

Annual General Meeting

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held The Park Inn by Radisson Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG5 2BT on Saturday 8th July 2017, commencing at 2.00pm.

PRESENT:

VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

INDIVIDUAL COMPANY MEMBERS

Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice President), S Griew (Director), Ms S Hughes (Deputy Chairman), D Livingstone (Director), Ms D Paterson (Director), Ms K Skeggs (Director), MGR Smith (Director), Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director), K Thomas (Treasurer, Director),

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS

DL Hockney (Avon), A Murdoch (Bedfordshire), Mrs KM Tonge MBE (Cheshire, Regional Chair North West and BPTT), M Atkinson (Chiltern), AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland), Mrs DM Jermyn (Cornwall), P Goulding (Devonshire), LA Chatwin (Derbyshire), LT Whittaker (Dorset), P Ashleigh (Essex), LJ Smith (Gloucestershire), DB Turner (Hampshire, Regional Chair South), H Jutle (Herefordshire), Mrs S Pickering (Leicestershire and Regional Chair East Midlands), G Rushton (Lancashire), GE Tyler (Lincolnshire), HFC Webb (North Middlesex), M Close (Middlesex), T Vincent (Norfolk), M Allsop (Nottinghamshire), N Hurford (Oxfordshire), C Dangerfield (Shropshire), R Loxley (South Yorkshire), B Davison (Suffolk, Eastern Regional Chair), Miss M Fraser (Surrey), A Catt (Sussex), EJ Williams (Warwickshire), CN Sewell (Wiltshire), MG Clark (Worcestershire), RB Hudson (Yorkshire)

LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS

BC Whitehead (Aylesbury), Mrs BL Hughes (Birmingham), A Powell (Bristol), Miss C Homewood (Bromley), J Cowell (Derby), H Rawcliffe (East Lancashire), Mrs LA Reid (Evesham), Mrs E Kirby (Gloucester), T Laws (Guildford), Mrs D Webb (Hastings), Mrs E Shaler (Hinckley), Mrs B Hudson (Hull), MC Macfarlane (Leamington Spa), DW Davies (Liverpool), J Stalker (Malvern), G Powell (Northampton), R Whittaker (Nuneaton), B Rimmer (Retford), BE Spicer (Sevenoaks), J Davidson (South and West Middlesex), K Field (Southend), B Watkins (Tamworth), A Reeves (Walsall), D Goulden (Warrington), DC Hayman (Wembley/Harrow), TA Johnson (Wilmslow),

PRESIDENT

Mrs J Parker MBE

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

P Bradley, PA Charters, LA Chatwin, MG Clark, S Clark, M Close, MR Holt, AN Murdoch, AE Ransome OBE, LJ Smith, MGR Smith, Mrs DM Stannard, Mrs KM Tonge MBE, HJ Webb,

VICE PRESIDENTS

M Allsop, J Arnold MBE, M Atkinson, J Blackband, JM Burtenshaw, Mrs P Chatwin, K Childs, A Cooke, K Field, Miss M Fraser, Mrs B Hudson, RB Hudson, Mrs DM Jermyn, J Kenny, MC Macfarlane, Ms V Murdoch, Mrs J Parker MBE, K Phillips, Mrs J Ransome, Ms E Shaler, RH Sinclair, G Smith, K Tonge, GE Tyler, Mrs JL Watts, Mrs D Webb, S Wells

OTHERS

J Bayliss (Draycott TTA), Mrs A Bowness, J Bowness, V Gorazd, P Jennings (Draycott TTA), Ms J Johnson (Southend & Essex TTA), Ms T Longley, J Palmer (Malvern TTL), MJ Payne (Umpire), Ms LM

Payne (Umpire), Mrs S Pickering (Regional Chairman East Midlands, S Pound (Sussex TTA), Leicestershire TTA), M Starkie (Derbyshire TTA), Ms M Welch, Mrs C Williams (Warwickshire County TTA), G Wood (British League Committee)

ORGANISATIONS IN GOOD STANDING

British Universities Colleges Sports (MGR Smith), British Para Table Tennis (Mrs KM Tonge MBE), English Schools' Table Tennis Association (J Arnold MBE), VETTS (Mrs LA Reid)

