

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held The Hallmark Hotel Birmingham, Strathallan, 225 Hagley Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B16 9RY, on Saturday 2nd July 2016, commencing at 2.00pm.

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### **1 PRESENT**

Notes: (1) Members of the Company entitled to vote are recorded in Minutes 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 1.1.3

#### **1.1 VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY (including present by Proxy)**

##### **1.1.1 INDIVIDUAL COMPANY MEMBERS**

Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President), K Thomas (Treasurer, Director), TV Purcell (Director, proxy for East Lancashire), MGR Smith (Director), Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director), Mrs AL Tazartes (Director), P Huggon (Director)

##### **1.1.2 COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS**

DL Hockney (Avon), Mrs V J Murdoch (Bedfordshire), CG Dyke (Berkshire), BR Freer (Cambridgeshire, proxy for Cambridge), Mrs KM Tonge MBE (Cheshire, Regional Chair North West and), AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, proxy for Hartlepool), Mrs DM Jermyn (Cornwall), LA Chatwin (Derbyshire, Proxy for Chesterfield and Matlock), P Goulding (Devonshire), A Thompson (Durham), DB Turner (Hampshire, proxy for Bournemouth and Portsmouth), H Jutle (Herefordshire), DJ Edwards (Hertfordshire, proxy for Cheshunt), N Le Milliere (Kent), S Clarke (Lancashire, proxy for Blackpool), GE Tyler (Lincolnshire), M Close (Middlesex), T Vincent (Norfolk), R Barr (Northamptonshire), N Hurford (Oxfordshire, proxy for Banbury, Didcot and Oxford), C Dangerfield (Shropshire), JM Burtenshaw (Somerset), D Sherratt (Staffordshire), Miss M Fraser (Surrey, proxy for Croydon and Guildford), A Catt (Sussex), E J Williams (Warwickshire), CN Sewell (Wiltshire), MG Clark (Worcestershire), RB Hudson (Yorkshire, proxy for Castleford & Pontefract)

##### **1.1.3 LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS**

Mrs BL Hughes (Birmingham), A Powell (Bristol), Miss C Homewood (Bromley), Mrs D Macfarlane (Coventry), J Cowell (Derby), K Eliot (Gainsborough), Mrs E Kirby (Gloucester, proxy for Cirencester and Gloucestershire), Miss R Rainton (Hastings proxied to D Webb), Mrs E Shaler (Hinckley proxied to MR Holt), Mrs B Hudson (Hull), M Macfarlane (Leamington Spa), P Wilson (Leicester proxied to MGR Smith), C Tai (Luton proxied to AN Murdoch), Mrs C Palmer (Malvern), M Howard (Milton Keynes proxied to RR Washington), R Whittaker (Nuneaton), Mrs S Felstead (North Herts proxied to AN Murdoch), G Whyman (Ormesby proxied to Mrs J Ransome), S Wainwright (Sheffield), K Field (Southend), B Watkins (Tamworth), D Goulden (Warrington), DC Hayman (Wembley/Harrow)

**1.2 PRESIDENT**

Mrs DM Stannard

**1.3 HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

PA Charters, LA Chatwin, MG Clark, MR Holt, AN Murdoch, AE Ransome OBE, RC Scruton, MGR Smith, Mrs DM Stannard, Mrs KM Tonge MBE, HJ Webb.

**1.4 VICE-PRESIDENTS**

J Arnold MBE, PR Bradley, JM Burtenshaw, S Clarke, M Close, Mrs S Deaton, RB Hudson, Mrs DM Jermy, Mrs D Macfarlane, MC Macfarlane, Mrs J Parker MBE, Mrs J Ransome, RH Sinclair, K Tonge, Mrs D Webb

**1.5 OTHERS**

J Palmer (Malvern TTL), Mrs S Pickering (Regional Chairman East Midlands, Leicestershire TTA), Mrs M Shearwood (Worcestershire County TTA), Mrs C Williams (Warwickshire County TTA), B Whitehead (Aylesbury & District TTL), K Muhr (Kent), D Parker, Ms J Johnson (Essex TTA), G Wood (British League Committee), R Fensom (Cambs) , R J Hudson, P Ashleigh (Essex), Margaret Welch

