

# Minutes - Annual General Meeting 2022

**LOCATION:** Cranfield University, Mitchell Hall, Cranfield, Bedfordshire MK43 0AL, and Zoom Call

**DATE AND TIME:** Saturday 16 July 2022 1.30pm

**ATTENDANCE:** to be found in [Appendix 1](#)

**FULL RESOLUTIONS:** to be found in [Appendix 2](#)

## **Meeting Commenced at 1.30 pm**

The Annual General Meeting was opened and everyone was thanked for attending in person and via Zoom.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed all present, introducing Deputy Chair Mrs S Venner and Chair of Finance and Audit Committee S Kemish. Mrs S Deaton (Chair) introduced the new Board member of Table Tennis England, Mr R Ayres, and thanked those Board members whose terms finished during the year and thanked them for their time and dedication.

The Annual Review 2021/22 video was shown.

1. Members of the table tennis family who had sadly passed away this year were remembered.

### **2. Report of Standing Orders Committee**

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

D Hockney (Avon), on behalf of Standing Orders Committee, explained it had been a quiet time for the Committee. He welcomed any comments.

No comments were made and the meeting accepted the Report.

### **3. Adoption of Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders were adopted with 100% voting in favour.

### **4. Declaration of Business Interests**

No Declarations of Business Interest were declared.

### **5. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting July 2021**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) noted that points of accuracy should have been submitted in advance but asked if there were anymore.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings and DTTA) requested that the details of the resolutions be added to the Minutes as the links shown in the document were no longer working. In addition, there was no reference to those who received awards in 2021.

Mr N Le Milliere (Kent) requested an amendment to the minutes to show that June Watts had resigned a year before her term had ended.

The minutes were approved with 84% voting in favour.

## 6. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Last AGM

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM.

## 7. Special / Ordinary Resolutions

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) ran through the process of how the next stage of the AGM will work using the Mi-Voice electronic voting system.

### **Special Resolution 1:**

**Amend Article 23.1. Company Members shall elect four directors (7804/0722/JKB) (Board)**

Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) was welcomed to speak and provide the rationale on Resolution 1.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mrs S Hayes (Buckinghamshire) asked what had changed the Board's mind and Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) explained that when the Board reviewed the initial proposal and the benefits of a fourth Elected Director, agreed that it was the right thing to do.

Mr T Catt (Sussex Deputy NC) and Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) supported the Resolution.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote:

The results of this vote were:

For:	31,097	100%
Against:	0	
Abstained:	0	

### **Resolution 1: Passed**

**As it is a Special resolution a 75% majority is required which was achieved.**

## **Special Resolution 2**

**New Article 23.8. Nominations received for Elected Directors shall be considered by the Nominations Committee taking account of the candidate's ability, experience and expertise to fulfil the identified role on the Board, and of the need to ensure that the Board has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence and knowledge. All candidates will be presented to the Members to vote for their preferred candidate.**

**(7805/0722/JKB) (Board)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) to speak and provided the rationale to Resolution 2.

The Resolution for all Elected Directors to be considered by the Nominations Committee had not initially included the point that all candidates would be put forward to the Members to vote and Mrs D Webb (Hastings and DTTA), had requested the addition of this point. The Board had agreed that this addition made the resolution clearer.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mr C Dangerfield (Shropshire) accepted the importance of the Resolution with regards to receipt of funding from Sport England, although it was passing power to the Board. The Board were asked to note the faith that was being put into them and the new Chief Executive if this Resolution was passed.

Mr D Parker (Director) was reassured that all candidates would be put forward for voting.

Mr N Hurford (Oxfordshire) explained that he would find it helpful to receive additional information about all candidates put forward by the Nominations Committee regarding their skills, experience and knowledge to ensure the correct balance across the Board of Directors.

Mr T Catt (Sussex Deputy NC) explained that the Code for Sports Governance required that all candidates should be reviewed against the organisation's skills and diversity matrix to ensure that the right balance of candidates was achieved. The additional point made to ensure all candidates were then put forward provided the Members with the opportunity to choose the right person for the role.

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) understood the serious effects of the Resolution not being passed and wanted the organisation to remain democratic.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) responded that the process for all candidates to be considered by the Nominations Committee provided another layer of information to Members to make a considered opinion on the best person for the role.

There were no other questions.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	30,068	96.66%
Against:	1,038	3.34%

### **Special Resolution 2: Passed**

**As it is a Special resolution a 75% majority is required which was achieved.**

### **Special Resolution 3**

**Amend Article 24.2. Such directors shall be appointed by resolution of the Board following an open, formal, publicly advertised and transparent selection process by ~~an appointments panel~~ the Nominations Committee, taking account of the candidate's ability, experience and expertise to fulfil the identified role on the Board, and of the need to ensure that the Board has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence and knowledge.**

**(7806/0722/JKB) (Board)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) to speak and provide the Board's rationale to Resolution 3.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and none were put forward.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For	29,395	99.42%
Against	170	0.58%

### **Special Resolution 3: Passed**

**As it is a Special Resolution a 75% majority is required which was achieved.**

### **Ordinary Resolution 4**

**That from 1 August 2022 the following affiliation fees apply:**

**Senior Compete Member ~~£20~~ £18**

**Junior/Cadet Compete Member ~~£10~~ £9**

**Compete Plus will remain at a £22 upgrade for senior and £11 for Juniors/Cadets**

**(7807/0722/JKB) (Board)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed S Kemish (Director) to speak and provide the rationale to Resolution 4. S Kemish (Director) explained that a five-year strategy had previously been agreed for affiliation fees

and the original proposal was for a bigger increase in fees. However, it was recognised that the increase was too large, following the pandemic and had been reduced.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mr M Howard (Milton Keynes) spoke about the difficult times we have been facing and why the Milton Keynes League felt it was important to consider a compromise of £18 and £9 increase instead of £20 and £10.