STAFF

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

1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

- 1.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) welcomed all present.
- 1.2 Chris Coleman (Sport England Relationships Manger) and Thea Longley (Braithwaite, Legal Advisor) requested for the meeting to allow them to speak.
- 1.3 A minutes silence was held for the following people:

2 REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (7663/1/DLH)

- 2.1 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) introduced the report of Standing Orders Committee to the meeting to which David Hockney (Avon) welcomed comments.
- 2.2 Martin Clark (Worcestershire) stated that on the 11th June, he submitted an amendment to the Board's proposition however when the notice of the AGM was distributed, his amendment had been changed to a special resolution. Martin Clark (Worcestershire) said that according to Company Law, changes cannot be made without consent unless correcting a grammatical error or it is nonsensical. He said that the wording of his amendment had been altered, whereby it could only be voted on unless the first proposition passed.
- 2.3 Mrs S Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice President) welcomed Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director), to explain the background of the process.
- 2.4 Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) explained that there hasn't been an AGM with the situation of amendments being converted to special resolutions. Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) added that she wasn't entirely comfortable with the process and that the timings could have been better. The situation was taken to the Board of the Finance and Operations Risk Group who advised to seek legal help.
- 2.5 Thea Longley from Braithwaite stated that according to company law special resolutions can only be amended by ordinary resolutions, if it is to change a grammatical error or make a non-substantive change. The process used previously when Table Tennis England was an unincorporated association, where substantive changes could be voted on before the amendment of the constitution itself, could not be done within the confines of Company Law.

- 2.6 June watts from the Standing Orders Committee (SOC) questioned why SOC were not consulted and asked why Martin Clark (Worcestershire) wasn't advised that his amendment was changed.
- 2.7 Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) said that he is concerned about the changes required in order to receive the Sport England funding. He said that the democratic process needs to be protected and that he is not pleased with the way the situation has been handled by the association. Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) said that the process was changed midway and that it was changed by the Board who were one of the parties involved in the debate meaning they were at an advantage.
- 2.8 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) explained that everything was done in haste with the immediate and best intentions of abiding to Company Law. She said that a consultation will take place with the SOC and solicitors over the next 12 months in order to be compliant with Company Law.
- 2.9 Peter Bradley (HLM) said that he believed he was the LRCM for Reading as the previous one had stood down however when he arrived today to find that this wasn't the case and he doesn't have a vote for Reading.
- 2.10 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice President) said that it is the responsibility of the County/League to let Table Tennis England know of any changes to the association and to complete and return the appropriate paperwork.
- 2.11 Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) said that he isn't concerned whether a process is legal or not, he said it is wrong that a process can be changed half way through.
- Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) added that he has also experienced problems with the proxy forms he had been given, regarding incorrect company members completing them therefore being invalid. He said that that they shouldn't have been declined because the leagues wish to vote but due to a technicality they are unable to exercise their democratic right.
- 2.12 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice President) that the process is not new and these problems have always occurred because of forms being completed incorrectly.
- 2.13 Diane Webb (Hastings) said that she has had a similar experience. She said she has confirmation from Table Tennis England that she was the company member for Hastings and then was told she wasn't at a later date.
- 2.14 Caroline Williams (Teller, Warwickshire County TTA), explained that herself and the staff at Table Tennis England head office have worked really hard to get the Electoral Register right over the past 2 months. All of the oddities were checked and challenged and it was found that the correct and legal procedure was not followed for some of the Company Members who appeared on the register. She also pointed out that County Representative Company Members (CRCM) are voted annually and that League Representative Company Members (LRCM) can be appointed as and when. Caroline Williams (Teller, Warwickshire County TTA) said that the forms are available and were sent out in October and added that they are also very simple to complete.
- 2.15 Eileen Shaler (Hinckley) suggested postponing the vote to allow everyone to get their votes in correctly.

- 2.16 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that there are consequences to postponing the vote. The paperwork has always been available and the voting system has been in place for a long time, Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) reiterated that it is not a new process.

Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that the meeting needs to proceed to accept and adopt the standing order report.

- 2.17 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) was willing to adopt the Standing Orders Report. Mike Smith (Director) Seconded and all agreed.

