

NATIONAL
COUNCIL

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NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the National Council Meeting held at the Mecure Milton Keynes Abbey Hill, The Approach, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, MK8 8LY on Saturday 11th July 2015, commencing at 11.00am

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS

DL Hockney (Avon), RR Washington (Buckinghamshire), AE Ransome OBE (Cleveland), Mrs DM Jermyn (Cornwall), LA Chatwin (Derbyshire), P Goulding (Devonshire), LJ Smith (Gloucestershire), DB Turner (Hampshire, also South & South East Regional Chair), H Jutle (Herefordshire), DJ Edwards (Hertfordshire), N Le Milliere (Kent), S Clarke (Lancashire), GE Tyler (Lincolnshire), M Close (Middlesex), M Allsop (Nottinghamshire), N Hurford (Oxfordshire), JM Burtenshaw (Somerset, also South West Regional Chair), D Sherratt (Staffordshire), Miss M Fraser (Surrey), A Catt (Sussex), EJ Williams (Warwickshire), CN Sewell (Wiltshire), MG Clark (Worcestershire), RB Hudson (Yorkshire)

DEPUTY NATIONAL COUNCILLORS Mrs V Parkes (Cambridgeshire), Mrs S Pickering (Leicestershire, also East Midlands Regional Chair) J Birkin (Oxfordshire), J Kenny (South Yorkshire)

STAFF Mrs S Sutcliffe (Chief Executive, also Director), RH Sinclair (Executive Assistant/General Secretary), J Bruck (Head of Operations), Ms G Cronin (Head of Marketing & Communications), S Mills (Head of Coaching & Performance), Ms M Wrighting (Receptionist/Office Administrator/Minute taker)

INVITED Mrs D Stannard (President), Mrs S Deaton (Chairman), Ms S Hughes (Deputy Chairman), K Thomas (Treasurer), S Griew, P Huggon, TV Purcell, K Skeggs, A L Tazartes, C Wilson (Directors), N Wheatley (West Midlands), B Davison (East), M Smith (BUCS, also Director), J Arnold (ESTTA), K Field, J Johnson, C Dangerfield (Invited by the Chairman)

1. APOLOGIES

Mrs VJ Murdoch (Bedfordshire), C Dyke (Berkshire), BR Freer (Cambridgeshire), Mrs KM Tonge MBE (Cheshire, also North West Regional Chair, BTTAD), L Whittaker (Dorset), A Thompson (Durham), BR Granger (Essex), P Moore (Isle of Wight), G Sanders (Leicestershire), RR Drew (Norfolk), R Barr (Northamptonshire), J Donnelly (Northumberland), T Ridgway (Shropshire), R Loxley (South Yorkshire), PF Fordham (Suffolk), Ms E St John (Head of Development), A Nixon (Director), C Davison (North East), AN Murdoch (VETTS)

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**2. INTRODUCTION FROM ANTHONY CATT; CHAIR
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 AC proposed Chris Dangerfield (Shropshire National Councillor 'elect'), Ken Field (Chairman of Essex TTA) and Jayne Johnson (General Secretary of Essex TTA) attended the remainder of the meeting. After a show of hands it was agreed that CD, KF and JJ could be present to observe.
- 2.2 A minute silence was held in memory of Rosalind Cornett (former England Women's Doubles World Champion) and Peter Croxford (former Chairman of Brighton TTL).
- 2.4 AC asked all persons if they had any interests they would like to declare. C Dangerfield declared a business interest as a director of TableTennis365.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 18.04.15
MATTERS ARISING NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA**

- 3.1 AC confirmed that the previous minutes were circulated in draft and that any amendments that were proposed by members had been incorporated. S Clarke (Lancashire) proposed and RB Hudson (Yorkshire) seconded.
- 3.2 There were no matters arising.

