

# NATIONAL COUNCIL - MINUTES

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## NATIONAL COUNCIL - MINUTES

Minutes of the National Council Meeting held at Table Tennis England, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, MK8 9LA, on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 11:00 am.

### **ATTENDEES:**

**CHAIR:** E Williams (Warwickshire)

**NATIONAL COUNCILLORS:** AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland), A Thompson (Durham), CN Sewell (Wiltshire), DL Hockney (Avon), EJ Williams (Warwickshire), G Pearson (Northumberland ), J Skinner (Sussex ), J Kenny (South Yorkshire), D Adamson (Gloucestershire ), M Allsop (Nottingham), Ms M Fraser (Surrey ), M Clark (Worcestershire ), P Ashleigh (Essex), RB Hudson (Yorkshire), R Lindner (Dorset ), S Pickering (Leicestershire), T Dias (Middlesex)

**DEPUTY NATIONAL COUNCILLORS:** B Whitehead (Hertfordshire)

**BOARD:** Mrs S Deaton (Table Tennis England Chairman), A Catt

**STAFF:** Mrs S Sutcliffe, S Mills, A Nixon

### **APOLOGIES:**

**NATIONAL COUNCILLORS:** A Murdoch (Bedfordshire), C Bell (Staffordshire), D Edwards (Hertfordshire), D Turner (Hampshire), H Jutle (Herefordshire), Mrs K Tonge MBE (Cheshire), L Smith (Gloucestershire), M Dove (Isle of Wight), M Mitcham (Berkshire), A Millman (Devonshire), N Le Milliere (Kent), N Hurford (Oxfordshire), Mrs S Hayes (Buckinghamshire), G Tyler (Lincolnshire), Ms K Mudge (Surrey), J Kelly (Somerset) , B Davison (Suffolk),

**BOARD:** Ms S Hughes, M Quartermaine, D Livingstone, S Griew, Ms D Patterson

**STAFF:** Ms J Keay-Blyth

**OTHERS:** Mrs J Parker (President), M Smith (BUCS), Mrs J Johns (VETTS),

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### 1. INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

- 1.1 Estyn Williams (EW) welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 11:00am. EW expressed his thanks for being elected as the new Chairman of the National Council and thanked Chris Dangerfield for his work as chairman for the previous year. EW also thanked staff for the organisation of the meeting and for producing department update reports. EW said that he welcomed any feedback regarding the meeting/agenda/location etc and to send this via email to himself or Ann Nixon (A Nixon).
- 1.2 EW explained that a digital recording of the meeting would be made to ensure and assist accuracy in the minutes of the meeting.

### IN MEMORIAM

**National Council learnt with sadness of the passing of the following who had rendered long and distinguished service to the Sport:**

**Harry Sargent** -former chair of Sheffield Table Tennis League

**John Whidbourne** - former chair of Sheffield Table Tennis League

**John Webb** – President of Devizes Table Tennis League

**Howard Spurr** – Warminster Treasurer.

**The National Councillors all those present stood and observed a minute's silence in their memory.**

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1 The Chairman proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting and this was carried.

### 2.2 ACTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.3 A Ransome OBE (Cleveland) (AER) referred to Action Point 1 in that he did not recall seeing the contact details of U3A circulated. A Nixon to check with S Hughes and re-circulate.

### 3 CHAIRMAN REPORT

- 3.1 Mrs S Deaton (SD) welcomed the meeting to the offices in Milton Keynes and confirmed that she has been delighted to be appointed as Chairman for a further 4-year term.
- 3.2 SD updated her written report, explaining that the new CRM/membership system has been implemented successfully. She said that after 10 years of using one system, when switching

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to something else there would be teething problems which were being resolved. The TT Leagues platform has launched successfully as well.

