

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the National Council Meeting held at The Mercure Hotel, The Approach, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes MK8 8LY, on Saturday 7th November 2015, commencing at 13:00pm

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS Mrs V J Murdoch (Bedfordshire), C Dyke (Berkshire), RR Washington (Buckinghamshire), BR Freer (Cambridgeshire), Mrs KM Tonge MBE (Cheshire, Regional Chair North West and BTTAD), AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland) Mrs DM Jermyn (Cornwall), LA Chatwin (Derbyshire), P Goulding (Devonshire), LT Whittaker (Dorset), A Thompson (Durham), S Pound (Essex), LJ Smith (Gloucestershire), DB Turner (Hampshire), DJ Edwards (Hertfordshire), N Le Milliere (Kent), S Clarke (Lancashire), GE Tyler (Lincolnshire), M Close (Middlesex), R Barr (Northamptonshire), J Donnelly (Northumberland), M Allsop (Nottinghamshire), N Hurford (Oxfordshire), C Dangerfield (Shropshire), JM Burtenshaw (Somerset), R Loxley (South Yorkshire), D Sherratt (Staffordshire), Miss M Fraser (Surrey), A Catt (Sussex), E J Williams (Warwickshire), CN Sewell (Wiltshire), MG Clark (Worcestershire), RB Hudson (Yorkshire)

DEPUTY NATIONAL COUNCILLORS Mrs S Pickering (Leicestershire and Regional Chair East Midlands)

STAFF Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive), RH Sinclair (Executive Assistant/General Secretary), J Bruck (Head of Operations), Ms G Cronin (Head of Marketing & Communications), Ms E St John (Head of Development), Ms C Howkins (Children & Young People Manager), Ms A Gabb (Receptionist/Office Administrator/Minute taker)

REGIONAL CHAIRMEN D Turner (South & South East), JM Burtenshaw (South West), N Wheatley (West Midlands Regional Chairman)

INVITED Mrs DM Stannard (President), Mrs S Deaton (Chairman), Ms S Hughes (Deputy Chairman), K Thomas (Treasurer), TV Purcell, Mrs A L Tazartes, C Wilson (Directors), M Smith (Director and BUCS), J Arnold (ESTTA), Mrs L Reid (VETTS)

APOLOGIES T Vincent (Norfolk), B Kitchener (Herefordshire), H Jutle (Herefordshire), S Griew (Director), P Huggon (Director), A Nixon (Director), K Skeggs (Director), S Hastings (London Regional Chairman), C Davison (North East Regional Chairman), B Davison (East Regional Chairman), C Clemett (Rules)

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING

Tony Catt (AC), Chairman started the meeting with a minutes silence for Liz Wilson, who was an international umpire.

1.1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none declared

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 11.07.15
(7679/2/MW)**

2.1 The minutes were approved.

2.2 MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA

The following matters were raised:-

2.3 AER stated that the minutes produced from the board meeting were not completely understandable and that more explanation is needed. AC explained that this has already been discussed with J.Bruck and a narrative summary has been produced containing more information. Apologies were made concerning the report only being published today.

2.4 Annual General Meeting

AER shared feedback from the AGM and questioned where the development money is being invested. A huge amount of money is being spent within the Priority Zone program. It was discussed at the AGM that there could be a lot more benefit to the sport if key volunteers are targeted and prioritised, as they are capable of delivering in rural areas, rather than just working with local authorities. AER questioned what the current progress is, and if there is going to be a change of policy.

2.5 In reply to AER, E.St John explained that the budget is split across a number of areas including; investment in adult satellite clubs and new clubs programs which are being piloted and will be available across the country/to any premier clubs. A reasonable amount of investment has gone towards this development but it will create sustained activity.

2.6 AC suggested this to be a main topic on the agenda for future meetings. AER agreed. **Action:** The Development/Priority Zone programme to be added to the next agenda as an additional discussion topic.

2.7 No other matters were raised from the AGM.

3 INTRODUCTION TO THOSE PRESENT

3.1 As new members have joined the National Council meeting, AC suggested sending a microphone around the room to allow everyone to introduce themselves.