**1.6 ORGANISATIONS IN GOOD STANDING**

English Schools' Table Tennis Association (J Arnold MBE), British Universities Colleges Sports (MGR Smith), British Table Tennis Association for people with Disabilities (Mrs K Tonge MBE), VETTS (Mrs LA Reid)

**1.7 STAFF**

J Bruck (Head of Operations), S Mills (Head of Talent and Performance), E St John (Head of Development), G Yarnall (Head of Workforce), M Taffler (Head of Commercial), Ms A Gabb (Receptionist/Office Administrator/Minute Taker), Ms H Baker (Operations Department Administrator), M Ireland (North Area Development Lead)

**2 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

2.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) welcomed all present.

**3 REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (7663/1/DLH)**

3.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) was willing to accept the report as read; all agreed.

3.2 There were no comments or questions regarding this report.

**4 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS (7619/1/RHS)**

4.1 Members agreed to the Adoption of Standing Orders; all agreed by show of hands.

## **5 APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS**

5.1 It was agreed that Jim Palmer (Malvern) and Caroline Williams (Warwickshire TTA) be appointed Tellers for the meeting, should the discussion go to a card vote. The Tellers were reminded before appointment that Tellers could not vote or take part in debate.

## **6 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

6.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) took this opportunity to apologise for the absence of Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman, Director), and explained that she was unable to attend the meeting today as she is having difficulties returning from France, due to air traffic controller strike.

6.2 Individual Company Members Ms S Hughes (Deputy Chairman, Director), S Griew (Director), A Nixon (Director), Ms K Skeggs (Director)

6.3 County Representative Company Members LJ Smith (Gloucestershire), M Allsop (Nottinghamshire), R Loxley (South Yorkshire), G Sanders (Leicestershire), J Donnelly (Northumberland), B Spicer (Sevenoaks), R Loxley (South Yorkshire)

6.4 League Representative Company Members M Atkinson (Chiltern TTL), M Howard (Milton Keynes), G Whyman (Ormesby)

6.5 Honorary Life Members: CJ Clemett, A Drapkin, P H M Hillier, LF Landry, LJ Smith, JM Wright, DA Young, R Yule

6.6 Vice-Presidents: M Allsop, Leslie L Allwood, M Atkinson, Mrs C Seward, Mrs G Smith, DR Tremayne, GE Tyler, RR Washington, Mrs JL Watts JP, S Welch, GM Wilson

6.7 Others K Mudge (Regional Chairman South East)

## **7. DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS**

7.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) asked all persons if they had any interests they would like to declare.

7.2 C Dangerfield (Shropshire) declared a business interest as a director of TableTennis365

## **8 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015 (7681/1/MW)**

8.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) questioned any points of accuracy to the Minutes taken from the previous AGM in 2015.

8.2 Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President), commented that she is disappointed to not have physical copies available at the meeting.

8.3 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) stated that the papers were distributed electronically prior to the meeting.

8.4 No points of accuracy were raised, therefore approval of document 7681/1/MW was agreed by AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member), and seconded by S Clarke (Lancashire, Vice-President).

## **9 MATTERS ARISING**

9.1 There were no matters arising.

## **10 PROPOSED INCREASE OF AFFILIATION FEES 2016-17**

10.1 K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) introduced the increase of annual affiliation fees, which is £2 for adults and £1 for Junior and Cadets. He explained that recreational players will still enjoy free membership.

He explained that 'table tennis, like all National Governing Bodies, has benefitted from a high level of public funding to support its core costs; the cost of running the organisation (which for us includes the day to day costs such as rent, gas, electricity, core management, IT and finances) plus costs of membership services and running competitions as well as other Government targeted outcomes, such as getting the nation more active.

The clear indication from Sport England is that the core costs area of support will reduce going forward and therefore National Governing Bodies are likely to need to cover much of the core costs of supporting its membership from its own resources.