- 3.3 SD thanked the National Council for their support at the AGM in June and to the people that spoke regarding the systems as well as the vote in favour of the Board's affiliation fee proposition.
- 3.4 SD confirmed that Susie Hughes, Tony Catt, and Charlie Childs have been elected on to the Board as Elected Deputy Chairmen. Two vacancies exist on the Board and will be recruited shortly.
- 3.5 EW asked SD to confirm Board responsibility for finance now that the role of Treasurer does not exist. SD explained that Doug Livingstone is the chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, a sub committee of the Board. Doug Livingstone and Dee Paterson are both qualified accountants.
- 3.6 AER raised the ITTF decision to change the number of teams in the World Championships. SD said that the Board are concerned about this but had to accept that the change is going to be implemented. She added There is currently a European Working group as Europe has so many teams in the top 32 but the problem is that due to a continental quota system Europe will be disproportionately affected.
- 3.7 Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation. SD thanked AER for his 26 years of chairmanship of the CTFE having not been re-elected at the recent AGM. SD confirmed that England is still represented as Susie Hughes was elected as Deputy Chairman of CTFE. AER commented that the dominance of India controlling the CTFE is against protocol and the election was influenced by financial incentives and 'misuse' of the constitution. AER thanked the association for its support
- 3.8 The Chairman proposed that National Council formally thanks Alan Ransome for his work as CTFE Chairman and this was carried unanimously.

### 4 CEO REPORT

- 4.1 Mrs S Sutcliffe (SS) also welcomed the National Council to the offices, located in the National Badminton Centre. An ongoing capital investment plan would see the hall lighting being improved soon. She explained that the feedback regarding departmental reports had been taken on board and she hoped that the new reports were structured in a way to focus on current and future work programmes. They also include a section about 'challenges' as it is important for National Council to appreciate the challenges that being faced.
- 4.2 SS asked for the National Councillors to take the time to read what is available on the from the website and 'Over the Net' so that they are up to date and can share and discuss with clubs, leagues and counties where necessary. In supporting this the Chairman also explained that all the reports to National Council were now available to the membership on the website.
- 4.3 Sport England and UK Sport – submissions for funding for the next 4-year cycle start shortly.
- 4.4 P Ashleigh (Essex) said that it was great to hear about the lighting investments and asked what the capacity would be to share the hall with Badminton England. Simon Mills

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confirmed that the intention is for table tennis events to be held on site. There are likely to be clashes with Badminton England events at times but the two associations would work closely together during the competition and events scheduling stages. SS said there had been initial plans to expand the sports hall to a 12-court venue but unfortunately there was no available funding for this.

- 4.5 J Skinner (Sussex) (JS) said that he felt the venue was much better and had a professional feel about it.
- 4.6 JS raised an issue with the TT Memberships helpdesk. He asked if support could be available over weekends so that there isn't a 3-4 day wait time for a response. SS responded that the volume of queries has been higher than anticipated and that in hindsight weekend cover would have been a good idea and will be considered for next year. In the meantime, helpdesk staff are now trying to clear messages over the weekend wherever possible.
- 4.7 G Pearson (Northumberland) commented that it had been appreciated by the leagues when Board and/or staff members had attended their league AGMs. He added that it would be great for a more senior person to have attended theirs. SS said that unfortunately this was one of the very few League AGMs where a Board member was unable to attend due to clashes or diary commitments so a member of staff had attended instead
- 4.8 CN Sewell (Wiltshire) added that he found Mike Smith's attendance at their AGM very rewarding.
- 4.9 AER asked whether public funding was going to be cut in the next cycle. SS replied that currently it was best to expect the status quo and a good result would be the same level of funding overall for Sport England/UK Sport. This would not be known until a later date. SS said that UK Sport lottery funding had tailed off in the last 4-5 years, however the lottery has now stabilised and UK Sport are confident of the same level of funding
- 4.2 M Clark (Worcestershire) (MC) asked what the tenure is on the office at the Badminton England site. SS replied it is an initial 3-year lease but with the intention to renew.
- 4.3 JS asked if the link between Badminton England and Table Tennis England could be taken down to county level. SS said this would be an interesting concept but not a priority.

### 5 OPERATIONS REPORT

- 5.1 EW gave apologies on Jo Keay-Blyth's behalf as she is on annual leave.
- 5.2 JS mentioned the current ranking system issues. S Mills gave explanation of the complexities of changing systems and in particular importing the ITTF results/rankings. AER added that there was a major problem with the ranking system as the ranking lists are weeks late and there is an issue with the way foreign players are rated. S Mills acknowledged the issues and said Sport 80 and ranking staff were working hard to resolve all outstanding matters.

