

Minutes - Annual General Meeting 2023

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

DATE AND TIME: Saturday 8 July 2023 1.30pm

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

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.

The Chair asked the Members of the table tennis family to remember those who had sadly passed away this year.

The Chair thanked the Returning Officer, Caroline Williams and the Scrutineers, Jenny Ferguson and Paul Nichols for their work with the elections, appointment of directors and for the AGM work they do.

Thanks were given to the two outgoing Directors, Emma Vickers who had joined the staff in April and Susie Venner for all her work for Table Tennis as a Director of the Board. A presentation of flowers and glass fruit bowl was made to Susie.

1. Report of the Standing Orders Committee and Adoption of the Standing Orders

D Hockney (Standing Orders Committee, Avon, Vice President) put forward the Report of the Standing Orders Committee and thanked N LeMilliere (Kent) for his support of the Committee.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) felt that there were items missing off the Notice of the AGM 2023 and queried why legal advice had been sought for a resolution that the Standing Orders Committee were not aware of. A Christy (CEO, Director) explained that an apology had been given to N LeMilliere (Kent) and D Hockney (Avon, Vice President) about the lack of engagement over this. Regarding the proposed Resolution, the CEO explained the matter was not something that should be discussed at the AGM as it formed part of an ongoing legal issue. He also explained that the AGM was to consider the formal matters required hence the reduced Notice. This was not to be confused with stifling debate hence why Open Forums for Company Members had been set during the year, to provide members with the platform to raise any ideas, issues or challenges they wished and have their voices heard. A Ransome (Cleveland, Hon Life Member) welcomed the opportunity to have further meetings of the full membership.

T Catt (Sussex), P Charters (Berkshire, Honorary Life Member) and A Ransome (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) expressed similar views that the AGM was the place for matters to be raised by the Membership.

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote were:

For: 100%
Against: 0%

The Standing Orders were approved

2. Approval of Minutes of Annual General Meeting July 2022

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) asked if there were any points of accuracy. Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) asked why there were no abstentions added to the last minutes. Mrs C Williams (Returning Officer, Vice President) explained at these did not count and this was written in Company Law.

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote were:

For: 100%
Against: 0%

The minutes of the AGM 2022 were approved.

3. To receive the Company's finance report and audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2023

Mrs S Garey (Head of Finance and Audit, TTE) presented the finance report and audited financial statements from the Annual Review. (Presentation slides would be added to the Minutes at Appendix 2). Staff had worked hard to achieve a near break-even position for the year. Top up funding from Sport England had helped to support the shortfall in membership fees in 2023.

Income levels remain static and opportunities to raise funds were still being taken, together with reduction in costs where possible.

S Longmoor (Somerset) asked for confirmation that there had been a slight overspend in the last 12 months. Mrs S Garey (Head of Finance and Audit of TTE) confirmed that as a not for profit organisation, the yearly goal was to meet a break-even position. S Longmoor (Somerset) also asked about Honorariums that had been spent and whether these had caused the overspend. Mrs Garey explained that the overspend was not just due to Honorariums and these had now ceased.

M Clark (Worcestershire, Honorary Life Member) understood the small deficit but felt that this would have been over £120,000 had the top up funding for membership plus other funding support not been forthcoming during the year, as with previous years, during Covid. He further explained that at the end of the administration year of 2013, under Alex Murdoch and Richard Yule, there had been reserves totalling £593K at its highest level. There were now only £408K in reserves which the lowest it had been in 20 years and what steps would the Board need to take to address this, as there was no financial expertise on the Board currently.

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) explained that an Appointed Director was due to be appointed with financial strategy experience. A Christy (CEO, Director) explained that a review of the Reserves Policy had been undertaken this year and the level of reserves was appropriate for the organisation as it operates today, not what was needed a decade ago. The Finance & Audit Committee and the Board continues to keep the policy under review.