Several members thought that the fees were too high and their leagues would not be happy to pay them. Mr T Catt (Sussex Deputy Chair) suggested a new system of monthly terms. Mr R Venner (Director) felt that the revised fees represented a good halfway point from the original figures proposed. Mr C Dangerfield (Shropshire) felt this was a very contentious issue every year and hampered the growth of the game. The bigger issue was what members get for their money.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) explained that consideration had been given to not increasing fees but with the rising costs across all areas, the reduction to the proposal was a good half-way point. People seeing the fees as a tax on play needed to understand that it was also an investment in sport. The Board had also committed to review the membership scheme.

Mrs S Hayes (Buckinghamshire) felt it was a good compromise and her vote would support it.

Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) explained that if the fees were not increased this year, a significant amount of money would not be available to undertake some of the planned activity through this year. A new scheme was being developed and would focus on the value proposition to members.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

For:	29,148	93.19%
Against:	2,130	6.81%

### **Special Resolution 4: Passed**

**As it is an Ordinary Resolution a 50% majority is required and was achieved.**

*It was noted that the original Resolution 5 on Club Play fees had been withdrawn. This was due to the Board's consideration of the current economic situation that members and clubs were in.*

### **Special Resolution 5**

#### **Remove Article 34.3**

#### **7809/0722/JKB) (Board)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) to speak and provide the Board's rationale to Resolution 5.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mr M Howard (Milton Keynes) accepted that vast amounts of money could be lost if the Resolution failed and that members needed to trust the Board. He asked whether consideration could be given by the Board to agreeing not to increase fees higher than the CPI, to the nearest pound and whether two payments for fees could be taken during the season.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings and DTTA) had been instructed to vote against the Resolution. Income from sponsorship should be sought to alleviate the need to increase fees.

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) Ideally the County would prefer not to risk the Sport England funding if the Resolution was to fail.

Mr N LeMilliere (Kent) explained that he had been instructed to vote against the Resolution. The County fully understood the need to vote in favour but the leagues did not see any benefit to them.

Mr T Catt (Sussex Deputy NC) felt that it was important for the Articles of Table Tennis England to align with the Code for Sports Governance.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) thanked everyone for their views and said that this was the most important decision that the members would face for some considerable time. It is important that Table Tennis England ensures compliance with the Code for Sports Governance.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote for Resolution 5 upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	26,767	85.11%
Against:	4,684	14.89%

### **Special Resolution 5: Passed**

**As it is a Special Resolution it requires 75% majority which was achieved.**

### **Special Resolution 6**

**That throughout the Articles all references to 'Individual Company Member' shall be amended to 'Director Company Member'.**

**(7810/0722/JKB) (Board on advice of Rules Committee)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) to speak. Mrs Venner introduced Mr E Williams (Warwickshire) and asked him to provide the rationale for the Resolution on behalf of the Rules Committee.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and there were none.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	29,483	100%
Against:	0	

### **Special Resolution 6: Passed**

**As it is a Special Resolution it requires 75% majority which was achieved**

### **Special Resolution 7**

**Amend Article 41.4 In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, ~~the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second, or casting, vote on matters relating to finance but not on any other matters; in any other case the resolution shall fail.~~**

**(7811/0722/JKB) (Board – on behalf of the Rules Committee)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) to speak. Mrs Venner introduced Mr E Williams (Warwickshire) and asked him to provide the rationale for the Resolution on behalf of the Rules Committee.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and there were none.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote for Special Resolution 8 were:

For:	29,533	99.68%
Against:	96	0.32%

### **Special Resolution 7: Passed**

**It is a Special Resolution that requires 75% majority which was achieved**

### **Special Resolution 8**

**Amend Article 51**

**That throughout Article 51 the phrase ‘Board of Appeal’ shall be replaced by ‘Appeals Panel’**

**(7812/0722/JKB) (Board on Advice of Rules Committee)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) welcomed Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) to speak. Mrs Venner introduced E Williams (Warwickshire) and asked him to provide the rationale for the Resolution on behalf of the Rules Committee.

Mr Williams (Warwickshire) explained that the previous Resolution, presented in 2021, had failed due to the issue of alterations to the circumstances in which an appeal could be made. Therefore, the Resolution had been revised for this year to request to change only the name of the Board of Appeal to Appeals Panel to avoid any confusion with the main Board.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and there were none.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	29,717	100%
Against:	0	

### **Special Resolution 8: Passed**

**As it is a Special Resolution that requires 75% majority which was achieved**

### **Ordinary Resolution 9**

**Members being Key Stakeholders**

**(7813/0722/JKB) (6 Company Members)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) handed the Chair to Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair).