### 6 FINANCIAL REPORT

- 6.1 Apologies were given from Doug Livingstone. Tony Catt, member of the Finance and Audit Committee, is available for any questions.

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- 6.2 MC commented that there is normally a narrative on the financial report and we are unable to see if a surplus or deficit is forecast for the year.
- 6.3 SS answered that Q1 is tracking positively against budget and that a year-end forecast will be done at Q2. Tony Catt explained that Finance and Audit Committee had reviewed the Q1 results. SS said that Doug Livingstone is happy to speak to anyone in more details about any aspect of finance if they want to contact him.

### 7 DEVELOPMENT & VOLUNTEERING REPORT

- 7.1 AER asked for schools to be added to the report in future.
- 7.2 MC added that the addition of 25 new umpires is good news, however, it is disappointing that people have to pay for their own courses as they are volunteers. SS said we could consider an incentive for those that then become active umpires. Ms M Fraser (Surrey) added that as an umpire it is frustrating that people do the courses but then do not become active.

### 8 MISSION 2025 STRATEGY

- 8.1 SD reminded National Council about the Mission 2025 strategy that had been launched in 2015. The Board are working on an updated iteration of it, building on what has been successful (and not successful) in the last four years and refreshing the priorities, outputs and targets.
- 8.2 SD explained that this will come to National Council in December for discussion.
- 8.3 JS asked if the strategy is underpinned by an implementation plan which SD confirmed it was.
- 8.4 SD took the opportunity to share details of the ETTU International Coaching Conference taking place at the Greenhouse Centre in London at the end of October where Richard Prause (German coach) will be the main presenter. SD suggested that if any of the attendees or coaches could attend it would be extremely beneficial.

*4 Sub Group Workshops took place for 60 minutes to discuss the topic*

***'Proposals to mark the centenary of ETTA/Table Tennis England in 2022'***

*The notes from these groups are attached as Appendix 1*

### 9 19.8.3 – MAKING BETTER USE OF I.T. SYSTEMS IN TABLE TENNIS

- 9.1 P Ashleigh (Essex) (PA) introduced the paper on behalf of N Hurford (Oxford) who was attending the Members' Advisory Group meeting and therefore not present.
- 9.2 PA explained that the purpose of the paper and the subsequent discussion/feedback was to get the maximum benefit from the new platforms to look forward and harness the information to run our sport better.

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- 9.3 JS said he was completely supportive of this.
- 9.4 It was agreed by EW and PA that all feedback and ideas would be sent via email to A Nixon to collate.
- 9.5 M Allsop (Nottinghamshire) commented that a lot of the current umpires are of an older generation and questioned whether they would be able to use proposed apps.
- 9.6 Ms M Fraser (Surrey) added that the software the VETTS are using is extremely difficult.
- 9.7 Tony Catt confirmed that the systems are under-utilised and there is a need to make more use of the IT we have. A possible action for the membership team is to produce an educational piece regarding the system and its capabilities to be sent out.

### 10 A.O.B

- 10.1 CN Sewell asked if there was any link between Table Tennis England and Military Table Tennis. Tony Catt agreed to take the action away to follow up.
- 10.2 EW explained that for transparency the National Council and MAG papers would be shared which will also assist in building a good relationship between the two groups.
- 10.3 AER commented about the number of National Council meetings. He said that his view was that a fourth meeting should take place in June which would tie in with the AGM in July. SD pointed out that three meetings have been scheduled for the nine month period between the AGM in June and the end of the financial year in March 2020.

### Action Appendix

This section includes actions discussed and agreed in the meeting.

Action Number	Assigned	Action Description
1	A Nixon	U3A contact details to be distributed
2	SS	Consider weekend support from the membership team for leagues to call/have tickets answered
3	Tony Catt	Establish any connect between table tennis England and Military Table Tennis
4	All	Provide feedback on paper 19.8.3 via email to Ann Nixon

## Appendix 1

### Centenary Celebrations 2020

Fundraising

Raffle – prizes being pairs of dinner tickets.

Will local players put into it?

Fundraising should be project based.

List of projects to be published

- ie, development of female coaches (local and National)
- ie, local table tennis facilities

Centenary completion – mixed category tiered event

- Club (club level)
- County
- Region
- National

Each tier to include a financial input

100 club?