With regards to the underwrite of £111K from Sport England, A Christy (CEO, Director) explained that Sport England were agreeable to TTE continuing to use the membership top up fund to support the reduction of membership fees since Covid. Should membership levels reach the same as they were before the pandemic, Sport England could take this money back as it was over and above the funding level. However, A Christy (Chief Executive) had discussed this with Sport England several times and they had indicated that they would allow the £111K to be used across the delivery of the Strategy. The point made by Mr Clark was a good one as it was clear that membership volume needed to be increased.

M Clark (Worcestershire, Honorary Life Member) asked about the Testimonial Funds and the increase to this as opposed to monies being given out for hardship. Mrs S Garey (Head of Finance and Audit of TTE) explained the increase to the Testimonial funds from the Charlie Childs Fund. In addition, the Ivor Montagu and Tom Blunn funds need to receive applications to be considered. An Ivor Montagu award had been given out since the new financial year.

M Clark (Worcestershire, Honorary Life Member) pointed out an inaccuracy with note three to the accounts as it states that the company has a service level agreement with British Table Tennis Association for People with Disabilities Ltd which is now the British Para Table Tennis Ltd. The Accounts should be amended before it is approved. This was agreed and has been subsequently updated

C Wilson (Kettering, Honorary Life Member) thanked Mrs Garey and the team for their work. He asked about the difference between commercial income and TT income generation and then core costs and back-office costs. Mrs Garey confirmed that commercial income was sponsorship and TTE income generation were bank interest, royalties. The core costs relate to the development areas of the sport, ie the clubs and leagues. The back office is rent, administration etc.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) asked if the hardship funds could be promoted to bring in applicants. It was confirmed that this was being promoted.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) further asked about expenditure and loss that the National Championships make and how much was lost at this year's Championships. She pointed out the higher

number of staff and volunteers who support it in comparison to the number of players who take part and suggested that savings could be made if less staff attended. Mrs Webb also asked about the losses made at the ETTU Qualifiers in January. Mrs S Deaton (Chair) explained that the cost of running elite events would always be more expensive and the Board felt it was important for these events to take place. The losses for the two events would be provided to Mrs D Webb and Mr A Christy (Chief Executive) believed them to be around £45K for the Senior National Championships and £47K for the European qualifying event. However, he felt it was important to consider whether they were losses or investment to raise the profile of the sport.

Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) understood that the Honorariums for Elected Directors had stopped but that consideration was being given to all Directors receiving a payment of £150 per meeting they attended. In comparison, the level of volunteers' lunchtime allowance was going down from £7.50 to £6 which was difficult to get a sandwich and drink. She asked for the Board to give consideration to reinstate to the previous level. Mrs S Deaton (Chair) confirmed that the honorariums ceased at the end of March 2023 and that volunteer expenses would remain under consideration.

A Ransome (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) was surprised to hear that the organisation was a not for profit and would aim for a break-even budget. In previous years the intention has been to end with a surplus to put towards something that comes up and requires significant support. He believed that there should be an attempt to raise profits for the reserves. A Christy (CEO, Director) confirmed that the organisation is a not for profit and he believed that all monies should be invested back into the sport, save that the organisation should be compliant with its Reserves Policy, which it is. An unspecified contingency funding had been added to the budget, this year particularly for hardships for the pathway, but generally this amount would be to cover unforeseen expenditure or opportunities.

A Ransome (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) asked about the discussion last year about affiliation fees and asked if there as any more information about this. A Christy (CEO, Director) confirmed that the new membership scheme was still under exploration and the intention was to bring something to Board later this year.

Mrs G Johns (Mid Cheshire TTL, Vice President) asked if there were any plans to update the name on the bank account which still states English Table Tennis Association. Mrs S Garey (Head of Finance and Audit) explained that the organisation was still the English Table Tennis Association, trading as Table Tennis England and as the company number is under the ETTA, the bank account has to remain as ETTA.

