

PRESENT

National Badminton Centre & Zoom*

10:30am

Estyn Williams (Chair - Warwickshire)

National Councillors: David L Hockney* (Avon), Alexander Murdoch* (Bedfordshire), Peter Charters* (Berkshire),) Alan E Ransome OBE (Cleveland), Karen Tonge OBE (Cheshire), Reinhard Lindner (Dorset), Allan Thompson* (Durham), Phil Ashleigh* (Essex), David Adamson* (Gloucestershire)), David Edwards (Hertfordshire), Neil Le Milliere (Kent) James Bolton* (Lancashire) Tony Dias* (Middlesex) Malcolm Allsop* (Nottingham), Ivor Jones* (Northampton), Noel Sewell (Wiltshire) Neil Hurford (Oxfordshire) Chris Dangerfield* (Shropshire), Jos Kelly* (Somerset), Clifford Bell (Staffordshire)*, Margot Fraser* (Surrey), Martin Clark* (Worcestershire), Richard B Hudson* (Yorkshire)

Deputy National Councillors:

Brian Whitehead (Buckinghamshire), Tony Catt (Sussex)

Other: Jill Parker (JP)*, Mike Smith (MS)*

Board Members: Sandra Deaton (SD), Adrian Christy (AC) Kwadjo Adjepong* (KA) Emma Vickers (EV)*, Ray James* (RJ), Don Parker (DP)*, Priya Samuel (PS)*, Susie Venner (SV)*, Ritchie Venner (RV)*

Staff: Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB), Neil Rogers (NR)

Minutes: Jo Keay-Blyth (JKB)

Apologies for Non-Attendance: National Councillors, Deputy National Councillors & Board

Susan Hayes (Buckinghamshire), Brian Freer (Cambridgeshire), John Cowell (Derbyshire), Ken McLeod (Hampshire) Tim Giles (Isle of Wight), Shirley Pickering (Leicester), Gareth Pearson (Northumberland), James Kenny (South Yorkshire), Tom Purcell Board (TP)



Agenda Item	Discussion	Decision/Action	Who	When
1	Chairman Opening Remarks, Update & Welcome EW (Chair) welcomed everyone to today's meeting, and thanked JKB for administration of the meeting and Vicky Wiegleb for her support during her time at Table Tennis England (TTE) (EW) Chair and the National Councillors in attendance congratulated Karen Tonge on her OBE. Feedback from National Council is welcomed following this meeting and is to be sent to EW(Chair) and JKB. (EW) Chair reminded all that it is National Council Elections and the deadline for reappointment paperwork is 15 th June including current standing NC must complete. Chair confirmed he had been re-elected for Warwickshire and would be standing for Chair again following the AGM. a. Register of Business Interests			
	None b. Obituaries EW (Chair) asked everyone to remember those we have lost since the National Council last met. The meeting held a one minute standing silence in their memory. JKB confirmed there had been an additional Obituary for Terry Gadsby, Uxbridge Founder since the papers were produced. c. Hybrid Meeting NH (Oxfordshire) – ran through a summary paper of tech testing that had been undertaken and it was confirmed by all on the call throughout the meeting the improvement from the previous venue.	Decision: National Council approved the minutes of 19 th March 2022 by a show of hands		



2	Minutes from last meeting The minutes from 19 th March 2022 were taken as a true and accurate record.	Action: Add SE Funding and Code	SW/EW	Oct 22
	Matters Arising NLeM (Kent) – said there were 2 items – Update on Sport England Funding and Implications of the Code of Sports Governance.	Implications to a future agenda		
	Chair confirmed that unfortunately due to the content of the Agenda for this meeting these have had to be postponed but understood that perhaps we should have communicated that.			
3	Select Committee on the Constitution Report and Board Response			
3	SD (TTE Chair)— introduced the Boards response to the Select Committee report and confirmed that a great deal of thought and discussion had been put into the responses and hoped that was appreciated.			
	EW (Chair) opened up to NC questions			
	TC (Sussex) – stated that it was about relationships between Board, SLT, Membership and NC and hopes with AC on board that there would be confidence to support.			
	AR (Cleveland)— on behalf of the select committee thanked the Board and confirmed he thought it was moving the same direction as the select committee and summarised each point.			
	Point 1 – he felt in the last 6/9 months there had been significant movement by the Board to the Members and felt it should be in a Policy.			
	Point 2 – Volunteers – current arrangements remove the options for volunteers but understands that CEO is looking at this. The Committee also feel that mistakes by SLT had not been addressed but the introduction of the Talent and Performance Committee has improved this element but there are still areas to improve. The Board decision in relation to the ITTF ranking was welcomed.			