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) who is one of the six members of the National Council's Select Committee who had put forward the Resolution to ensure that the Members were afforded the respect they were due by asking the Board to recognise that the Members were key members.

It was pointed out that the word 'The' was missing from the title of the Resolution.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mr A Ransome reminded members that following members of the Board attending a Select Committee meeting, a report had been written to the Board about who they considered to be the key stakeholders. Mrs S Deaton (Chair) confirmed that the Board had fully considered the Select Committee Report and had responded to it.



They had indicated that the members were one of many stakeholders that the organisation had to consider. The Select Committee did not feel that the Board responses were as full as they should have been.

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) indicated that the Select Committee had put much thought into the Resolution which was proposed to make improvements, not to be critical and it was felt that raising the issue as a Resolution carried more weight.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	20,777	79.10%
Against:	5,489	20.90%

### **Ordinary Resolution 9: Passed**

**As it is an Ordinary Resolution it requires 50% majority which was achieved**

### **Ordinary Resolution 10**

#### **Pathway for Volunteers**

#### **(7814/0722/JKB) (6 Company Members)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) handed the Chair to Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair).

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) explained that the six members of the National Council's Select Committee had put forward this Resolution to acknowledge the imbalance of the senior expert volunteers who now played less of a part in the organisation. It was felt that a better balance was needed.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mrs D Webb (Hastings and DTTA) felt that there was less opportunity for progression of volunteers than used to be the case and she would like to see the 2 x 4 year term removed for volunteers to serve on non-Board Committees to allow for this progression to happen again.

Mr R Venner (Director) reminded members that the Talent and Performance Committee had shown how collaboration of Board, staff and volunteers could work very well.

Mr T Catt (Sussex Deputy NC) felt that statements of responsibility needed to be written for volunteers to see the expectations on them in Committee roles.

Mr N Hurford (Oxfordshire) stated it hadn't been his experience and had been involved in numerous volunteer experiences throughout his time at a variety of levels.

In summing up Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) was pleased that the debate had taken place with the members.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	20,980	76.29%
Against:	6,521	23.71%

### **Ordinary Resolution 10: Passed**

**As it is an Ordinary Resolution it requires 50% majority which was achieved**

### **Ordinary Resolution 11**

**Staff with Table Tennis Knowledge**

**(7815/0722/JKB) (6 Company Members)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) handed the Chair to Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair).

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) explained that the six members of the National Council's Select Committee felt that there was a loss of table tennis knowledge within the current staffing structure and the Board did not appear to make this a priority when appointing senior staff. The Resolution was proposed to require the Board to consider applicants with a good knowledge and passion for table tennis.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mr T Catt (Sussex Deputy NC) felt that the new structure, as described in Mr A Christy's presentation at the Annual Conference, would alleviate this issue.

Many of the members felt that the word 'required' was too strong and that 'desirable' would be better.

Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) stated that he needed to appoint the best team with the experience, skills, and capability to realise the goals of the organisation's strategy. He has already stated clearly that the optimum model is to bring that talent of the staff together with knowledgeable and passionate volunteers, as demonstrated successfully with the Talent and Performance Committee.

Mr C Wilson (Kettering and DTTL) felt that bad decisions had been made by National Council, before the Board was in place. Over the last seven years, the relationship between the Board and members was not good and this needed to change.

Mr S Kemish (Director) pointed out the excellent service provided by Mrs S Garey (Staff) over the last couple of years to keep Table Tennis England running very close to a break-even budget. However,

Mrs Garey would not have been appointed if she had been required to be knowledgeable of the sport and have a passion for it.

Mr P Charters (Berkshire) believed the Table Tennis England staff to be excellent and it was not fair to make generalisations.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	11,839	44.09%
Against:	15,015	55.91%

### **Ordinary Resolution 11: Failed**

**As it is an Ordinary Resolution it requires 50% majority which was not achieved**

### **Ordinary Resolution 12**

**Portas Report SE/DCMS Meeting**

**(7816/0722/JKB) (6 Company Members)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) handed the Chair to Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair).

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) explained that the six members of the National Council's Select Committee felt that some of the recommendations contained within the PORTAS report, commissioned by Sport England, and published in 2013, had caused some difficulties and they were requesting that feedback be given to Sport England to this effect.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) asked for Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) to update the meeting on his work with the National Governing Bodies CEO Forum.

Mr A Christy informed the members that he had been Chair of this Forum since 2014 and their meetings were regularly attended by UK Sport, Sport England, DCMS and other national partners. The NGB CEO Forum is working extremely closely with partners and is regularly consulted on policy that impacts on the work of governing bodies.

One relevant area of lobbying was to UK Sport when a number of sorts, including Table Tennis, were informed they would not be receiving funding for the Tokyo 2020 cycle.

Mr A Ransome (Cleveland) explained that the Select Committee Report discussions had concluded before Mr Christy had been appointed and he now felt that this issue had been dealt with. He

therefore requested the Chair of the meeting to put forward a vote to the meeting to withdraw this Resolution.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) put the vote to withdraw the Resolution to the meeting with a show of hands, which was agreed.