T Catt (Sussex) asked whether it would be possible for part of the Area strategy to try and get sponsorship and value in kind from local authorities and education authorities. It was confirmed that this was already part of the plans for the Area Managers, however this cannot be done in isolation of the wider commercial strategy so as to avoid potential conflicts.

J Bayliss (Derbyshire) understood the big risk of 50% of income coming from one source and asked if there were plans to mitigate the risk. Mrs S Deaton (Chair) confirmed that this was a major consideration for the Board. It was hoped that the change to the membership system would bring in additional income and commercial income was always being sought.

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote for were:

For: 96%
Against: 4%

The Finance Report and the Audited Financial Statements were approved.

4. Reappointment of Auditors

Mrs S Deaton (Chair) congratulated Mrs S Garey and the team for a good audit.

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote for were:

For: 95%
Against: 5%

Haysmacintyre were approved as the Auditors for the next year.

5. To elect the Standing Orders Committee

N LeMilliere was restanding for the Standing Orders Committee.

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote for were:

For: 100%
Against: 0%

Neil LeMilliere was reinstated on the Standing Order Committee.

6. Approval of Honorary Appointments and Awards 2022

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

Vice Presidents: Mark Bates
Steve Burge
Karenza Matthews

A zoom poll was launched for this vote.

The results of this vote for were:

For: 100%
Against: 0%

Mark Bates, Steve Burge and Karenza Matthews were approved as new Vice Presidents.

Further Honours Recommended by the Honours Committee for 2022:

Keith Ponting Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement:	Karen Tonge OBE (Hon Life Member)
Malcolm Scott Award:	Samantha Garey
Ivor Montagu Award:	Dr Emma Vickers
	Loise Peake
Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy:	Karl Bushell
A K Vint OBE Staff Award:	Sandra Pelizzoni
Victor Barna Award:	Will Bayley MBE
	Billy Shilton
	Felicity Pickard
Johnny Leach Award:	Ella Pashley

The Annual General Meeting for 2023 was closed by Mrs S Deaton (Chair) at 3 pm.

Appendix 1

ATTENDANCE:

VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

INDIVIDUAL COMPANY MEMBERS

Mrs S Deaton (Chair)
 A Christy (Chief Executive)
 Ms S Hughes (Director)
 R James (Director)
 J Kelly (Director)
 R Venner (Director)

COUNTY and LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS

D Adamson (Gloucestershire)	H Jutle (Herefordshire)
P Ashleigh (Essex)	J Kenny (South Yorkshire)
M Atkinson (Chiltern TTL)	I Langley (Newbury TTL)
J Bayliss (Derbyshire)	S Leven (Wembley/Harrow)
C Bell (Staffordshire)	R Lindner (Dorset)
K Bennett (Halton TTL)	S Longmoor (Somerset)
M Berry (North Devon)	A Murdoch (Bedfordshire, Hon Life Member)
S Bispham (Folkstone TTL)	Ms V Murdoch (North Hertfordshire)
T Catt (Sussex)	P Nichols (Northampton TTL)
P Charters (Berkshire, Honorary Life Member)	G Pearson (Northumberland)
M Clark (Worcestershire)	A Petrou (Becontree)
S Clarke (Liverpool, Honorary Life Member)	Mrs S Pickering (Leicestershire, Vice President)
D Edwards (Hertfordshire, Vice President)	R Pingram (Sevenoaks TTL)
C Ellison (Bristol TTL)	T Purcell (Lancashire, Vice President)
Ms M Fraser (Surrey, Vice President)	A Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Hon Life Member)
D Hockney (Avon, Vice President)	A Reeves (Walsall and District TTL)
C Hollingsbee (Canterbury)	Mrs L Reid (Evesham, Vice President)
B Holt (Haywards Heath)	D Tierney (Liverpool TTL)
Ms C Homewood (Bromley)	A Thompson (Durham)
J Hopson (Berkshire)	Mrs K Tonge OBE (Cheshire, Hon Life Member)
M Howard (Milton Keynes)	J Waters (Bury St. Edmunds)
R B Hudson (Yorkshire, Vice President)	Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President)
Mrs B J Hudson (Hull, Vice President)	M Wetherell (Reading TTL)
N Hurford (Oxfordshire)	G Whyman (Middlesbrough TTL)
R Jemmott (Bristol)	E Williams (Warwickshire, Vice President)
Mrs G Johns (Mid Cheshire, Vice President)	C Wilson (Kettering, Vice President)
I Jones (Northamptonshire)	