4. REPORT BY TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND CHAIRMAN – Paper no. 15-4-1

4.1 Rob Sinclair's 40th anniversary was acknowledged along with the announcement of his retirement at Christmas. A presentation of a silver photo frame was made by S.Deaton. RS proceeded to give a speech thanking National Council.

4.2 SD explained how she was asked to go to Burntwood School to help dedicate two tables in the name of Stephen Sutton, who was a victim of Cancer, a table tennis player and a fundraiser who had raised over £5million for the Teenage Cancer Trust. Stephen made a clock memento which he donated to Table Tennis England to help his legacy live on. This was presented to SS to take back to Head Office.

- 4.3** SD mentioned an inaccuracy published within her report. In October she wrote about going to Buzau for the Youth Championships, she actually meant the Youth Top 10. She stated she has nothing else to add to her report.
- 4.4** AER enquired about the benefits of bidding for the European Youth Top 10 2017, and wanted to ensure that it wasn't going to be a major financial drain on the association.
- 4.5** In reply to AER, SD advised that the Association had put an expression of interest in to the ETTU for the Youth Top 10 in 2017 and the European Under 21 Championship, which is a new event being introduced in 2018. England has been invited to present its bid to the ETTU EB in February. At the moment the team is working very hard in finding potential venues and financial support. It is an excellent opportunity to expose our top junior and cadet players to the top youth competition. It is a good opportunity to engage the membership.
- 4.6** AER mentioned that the next Commonwealth Championships will be taking place in India. He listed the associations that have entered, including 5 from the U.K; England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Jersey. AER said that a good team is being sent out there, so hopefully they will win some medals. AER further explained that 'core sports' are automatically accepted into the Commonwealth Games and table tennis is now one of those sports. He also mentioned that if Table Tennis England want to host the Commonwealth Championships for the first time, the opportunity to bid is open.
- 5. REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE - Paper no. 15-4-2**
- 5.1** SS stated that she has some updates to add to her report. In relation to the Department of Culture Media and Sport's consultation for the "strategy for sport", it is understood that over 3000 submissions were received and the Minister in particular has commended the country for the depth and quality of submissions. It is expected that the strategy will be released early December. There will then be a three month consultation period from January to March with Sport England, regarding how they build their strategy off the back of the government's strategy.
- 5.2** The Comprehensive Spending Review will be announced later this month. This is a Government wide CSR and wide ranging cuts are expected. Sport England and UK sport may receive cuts and these may be passed on to the Governing bodies. This highlights the fragility of the environment in which Table Tennis England are operating in.
- 5.3** SD and SS recently attended the Sport and Recreation Alliance convention where they launched a grass roots, social media driven, campaign called 'Get Your Kit On', which will be happening over the next 2 to 3 weeks to get a message directly to the Treasury and Prime Minister about the importance of grassroots sport.
- 5.4** Lastly, SS announced that following negotiations ITV has offered Table Tennis England a 3 hour live broadcast slot on the Sunday of the Nationals, showing men's doubles final, men's singles final and women's singles final. This will be live on ITV4. Tickets also go on sale from 1st December and it is hoped that the venue is full on the day. If there are strong

viewing figures ITV may express interest in taking ownership of table tennis again and may provide more regular TV coverage.

