

Proposition from Jonathan Hopson

This meeting strongly urges the Board to bring forward a new Table Tennis England membership package as a priority item of business.

Dear Alan,

I have deliberately kept the proposal brief and while it is not my intention to get into a debate at the NC meeting about specific numbers and what they may or may not mean to different people, I thought it would be helpful to quote some actual TTE membership numbers to help illustrate the point below about "sustained gradual decline."

The members are the lifeblood of all national sports governing bodies and given the sustained gradual decline in annual TTE membership over the last 10 years, reversing this trend is clearly one of the Board's most important priorities.

"One of the most compelling statistics I have come across during the last few months is that, according to the Sport England Active People's Survey, around 400,000 adults in the UK play table tennis at least once a month.

I appreciate this figure includes a significant proportion of people who do not wish to enhance their table tennis interest/skill level e.g. a significant proportion of those who play at holiday camps, Ping Pong Parlours, Outdoor Park Tables etc.

However, the current TTE membership figure of c. 26,000 equates to only c. 6% of 400,000, strongly suggesting there is ample scope, over time, to at least double our membership levels to over 50,000.

TTE membership levels have declined markedly during the last 10 years.

The number of members in 2013/14 was 28,250, increasing annually to a high point in 2018/19, (prior to the Covid pandemic) of 44,652.

While numbers have since partially recovered, 26,405 members in 2022/23 represents a 7% decline from 2013/14.

Adrian Christy recently outlined some interesting initial thoughts on how TTE annual membership could be re-vamped to a 'pick-and-mix' menu of options.

However, as I understand it, these initial thoughts will not be re-considered until the 2024/25 membership season.

In response to the sustained decline in annual TTE membership numbers, I strongly urge the Board to bring forward a re-vamped TTE membership package as a priority item of business."

Jonathan Hopson
National Councillor for Berkshire