NON-COMPANY MEMBERS

H Arthur (Corby Town TTC)
Mrs JJ Bates (Guest)
M Bates (Guest, Vice President)
Miss R Bates (Guest)
K Bushell (Kidlington Forum TTC)
Ms T Chapman (Guest)
Ms P Chatwin (Derby TTC)
J Fairweather (Thames Valley TTL)
Ms J Ferguson (Scrutineer, Warwickshire TTA)
R Grover (Stratford TTC)
M Holt (George Ward TTC, Honorary Life Member)
J Lennard (Crofton Park TTC)
W Matthews (Sturdee TTC)
P Nichols (Scrutineer, Northampton TTL)
Ms L Peake (Guest)
R Scruton (Hon Life Member)
L Smith (Gloucester, Hon Life Member)
M Smith (Honorary Life Member, BUCS)
K Tonge (Vice President)
Mrs S Venner (Maghull TTC, Vice President)
Mrs C Williams (Returning Officer, Vice President)
G Wood (Sec. of British League, Vice President)

STAFF:

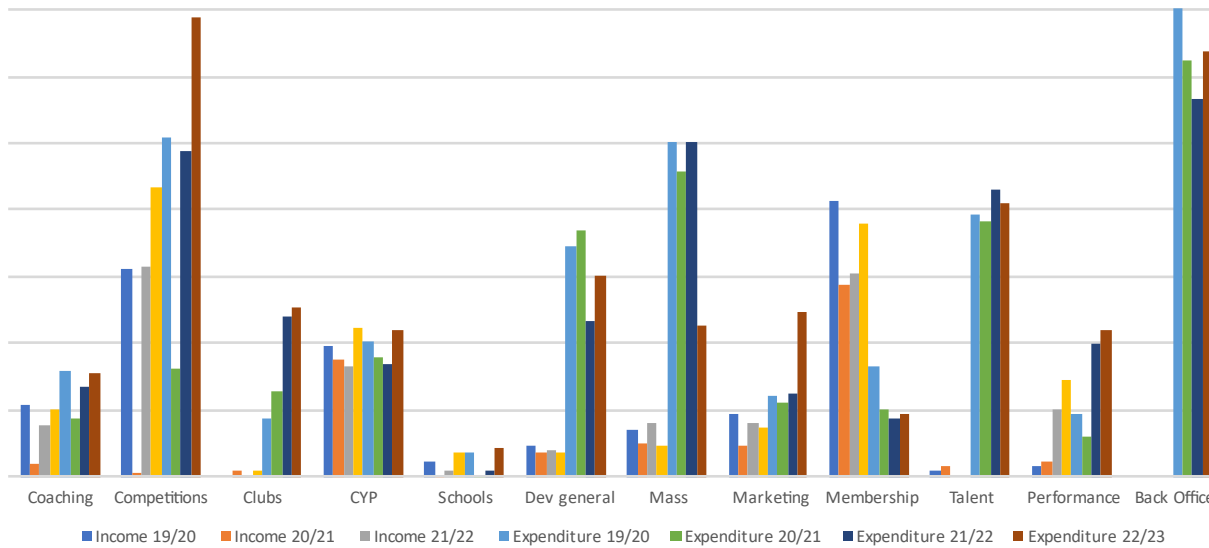
G Evans (Head of Performance Development)
Mrs S Garey (Head Finance and IT)
Mrs J Keay-Blyth (Head of Operations and Governance)
Ms E Sutherland (Head of People)
A Wilesmith (Head of Table Tennis Development)
Mrs S Wressell (EA to the Chief Executive, Minute taker)