For Table Tennis England, in financial terms, using the net expenditure from the 2016 annual accounts marketing and communication costs to include competitions and membership costs totalled £424,006. Operations costs excluding staff and other core costs totalled £168,911 = a grand total of £592,917. Our own income including affiliation fees of £287,672 totalled £371,369 a shortfall of £221,548.

It is important to note that membership income alone cannot make Table Tennis England more financially secure. We have had some recent success in attracting outside sponsorship and have appointed a manager to attract more commercial income. We are also carrying out a comprehensive review of other sources including competition entry fees, player licences, coach licences, coach education and e-learning.

To put this proposition into perspective only 6% of our current income comes from membership fees in 2015/16. When seeking support from our commercial partners and Sport England they are influenced by the level of commitment shown by our members.

It is noted that the other home nation's fees for the categories included in the proposition are between 60% and 120% higher.

K Thomas continues that we are mindful that members often ask how they benefit from their membership of Table Tennis England.

Benefits can be split into two categories – tangible benefits delivered directly to the member (e.g. discounts, public liability insurance etc.) and wider benefits of being part of a modern, efficient and engaged Governing Body of their sport (e.g. a membership system, up to date and informed web-site, competition structure, performance pathway etc.)

Further proposed benefits which are being introduced include further product discounts and personal accident insurance. Also our new CRM system will facilitate direct communication with members for mutual benefits.

Additionally we will continue to work with TT365 to enhance the membership experience.

In conclusion the increase proposed represents a break even position to cover further investment in the membership system, the league manager system and personal accident cover. It is proposed that the increase will be fully utilised enhancing member services as outlined and I have pleasure in presenting this proposition, which, as some of you are aware, was unanimously approved by National Council.'

K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) then welcomed any questions to the proposition.

- 10.2 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) said that this matter was discussed in detail at the National Council meeting and the majority of the members were in favour of it. He further explained that his County, Cleveland, has discussed the proposition and he can confirm that they support the increase. They recognise that Sport England put an enormous amount of money into the sport; therefore players need to also make a reasonable contribution. He acknowledged that if they fail to do so, it will affect the level of support and income provided by Sport England. AE Ransome OBE noted that as a result of the increase of fees, there will be a national ranking list. Further to this, he questioned the status of it. He concluded his speech by saying that he believes the meeting should be supportive of the increase.
- 10.3 Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) that she supports the increase in affiliation fees, however thinks that there should be a charge for Associate Membership. She explained that there are 3,830 Associate Members who are receiving the same level of benefits as paid members, and said that she believes they should be making a contribution too.
- 10.4 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) said that we need to be transparent and need to remember it is likely that fees will continue to increase each year, and that the amount is to be decided based on circumstances at the time. She explained that it is essential that more money is generated to cover basic core costs and areas not funded by partners. Along with the increase, added benefits will be added such

as the enhancement of TT365 league manager, discounts and the National Rankings list.

- 10.5 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) added, the value of offering free Associate Membership is that it vastly increases our marketing database, plus it looks more appealing to a potential sponsor thereby generating more income. She clarified that they are not entitled to the same benefits as paid members.
- 10.6 Mrs C Palmer (Malvern) stated that the idea of a £2 increase is high compared to last year. She suggested that we revert to the system previously in place, which was increasing the affiliation fees according to the rate of inflation.
- 10.7 K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) said that compared to other sports table tennis is a very cheap sport and that we are still have low subscriptions.
- 10.7 Mrs L Reid (VETTS) acknowledged that with the new personal accident insurance which comes with the increase, the Leagues won't need to spend over £100 on this type of insurance themselves.
- 10.9 A Catt (Sussex) supported the increase by saying that £12 is very cheap per year and that we should forward plan the next 4/5 years which eliminates the need to renegotiate the proposal each year.
- 10.10 MG Clark (Worcestershire, Honorary Life Member) stated that he has always been an advocate of increasing membership fees. He agreed with AE Ransome OBE by saying that Sport England expect Table Tennis England to increase the money that goes into the sport. MG Clark said that players always question what's in it for them with regards to paying a membership fee, which he believes we don't portray to the members well enough, despite having the appropriate facilities.
- 10.11 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) noted that e-communications were sent out with a rationale and the benefits for the increase to all members. She said that we are aware we need to communicate with members more and that we use the facilities we have, to send out regular newsletters and promotional messages.
- 10.12 N Hurford (Oxfordshire) stated that he supports the motion on behalf of his County Association. To answer the common question of 'what do we get for our money', he said that we get the national game, competitions, rankings etc. He added that players need to contribute a reasonable amount towards this, which is still only 6% of the income.
- 10.13 LA Chatwin (Derbyshire, Honorary Life Member) said that the proposition was spoken about at the Derbyshire AGM and the decision was to support the increase.