Point 3 – Greater Transparency – in the opinion of the select committee, it is felt that the current format of the annual review isn't acceptable and needs reviewing including more time to ask questions, it was also highlighted that the committee felt the address book was important.

AR (Cleveland) stated there are other points but they are the main ones and no need to go through the others

CD (Shropshire) – thanks to the Board – but was disappointed with the quality of the response in Point 6.

SV (Board member) – summarised some of the responses - stated that members are at the heart of it, but TTE does have other partner organisations that must be considered. This is an opportunity to look forward.

Confirmed there is a lot of talent in the membership, and we do intend to use it and it will become clearer throughout the meeting.

Point 6 – feels there is equal access to the information channels and feels we have gone along way with that and how the resolutions are presented are equal and nothing is biased but the internet is open access but the official communication that go out are fair and balanced but can't control social channels. But we will control those we can.

Summarised a big picture – we can look forward and see what we can do together or we can keep looking back and not make progress. Let's build on the progress already being made.

SD (TTE Chair) – Thanked all the Board for all their input into the response to the report. There will be an annual conference prior to the AGM and the annual review will be presented at that and will give members opportunity to ask questions.

We now need to pull together and make decisions for the future of the sport.

EW (Chair)— summarised that he felt it was a good discussion and although we don't agree on everything, but we can move forward from here.

PC (Berkshire)— reiterated that he didn't think that 'reported to' is the right word in the minutes in relation to the staff and CEO and should be 'accountable to'.



	Resetting a Strategy for TTE			
4	AC (CEO) presented the work to date to progress the Strategy Reset which was approved by the Board on 27 th May.			
	The paper was well received by all in the meeting with some of the key comments being: -			
	 Ensure that Clubs are involved – AC confirmed the Strategy focuses on local support which Clubs are key to People are key to ensure delivery – committee structure will bring the talent of our team together with knowledgeable volunteers incorporated into the committees and therefore helping influence better informed decisions. Pleased with the strategy being led and informed by data and insight Finance to support delivery – there are significant demands placed on the resources we have, and the Board will ultimately make those choices which will be based on impact. Inevitably we will not be able to support everything. The challenge for resources will be even greater with any loss of public funding. Membership – will be looked at the current scheme as part of the Strategy, ensuring it is more fit for purpose and relevant for members The way forward is encouraging Ensure the presentation is shared, albeit to be recognised as 'work in progress' as this will now be fast moving so changing constantly Key message from numerous NC was to support AC and the Board if we are going to be able to deliver the Strategy 	Action: Share presentation and NC to share with County and leagues	JKB	Complete 13/5/22
	presented.			
5	A Membership Plan (this item was taken after the competition review)			
	EW (Chair) introduced his paper and stated some was covered by AC (CEO) but from a different angle. Previously lots of emphasis on participation but this hasn't reflected in the membership, and we need to get everyone to be members, or they will drift away. There are two types of organisations and that's affiliated leagues and clubs and those that are independent (informal groups, U3A etc) and we need to encourage them to affiliate with them to at least be able communicate with them			
	NS (Wiltshire) relayed some areas where they link to independent organisations and the ping parlours, and it works as some become league players and supports what you are saying.			