APOLOGIES:

K Adjepong (Director)
R Ayers (Director)
K Field (Southend, Vice President)
T Giles (Isle of Wight)
Mrs S Hayes (Buckinghamshire)
S Kemish (Director)
Mrs J Parker (President)
Ms J Johnson (Southend)
N Le Milliere (Kent)
D Parker (Director)
Ms P Samuel (Director)
C N Sewell (Wiltshire)
Ms E Shaler (Hinckley)
B Whitehead (Aylesbury)
J Wright (Honorary Life Member)

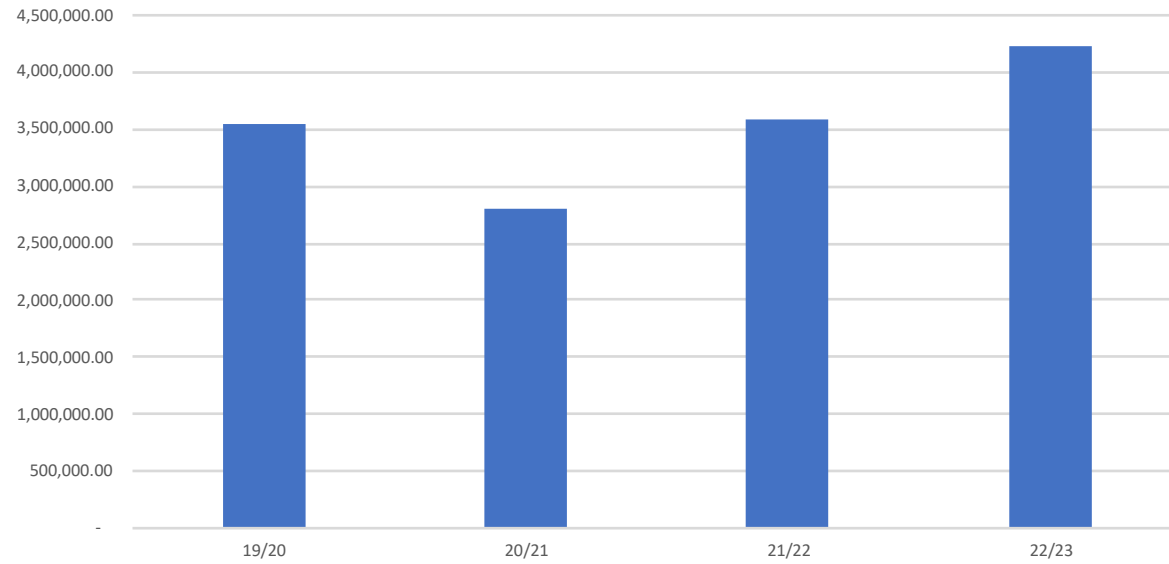
Financial recovery on income and expenditure after Covid-19

* 19/20 pre pandemic, 20/21 COVID19, 21/22 start of recovery, 22/23 Introduction of Table Tennis United