- 10.14 Mrs D Macfarlane (Coventry, Vice-President) and HJ Webb (Honorary Life Member) questioned if volunteers will be covered by the personal accident insurance. To which J Bruck (Head of Operations) confirmed that both Coaches and Volunteers will be.
- 10.15 GE Tyler (Lincolnshire, Vice-President) stated that although he thinks the proposal is reasonable, 90% of the members in the Lincolnshire leagues, who play every week, were against the increase.
- 10.16 S Clarke (Lancashire, Vice-President) questioned what voting method would be used.
- 10.17 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) clarified that a card vote would be implemented due to the importance of the motion.
- 10.18 The cards were collected by the Tellers, Jim Palmer (Malvern) and Caroline Williams (Warwickshire TTA). The result of the vote was 91% for and 9% against.
- 11 SPECIAL RESOLUTION, PROPOSED BY TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND BOARD CHANGE OF WORDING IN ARTICLES TO REPLACE “HONORARY LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS” BY “HONORARY PAST PRESIDENTS”**
- 11.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) introduced the special resolution and invited MGR Smith (Director, Honorary Life Member) to propose the proposition on behalf of Honours Committee. DL Hockney (Avon) seconded the motion.
- 11.2 MGR Smith (Director, Honorary Life Member) pointed out that the rationale which was distributed is displayed on the projector and explained that the principle of honouring former Presidents hasn't changed; it is an alteration of the terminology to make it more appropriate if an Honorary Life Member was to be appointed to the honour currently called Honorary Life Vice-President.
- 11.3.1 Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) speaking as Chairman of the Archives, Museum and Records Committee said that she has done a considerable amount of research into the history of Table Tennis England and requested the rationale behind the change. She said to date there has only been the possibility of one Honorary Life Vice-President which went to a former President. She considers the position a privilege and questioned why the title should be changed as it means there could be multiple Honorary Past Presidents.
- 11.4 MGR Smith (Director, Honorary Life Member) agreed that it was a privilege-indeed an honour- and there could be multiple Honorary Past Presidents depending on appointments as President and subsequent approval of this honour to former Presidents.

11.5 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President), said as Chairman of Honours Committee she believed that the rewording of the title is more appropriate and fitting.

11.6 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) requested a vote via show of hands for those in favour of the proposition. Over 75% were in agreement. Therefore the special resolution was passed.

## **12 PROPOSITION, TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND ADHERING TO EQUALITY STATEMENTS**

12.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) explained that because G Whyman (Ormesby Junior League Company Member) isn't present to introduce the next proposition, submitted by his League, Mrs J Ransome (Vice President) is going to speak on his behalf. The motion was seconded by MR Holt (Honorary Life Member).

12.2 Mrs J Ransome (Vice President) opened the proposition by reading the rationale which was displayed on the PowerPoint presentation, which stated "This meeting requires the Board of Table Tennis England to adhere to the Equality statements on the Table Tennis England website, outlining the Equal Opportunities Policy and Equity and Diversity Policy and that the National Championships at Senior, Junior, Cadet and Under 10 – 13 events allow the same number of entries for female as are allowed for male players".