3 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS (7619/1/RHS)

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

4 APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

- 4.1 It was agreed that Jim Palmer (Malvern) and Caroline Williams (Warwickshire TTA) to 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.

Tony Chatwin (Derbyshire) proposed and Stan Clarke (HLM AND Vice President) seconded.

5 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 5.1 **INDIVIDUAL COMPANY MEMBERS:** TV Purcell (Director), M Quartermaine (Director)

- 5.2 **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS:** CG Dyke (Berkshire), K Eliot (Gainsborough), N Le Millier (Kent), RS Barr (Northamptonshire), JRC Donnelly (Northumberland)

- 5.3 **LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE COMPANY MEMBERS:** GR Fernback (Barnets), CMB Newton (Bath), AP McTiernan (Reading)

- 5.4 **HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:** C Clemett

- 5.5 **VICE PRESIDENTS:** RR Washington, J Wright, S Sherlock

- 5.6 **STAFF:** E St John (Head of Development)

6. DECLARATION OF BUSINESS INTERESTS

- 6.1 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) asked all persons if they had any interests they would like to declare.

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

7 MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 2ND JULY 2016 (7696/1/AMG)

- 7.1 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) questioned any points of accuracy to the Minutes taken from the previous AGM in 2016.

- 7.2 Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) said that it needs to be added to point 15.5.4 that the membership figures were double counted which is why they were higher than they should have been last year.

Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) also said that there was no mention of Doreen Stannard being the Honorary past president

Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) added that in points 16, 17 and 18 of the honours presentation, there is no mention of them being approved by the meeting.

- 7.4 Harvey Webb (HLM) referred to item 10.14 regarding insurance and said that he recalls no confirmation that both coaches and volunteers will be covered, however the CEO did say that negotiations are underway.
- 7.3 Approval of document 7696/1/AMG was agreed by Tony Chatwin (Derbyshire) and seconded by Stan Clarke (Vice President, HLM). The meeting was in favour.

8 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST AGM

- 8.1 Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) said that the minutes were not circulated and that she had to ask for them.

Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) also said that 14.5.6 refers to the Annual Report and that it reads that the report would be made available earlier this year, however it was disappointing to find that hard copies were again only available on the day.

Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) referred to point 14.6.5 regarding the National Championship losses. It was said that the loss for the Senior National Championships was £46,458 which she said is considerably higher than what was stated at the meeting last year.

- 8.2 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) explained that the figure given was excluding the ITV4 production costs.
- 8.3 Diane Webb (Hastings, Vice President) stated that the figure stated in the minutes was not the correct cost.
- 8.3 No other matters arising.

9. REPORTS OF THE TREASURER AND THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2017 (7665/825/KT)

- 9.1 Martin Clark (Worcestershire) referred to the accounts presented to the AGM which go to Companies House and stated that they are micro accounts. Martin Clark (Worcestershire) noted that on page 7 it says 'profit' however as we are a not for profit organisation it should read 'surplus' instead.
- 9.2 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) agreed with this point.
- 9.3 Martin Clark (Worcestershire) also stated that there is no reason that staffing costs shouldn't be included in the report and therefore requested the total staffing costs.
- 9.4 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) said he would get back to Martin Clark (Worcestershire) with the answer.
- 9.5 Martin Clark (Worcestershire) further questioned why more senior managers have been appointed in the past 12 months considering the reduction of Sport England funding.
- 9.6 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) explained that any staff appointment has an impact on the budget for the year and that the staffing cost is included in the Sport England funding.

Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) added that the company had a restructure with the knowledge of the funding cut and that 6 employees were made redundant as a result.

9.7 Steve Pound (Sussex TTA) questioned why there was no transparency around the cost of table tennis events and asked whether they receive a profit or loss. Steve Pound (Sussex TTA) also queries how the £340,000 received from membership fees is spent and whether it is put towards the events. Finally, Steve Pound (Sussex TTA) requested the relevant event figures to be made available.

9.8 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) said his comments have been noted.

9.9 Karen Tonge (Cheshire, Regional Chair North West and BPTT) proposed to approve the accounts and Phil Ashley (Essex) seconded.