	NLeM no charge to clubs to join but said we alienated them as the club play won't be free – JKB confirmed that Club Play membership is not compulsory, members can have a supporter membership and still be affiliated. Some Clubs like their members to have the Club Play as they like to ensure that everyone has public liability insurance, but it is not a requirement by TTE for Club players to have a paid membership BW (Buckingham) – were looking at putting in an amendment to the resolution to charge clubs and not the club play members; this is based on the impact of the current financial climate. AR – stated he felt the paper is common sense the problem is there has not previously been this initiative and has struggled to get one in Middlesbrough and should be targeted to those Clubs that have the capacity.			
6	Competition Review			
	NR joined the meeting and presented the update from the review and pre shared the previous presentations to remind NCs of previous consultation and summary.			
	TC (Sussex) raised concern on the length of time the consultation had took and the outcomes are common sense and too narrow.			
	NR confirmed that there had been a pandemic and numerous other priorities, and although most would come out with similar conclusions these are based on the data received so are quantifiable.			
	NLeM (Kent) asked if went out to everyone or just those that played; NR confirmed it had gone to all.			
	AR (Cleveland) stated that there had been a huge amount of work but hard to take in in 48 hours and the impact it would have and would like a small group of NC's to review and feedback – JK (Somerset) confirmed interest NR surprised by comments as it has been available since Oct and has been relayed on numerous occasions.	Action: Share presentation	JKB	Completed 13/6/22
	PC (Berkshire) pleased it is based on data and insight, need to be aware of juniors and cadets if No1's are playing abroad – NR stated these are known factors that need to dovetail in the T & P programme who have fed in			
	JK (Somerset) look at weighting if that biased the results – NR confirmed all have been looked at by an independent insight officer and reassurance given of statistical relevance outcomes.			
	EW (Chair) confirmed closer relationship is required with ping pong parlours and there is more diversity in these independent organisations so a great opportunity.			



7 a. Arrangements for the AGM

JKB summarised the logistics of the AGM, which are: -

- 1. The AGM will be a hybrid AGM this year and will be held at Cranfield University, Mitchell Hall, Bedfordshire on the 16th July, details will be distributed as per the Notice on the 25th June.
- 2. It will follow the format of previous AGMs with the Annual Conference in the morning and the AGM in the afternoon.
- 3. Voting will be done the same as last year on the MiVoice system so all are voting live either online or in the room an electronic device will be needed to do this
- 4. Proxy's will be done the same as last year and can be submitted up to 48 hours prior to the AGM for those who can not attend or who don't want to use the live voting system. We recommend doing Proxys to the Chair as the Chair will always be there whereas someone nominated may for some unforeseen circumstance might not be able to attend. Proxy's must vote as you state and all votes to the Chair will be prepopulated into the voting system which ensures your vote counts.
- 5. If you do have multiple proxy votes and they are discretionary then we can combine these so that you only have to vote once, which will reduce the workload on each vote.
- 6. A video will be distributed with the other details on the 25th June that will explain the voting process and a test vote will be undertaken prior to the actual resolutions so we can identify any issues.

NLeM (Kent) – asked does that mean everyone at the venue will need an electronic device – JKB confirmed yes if they wish to undertake live voting then an electronic device will be required, but reassured by stating that additional staff will be present to help along with devices should an individual not have their own.

AR (Cleveland) asked if there would be sufficient time after the presentation of the Annual Review to ask questions – JKB stated that the annual conference was separate to the AGM but SD (TTE Chair) had stated there would be time for questions. AC (CEO) confirmed that SD and AC had been through the programme and built-in time but dependant on the questions will depend on if it is enough time.

EW (Chair) – passed on a message from the Returning Officer that she would prefer if you know how you are going to vote to give your Proxy to the Chair as it is a much simpler process as it is prepopulated.



CD (Shropshire) – concerned at having to have tech in the room so that if anyone does turn up without and ensure everyone's votes are counted. JKB reiterated there will be additional staff in the room, and devices, to help and support people

SV (Board member) feels our diversity and inclusion needs to include everyone and that people aren't discounted – it was confirmed that every individual will be able to vote, either by proxy or on the day.

AM (Bedfordshire) asked the question on voting in the regulations states on a show of hands – NleM (Kent) as a member of Standing Orders confirmed that even on a show of hands and will take into account electronic voting.