- 5.6** SS welcomed questions regarding her national council report.
- 5.7** AER congratulated all those involved in getting table tennis back on ITV. Referring to SS's report, he expressed concern that the CGE and the BOA had required National Governing Bodies to provide funding for entry into the competitions, (E.G Samoa Youth Commonwealth Games and Baku European Games) this is concerning development. Regarding the Sport England strategy, he voiced that it's vital that the new strategy includes primary schools in terms of the overall picture.
- 5.8** Starting with AER's second point, SS stated that it is a consistent message that's been driven by a number of governing bodies focusing overly on the 14 plus age group is flawed and she believes that Sport England agree with this as well in principle. On the first point, in every cycle now there are 9 events which the British Olympic Association have to manage, this means there is a lot of pressure on finance. They have also started to introduce a small charge for the Youth Olympic Games and it was seen for the first time at the European Games this summer. The Commonwealth Games England are also thinking about introducing this for the Commonwealth Games, despite not wanting to, it is an option they have to consider as they look at their own finance.
- 5.9** In the absence of any other questions, AC proceeded to ask what if anything is happening with Badminton England. In reply to this SS explained that the original plan for a new arena to be built in Milton Keynes fell through due to a funding gap and political hurdles. She explained that herself and SD met with the Chief Executive and Chair of Badminton England at the Sport and Recreation Alliance convention, where they shared their draft plans. Badminton England have a redevelopment plan for their existing site which will be almost double the size of the existing facility. SS emphasised that she is sharing this information in confidence. It is Badminton England's facility and money, however they are including Table Tennis England into their plans to be core tenants.
- 6. REPORT BY TREASURER/HEAD OF OPERATIONS WHICH INCLUDES FINANCE REPORT - Paper no. 15-4-3**
- 6.1** MGC asked why the British League deposits are down by £7,000 as there hasn't been any change. *As the question had not been submitted prior to the meeting as per National Council Guidance(which had now been in force for over one year), JB and KT were unable to respond, however, CD commented that it was corrected that deposits are no longer required, thus they don't exist. This did not, however, explain why there was still £24,414 remaining on the Balance Sheet.*
- 6.2** MC noted that the funding from Sport England is up by almost £1million in the forecast. He noted some funding which was brought forward to this year, ~~like the £375,000 for the capital expenditure.~~ In reply to MC, JB said that he would have to refer back to Brian Skinner regarding this and then come back to him about it.

- 6.3** EJW noted that if someone is going to ask a very detailed question on the spot it is going to be difficult for the treasurer to answer. It was suggested in National Council Guidance that detailed and technical questions are submitted beforehand to allow for preparation time.
- 6.4** AC asked if it was possible that MC prepare and submit his questions earlier. MC highlighted that there isn't a lot of time to do this because the report is produced too late, however he will take the suggestion on board *given the time factor*. *It was, however, acknowledged that such notice had not historically been given or required*.
- 6.5** J.Bruck stated the accounts are closed by the 20th of each month and that they will try and get the next set of figures out as soon as possible for the next National Council meeting in January.
- 6.6** AC asked a question in line with the Comprehensive Spending Review and possible reduced support from Sport England in the future. He asked if there is any method of calculating the fees that members should pay the association to become more self-funding or at least sufficient.
- 6.7** In reply KT said that the core costs of the organisation are being reviewed. Measures are being taken to reduce those core costs but in order for there to be a balance, other sources of income need to be considered too. A long term view of fee income is necessary. AC interjected by saying he thinks this needs to be completed by April, for example, to give time for the figures to go forward and allow clubs/counties to prepare everybody for the fee increase and to explain to them why.
- 6.8** J.Bruck explained that Table Tennis England get a certain amount of funding from Sport England but there are specific aspects which have to be self-funded, such as the top end of the talent programme and preparing players for the Olympics/Commonwealth Games. Table Tennis England are not funded to deliver to the under 14's in the schools, therefore the membership fees don't go just to the core costs, they go to a huge amount of delivery and into helping table tennis grow. JB further explained that the funding Sport England provides is used in two ways, one of which is for core funding and the other is for capital funding. In the reward letter from Sport England it states £375,000 will be granted for next year's capital funding, but as this is exchequer funding it is open to being reduced. Membership income is key, not just for the core funding but for the delivery and growth too. SS added that the Board has a two day Board meeting arranged for December where a draft of longer term financial modelling will be discussed.
- 7. REPORT BY HEAD OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS – Paper no. 15-4-4**
- 7.1** GC distributed a paper containing current membership numbers. As this is the first time this information has been provided this way, GC said to let her know if anybody has any feedback on the presentation of the figures. The intention is to produce a report which everyone will find useful and for this to be a regular paper for National Council.
- 7.2** NLM stated it would be useful to see the renewal figures against the new members. This will determine how many new seniors are former cadet junior members, against the new

members which join. He said that we continually use the term 'renewals' to describe the whole membership, when some members are actually new, meaning the figures aren't accurate. GC agreed and took the feedback into consideration. NLM continued by highlighting the concern against the age categories breakdown. He stated that 17,000 are Veterans which is 66% of the members, leaving only 34% who are senior, junior and cadet. He thinks that if this issue isn't addressed soon, the sport is going to decline. NLM then moved onto the website hits shown in GC's report. He read out that we get 34,890 unique hits which is 9,000 more than the membership figure. NLM questioned why we aren't capturing these users, as they evidently have an interest in table tennis. NLM's final concern was that he was disappointed that more videos are not uploaded regularly to the YouTube channel.