9.10 All in favour to approve the accounts.

10. PROPOSITION – PROPOSED INCREASE OF AFFILIATION FEES 2017/18

10.1 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) introduced the proposal of affiliation fee increase and welcomed any questions.

10.2 Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire, HLM) said that he is concerned about the problems with the proxy votes. He said that the affiliation increase affects the members substantially and there were many issues with the proxies. He said that the members are being discriminated by voiding their votes.

10.3 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that there are more problems with the proxy votes because of the special resolutions for the AGM and that it is a difficult and important vote. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) reiterated that the process has always been in place and hasn't changed however the vote is just more important this time which is in turn attracting more attention.

10.4 Malcolm Allsop (Nottinghamshire) said that information is sent out via email however National Councillors and Company Members do not understand technology.

10.5 Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire) said that his county thinks this is a sensible proposal and is of good value. Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire) said that he is voting in favour of the increase and encourages other counties and leagues to follow.

10.6 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) welcomed any other questions and then asked for the proposition to go to a vote.

10.7 37 were in favour and 9 against.

10.8 The proposition then went to a card vote. The result: 83% in favour and 17% against. The motion was carried.

11. SPECIAL RESOLUTION BY TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND BOARD – CHANGE OF WORDING IN ARTICLES

11.1 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) introduced the Special Resolution put forward by the Board.

11.2 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) apologised for the amount of email communications which were sent out regarding the Special Resolution, however it was felt necessary as it is a very important process.

Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) explained that the new Government Code is set by the Government and that it effects every National Governing Body. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that in 2013, management came into post and Sport England decided that change was needed. Table Tennis England meets most of the criteria therefore minimal change was needed however it is mandatory for all National Governing Bodies to move from electing to appointing their Chair.

Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that it is important to maintain democracy of the association, as the members use to elect the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Treasurer for years prior to this change. Therefore, it was decided to keep the three elected directors to save the democracy using the campaign process which has always been in place. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) recapped on the National Council time served section in the Code of Governance and explained that both changes were taken to the National Council meeting in January. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that concerns and requests were listened to and it was suggested with keeping the three elected directors that their titles should also be changed. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that the main concerns from the National Council meetings were included in the Special Resolution being presented today.

11.3 David Hockney (Standing Order Committee) said that Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, Vice President) has exceeded the four minutes and requested that the meeting allow her to stand for up to an additional four minutes to finish her speech, to which the meeting agreed.

11.4 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) continued, a Steering Group formed involving 7 National Councillors to ensure that the Councillors were listened to and that their democracy was safeguarded. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that a meeting was requested in May to discuss their concerns and it was suggested to give one of the Elected Members a status within the Board using a specific name. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that 4 of the 7 members agreed and were happy with the situation.

Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) spoke about Special Resolution 2 and said that if we adhered to it, it would mean that we are not code compliant and therefore will not receive Sport England funding. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) then welcomed Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) to speak.

11.5 Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) said that they are grateful to the members of National Council who took the time to meet with the Board on various occasions and that hopefully it is clear that they want to work together and move forward successfully. Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) said that it has been agreed there is common ground and that both parties wish to retain the funding and save the democracy. Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman)

said that in order to receive the funding it is essential to comply with the Code of Governance.

Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) explained that as of the 31st October 2017, if Table Tennis England are in breach of the code, funding will not be received. Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) further explained that if the special resolution doesn't go through today, it will mean that the association will not be following the action plan therefore funding will be suspended.

Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) said that the Board wish to find a solution to allow us to move forward and enable the association to be code compliant today. The Board are willing to meet with the National Councillors after the meeting today to discuss all options and analyse other sports to find a better model and come to an agreement.

Susie Hughes (Deputy Chairman) added that if the Special Resolution doesn't succeed today, it will mean that Table Tennis England will go into an immediate state of crisis management as off Monday morning.