### **Ordinary Resolution 12: Withdrawn**

#### **Special Resolution 13**

##### **ITTF Overrides to Table Tennis England Ranking List (7817/0722/JKB) (Peter Charters and Jos Kelly)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) asked Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) to explain that legal opinion that had been sought about Resolution 13 being a Special Resolution when it was considered that it should be an Ordinary Resolution.

This intervention caused some confusion, and it was pointed out by the Standing Orders Committee that the Resolution could not be changed at the meeting and the legal advice was not understood. The Resolution could not be withdrawn so would stand as a Special Resolution.

Mr P Charters (Berkshire) was unclear as to what should happen next and offered to withdraw the Resolution. However, Resolution 13 remained and he proceeded to explain his rationale.

The full resolution details are attached in [Appendix 2](#).

Questions were welcomed from the floor and in the Q & A box and were as follows:

Mr R Venner (Director) explained that this issue had been debated by the Talent and Performance Committee, who had considered the rationale to be presented by Mr P Charters (Berkshire) however, they agreed to recommend to the Board, the removal of the override for Juniors and Cadets and to reduce the Senior Override from 250 to 75. The proposal was subsequently approved by the Board.

Mr J Kelly (Somerset) believed that the impact of the override had been significant and had had a demoralising effect on many of the players. Rankings should be based on merit.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) handed the Chair of the meeting to Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair).

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) agreed that the override was not suitable for the Juniors but had been set at an appropriate level for the seniors. She believed that this issue was better dealt with by the Talent and Performance Committee rather than by Resolution.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings and DTTA) felt that consideration needed to be given to England women and the Under 21s who were also disproportionately affected by the override. She would be supporting the Resolution.

Mr P Charters (Berkshire) summed up and felt that the ITTF ranking system and override did not work well with the England system.

Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair) opened the vote upon which everyone had two minutes to cast their vote using Mi-Voice.

The results of this vote were:

For:	17,627	70.12%
Against:	7,513	29.88%

### **Special Resolution 13: Failed**

**As it is a Special Resolution it requires 75% which it did not achieve.**

## **8. Financial Report and Audited Accounts**

### **Receive and acceptance of the financial report, including audited accounts for the Financial Year ending 31st March 2022**

**(7800/0722/JKB)**

A presentation was made to the AGM comprising of six slides presented by Mr S Kemish (Director) Chair of Finance Committee. Attached to these minutes.

Questions were welcomed in the Q & A box and were as followed:

Mr N Le Milliere (Kent) understood that it was already considered known that Government grant funding was likely to decrease.

Mr S Kemish (Director) pointed out that inflation was not included in the current funding which meant a reduction in real terms over the period when compared to the previous cycle. It was the desire of the Board to acquire more funding through commercial activity so that there was less dependence on Sport England funding. The new strategy would be important for financial stability.

Mr N Hurford (Oxfordshire) liked the diagram that showed where the money was going but wanted to understand better where the Sport England money was spent, especially with regard to grass roots.

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote for Agenda Item 10 were:

For:	100%
Against:	0%

### **Agenda Item 10: Passed**

### **11. Reappointment of Auditors**

#### **Reappointment of Auditors and authorise the Directors to agree their remuneration (7801/0722/JKB)**

Mr S Kemish (Director) explained that the current auditors were Haysmacintyre, who worked with many National Governing Bodies of Sport and who been very pleased with this year's audit. The reappointment would be for one year only.

A Zoom poll was launched for this vote.

For: 100%  
Against: 0%

### **Agenda Item 11: Passed**

### **12. Election of Standing Orders Committee**

With a vacancy since June Watts stood down after last year's AGM the committee requested the meeting to approve Mr Rob Sinclair.

For: 100%  
Against: 0%

### **13. Approval of Honorary Appointments and Awards 2022**

The AGM were asked to confirm their acceptance of the Honours Committee recommendations, shown below:

Honorary Life Member: Estyn Williams

Vice Presidents: Skylet Andrew  
Alison Broe (formerly Gordon)  
Ian Harrison  
Harry Jutle  
Charles Noel Sewell  
Brenda Stephenson  
Sara Sutcliffe MBE  
Gorazd Vecko

A Zoom poll was launched for this vote

For: 100%  
Against: 0%  
Abstain:

Ms L Lomas (Vice President) had received her honour in 2021 but had not been able to accept it in person. She was awarded her medal at the meeting.