- 7.3** PG commented that he isn't that disappointed or surprised. He stated that he's pleased we seem to be hanging on to some 18 year old players. He is happy that the Veterans are so strong and he thinks that everybody has the potential to be part of the Veterans. He also highlighted that with table tennis, players can continue to play till they are 90 years old and beyond.
- 7.4** JA mentioned finding out how many people play in the zone final, not the county finals. The estimate he came to was 1,250 players and around 10,000 playing in schools competitions. He stated that we need to capture these people as they can become members which will boost the cadet figures.
- 7.5** AER stated that the UK School Games is a fantastic competition and it's an honour that table tennis is involved in it, he also said that everything possible needs to be done to maintain this position in the future. It is a great experience and all of the children look forward to it. AER also mentioned that the Junior British League which was hosted at Derby was a big improvement from previous years and that the venue is now much better, overall it was a successful competition. *With the size of Derby, both the Veteran British Leagues* and National League events could have fitted in the same venue rather than splitting them between Derby and Cambridge. This idea would save a lot of money which could go towards providing a better venue. On membership figures, he thinks that a comparison against past years would also be useful. In previous years it's been acknowledged that there's been a 20% downfall of players but it is due to reasons such as retirement or death, it would be good to be able to see this information clearly.
- 7.6** CD believes that the lack of facilities and clubs is the reason for the low number of members. We need more facilities along with an increase of umpires and referees. We also need to encourage more people to become volunteers. AC agreed that this would probably see more senior continuing to play.
- 7.8** EJW mentioned that since the associate membership has been made free this season, the figures for this category have doubled since last year already, from 1,000 to 2,000. He thinks that everybody needs to be filtered into this area, such as the school children which John was referring to. It's not necessarily their money that's wanted, it's more about being able to contact them, encourage them and make them part of the table tennis community.

- 7.9** NH referred to the graph on page 3 of GC's report, which he stated he can't see anything positive. He said from a business perspective, he can't see a future for table tennis considering the low number of 18-40 year olds currently playing. NH thinks better results will be seen if there is a change in the way in which the sport is organised to appeal to a younger demographic.
- 7.10** TC said that he is grateful for the positive comments made about the event at the Derby Arena, he also confirmed that it was very successful. However, he was disappointed about the lack of local publicity of the event, and said it wasn't even mentioned on the local newspaper website. GC interjected by saying that Paul Stimpson did send it in to them.
- 7.11** DMJ commented that the 14,000 Veterans are a legacy from when table tennis was played in work canteens. The majority of those players are now in their 60/70/80s and they are still playing. She continued by saying, because this era has disappeared, so has a lot of venues. She believes that's what has caused the large decreased.
- 7.12** NS stated that he couldn't agree more with the comments about the elderly. He stated that venues are too expensive, one he went to visit recently was £50. Others in the meeting noted that this was not unusual and indeed several are more expensive.
- 7.13** SP stated that the cost for adults to go to competitions is too high and that we don't have sufficient facilities or storage for the tables. He said we need to look at how we can subsidise the costs of the venues as players can't afford it so therefore drop out.
- 7.14** SD stated that the low numbers of the age bracket of 18-40 is not new and has always been a problem. She acknowledged that table tennis is an easy sport to start playing but to continue with it is much more difficult and costly. Tables are being put in work places and Universities to try and encourage people to start playing and possibly start new clubs. She said that Table Tennis England are trying to keep those 18 year olds which are playing but, as it is for every sport, it is difficult to keep them.
- 7.15** Coming back to AER's comments, CD stated that the venues at Derby and Cambridge were already booked and couldn't be cancelled, so it wasn't actually possible to combine the two events this year. He added that there will be a survey going out to clubs in the Veterans and Junior British Leagues to capture all of the positive feedback that was given from the events and also to highlight the possible merge of the two junior events at one venue.
- 7.16** GC said that as part of the digital strategy they are looking to capturing the data from the newsletter which will be sent out. It is going to be less formal and a bit more social in order to target a younger audience and get them more engaged. GC also stated that they will look at trying to upload more videos to the YouTube channel.
- 7.17** NS asked if it was possible for the figures to be split down into seniors and veterans, to compare the two membership types.

