

ELECTION STATEMENT FOR SUSIE HUGHES

I have been involved with table tennis all my life, as a player, an administrator, a volunteer, an organiser - and a member of a family which has played competitive table tennis and been involved in table tennis administration for three generations.

I have played in local leagues for over 40 years, and continue to play in Liverpool and Southport Leagues. I also play in Veterans British League; represent Liverpool Ladies and Lancashire Veterans; and on the domestic and international VETTS circuit.

I am Chairman of my local club in the Liverpool League; Deputy Chairman, Newsletter Editor and tournament organiser of the VETTS; a member of the European Table Tennis Union Veterans Committee and have been on the Board of Table Tennis England for six years, most recently as its Deputy Chairman. I was also a 'Games Maker' for the table tennis at the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During the past few years with Table Tennis England, we have had to manage a period of change in the governance and structure of the sport. Some of these changes were unpopular, but they were necessary in order to keep table tennis as a mainstream sport, with Government funding and a centralised support network. We needed to comply with more professional and accountable requirements in the way we managed ourselves.

Leagues also have had to adapt to attract new players; we have had to embrace and welcome the new dimension of 'social table tennis' - and then make the step into how we encourage these new players into a more competitive environment. We know clubs face daily challenges of premises, facilities and funding. We know we rely on volunteers - and we welcome the input and service they make to the sport.

Table tennis is still undergoing a period of change - but we have turned a corner. We have a new Members' Advisory Group (MAG) of which I am Facilitator and we will be working together to bring members input and views to help to direct the future of the sport.

We have made difficult but necessary changes - and have secured the future of table tennis as a respected - and funded - national sport. I am passionate about and committed to working for our sport - and I am asking for your support so I can continue working to promote and support table tennis for all ages and abilities.

Thank you, Susie Hughes susie@shout99.com