**Further Honours Recommended by the Honours Committee for 2022:**

Keith Ponting Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement	Mike Holt (Honorary Life Member)
Malcolm Scott Award	Simon Griew (Vice President)
Ivor Montagu Award	Richard J Hudson (Vice President)
Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy	Stuart Seaholme
A K Vint OBE Staff Award	Paul Stimpson
Victor Barna Award	<u>The Paralympic Games 2020 English Medallists:</u>
	Sue Bailey MBE
	Will Bayley MBE
	Jack Hunter-Spivey
	Aaron McKibbin
	Megan Shackleton
	Billy Shilton
	Ross Wilson
Special Award	Diane Webb (Vice President)
	Colin Clemett
	Victoria Wiegleb

**The Annual General Meeting for 2022 was closed by Mrs S Deaton (Chair) at 7.30 pm.**

## Appendix 1

### ATTENDANCE:

### VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

#### INDIVIDUAL COMPANY MEMBERS

Mrs J Parker (President)  
 Mrs S Deaton (Chair)  
 Mrs S Venner (Deputy Chair)  
 A Christy (Chief Executive)  
 K Adjepong (Director)  
 R Ayers (Director)  
 R James (Director)  
 S Kemish (Director)  
 D Parker (Director)  
 Ms P Samuel (Director)  
 R Venner (Director)  
 Miss E Vickers (Director)

#### COUNTY and LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

D Adamson (Gloucestershire)	R Jemmott (Bristol)
M Allsop (Nottinghamshire, Vice President)	Mrs G Johns (Mid Cheshire, Vice President)
P Ashleigh (Essex)	I Jones (Northamptonshire)
M Berry (North Devon)	H Jutle (Herefordshire)
J Bolton (Lancashire)	J Kelly (Somerset)
P Charters (Berkshire, Honorary Life Member)	Ms A Kennedy (Manchester)
S Clarke (Liverpool, Honorary Life Member)	N Le Milliere (Kent)
C Dangerfield (Shropshire)	S Leven (Wembley/Harrow)
A Dias (Middlesex)	R Lindner (Dorset)
D Edwards (Hertfordshire, Vice President)	G Longland (Southampton)
K Field (Southend, Vice President)	K Macleod (Hampshire)
I Folger (Sheffield)	G Martin (London Banks/Civil Service)
Ms M Fraser (Surrey, Vice President)	A Millman (Devon)
T Giles (Isle of Wight)	A Murdoch (Bedfordshire, Hon Life Member)
D Goulden (Warrington, Vice President)	G Pearson (Northumberland)
Mrs S Hayes (Buckinghamshire)	A Petrou (Becontree)
D Hockney (Avon, Vice President)	Mrs S Pickering (Leicestershire, Vice President)
C Hollingsbee (Canterbury)	A Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Hon Life Member)
B Holt (Haywards Heath)	Mrs L Reid (Evesham, Vice President)
Ms C Homewood (Bromley)	C N Sewell (Wiltshire)
M Howard (Milton Keynes)	P Snelson (Aldershot)
Mrs B J Hudson (Hull, Vice President)	Mrs K Tonge OBE (Cheshire, Hon Life Member)
R B Hudson (Yorkshire, Vice President)	J Waters (Bury St. Edmunds)
N Hurford (Oxfordshire)	Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President)



B Whitehead (Aylesbury)  
E Williams (Warwickshire, Vice President)

C Wilson (Kettering, Vice  
President)

### **NON-COMPANY MEMBERS**

H Arthur (Corby Town TTC)  
T Catt (Sussex Deputy NC)  
J Fairweather (Thames Valley TTL)  
Ms J Ferguson (Scrutineer, Warwickshire TTA)  
S Griew (St Georges TT Club, Vice President)  
M Holt (George Ward TTC, Honorary Life Member)  
J Hopson (Berkshire Deputy)  
R J Hudson (Vice President)  
P Nichols (Scrutineer, Northampton TTL)  
Mrs J Ransome (Vice President)  
M Smith (Honorary Life Member, BUCS)  
B Spicer (Haslemere District TTA)  
Mrs C Williams (Returning Officer, Vice President)  
G Wood (Sec. of British League, Vice President)

### **APOLOGIES:**

A Broe (Formerly Gordon) (Award Recipient)  
C Clemett (Honorary Life Member)  
I Langley (Newbury)  
M Macfarlane (Leamington District TTL, Vice President)  
Mrs D Macfarlane (Leamington District TTL, Vice President)  
T Purcell (Vice President)  
K Tonge (Vice President)  
G Vecko (BPTT)  
D Hollins (Stafford TTL)

### **STAFF:**

Mrs S Garey (Head Finance and IT)  
Mrs S Wressell (EA to the Chief Executive, Minute taker)  
G Yarnall (Development Director)  
Mrs J Keay-Blyth (Head of Operations and Governance)

Appendix 2

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 1:	Yes
Change to:	<b>Amend Article 23.1</b> – Company Members shall elect four directors
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	
<p><b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b></p> <p>Members will be aware that a similar Resolution was presented by Peter Charters (Berkshire) to the AGM in 2021 which the Board heard and understood.</p> <p>The request to increase the Table Tennis knowledge on the Board, through increased Member representation, has subsequently been considered by the Board and the proposal is one that the Board is fully supportive of.</p> <p>The Board has engaged with Peter Charters to represent the Resolution this year and the amendment to the current Article is recommended to the Members for adoption.</p>	
<p>Signed:</p>  <p>Dated:</p>	