7.18 SS noted that Table Tennis England aren't necessarily losing the players to the sport, it is more the case that they are being lost from the structured side of the sport. The demographic of social players show a high proportion of 18-40 year olds.

8. REPORT BY HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT – Paper no. 15-4-5

8.1 ESJ referred to the paper situated on each table, which is a more detailed priority zone report. She highlighted that they will be able to read about the announcement of new activity, new clubs and social activities starting. ESJ also wanted to add that the social table tennis initiatives have been launched which will hopefully help overcome the issue of venues charging a lot to play on the grounds. There are now 58 new work places that have introduced table tennis activity and 8 non table tennis clubs have introduced tables into their clubs as an additional sport.

8.3 CD ask if Development are actively contacting the leagues to ask them to go into their local communities to give them more tools and information. ESJ replied that the launch of the programmes was communicated with the leagues, but she acknowledged that it was a good question and great idea, so another reminder will be sent out to them which will provide more information and to encourage it to continue.

8.4 SC disapproved how the report on the junior development leagues claimed success for something which the Liverpool league set up and funded. ESJ stated that this isn't her complete understanding of the initiative but welcomed a discussion afterwards.

8.5 NLM mentioned that the problem in London is that work places have severely reduced the space for any sport or social activity. He asked if the Loop programme includes funding for people who want to play table tennis outside of the workplace and for a venue they wish to hire which doesn't have a table. ESJ advised that there are a number of schemes that can be considered, there isn't just Loop at work available. At the moment funding to hire an alternative venue was not available.

8.6 JA complimented ESJ on the excellent work that's happening in the Development department and looked forward to closer work on schools and communication support.

9. REPORT BY HEAD OF COACHING & PERFORMANCE – Paper no. 15-4-6

9.1 SM provided some updates. The first being the National Coaching and Workforce Manager, Miriam Beales, leaving Table Tennis England to work for England Handball. SM stated that as a SMT we are acutely aware of the challenges that coaching and the support of our coaches are facing at the moment. The Board have given SM two hours of their time during the next scheduled meeting to enable him to talk about the plans to expand the support available to coaches. He further explained that although Table Tennis England are all sad to see Miriam leave, the opportunity has been taken to restructure the way the coaching support is delivered. There are a number of projects which are currently being implemented in the Coaching department so the departure will potentially impact those. On the other hand, the departure has also allowed for a new Workforce Department to be created.

- 9.2** Azolve is developing a new coaching portal which is due to go live on 1st December. The new portal will create a number of exciting initiatives for the coaching community, providing better support. It means that they will no longer have to contact head office to renew things such as the coaching licence, enrol onto courses and make payments. There will also be a single sign on as they are working together with Table Tennis 365, which will improve usability.
- 9.3** SM highlighted an update on the proposed coaching conference, and stated that a communication will go out shortly which will provide people with dates and times. It will be free for licenced coaches to attend. The Coaching Focus Group had discussed that they need to make ensure that the coaches actually sign up and attend, which is why it has been made free, although a £10 deposit will be required and then refunded when they turn up. SM said that he is grateful to everyone who has given up their time to be part of the Coaching Focus Group. The group is about finding additional ways to support the coaching community and provide additional communication channels from the coaches and clubs to head office and vice versa.
- 9.4** Moving on to the talent and performance updates, SM referred to the section about the additional application to Sport England made to expand the talent centre network. A decision is expected shortly. SM then moved on to the new England team kit and mentioned how the feedback from the players has been fantastic. He said that the players are proud to wear a bespoke table tennis kit which says 'this is England' and retains the heritage of the three leopards at the side of the shirt along with the new logo. It makes the players stand out and the kit is good quality. SM expressed gratitude to Butterfly and Tee Sport for their support.
- 9.5** SM explained that there have been changes to the team travelling to the Commonwealth Championships, Sam Walker has been replaced by Alex Ramsden. SM said that he is pleased to announce that there will be three representatives going to the World Juniors in France.
- 9.6** JA said that he was interested to see that SM mentioned recruiting non Greenhouse players (into the Greenhouse TDC). He said that now Greenhouse is starting to do work in schools that are non Greenhouse group, will it go further or is it specific to talent?
- 9.7** SM replied by saying that it specific to talent and added that they are also recruiting primary school players as well.
- 9.8** MC questioned what plans are there regarding *listing of the qualified coaches* in the coaching section of the website?
- 9.9** SM stated that the new coaching portal will allow reports to be produced listing licensed coaches, which are subject to the coaches agreeing to be part of that. They have to actively agree due to the Data Protection Act.