12.3 Mrs J Ransome (Vice President) offered the rationale behind the proposition by saying the code of practise was not followed in a recent competition review of the Senior National Championships. She said that the entry for this competition was 32 boys and only 16 women, and 48 boys and only 24 girls for the Cadets and juniors. She said that this issue has been raised with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive, and was advised that the decision to restrict the number of women was due to difference in the standard of play, between males and females. Mrs J Ransome stated that the standard of play should not be a factor when considering equality; it wasn't when the decision to offer equal prize money was made, thus Mrs J Ransome questioned why the stance is being abandoned now.

12.4 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) said that she respects the proposition, however highlighted that in the policy it states that everyone should be treated fairly and given fair chances, it is not about treating everybody the same way. Mrs S Sutcliffe asked if this could be considered when debating this topic.

A series of slides were presented at the meeting containing important information, including facts and figures about gender equality throughout Table Tennis England.

12.5 MR Holt (Honorary Life Member) stated that he supports this motion as there has been a number of battles in the past on this topic. He said that the females of table tennis have earned the right to be equally as involved in competitions as men. MR Holt said that he understands that there are probably financial implications however, he said it is time that females received the same treatment as men.



12.6 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) said that the competitions had changed from an open event to selected events. The intention for the National Championships was to have a showcase event with high level performers and that the lessons learnt will be thoroughly looked at going forward. She said that the definition of equality can be interpreted in different ways and that it is important to remember we have never had a large number of women partaking in our sport. Table Tennis England is committed to getting more women to participate in our sport.

12.7 Mrs D Macfarlane (Coventry Vice-President) said that women should be treated fairly and given fair chances. With regards to the National Championships, only half of the girls were given the opportunity to participate compared to boys, which doesn't demonstrate a fair chance in comparison to the males. On the contrary, the males have to play more games than the girls for the same amount of money as a reward, which isn't equality either.

Mrs D Macfarlane (Coventry Vice-President) also spoke about the World Championships and highlighted that the males got to travel to Singapore for training whereas the females had to train at home. She questioned how the females are supposed to perform at their highest level if they aren't given the same opportunities as males. She said that these issues need to be brought to light and that equality should come before finance.

12.8 AN Murdoch (Luton, Honorary Life Member) stated that he supports the motion and that it isn't about how many girls could partake; it is about how many girls are actually given the chance. He said that it varies from year to year if there is enough however the opportunity to enter events should always be offered, whether they play or not.

12.9 Mrs KM Tonge MBE (Cheshire, Honorary Life Member) spoke about the standard of play in the Cadet National Championships from both the males and females, and said that there should be a definite cut off point. She explained that a lot of girls who hadn't qualified were allowed to play and performed very well. Mrs KM Tonge MBE said that if we want to improve the standard of women in this Country, they need to be given the chances, however there does need to be a cut off for ability.

12.10 LA Chatwin (Derbyshire, Honorary Life Member) said that he is in favour of the proposition and fully supports it. He acknowledged the problem with regards to standards of play, however said it is a matter of choosing what the cut-off point should be.

12.11 J Arnold MBE (English Schools' Table Tennis Association, Vice-President) said that ESTTA faced the same problem of receiving a lack of female entries when they host competitions. He said that there were 4 boys to 1 girl who entered; therefore he understands the numbers problem.

12.12 C Dangerfield (Shropshire) asked if anyone is going to speak against the equality proposition and for them to provide their rationale, as he believes Table Tennis England want equality and that the result will be all in favour.

12.13 PA Charters (Honorary Life Member) said that in this day and age you have to provide an equal opportunity, however said if there aren't enough females entering how it is possible to run event with the lack of girls.

12.14 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) requested a hand vote for those in favour of the proposition which produced a clear majority. The meeting was not asked for those against or abstention as the motion was passed.

A video was shown highlighting the achievements over the 2015-2016 season created by Jamie Gordon (Marketing and Communications Officer)

### **13 REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS (7623/1/SS)**

13.1 K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) requested approval of the reappointment of auditors, haysmacintyre. The proposal was seconded by AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) by show of hands the motion was passed.

### **14 2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT (7664/22/SS)**

Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice-President) explained how the report would be presented given the absence of Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman, Director). K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) would take the chair for the Report to enable the Chairman to participate in any debate. This was agreed.