Summary of the various ways to vote:

- 1. Proxys can be completed up to 48 hours before either to someone else or the Chair so they can attend but do not need to vote themselves.
- 2. If they have multiple votes (as stated AR (Cleveland) did last year) we can consolidate their votes into one vote to minimise the difficulties on the day if it is discretionary
- 3. There will be two additional staff to normal on hand to help on the day with people who may struggle to vote and there will be a couple of devices if someone does turn up without a device although all the comms will say please bring an electronic device
- 4. There is a training video that will be sent out with all the documentation so all those voting can become familiar with it prior to the day
- 5. There is a test vote before the main vote so we can support anyone prior to anything that actually counts
- 6. We have a support person from MiVoice who will be attending on the day to help if there are any issues so we can get them addressed.
- 7. We will give more time in the earlier voting so people will become familiar with the system.
- 8. A lot of people did this last year very successfully so should already be familiar with the process.



b. AGM Resolutions

Resolution 1 – Company Members shall elect four directors

SV summarised the Resolution and credited PC (Berkshire) for originally bringing this to last year's general meeting. The Board fully support this Resolution.

Resolution 2 – Nominations received for Elected Directors shall be considered by the Nominations Committee taking account of the candidate's ability, experience and expertise to fulfil the identified role on the Board, and of the need to ensure that the Board has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence and knowledge.

SV explained the importance of this resolution to TTE as this is one of the two that we must get through to ensure we are Code compliant and therefore can maintain our public funding. The Board will only recommend to the membership the candidates that meet the skills identified via skills and diversity matrix. The membership can still vote for any of the candidates that have put themselves forward.

CD (Shropshire) – questioned whether we would be Code compliant if the membership chooses a different candidate. He felt that if the Board state which ones fit the skills matrix then this is still not acceptable but the candidate should say how they fit the areas required.

SV confirmed that we have to take into account the skills and diversity matrix but the Code does not enforce who we have to appoint.

Diane Webb has submitted an amendment to add the detail in the current rationale into the main articles of 'All candidates will be presented to the Members to vote for their preferred candidate' so stops this being forgotten in the future and that will make this an acceptable resolution.

PC (Berkshire) – no issue with stating where gaps are and would only have objection if there was a veto involved. SV has confirmed there will be no veto.



Resolution 3 – Such directors shall be appointed by resolution of the Board following an open, formal, publicly advertised and transparent selection process by the Nominations Committee, taking account of the candidate's ability, experience and expertise to fulfil the identified role on the Board, and of the need to ensure that the Board has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, diversity, independence and knowledge.

This was deemed as uncontroversial, and no comments were made

Resolution 4 - That from 1 August 2022 the following affiliation fees apply:

- Senior Compete Member £20 Junior/Cadet Compete Member £10
- Compete Plus will remain at a £22 upgrade for senior and £11 for Juniors/Cadets

and

Resolution 5 – That from 1 August 2022 the following affiliation fees apply:

Senior Club Play Member £6 Junior/Cadet Club Play Member £4

SV summarised that we are asking for this as these were what were in the 5 year strategy

BW (Buckinghamshire) are looking to put through an amendment through of £18 and £9; the reasons being the effects of the current financial climate.

NLeM (Kent) – questioned the deadline if it was the by the 11^{th} it was end of day on the 10^{th} June. JKB confirmed it is by the end of the day of the 11^{th} June.

NS (Wiltshire) – felt that people in multiple leagues should pay more than those that play in just one or stand in occasionally

MC (Worcestershire) Understands the rationale but felt that putting up by £2 per year is better as members will look at the Resolution as it stands as a 25% increase.



SV – accepted it was a valid point, it is a small increase and the association feels this is as small as is needed but understands the thoughts of members.

Resolution 6 - Remove Article 34.3 which states 'Affiliation fees shall be set only at a General Meeting'.

SV – Confirmed that the Board believe this to be the most controversial one but also the most important one as currently, we do not comply to the Code of Sports Governance given that this presents the Board as not being the ultimate decision maker, particularly as this does not give the Board control over such a significant part of the organisations non- grant income. Failure to secure the support of the membership places a significant risk to public funding because TTE will not be Code compliant. The impact could be a loss of circa £11m of public funding.

AR (Cleveland) – asked councillors to go back to the last meeting when we said this wasn't acceptable and losing the £11m SE funding was also not acceptable. We asked the Board to go back and see if there was anything else that can be done, which has been done and there isn't a straight choice. Believes we do need to support this and the rationale is that there has been significant changes over the year or so, we have a new CEO who has presented his strategy this morning and has more confidence in those plans, significant changes on the Board with more members from table tennis and believes the Board will do the right thing for the sport, can see that things are being addressed that are being highlighted and trusts the Board too deliver so we need to support this resolution and hopes the AGM will support.