- 9.10** MF asked if the data on the new portal will be accurate. She said that currently some coaches are being displayed as unlicensed which is untrue. SM stated he will look into this for her and said that this is most likely due to the change in dates.
- 9.11** SC referred back to SM talking about recruiting new members of staff in the department and asked where the funding for this is coming from? SM stated that the organisation has sufficient funding within the budget to cover this change till the end of March 2017 which will be the end of the current funding cycle.
- 9.12** AER questioned the board minutes, specifically the 'slippage area' which was mentioned. His second question was if the numbers of licenced coaches is up or down. In reply, SM referred back to the 3 projects which were previously spoken about, and mentioned that it was a delay in completing them within the timeframe. SM also said that they are currently tracking about 280 licenced coaches as it currently stands, which is a significant drop which the Coaching Focus Group are working to remedy.
- 9.13** AER said that the results from the European Senior Championships were disappointing, and questioned why we didn't do well. He also mentioned that Table Tennis England are one of the few, if not the only association which sends players for the team events but don't let all the players enter the individual events. He asked for the rationale to be explained behind this decision.
- 9.14** In regards to the performance, SM explained that there were reasons behind each player's performance and that the National Coaches and he had carried out 1:1 feedback with each player about their performance. He also explained that England weren't the only nation which didn't send players to both events. The reason was that there is selection criteria for both events, so qualifying for one doesn't mean you automatically qualify for the other.
- 10. VOTING REVIEW – 15-4-7**
- 10.1** TP presented the Voting Review Group document. It was made clear that the views of the National Council would be considered by the Board but it would not necessarily mean that the motions would be implemented. Those present voted on a show of hands to express the view of the meeting. After extensive discussion, three motions were taken on the wordings of the document.
1. **Elections of Directors** (one member, one vote)
For: 10 Against: 21
 2. **Directly Affiliated Club to appointed as Company Members**
For: 27 Against: 0 Abstentions: 4
 3. ***The Weighting of a National Councillor's Vote at the Annual General Meeting***
For: 4 Against: 21 Abstentions: 6
- 11. NATIONAL COUNCIL GUIDANCE AND STANDING ORDERS – 15-4-8**

