

REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL AND TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND

Table Tennis England, Chief Executive Officer, Adrian Christy has asked the National Council Select Committee to reply to a number of questions relating to the voting system and the involvement of members in the governance of table tennis. The committee has met and has produced answers as detailed below.

1.2 Definition of Company Member –

Q. Is the definition of the Company Member already too broad – should it be limited to County Associations?

A. No, it is good at the moment and if the voting at the AGM and any election is extended to clubs then the clubs should appoint Club Company Members

Q. If a club is to be included, should there be a refined definition of ‘what is a club?’

A. Yes, we would be happy to see significant clubs have a vote, it is a question of what is the definition of ‘significant’. One possibility is that they would need to be

- a) a premier club
- b) have their own facilities
- c) have a constitution
- d) be a legitimate club that meets at their facilities on a regular basis.

While we would see entering teams in the British League being a benefit and entering teams in a local league, this would be desirable not essential.

Their voting strength should be based on the number of their members who have affiliated to Table Tennis England.

Alongside this, we believe that the County Members vote at the AGM should remain at the same level the leagues in the county and if there are new clubs having Company Members the total vote of the County Members would be the sum of the votes of all the league and club company members in their county and thus remain at 50%.

This is a tradition that has been handed down over many years from the associations forefathers and is a safety net which can be used to avoid any potential harmful decisions or proposals being put forward by any member association or the board to the AGM.

This has proved to be very useful over the last decade. There have been a number of proposals coming from the previous Chief Executive and her team which in the view of the Select Committee would have been detrimental to the sport if they had been accepted.

One of these was to water down the influence of the National Council itself by reducing to two meetings. There were a number of other proposals that came forward that would not have received the necessary vote at the AGM due to the “safety blanket” referred to above.

This principle has been in place for many years and when the association changed their members organisation to a company Limited by guarantee, this principle was still retained.

Q. Who, within the table tennis community, should have a role in the governance of the sport – who should have a vote?

A. The votes should be limited to Company Members who are
a) board members
b) county members,
c) league members and if agreed, club members.

The role within the sport can be widened and other members should be entitled to attend the AGM and given the right to speak should they wish to do so. There should also be a forum as there used to be within the Table Tennis News magazine section for members to express their views.

Q. How can we ensure our voting structure is more inclusive and actively promotes diversity of thought at all levels of the organisation?

A. We would like the voting structure to be inclusive and promote diversity and we are confident that if the voting club member is adopted that this would be one of the positive results of that change.

Alan Ransome
Chairman
Select Committee on the Constitution
19th December 2022