TC (Sussex) – believes with the changes made recently and what AC (CEO) presented on the strategy earlier we should be looking positively to the future because we will have the structure AC is putting in place, a better placed Board and two new Board Members. We need to support this

MC (Worcestershire) – confused by the rationale but doesn't have any control of how much SE give us, trying to understand if it specifically says the setting of affiliation fee

NH (Oxfordshire) – Thanked AR (Cleveland) & TC (Sussex) and associated himself with supporting this resolution. He knows they will not have come to this conclusion easily but do want the best or the sport. AC (CEO) set out a fantastic strategy and if we want to be able to deliver that then we need to support him and a big part of that is the finances to be able to deliver.



EW (Chair) – as chair I have tried to keep out of controversy, but I do not feel I can keep uncontroversial in this case on whether we can continue to function or not. If we vote this down, we will lose our funding

CD (Shropshire) – the meeting has been very positive and welcomes the positive vision presented and stated that he understands the lose of SE funding will present significant challenges for our sport and doesn't want to see that happen. Feels that nothing presented today has changed that and members and local leagues won't care and looks like he will be directed to vote against. Feels that there is a different way that we would still be compliant and risky to be taken to the AGM.

RL (Dorset) - Doesn't say in the Code that the Board should set the affiliation fees

AC (CEO) – the Code is very explicit that the Board is the ultimate decision maker which includes the strategy setting including the finance, particularly the level of non grant income that membership revenue represents and, in this respect, the Board is not the ultimate decision maker and that's what makes us non compliant. This isn't just about the affiliation fees though, this is about the Board demonstrating good governance practice and having the confidence of the membership.

AR (Cleveland) asked if the Board could consider reduced affiliation fee from £20 and link to RPI to help get this resolution fee

BW (Buckingham) relayed that Milton Keynes might look at putting an amendment to get it added that only increased by RPI

Resolution 7,8 & 9

EW (Chair) as a member of Rules Committee explained that these are just technical resolutions to simplify some of the language to make it clearer.

Resolution 10, 11 & 12

AR (Cleveland) as chair of Select Committee that have proposed these – a lot of these refer back to the previous regime where the relationship between the members and the Board was not very good and that has now improved significantly. It is felt that the risk that future CEOs may go back on this. If it goes into the AGM minutes there will be



	documented evidence that members are key stakeholders in the association, that volunteers with significant experience will be included in helping to contribute to the organisation, and that certain positions should have sport experience.		
	Resolution 13		
	Select Committee are not looking to change anything with SE/DCMS but feel it is the right thing to do to feedback that some of the areas that have been enforced on NGBs that it is felt they have not been in the best interest of the Sport.		
	Resolution 14		
	PC (Berkshire) The ranking system in the past year with the ITTF override has had a massive negative effect and objects to any override because of how weak the ITTF system is.		
	DP (Board) Talent & Performance Committee are in total agreement with this fully with Cadet or Junior and is already approved for the new season, however they feel that if someone is in the top 75 of the World then they should be Number 1 in England but will assess at each quarterly meeting if required to adjust.		
	Note: The T & P Committee has already proposed an option to the Board to adjust the override, and this was approved by the Board on 27 th May to be effective from 1 st August 2022.		
8	Number of Hybrid and Virtual Meetings		
	JKB introduced the paper and explained that TTE must remain cognisant of costs. The past two years during the pandemic has shown that virtual meetings are successful and currently most of National Council attend virtually.		
	The request is for National Council to follow the Board's similar commitment and move two meetings to virtual.		
	NLeM – feels that virtual meetings are fine with a small number of people but not for larger numbers and that the members contribute through their membership fees which should support these meetings		
	AR (Cleveland) – reinforced NLeM point and also is able to network with other councillors		