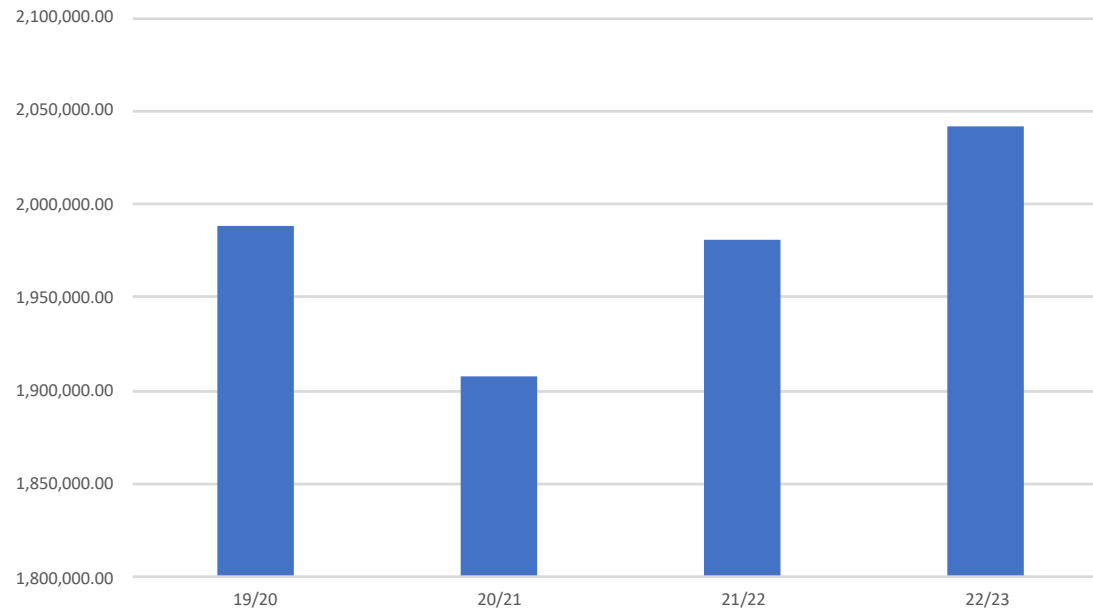
Total Income 2019-2023

* Does not include BPTT awards