TTE lottery

Corporate Sponsorship

TV project Strictly Come Dancing type format but learning a sport instead of dancing

The Gala Dinner to include memorabilia and archive material

Target major sports suppliers for sponsorship opportunities

Make TT posters – as those in the office, available for local clubs to purchase.

Sunderland League – 110 years old, probably oldest in the country.

Dinner – dignitaries, members, in conjunction with tournament

Good publicity

Design “100” logo. Use it through the year

Tournament – 100 years, 100 tables, lots of ages. 100 leagues to run qualification tournaments. Involve VETTs

TV coverage to celebrate centenary. Sky with Ping Pong connection?

Exhibition

Film – 100 years to be displayed everywhere

Matt Syed to support/use contacts

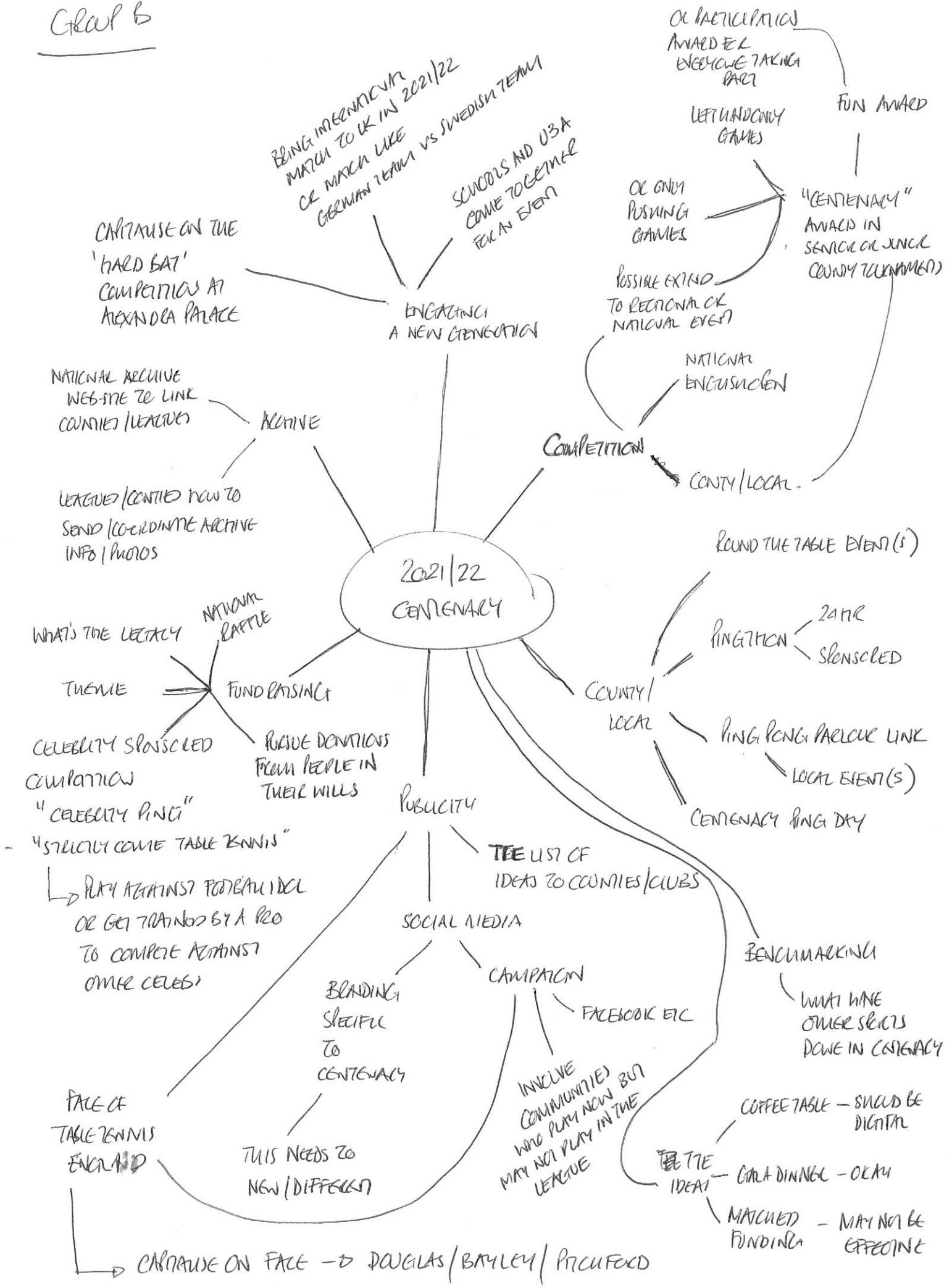
Lottery?