#### **14.1 Chairman's Foreword (Page. 3)**

14.1.2 No points of accuracy or questions.

#### **14.2 Chief Executive's Statement (Page. 4-5)**

14.2.1 No points of accuracy.

14.2.2 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) requested an update regarding the progress of moving in with Badminton England.

14.2.3 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) explained that the original plan has been shelved however they are planning a redevelopment of their site and Table Tennis England are still involved in their conversations.

#### **14.3 Operations (Page. 6-7)**

14.3.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

#### **14.4 Marketing & Communications (Page. 8)**

14.4.1 No points of accuracy.

14.4.2 K Muhr (Kent) said that our communications and social media pages are good and that it is great we are appearing on the radio and television, however we need to make more of an effort for national newspapers.

14.4.3 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) replied by saying we have been in regional newspapers more often and we are hoping to make more of a publicity breakthrough.

**14.5 Membership & Ranking (Page. 9)**

14.5.1 No points of accuracy.

14.5.2 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) said that in the past with the Annual Reports there have been detailed membership figures present along with a value comparison against previous years, however in this year's addition there doesn't seem to be this accurate detail available. He said that he hopes in future reports there will be this information as it helps to see if projects and money investments are successful or not.

14.5.3 J Bruck (Head of Operations) explained that currently we are working closely with TableTennis365 and implementing a new CRM system which will allow us to understand how to increase membership and the best ways to make an impact.

14.5.4 Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) said that it is disappointing that physical copies of the report were not distributed sooner. She said that last year's figures were over stated and that player memberships are down by a considerable amount. She then requested the Chairman's opinion regarding this decrease.

14.5.5 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) explained that when the Premier Clubs had to pay for Associate Members, they would pay for a Player Membership as opposed to the Associate. Thus when the Associate Membership became free, the numbers drastically changed. She said that we are only just beginning to collect accurate data, and this will only improve with the new systems being implemented. Mrs S Deaton said that we also haven't had all of the Leagues return their forms indicating their member count.

14.5.6 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) said that the decision to delay the printing of the Annual Report, until this week, was due to both the 10-13 National and Inter-regional Championships had only just taken place and it is important to include our major events in the final report. She further explained that the AGM is in fact early this year. She also said that all documents for the AGM were available electronically in good time to comply with Companies Act requirements. The calendar has been looked at and planned better for next year's AGM and the production of the Annual Report.

14.5.7 E J Williams (Warwickshire) pointed out that there needs to be more of a strategic approach taken when producing the membership figures and ranking should be separate to membership in the report.

- 14.6.8 AN Murdoch (Luton- Honorary Life Member) highlighted the decline in number of league teams, over the last 3 years, which he said directly affects the player memberships.
- 14.6.9 MGR Smith (Director, Honorary Life Member-add) explained that the decline in percentage over the past 2 years has been -0.9% and -1.3% and the figure this year is on target for less than 1% with some forms to come in- and that these figures are not dissimilar to the average decline in the previous decade.

**14.6 Development (Page. 10-12)**

- 14.6.1 No points of accuracy.
- 14.6.2 S Clarke (Lancashire, Vice-President) questioned how many new players have registered through the Loop/Ping! initiatives.
- 14.6.3 E St John (Head of Development) explained that there are various monitoring systems which are used for the Loop/Ping! Initiatives, they have already released vouchers which entitle people to free sessions, of which 100 were used however only 10 individuals joined as a result. Unfortunately in some areas, there has been a small follow through in this respect but it is believed that this is because they enjoy social play more so than formal club participation.
- 14.6.4 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) pointed out that Sport England fund these initiatives and include participants in the overall figures. She said that they don't necessary want us to drive individuals into obtaining a membership with us and that the money isn't being taken away from anywhere else to fund these projects.
- 14.6.5 A Catt (Sussex) said that it would have been good to see a mention of Harry Fairchild who is the first Downs syndrome qualified coach, in the disability section, as it sends across such a positive message.
- 14.6.6 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) said that he is concerned for his region, North East as they have received very little help from Table Tennis England this season. He said that occasionally they get visits from area staff, such as Sally Shutt, however this isn't enough and it is disappointing. AE Ransome OBE believes that the key way of developing the sport is to support the volunteers. He said that it would be beneficial to have more Regional Development Officers working directly with Clubs and volunteers, who will be able to work in length with the areas. AE Ransome OBE said that this is a request to the Board put forward by National Council.