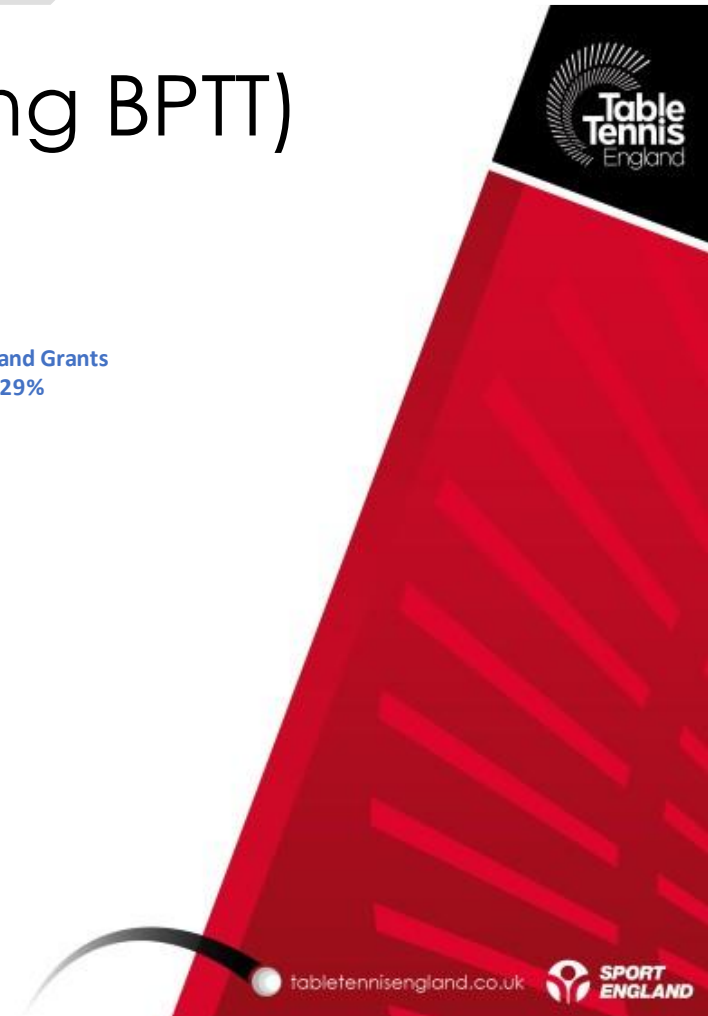
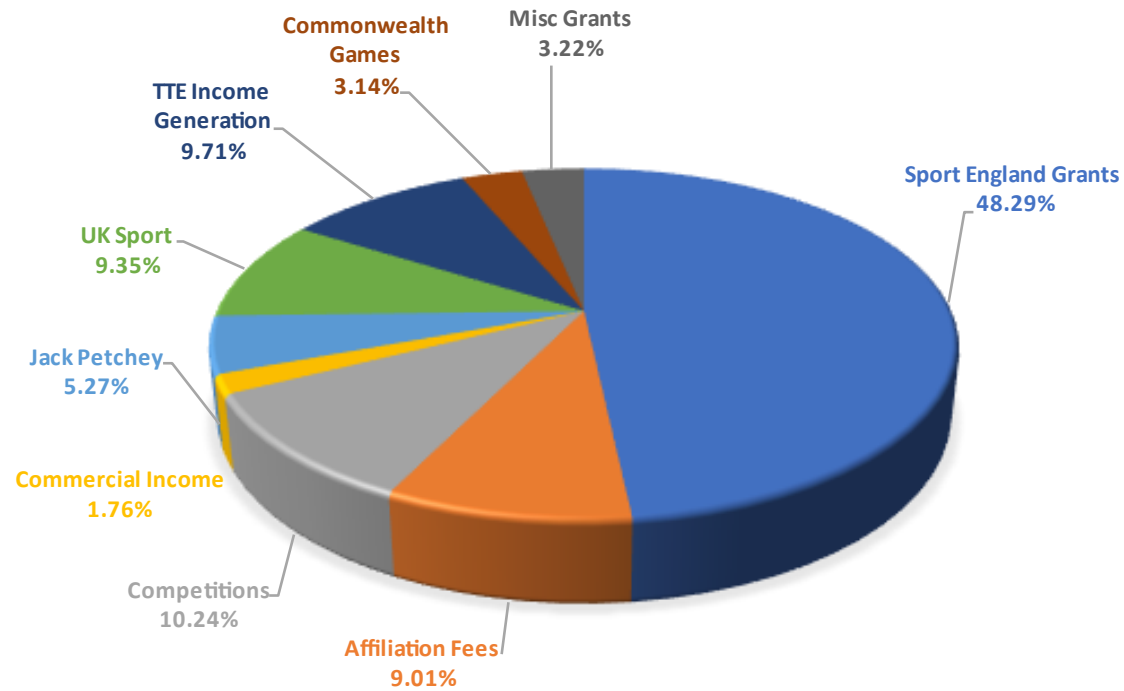