	NH (Oxfordshire) – his feedback is that his members don't like their fees being spent on NC going to a meeting, 20+ people on line today and only 10 in the room, feels that 50/50 is the right balance to support all			
	NS (Wiltshire) suggested that a compromise to 3 meetings a year he would support			
	TC (Surrey) chose to come to the meeting but will not claim expenses so will be no cost TTE			
	EW (Chair) asked JKB an average cost for the meetings. JKB stated it is approx £2,000 per meeting			
	EW (Chair) confirmed we should vote but after discussion it was felt to bring it as the first item in the next meeting as a significant number of councillors had had to leave the meeting.	Action: Add vote to Agenda for October	Sue W	Oct 22
	Reports			
9	a. TTE Chair			
	MC (Berkshire) – didn't feel comment regarding affiliation fees and that members had the final vote by affiliating was appropriate.			
	b. General Update & Board Minutes			
	TC (Sussex) – Management report how often will it be reported? GBTT articles who approved them and what is the £1.3million spent on? What was the Ukraine decision taken by SLT?			
	AC – confirmed the Management Report is produced at the end of every quarter, GBTT articles were developed by the home nations. The breakdown of the UK Sport investment can be shared. Ukraine proposal wasn't taken forward.			
	AR (Cleveland) liked the old department reports and wondered if it could be reinstated. AC (CEO) confirmed the Management Report will be the style of reporting now presented.			
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c. Talent & Performance

AR (Cleveland) Why has U10 and U12 championships been dropped this year? The National Juniors masters – used to be a selector for European youth championship but the team has already been selected and it has been programmed in the middle of this age groups exam

DP (T & P Committee) confirmed that England is aligning with ITTF. National Cup agrees timing is not ideal and we spoke earlier on competition review, this season it was not possible due to operational reasons and this year those selected are using this as part of their preparation for the European Youth Championship.

d. Management Report

AC (CEO) – Explained that the new format is to ensure we monitor the Business Plan and report back to Board and National Council and how we are progressing. This is the main focus of SLT and more appropriate to report in this way.

Also the monthly CEO Updates have departmental updates and is more timely.

e. Finance Report

MC (Worcestershire) – Questioned why the actual was £20,335 which coincides with the published accounts but the forecast is different.

Answer following the meeting: the forecast is different as this was the forecast after Q3 but the deficit on the centenary was reduced so came in slightly better than forecast at year end, hence the actual being different.

MC (Worcestershire) - The accounts should not be submitted to Companies House until they have been accepted by the AGM.

Answer following the meeting: having checked the auditors file, the audited accounts and they have always been filed before the General Meeting. Sam Garey has contacted them to ask them in future to wait until after the General Meeting when they are formally approved.

Action: Confirm
finance
responses in the
minutes

JKB Completed



NLeM (Kent) asked why it says turnover not income and where membership income sits and would like to see it separately.			
JKB confirmed at the meeting that membership income sits in core operations.			
Answer following the meeting : The report used is a standard template so cannot obtain the subcategories, but TTE will look to add into the commentary and membership updates the income as well.			
AR (Cleveland) – requests that turnover says income MC (Worcestershire) – confirmed that the template is a standard format			
Answer following the meeting – This is a standard report format, which typically lists money generated as "Turnover". We will see if this can be amended			
f. Other Reports (including Select Committees and MAG)			
MAG			
NH (Oxfordshire) – Chair of MAG had no additional comments to his report AR (Cleveland) – Agreed with participation in National Competition and clubs of convenience should be discouraged as they are not developing players			
AOB			
NS (Wiltshire) is concerned by the construction of some of the county constitutions and they fall short and doesn't include diversity and inclusion. NS developing a template and is happy to share.	Action: NS to send in County	NS	ASAP
EW (Chair) EW and NH had recently been discussion about developing a compendium to help support leagues in their running and this could support that	Constitution to JKB		
AR (Cleveland) asked if anyone was interested in joining a small group – JKB confirmed			
AM (Berkshire) – IT group to develop a strategy and data driven			



EW (Chair) asked for any feedback on the meeting especially planning on the timing to JKB

Date of next meeting: 22nd October 2022 – All England Room, Badminton England & Zoom: hybrid

AGM meeting date: 16th July 2022

Action	Owner	Timeline
Add SE Funding and Code Implications to a future agenda	SW/EW	To be confirmed
Share Strategy Presentation for NC to share with their counties and leagues	JKB	Completed
Share Competition presentation	JKB	Completed
Add vote on number of meetings to Agenda for October	SW/EW	October 22
Confirm finance responses in the minutes	JKB	Completed
NS to send in County Constitution to JKB	NS(Wiltshire)	ASAP