**14.7 Workforce (Page. 13)**

- 14.7.1 No points of accuracy.
- 14.7.2 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) said that he is delighted to see that the hurdles, which prevented coaches from becoming licenced and continuing

their work, have been eliminated. He said that it is a big improvement and a big step forward in the right direction.

#### **14.8 Competitions & Events (Page. 14-15)**

14.8.1 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland. Honorary Life Member) pointed out that on page 15, paragraph headed 'Tournaments Committee', has an inaccuracy in regards to only being issued 4 yellow cards. He believed far more were issued.

14.8.2 A Catt (Sussex) said that he doesn't agree with the National Championships being limited entry. He said that you can have an elite event with equal numbers of entries.

14.8.3 K Muhr (Kent) said that the National Championships was a great event however he found it hard to follow each competition within it, due to matches taking place at the same time. He also offered other comments about the running of the event.

14.8.4 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) stated, as she mentioned at the National Council meeting, that the National Championships and the Inter Regional Competitions were going to be looked at and improved on. She welcomed any comments to be sent to Amanda Robinson (Competitions and Events Manager) for them to be considered.

#### **14.9 Performance (Page. 16-18)**

14.9.1 No points of accuracy.

14.9.2 PA Charters (Honorary Life Member) said that Sport England should provide more funding for younger players/Performance and that there is concern they won't follow in the steps of Paul and Liam due to the expense that it brings.

14.8.3 S Mills (Head of Talent and Performance) explained that we are currently working with Sport England on a small scale to try and get more funding for players to develop.

#### **14.10 International Matters (Page. 19)**

14.10.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

#### **14.11 World Championships (Page. 20-21)**

14.11.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

#### **14.12 Notable Achievements (Page. 22-23)**

14.12.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

#### **14.13 Season review (Page. 24-31)**

14.13.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

#### **14.14 Awards & Thanks (Page. 32-33)**

14.14.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

**14.15 Staff & Governance (Page. 34-35)**

14.15.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

**14.16 Accounts (Page. 36-38)**

14.16.1 No points of accuracy.

14.16.2 MG Clark (Worcestershire, Honorary Life Member) said 'there is a general consensus of opinion that the country is facing a period of possible economic uncertainty. That would undoubtedly put pressure on the Government to place less funding available to the likes of Sport England.

He said that we are currently in the last year of the Whole Sport Plan 2013-17 that provided a record amount grant to Table Tennis than ever before. It would seem probable that the following four year term will provide substantially less funding than now.

Bearing in mind that when faced with such a problem last time this happened, we had to close the academy at Holme Pierrepont with the consequential redundancies. We now have ever increasing numbers of staff and staffing costs almost £2M per annum. What contingency plans do you have in the event that our funding is substantially cut, that in any event assumes that we meet the level of participation that Sport England require?'

14.16.3 Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) replied by explaining it is unknown what cuts will be made each year. There is a current stand still with Sport England from the Government. Currently, we are in the middle of our funding bid and at this point there is no reason to believe there is going to be a substantial cut, although all NGBs are being advised to plan for a cut in core funding. She said that it is an iterative process and they we won't know for a number of months what the figure will be. Mrs S Sutcliffe explained that different methods of saving money will be implemented and costs will be cut accordingly.

14.16.4 Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) requested the figures for this years and last year's National Championships.

14.16.5 K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) said there was about a £11,000 difference between this year and last year's National Championships. 2016 cost £22-23K. He explained the different in cost increase, which was mainly due to £6,000 for the seating and £4,000 for the flooring.

14.16.6 Mrs D Webb (Hastings, Vice President) stated that the figures needed more clarification, with regards to what is included and excluded.

