment - D Webb, Hastings (via H Webb) requested that we inform the community of the deaths of our members. TTE advised that it has processes in place to ensure that respect is paid. The main problem is that it is reliant on the relatives advising of the death of our member.

Comment – A Ransome, Cleveland – Regarding the minutes of the meeting – are the Annual Conference minutes taken and communication in the same way?

Reply – S Deaton, Chairman – A summary of what was said will be distributed – no official minutes as such.

Presentation of Honours

- **Honorary Life Member – Sandra Deaton** – for her service to Table tennis England and Internationally
- **Vice-President – Andrea Holt** – for her services as a staff member in development, as an England international player and double Olympian.
- **Vice-President – Susie Hughes** – for her service on the Board as Deputy Chairman (since 2014) and Vice-Chairman Communications (2013/4) as well as to VETTS.
- **Vice-President – Chris Newton** – for his service as a staff member in Development and Events, as a volunteer at major events as well as in Staffordshire.

- **Vice-President – Shirley Pickering** – for her service to the East Midlands Region as well as in Leicestershire.
- **Vice-President - Barry Snowdon** – for his services to County Championship Committee as well as in Yorkshire.
- **Vice-President – Margaret Welch** – for her service as a Technical Official and on Tournaments Approval Panel as well as in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.
- **Vice-President – Caroline Williams** - for her service as Returning Officer and for Operations/Governance as well as in Warwickshire.
- **Vice-President – Colin Wilson** – for his service as a Board member (2014/6) as an England International player and coach, as a former staff member in Development as well as in advisory and club development activity.
- **Keith Ponting President’s Memorial Award – Mike Smith** - for exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England as well as Para Table Tennis
- **Leslie Forrest Memorial Award – Karen Smith** – for service to table tennis in the County field – for her service to Leicestershire in administering and promoting the County Championships.
- **Malcolm Scott Award – Mike Atkinson** – for outstanding service to Table Tennis England – for his service to National Cadet and National Junior Leagues and to Tournaments Approval Panel.
- **Ivor Montagu Award – Phil Ashleigh** – for service to the administration of Table Tennis England – for his service on the members’ Advisory Group Implementation Committee.
- **Ivor Montagu Award – Neil Hurford** – for service to the administration of Table Tennis England – for his service on the members’ Advisory Group Implementation Committee.
- **AK Vint OBE Staff Award – Julie Snowdon** – for exceptional service as a staff member – for her service to Mass Participation projects, notably associated with Ping!, Ping Pong Parlours and Loop.
- **AK Vint OBE Staff Award – Chris Turner** – for exceptional service as a staff member – for his service to Mass Participation, notably associated with Ping! And for his service as a coach in Development notably in Nottinghamshire.
- **Victor Barna Award – Ross Wilson** – for the most notable performance by an English player – for his achievements in becoming World Champion in Para class 8 Mens’ Singles and Commonwealth Games Champion in Para Class 6-10 Mens’ Singles.
- **Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved England Player of the Year Award – Liam Pitchford** – for a player representing England – for his successful year leading to a major rise in the Men’s world rankings.
- **Special Award – Brenda & Richard Hudson** – for services to Table Tennis England.

S Deaton thanked everyone for their attendance and support and closed the meeting at 16:40.