- 11.6 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) asked who wishes to speak against the special resolution.
- 11.7 Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) said that over the last 6 months he has been part of the Steering Group working with others to help protect table tennis. Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) said that he feels the situation has become personal and is deeply hurt. Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) said that once the flexibility to elect new leadership is lost, we will lose control of the sport. Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) said that Table Tennis England is ran by career civil servants who have no knowledge or connection to the sport thus the association is too reliant on paid staff. Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) believes the organisation should be run solely by dedicated and elected volunteers who have a deep connection to table tennis. Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire) instructed the company members to elect against the Special Resolution proposed today and added that Sport England have confirmed in writing that Table Tennis England have until 31st October to resolve the matter and that he wants to make a better deal.
- 11.8 Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire, HML) said that the appointment for the Chairman has to be a transparent process and questioned whether it will be the Board who elect the Chair or if it will be via a nominations committee. Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire, HML) further questioned, if the election will be done through a nominations committee, who will be on the committee.
- 11.9 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) clarified that the nominations committee recommend to the Board the appointment of the Chair, which will be the new process. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that currently they recommend the appointment of any member directors or independent directors. Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) confirmed this will be an open and transparent process.
- Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that the elected directors are being given the opportunity to sit on the nominations committee as will independent directors, the Chairman and the CEO.

11.10 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) welcomed Chris Coleman from Sport England to speak to the meeting.

11.11 Chris Coleman explained that Sport England require Table Tennis England to meet the new Code of Governance and an action plan has to be agreed leading up to 31st October 2017.

Chris Coleman said that should the vote pass today, Table Tennis England will be in compliance of the Code of Governance and the funding will be released. If the vote does not pass today, Sport England will need to meet with Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) as a matter of urgency to agree the next steps.

Chris Coleman added that the work Table Tennis England have done around Governance is used as an example of best practise and that Sport England are supportive of the changes proposed today.

11.12 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) asked for somebody to speak for the proposition.

11.13 Tony Catt (Sussex) spoke about the importance of being compliant and how it is a case of following the rules in order to receive the funding. Tony Catt (Sussex) said that if we fail to obtain the money from Sport England, the funding needs to be found elsewhere which is most likely from the members.

Tony Catt (Sussex) said that he is in favour of the proposition because he believes that the grounded Governance of the sport will have a lot more sustainability in the future which will lead to a better governance. Tony Catt (Sussex) advised that much more regular communication is needed between the Board and the members.

11.14 Martin Clark (Worcestershire) said that he has withdrawn his amendments to the proposition however this doesn't signify that he is in support of it. Martin Clark (Worcestershire) said that if the proposition succeeds today democracy will be lost and it will provide Sport England a dictatorship of the sport. Martin Clark (Worcestershire) said that Table Tennis England already fulfil 98% of the Code of Governance therefore doesn't believe that all of the £8.9 million will be lost.

11.15 Chris Coleman said Sport England are in charge of lottery funding, and that in order to receive any money it is a requirement to adhere to the Code of Governance. Chris Coleman said that this rule is across the board and applies to any association who will be in receipt of the funding.

11.16 Phil Ashleigh (Essex) said that he fully approves of appointed directors because it brings in specific skillsets which are needed, however if directors are entirely elected there is a high risk that things will be driven through with personal agendas.

11.17 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) asked Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) if he would like to offer his input to the debate.

11.18 Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) warned the meeting that he will exceed the four-minute limit to which the meeting granted permission.

Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) said that funding is essential and everything must be done in order to keep it, however more needs to be done to keep the democracy of the association and this must not be sacrificed.

Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) said he has been working with the Steering Group to find a way forward where democracy is protected. Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) said he has looked at the way other sports run and it became apparent that their members not only elect three members of the Board, they are electing the majority. Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) suggested if Table Tennis England could incorporate this process instead it would allow the members to retain the democracy and control currently in place.

Alan Ransom OBE (Cleveland) said that it has been agreed, if the proposition is voted through today, that the Board will work with the Steering Group to investigate the best possible democracy situation which can be achieved.

- 11.19 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) reiterated that the Board are committed to working with the Steering Group to look at a way forward that works for everybody, providing the solution is code compliant.

Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) opened the floor to anyone wishing to speak against the proposition.

- 11.20 Alex Murdoch (Bedfordshire, HLM) said that he has concerns that a satisfactory agreement will never be reached and that further negotiations should be made with Sport England to bide more time.

- 11.21 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) recapped that the time scale is set by the government, which is 31st October 2017.