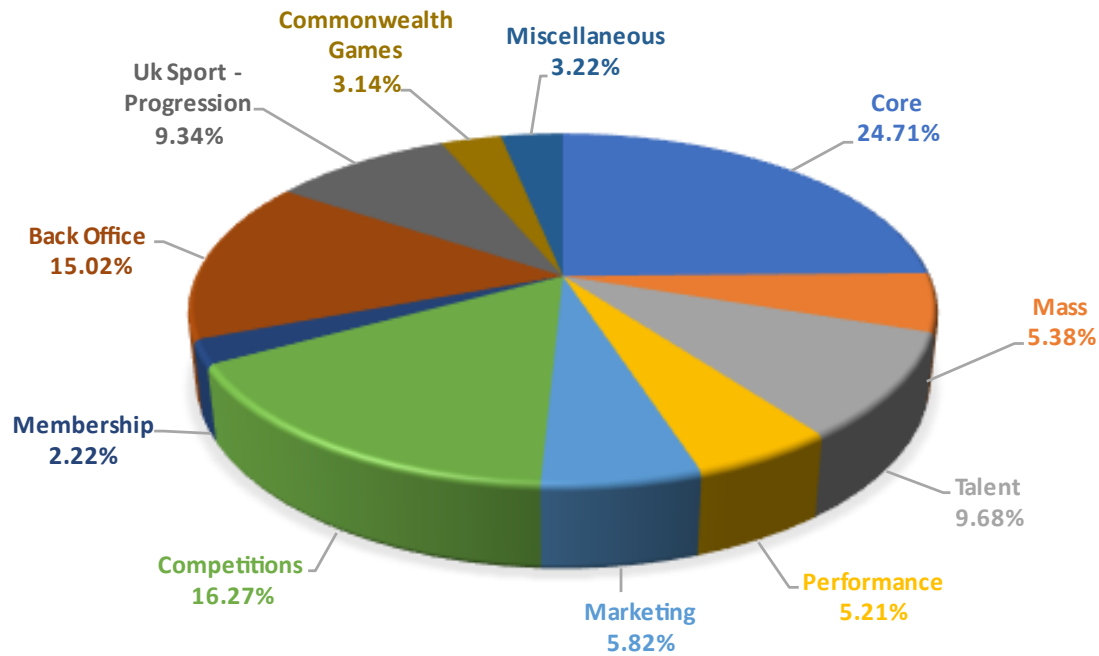
Core funding from Sport England 2019-2023



Income 2022-23 (excluding BPTT)

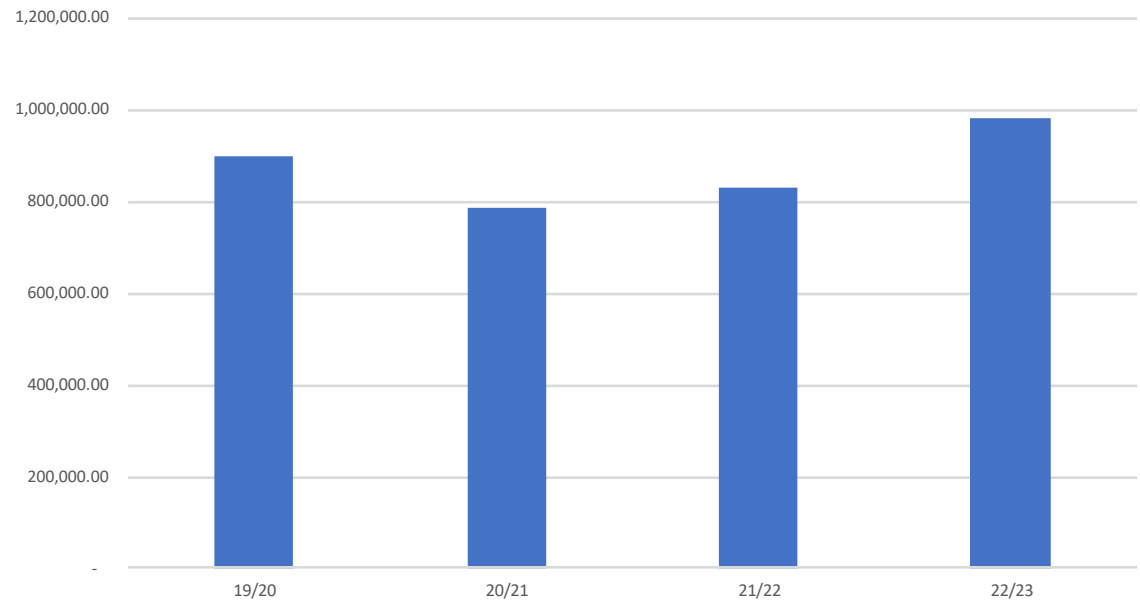


Expenditure 2022-23 (excluding BPTT)





Amount being spent directly into development of grass roots table tennis 2019-23



2022/23: WHERE DOES YOUR **MEMBERSHIP AFFILIATION** GO?