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 2:	Yes
Change to:	<p>New Article 23.8</p> <p>Nominations received for Elected Directors shall be considered by the Nominations Committee taking account of the candidate's ability, experience and expertise to fulfil the identified role on the Board, and of the need to ensure that the Board has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence and knowledge. <b>All candidates will be presented to the Members to vote for their preferred candidate.</b></p>
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	N/A
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	N/A
<p><b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b></p> <p>Based on the Code of Sports Governance 1.2, the Board shall be of an appropriate size, not exceeding 12 unless agreed with UK Sport and/or Sport England.</p> <p>It is only possible to deliver against the code if nominations go through the Nominations Committee who will review applicants against the Role Description and the Skills and Diversity matrix and make recommendations to the Board on that basis. All candidates will be presented for election.</p> <p>Summary of process:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected Directors will be recruited through a recruitment process with candidates sought from across the TTE membership</li> <li>• Candidates for Elected Director positions will be considered by the Nominations Committee as determined by the Role Description and Skills &amp; Diversity Matrix, agreed by the Board at the time. On this basis, the Nominations Committee will submit an appraisal of candidates, identifying those with suitable skills to the Board for consideration</li> <li>• The Board will recommend candidates with suitable skills to the Members</li> <li>• All candidates will be presented to the Members to vote for their preferred candidate</li> <li>• Vacancies for Elected Directors are filled as a vacancy arises</li> </ul> <p>Additional information will be added to the Election of Directors Regulations in conjunction with the Rules committee on this process.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Following the publication of the original list of motions Diane Webb (Hastings and DTTA) proposed the addition of the words shown in bold. The Board agrees that this addition makes the meaning of the resolution clearer and has incorporated those words into the resolution.</p>	
Signed:	
Dated:	

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 3:	Yes
Change To:	Amend Article 24.2  Such directors shall be appointed by resolution of the Board following an open, formal, publicly advertised and transparent selection process by <del>an appointments panel</del> <u>the Nominations Committee</u> , taking account of the candidate's ability, experience and expertise to fulfil the identified role on the Board, <u>and of the need to ensure that the Board has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence and knowledge.</u>
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	
<p><b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b></p> <p>Based on the Code of Sports Governance 1.2 The Board shall be of an appropriate size, not exceeding 12 unless agreed with UK Sport and/or Sport England, in order to:</p> <p>b. have the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence, and knowledge;</p> <p>To comply with the Code, an amendment to the Article is required to include 'diversity' but the fundamental process has not changed as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointed Directors will be recruited through an open, publicly advertised recruitment process</li> <li>• A minimum of 25% of Appointed Directors will be deemed independent as outlined in the Code of Sports Governance and recruited through an open, publicly advertised recruitment process; the Directors will be independent from any close connection to Table Tennis England e.g. that cannot come from within the formal governance structure of Company Members such as County Committee's and/or League Committee's.</li> <li>• All Appointed Directors will be considered against the needs of Table Tennis England, as determined by the Skills and Diversity Matrix, agreed by the Board at the time</li> <li>• All candidates for Appointed Director vacancies will be considered by the Nomination Committee, and recommendation(s) made to the Board</li> <li>• Appointed Directors will be appointed as a vacancy arises</li> </ul>	
Signed:	
Dated:	

Ordinary Resolution 4:	Yes
Special Resolution:	No
Change to:	<p>That from 1 August 2022 the following affiliation fees apply:</p> <p>Senior Compete Member            <del>£20</del> £18  Junior/Cadet Compete Member    <del>£10</del>—£9</p> <p>Compete Plus will remain at a £22 upgrade for senior and £11 for Juniors/Cadets</p>
Company Member Proposer:	Board/Michael Howard
League / County:	Milton Keynes League
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	
<p><b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b></p> <p>Article 34.3 states ‘Affiliation fees shall be set only at a General Meeting’.</p> <p>These proposed fees are in accordance with the 5-year strategy which was supported unanimously at the April 2016 National Council meeting. They would have been proposed for 2021/22 but were postponed owing to the COVID pandemic.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> the Board originally proposed an increase to £20 (£10 juniors) but has agreed to adopt a compromise proposal by Michael Howard (Milton Keynes League) of a lesser increase to £18 (£9 juniors).</p>	
<p>Signed:</p> <p>Dated:</p>	

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 5:	Yes
Change to:	Remove Article 34.3
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	

**Rationale: (not more than 250 words)**

Article 34.3 states ‘Affiliation fees shall be set only at a General Meeting’.

Consequently, Table Tennis England is not compliant with the Code of Sports Governance (the Code).

The Code is very clear that:

- The Board is the ultimate decision maker.
- Members of the organisation, also have an important role to play in governance, and the requirement that the Board has ultimate authority does not override or supersede the powers of such Members.
- Matters Reserved for the Board for decision would, among other things, typically include the annual budget.

Given that affiliation fees are a significant part of Table Tennis England’s self-generated income, it would be expected under the Code that the Board determine such fees to ensure it is financially best placed to deliver its obligations.

We understand this is a change for the membership but to ensure we are Code compliant and do not place our £11 million of public funding at risk, this Article change is required.

However, to ensure transparency, and open dialogue, the Board commits to:

- Ensure consultation with the membership through National Council and MAG in the setting of membership fees for the following year; this will take place earlier in the process - December/January meetings
- A long term plan that limits the increase of fees to no more than £2 annually over a 5 year period (to 2027/28), save that the Board has the ability to review should the organisation be faced with exceptional circumstances

**Note:** If this resolution is accepted the fees determined by the AGM earlier in the meeting will apply for membership year 2022/23 and the current proposal will first be used for the 2023/24 membership year.