- 11.1** National Council Guidance and standings orders were accepted on the condition that an extra point be included relating to procedure for appeals against decisions of National Council.
- 11.2** LJS spoke about the timings of meetings, he asked if the start/finish times could be altered to allow National Council members to travel during daylight hours and to get home at a reasonable time. KMT acknowledged that a lot of the attendees were already there, so it would be fitting for the meeting to start earlier rather than waiting around. It was proposed that everyone meets at 10:30am for coffee and then the National Council Meeting can then commence at 10:45 and finish by 15:30.
- 11.3** *DMJ mentioned that she is against the 2 hour AGM meeting on the morning of National Council, and that she feels it should be moved away.*
- 11.4** GT asked that everyone thinks about accommodation when making their vote.
- 11.5** A vote took place to start the National Council meeting earlier, between 11/11:15 with a half time lunch break, finishing at 15:30. This was agreed.
- 12 DISCUSSION TOPIC (B/FWD FROM PREVIOUS MEETING)**
- 12.1** AC welcomed ESJ and Caroline Howkins to discuss the topic of children, young people and schools. He explained that because the voting review ran over the scheduled time, their session will be shorter than anticipated.
- 12.2** ESJ introduced Caroline Howkins who is Table Tennis England's Children and Young People (CYP) Manger. ESJ explained the work CH has been doing recently along with the development of the strategy which they planned to present using a PowerPoint presentation.
- 12.3** ESJ explained that there was a large variety of research which was considered throughout the work which is being presented today and explained that there are papers available for download should anyone wish to know further information regarding this. ESJ noted that young people are now growing up in a technological age and shared facts about YouTube, Smart Phones and Health. ESJ spoke about the importance of sport and methods of promotion sport to young people. Facts and percentages were shared, relating to the increase of schools and clubs playing table tennis.
- 12.4** ESJ spoke about why the membership numbers for young people are low, and stated that it isn't that they aren't playing the sport because they are. Having a membership isn't desirable as it becomes serious and formal, when young people often prefer to play casually in fun environments. ESJ gave examples of some of the key barriers which they need to overcome; young people see table tennis as a fun easy way to play sport but it's not seen as regularly available, neither do they have an emotional connection to the sport.
- 12.5** CH highlighted the priorities within the strategy to help address some of the barriers and challenges which were mentioned by ESJ, she also expressed the vision and aims. The aim

of the strategy is to give every young person the opportunity to participate, progress and connect with table tennis. CH gave an overview, and then went into further detail, of the three aims which have been created in order to achieve the main aim. CH talked through the PowerPoint slides which she presented to the room.

- 12.6** CD referred to slide number 5 where it states 74% of secondary schools in England have table tennis played in school clubs. He then highlighted that there are 24,000 secondary schools in England amounting to 150,000 children playing table tennis. ESJ agreed that there could be a huge amount of children playing but stated that the statistic doesn't specify how they are playing, whether that's in after school clubs or lunchtime clubs for example. CD reinstated that statistically that means about 150,000 children are playing table tennis, yet we are only capturing 3% of them. ESJ explained that this isn't uncommon and that it happens with other sports as well and also that the basic extrapolation of statistics needs analysing.
- 12.7** JA noted that a lot of schools have static outdoor tables where children can play at any time and it can be organised themselves. The trend is growing and becoming more popular and this is because outdoor tables are permanently there whereas other tables need to be set up. ESJ agreed with this and acknowledged that the 74% increase mentioned is predominantly because of the outdoor tables.
- 12.8** EJW said that by getting more table tennis tables in schools means they just take them down which is a hassle to do. He expressed that permanent tables are the way forward.
- 12.9** It was discussed that incorporating technology with table tennis is a good idea. Relating to apps which count how many steps a person takes, it was suggested to buy this technology and put it into the table tennis bats, which will appeal to the younger generation as they are growing up in the digital age. ESJ agreed that it is a good idea and stated that we would need to look at if we can afford this type of thing.
- 12.10** NLM said that we need to utilise YouTube because of all the technological topics which have been spoken about, it is the simplest to do. The idea is very effective and needs to be implemented more.
- 12.11** CH stated that they are starting a new schools newsletter to stay in direct contact with the children as they currently don't do this. JA agreed that communication is vital both with the schools and young people. He said that we must improve this method as ESTTA struggled with this.
- 12.12** AER expressed that it is important to have somewhere for the young people to play in a club environment which is relatively close by to their school, as this will make it easily accessible. If the children are just playing in the school grounds there is no way of following it up, so by having centres available, it will be possible.
- 12.13** It was agreed that due to the lack of time, National Councillors could communicate their ideas and questions back to ESJ via email.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 DMJ mentioned that page 21 onwards of the directory is printed far too small which makes it very difficult to read. In future the font needs to be increased to make it readable.

14. The following papers were circulated but were not for discussion

- i. Written report by England Schools Table Tennis association
- ii. Written report by British Table Tennis Association for Disabled
- iii. Written report by Veterans England Table Tennis Society

15. AC called the meeting to a close at 16:56.

16. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Saturday 30th January 2016, commencing at 11.15am at the Mercure Hotel, The Approach, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, MK8 8LY

Action Appendix

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Description</u>
2.6	Development/Priority Zone to be added to agenda