Can't be too close to Birmingham 2022

Fundraising – what grants might be available?



Group B



2021/22 CENTENARY

CARNAUSE ON THE 'HARD BAT' COMPETITION AT ALEXANDRA PALACE

BRING INTERVIEW MATCH TO UK IN 2021/22  
OR MATCH LIKE GERMAN TEAM VS SWEDISH TEAM  
SCHOOLS AND USA COME TOGETHER FOR AN EVENT

OR PARTICIPATION AWARDED EVERYONE TAKING PART  
FUN AWARDED  
LEFT HAND ONLY GAMES  
OR ONLY PUSHING GAMES  
POSSIBLE EXTEND TO REGIONAL OR NATIONAL EVENT  
NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT  
"CENTENARY" AWARDS IN SENIOR OR JUNIOR COUNTY TOURNAMENTS

NATIONAL ARCHIVE WEBSITE TO LINK COUNTRIES/LEAGUES  
ACTIVE  
LEAGUES/COUNTRIES HOW TO SEND/COORDINATE ARCHIVE INFO/PHOTOS

COMPETITION  
COUNTY/LOCAL  
ROUND THE TABLE EVENT(S)  
PING PONG 24 HR  
SPONSORED  
PING PONG PARLOUR LINK  
LOCAL EVENT(S)  
CENTENARY PING PONG

WHAT'S THE LEGACY  
NATIONAL BATTLE  
THEME  
FUNDRAISING  
CELEBRITY SPONSORED COMPANION  
"CELEBRITY PING"  
"STRICTLY COME TABLE TENNIS"

PUBLICITY  
THE LIST OF IDEAS TO COUNTIES/CLUBS  
BENCHMARKING  
WHAT HAVE OTHER SECTS DONE IN CENTENARY  
COFFEE TABLE - SHOULD BE DIGITAL  
THE IDEA - CARA DINNER - OLEA  
MATCHED FUNDING - MAY NOT BE EFFECTIVE

PLAY AGAINST FOOTBALL IDOL OR GET TRAINED BY A PRO TO COMPETE AGAINST OTHER CELEBS

FACE OF TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND  
THIS NEEDS TO NEW/DIFFERENT  
CARNAUSE ON FACE -> DOUGLAS/BAYLEY/PITCHFORD

SOCIAL MEDIA  
BRANDING SPECIFIC TO CENTENARY  
CAMPAIGN  
FACEBOOK ETC  
INCLUDE COMMUNITIES WHO PLAY NEW BUT MAY NOT PLAY IN THE LEAGUE

# **National Council Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September**

## **Centenary Celebrations – Group D Output**

### **County/regional Cup Tournament**

- Centenary Cup;
- Similar format across Counties/Regions;
- Local TT History available – County/Leagues;
- Same day or week of the year;
- Include various TT events:
  - Cadets, Juniors, Top Table, Stay on Table, Table Games;
- Celebrities present e.g. Will Bayley, Matthew Syed, well known and play TT;
- Information present about Counties – Clubs/Leagues/Events;
- Promotional/Advertising materials available;
- Fund Raising events e.g. Raffles (with very large prizes);
- Stalls – Local Organisations/Companies (Sponsorships);

Centenary Merchandise - Badges, Shirt, Shorts, Tracksuits, and Equipment;

Roadshow to visit Schools, Colleges, Social Community Groups;

- Standard Format;
- Includes Promotional Material;
- TT Packages Available, etc;

Films/Video's:

- Information about TTE, Structure, Events e.g. British League, etc;
- Information about how Balls made, Bat & Rubbers made;

One-off Centenary Magazine;

**Jim Skinner, 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2019**