Signed:

Dated:

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 6:	Yes
Change to:	That throughout the Articles all references to 'Individual Company Member' shall be amended to ' <u>Director Company Member</u> '.
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	
<p><b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b></p> <p>The Articles currently refer to Company Members who are directors as Individual Company Members. There is no good reason for this, and it causes confusion. The resolution is to refer to them as Director Company Members instead.</p> <p>Note: A motion on this topic was submitted to the 2021 AGM. That motion also proposed changing the title of County Representative Company Members. At the meeting Company Members said they preferred to keep that title, so the revised resolution omits that.</p>	
<p>Signed:</p>  <p>Dated:</p>	

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 7:	Yes
Change to:	Amend Article 41.4  41.4 In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, <del>the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a second, or casting, vote on matters relating to finance but not on any other matters; in any other case</del> the resolution shall fail.
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	
<b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b>  The current Article is unnecessarily complicated to no good purpose. The resolution simplifies it.  Note: A motion on this topic was submitted to the 2021 AGM. That proposed simplifying the Article by allowing the Chair a casting vote. At the meeting Company members said that in the case of an equality of votes they thought the motion should fail. The revised proposal does that.	
Signed:  Dated:	



Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 8:	Yes
Change to:	Amend Article 51  That throughout Article 51 the phrase 'Board of Appeal' shall be replaced by ' <u>Appeals Panel</u> '
Company Member Proposer:	Board
League / County:	
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	
<p><b>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</b></p> <p>The regulations covering the Board of Appeal have been comprehensively revised since the current Article was produced. It is now chaired by a QC. The resolution changes the title of the Board of Appeal to the Appeals Panel to emphasize its independence from the Company Board.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> A motion on this topic was submitted to the 2021 AGM. This included alterations to the circumstances in which an appeal could be made. At the meeting Company Members criticised that part of the resolution so the revised proposal omits that part.</p>	
<p>Signed:</p> <p>Dated:</p>	

Ordinary Resolution: 9	Yes
Special Resolution:	No
Ordinary Resolution:	We consider that over the last few years the relationship between the Board and its membership has been unhelpful and has damaged the sport. It needs to be strengthened. This meeting requests the Board to confirm that they understand that the members are key stakeholder in the sport and should be considered as such with this longstanding understanding remaining in place.
Company Member Proposer:	Richard B Hudson Jos Kelly Alex Murdoch Neil le Milliere Peter Charters Alan Ransome
League / County:	Yorkshire, Somerset, Bedfordshire, Kent, Berkshire, Cleveland
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	11284, 177398, 995, 11518, 10439, 12066
<p>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</p> <p>Since the London Olympics and the Sport England initiative to ask the PORTAS company to produce a report on the ETTA.</p> <p>There have been a number of changes which have not been welcomed by the members including the removal of the right of members to elect their own Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer.</p> <p>The policy of the Board in the years following the PORTAS report has been to minimise the influence of the members and for the Board to take control of all of the decision making, as well as paying less attention to the views of the members through the AGM or National Council. In our view this has been damaging to the sport.</p> <p>In a recent meeting with the National Councils Select Committee, Board Members informed the Committee that the members were just one of a number of stakeholders that the Board needed to consider when carrying out its decision making. We feel that this has not been helpful or beneficial to the sport and would ask the Board to confirm that as per the articles the affiliated members are the key stakeholders in the sport. That they make an enormous contribution to the sports through the voluntary work in many areas and are the people who are responsible for part of the underwriting in the case of bankruptcy. The members should be considered as the key stakeholders as has been the case for the 90 or so years prior to PORTAS.</p>	
<p>Signed: All Company members named</p> <p>Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022</p>	

Ordinary Resolution: 10	Yes
Special Resolution:	No
Ordinary Resolution:	There is a concern that the pathways no longer appear to be open for talented committed volunteer officials to make progress into decision making roles within the operational side of the Associations work. This meeting requests the Board to consider ways that senior, knowledgeable, and experienced volunteers can have much greater inclusion in the operational side of the work of the Association which would be to the benefit of the sport as it has been for the large majority of the Association's existence.
Company Member Proposer:	Richard B Hudson Jos Kelly Alex Murdoch Neil le Milliere Peter Charters Alan Ransome
League / County:	Yorkshire, Somerset, Bedfordshire, Kent, Berkshire, Cleveland
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	11284, 177398, 995, 11518, 10439, 12066
<p>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</p> <p>One of the disadvantages that has become apparent since the PORTAS report is that there no longer appears to be a role for committed senior knowledgeable and experienced volunteers to be carrying out important operational functions for the Association.</p> <p>Members who have fulfilled this role in the past have carried out an enormous amount of work for the Association at senior level in many aspects of the sport and members such as Keith Pontin (Competitions), Peter Charters (Performance) and Mike Lewis (Development) have rendered an enormous service and benefit to the sport at no cost except their genuine expenses.</p> <p>Since the PORTAS this work has been transferred to professional staff, mainly members of the senior management team, who do not have the same level of expertise or passion for the sport which has meant that the service has not been maintained at the very same high level and the costs to the Association have been much higher. We recognise that the systems have changed but believe there should be a role for future senior volunteers to play an important part in the operational side of the sport and this can be facilitated by the Board if their policy allows it.</p>	
<p>Signed: All Company Members named</p> <p>Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022</p>	