- 11.22 Mike Holt (HLM) stated that he isn't entitled to a vote today, thus he is speaking from an independent view.

Mike Holt (HLM) said there is a greater risk to the association of not adopting the proposal today than there is accepting it, and added that currently the best option is to vote in favour of the proposition and accept that the Board will negotiate a compromised.

- 11.23 Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire) said if the Special Resolution goes through today, that makes the association code compliant however it does not end the conversations regarding Governance issues and that it should be seen as a new starting point. Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire) said that he fully supports the proposal and urge the rest of the company members to vote in favour of it.

- 11.24 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) clarified that out of the 5 people who submitted Special Resolution 2, now only 2 remain supporting it as the rest have revoked their support.

Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said that if proposition 1 succeeds over 75% of votes, then Special Resolution 2 will need to be voted on.

The cards were collected by the Tellers, Jim Palmer (Malvern TTL) and Caroline Williams (Warwickshire TTA). The result of the vote was 74.93% for and 25.07% against.

12 REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS (7623/1/SS)

- 12.1 Keith Thomas (Treasurer, Director) requested approval of the reappointment of auditors, Haysmacintyre for the next financial year. The proposal was passed by show of hands and the motion was passed.

13 ELECTION OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

- 13.1 Mrs JL Watts (Vice President) is retiring by rotation and is available for re-election. AER proposed and Di Jermyn seconded. Members approved.

14 PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND HONOURS

- 14.1 Honorary Life Member - Stan Clarke

- 14.2 Vice Presidents - New Recommendations:

Mrs Patricia Chatwin

Mr Keith 'Charlie' Childs

Mr Brian Davison

Mr Jim Kenny

Mr Ken Phillips

Mr Tom Purcell

Mrs Lynda Reid

Mr Matthew Syed

Mr Estyn Williams

RENEWALS:

Mrs A Pat Archdale, Mr Dave Berriman, Mr John Freeman, Mr John Hilton, Mr Richard B Hudson, Mr Alan Hydes, Mrs Vanda Jones, Ms Sheila King, Mrs Dorothy Macfarlane, Mr Ken Matthews, Mrs Carole Moore, Mrs Valerie Murdoch, Mr Jeff Neslen, Mr Mike Payne, Mrs Erica Preat, Mrs Jose Ransome, Mrs Jackie Sands, Mrs Carol Seward, Mr Stuart Sherlock, Mr Ken Tonge, Mr Graham Trimming, Mr Ron Washington, Mrs June Watts JP.

- 14.3 Keith Ponting President's Memorial Award - Tony Chatwin

- 14.4 Malcolm Scott Award - Simon Mills

- 14.5 Ivor Montagu Award - Gary Wood

- 14.6 Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy - Peter Baldwin (Sussex)

- 14.7 A.K. Vint Staff Award - Sam Garey

- 14.8 Victor Barna Award - Will Bayley MBE

- 14.9 The Johnny Leach MBE - Most Improved England Player of the Year Award - Denise Payet

15 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- 15.1 Stan Clarke (HLM AND Vice President) referred to the voting process and said that when voting via a show of hands, it does not account for any proxy votes. Stan Clarke (HLM AND Vice President) advised that a consistent approach needs to be adopted.
- 15.2 Brian Rimmer (Retford) said that he is disappointed at the attitude towards the voting procedure and said that needs to be changed. Brian Rimmer (Retford) added that more effort is needed to encourage the growth of table tennis at grass root level not just in social table tennis.
- 15.3 Sandra Deaton (Chairman, Director, and Vice President) said there is an ongoing voting review however it has been suspended for various reasons.
- 15.4 Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) said that he prefers the previous method of going through the Annual Report in a systematic manner.
- AER referred to the marketing report and praised Paul Stimpson for the quality of writing he produces and said that his work is appreciated. Alan Ransome OBE (Cleveland) also praised Greg Yarnall for increasing the number of coaches with the hard work he put into the coaching portal to remove all of the hurdles.
- 15.5 As the result of the Special Resolution 1 failed to get more than 75%, Sara Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, Director) declared Table Tennis England in an immediate state of crisis management.

The meeting closed at 5.55pm.