**14.17 Obituaries (Page. 39)**

14.17.1 No points of accuracy or questions.

Overall the Annual Report was accepted. AN Murdoch (Luton, Honorary Life Member) voted against.

**15 REPORTS OF THE TREASURER AND THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2016 (7665/825/KT)**

15.1 K Thomas (Treasurer, Director) summarised the report of the Treasurer and the Auditors statement.

15.2 Approval of the document 7665/825/KT was proposed by MG Clark (Honorary Life Member, Worcestershire) and seconded by M Holt (Honorary Life Member). Members approved.

**16 ELECTION OF PRESEIDENT**

16.1 Jill Parker MBE - For her service to table tennis in England and internationally for more than 40 years.

**17 ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS**

17.1 Peter Bradley -For his service as Deputy Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Competitions), for VETTS and for ITTF as well as in Berkshire. Vice-President.

17.2 Michael Close- For his service as National Councillor and Regional Chairman, London, as well as in Middlesex; Vice-President

**18 ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS**

18.1 Colin Dyke - For his service as National Councillor as well as in Berkshire

18.2 Ken Field- For his service in Essex as well as on Disciplinary Committee.

18.3 Margot Fraser- For her service as National Councillor, on Technical Officials Committee and as a Technical Official nationally and internationally as well as in Surrey

18.4 Stuart Gibbs- For his service as an England International as well as in Essex

18.5 Brenda Hudson- For her service in Yorkshire as well as at national events including Junior British League

18.6 Richard J Hudson- For his service to English Schools Table Tennis Association

18.7 Martin Ireland- For his service as a staff member in the Development Department and as a volunteer.

18.8 Ken Muhr- For his service as National Councillor and in coaching including as Regional Coaching Co-ordinator as well as in Kent

- 18.9 Derek Sherratt- For his service as National Councillor, as a Technical Official nationally and internationally and for AETTU as well as in Staffordshire

## **19 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND HONOURS**

- 19.1 Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award - for exceptionally long and outstanding service to Table Tennis England.

Doreen Stannard - For her service as President, National Councillor and National Championships Committee Chairman as well as a Technical Official and in Middlesex. Honorary Life Member.

- 19.2 Malcolm Scott Award - for outstanding service to Table Tennis England.

Chris Dangerfield - for his service to the British League.

- 19.3 Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy - for service to table tennis in the County field.

Roger Fensom - for his service to County Championships teams in Cambridgeshire

- 19.4 Ivor Montagu Award - for service to the administration of Table Tennis England.

Margaret Welch - For her service to competitions nationally and internationally as well as on Tournaments Committee.

- 19.5 AK Vint OBE Staff Award - for exceptional service as a staff member.

Chris Brown - For his service in the Development Department notably in the South West.

- 19.6 Victor Barna Award - for the most notable performance by an English player.

England Mens Team at the World Team Championships 2016- For their success in winning the bronze medal: Paul Drinkhall, Liam Pitchford, Sam Walker.

- 19.7 Johnny Leach MBE Most Improved England Player Award -for a player representing England

Tin Tin Ho - For her outstanding international performances at junior events and for becoming an integral part of the senior women's team.

- 19.8 Mike Watts Achievement Award - to the girl and boy English player making the greatest improvement in rating points in the year.

Last years' winners - Mollie Patterson and Israel Awoloja.

- 19.9 Special Awards

Alan Ransome - 50 years on National Council in July 2016.

## **20 ELECTION OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**



20.1 Mrs JL Watts (Vice-President) is retiring by rotation and is available for re-election. Members approved.

**21 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

21.1 S Clarke (Lancashire, Vice- President) questioned where the Leopards are on the new England kit. To which, Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Vice-President) said they are on there.

21.2 AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland, Honorary Life Member) said that he is concerned about some democracy aspects of Table Tennis England. In the past, rule amendment suggestions were to be submitted by 28<sup>th</sup> February however the notification this year was not sent out till much later. He said that we need to respect democracy and ensure there is sufficient and adequate time to put forward propositions. He said that he also thinks it is important for democracy to remain within competitions too.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and declared the meeting closed at 5.40pm.