Ordinary Resolution 11:	Yes
Special Resolution:	No
Ordinary Resolution:	This meeting accepts there is a concern that a significant number of decisions taken by senior staff have had a negative effect on the sport in England. Therefore, included within the skill sets required when employing staff should be a factor that applicants have a good knowledge and passion for table tennis, particularly for senior appointments in the Performance, Competition, and Development areas of the sport and request the Board to confirm that the above will be included in future requirements.
Company Member Proposer:	Richard B Hudson Jos Kelly Alex Murdoch Neil le Milliere Peter Charters Alan Ransome
League / County:	Yorkshire, Somerset, Bedfordshire, Kent, Berkshire, Cleveland
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	11284, 177398, 995, 11518, 10439, 12066
<p>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</p> <p>It is clear that there have been a large number of decisions across several departments of the Association that have had a negative effect since the PORTAS report.</p> <p>The importance of a strong knowledge of the sport does not appear to have been a high priority when the Board have been making some senior appointments and we believe that in certain departments this knowledge is key. Therefore, this proposal is to encourage the Board to take this into account when considering applications for senior positions, particularly in departments which have significant impact on the playing of the sport, including performance, competition and development.</p>	
<p>Signed: All Company Members named</p> <p>Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022</p>	

Ordinary Resolution 12:	Yes
Special Resolution:	No
Ordinary Resolution:	This meeting is concerned about the negative effects that Sport England, and, in particular the PORTAS report, has had on the progress of our sport over the last decade, as recently highlighted in the national press, and that these concerns should be raised with the appropriate people in DCMS and/or Sport England in order to seek a review of those negative effects and request the Board to facilitate this.
Company Member Proposer:	Richard B Hudson Jos Kelly Alex Murdoch Neil le Milliere Peter Charters Alan Ransome
League / County:	Yorkshire, Somerset, Bedfordshire, Kent, Berkshire, Cleveland
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	11284, 177398, 995, 11518, 10439, 12066
<p>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</p> <p>The approach of Sport England over the decade has been that it needs to deliver on the governments priorities as far as sport is concerned. At the same time in general Sport England have been very supportive in assisting the national governing body to deliver a service for the sport and for its members.</p> <p>Since the PORTAS report some of the policies which have been followed by the Board, in conjunction with Sport England, have clearly been damaging. We believe that this was not the intention of Sport England and, therefore, steps should be taken to provide details of this to Sport England or DCMS as we believe that they would find this helpful and may adjust their policies going forward to the benefit of the wider sporting community.</p>	
<p>Signed: All named Company members</p> <p>Dated: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022</p>	

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution 13:	Yes
Special Resolution:	<p>This meeting instructs the Board of Table Tennis England to delete from its Ranking Programme the inclusion of an ITTF Override element from the start of the 2022/23 season.</p> <p>At present the Override gives precedence to the ITTF Ranking over TTE's Ranking lists, creating a distortion and imbalance of TTE's ranking which renders it inaccurate. The results, both wins and losses of the English players who compete in international tournaments, enter the TTE ranking system via the Equivalence Table which gives a Dummy position for each of the foreign opposition. The ITTF Ranking does not include losses which goes some way to explaining why the English top ranked Junior Boys in particular, have fewer points than those below them. So why the need for an ITTF Override?</p>
Company Member Proposer:	<p>Jos Kelly Peter Charters</p>
League / County:	Somerset, Berkshire
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	<p>177398 10439</p>
<p>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It currently creates a 'two-tier' system within one list – one for those who play overseas; one for those who play domestically. It rewards a chosen few who can afford to self-fund and are selected to play overseas and discriminates against others.</li> <li>• The ITTF system operates on points awarded (No points lost) for 'how far' a player progresses in an event rather than for standard of wins/losses as with the TTE system.</li> <li>• The 'how far' ITTF system was rejected for use domestically – but this Override introduces it by the back door.</li> <li>• It lacks credibility as points do not match positions (e.g. no 5 junior boy has more ranking points than the no.1). This causes problems for competition organisers regarding seedings and confusion among players.</li> <li>• The top positions of the Junior and Cadets are taken by those who self-fund themselves to overseas events regardless of the success in or the calibre of the event or opposition.</li> <li>• Thus, young players who do not, or cannot afford to compete overseas will not be ranked higher than those that do. This impacts on our domestic competition circuit.</li> <li>• The problem is more acute for Juniors and Cadets than Seniors who, because of the larger body of results over a longer period, are more likely to find their level. Alternative solutions are available to keep Liam and Paul at one and two.</li> </ul> <p>It is used to justify selection decisions. It was clearly a Performance Department, rather than Ranking Department decision to introduce the ITTF Override for juniors despite advice to the contrary. Even if the player/parent can afford it, not all English juniors can take part in ITTF competitions as there is a restriction on entries from each country. England get three players per event in each tournament. It is the Performance Department who decide the three.</p>	
Signed: Jos Kelly/Peter Charters	
Dated: 22/4/22	