

Ordinary Resolution:	No
Special Resolution:	Yes
Change to:	Directions to the Board to introduce a system for supporting our best junior players that avoids limiting the opportunity to represent England to those with substantial personal finance available.
Company Member Proposer:	Alan Ransome
League / County:	Cleveland
TT ID / Membership Number: (required)	12066
<p>Rationale: (not more than 250 words)</p> <p>It has been clear for some time that a player needs parents or supporters with substantial funds in order to meet the costs to travel to overseas tournaments and training camps to such a degree that the majority of players who have the potential and commitment to play for England and reach international standard are barred from following this route.</p> <p>England’s success for many years has been based on substantial financial support has not been a requirement. Des Douglas, Denis Neale, Jill Hammersley-Parker and even more recently Paul Drinkhall and Liam Pitchford would not have been able to reach the high standards that they have achieved if policies that are in place at the time they were developing their skills. We need to ensure that the most talented and committed players are not barred from playing for England due to their personal financial circumstances.</p> <p>This item has already been raised through National Council and it was understood that a budget of £200,000 was being allocated to support the developing players with these costs. This has never been implemented.</p> <p><u>BOARD RESPONSE</u> Discuss further at the AGM.</p> <p>Propose that the Development Committee (Chaired by Sally Hughes) considers the creation of an “athlete support fund”. Create criteria to ensure fairness of any grants given.</p> <p>Seek funding for athlete support fund perhaps through individual philanthropic giving. This will also be picked up in the Strategic Review</p>	



Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex [unclear]".

Dated: 13th April 2026