**4. NATIONAL COUNCIL GUIDANCE PAPER TO INCLUDE DEREK SHERRATT PAPER -
Paper no. 15-3-1**

- 4.1 AC reported back from the National Council Working Group meeting held at the end of May. AC advised that National Council Guidance documents have been produced and that a Review of Standing Orders took place but the main points taken were that National Council wanted to have better communication with the Board and that they felt it would be more effective to elect a chair for a certain period of time rather than for every meeting. AC advised that forms were available to nominate a chair for the next period.
- 4.2 DJ questioned who was interested in taking on this role so that someone who was not interested did not get elected. AC confirmed he would be interested and JB confirmed that KT had also expressed interest.
- 4.3 AC advised that AER was present at this meeting and invited him to speak. AER talked through a couple of points put forward. One of the concerns was that debates held at National Council meetings can sometimes appear to get lost in terms of where it goes. It was suggested that important matters be proposed, seconded and then put forward to the Board for their agenda and a formal response. Another one was that having a different chairman at every meeting was not the most effective process. It was suggested that there be a permanent Chairman and the Deputy National Councillor for that Chairman's county could represent them whilst in the Chairman Role. The length of time the Chairman should be elected for was not discussed however AER advised that he felt a year would be a good length of time.

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- 4.4 EJW also attended the meeting and advised that there were two other issues that were raised. One was the financial report and that it would be helpful if the Treasurer could put a narrative on the report as well as just the balance sheet. It was also suggested that if people wanted to ask questions on detailed financial matters that they put them forward in advance so that the Treasurer has time to prepare for them. The other issue was that National Council thought it would be helpful if the various reports given by the Board and Heads of Department were categorised. The suggested categories were For Information, For Consultation and For Endorsement however the word Endorsement was not favored by the Board. SH replied that it wasn't the principle that the Board had concerns with, just the word as it has two very distinct meanings, one of them being 'to give permission to' which they did not want to cause confusion with.
- 4.5 DS explained the purpose of his paper and some of the concerns he had raised including the role of National Council, the communication between National Council and the Board and the Board and Committee minutes that are available.
- 4.6 AER confirmed that National Council are in control of their own meetings. AER advised it is up to National Council to decide how long meetings are and who the chairman is, National Council can give advice to the chairman on how to operate between the meetings so they are in charge of the setting, venue and procedures. AER agreed that Board minutes are not currently an item on the agenda but if they wanted to make it one they can. If there are any issues then National Council have the ability to bring them forward to the Board and they will come back with a response. AER stated that National Council are still very relevant.
- 4.7 SD referred to Item 6 on the National Working Group paper and advised that the Board had identified that the way it was conducted last year was not ideal and that there were things that needed to be addressed and that they were looked at within the Working Group. The Board share the Working Group's goal regarding the communications and a closer working relationship. One way they have done this is by putting a National Council paper to consider on the Board Agenda. The Board will have a specific point where they discuss the points, proposals and recommendations from National Council. There has also been a forward planning diary implemented for items/documents to be discussed and to be put forward. The Board will discuss National Council feedback and National Council have an opportunity to put propositions forward. There are times that major topics need to be discussed and the Board want National Council feedback and guidance.
- 4.8 DJ questioned what the word 'Endorsement' was going to be replaced with. DH suggested 'Acknowledgement' and RW questioned why it had to change. NH agreed that 'Endorsement' probably was not the right word to use and then went on to confirm that recent organisational changes have been made that not everyone might understand but it is a thing to celebrate and as AER stated earlier on in the meeting National Council should use it as an opportunity to find and use their role.

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- 4.9 NLM thanked SD for her explanation but pointed out that there were two specific things that had happened in the last couple of weeks which National Council were not informed of. One was that the Table Tennis England website had been attacked by hackers and was out of service for a period of time, the other was the wave of the Associate Membership fee which was announced on the website before being considered by National Council or at the AGM. SD confirmed that it was announced on the website that the wave was going to be discussed at the AGM.
- 4.10 EJW suggested that the word 'Endorsement' be replaced with 'Board Decision'. CW questioned whether a word was needed at all as the mechanism already exists. RW referred to items 9.3, 9.4 and 9.6 and questioned the process and wording on all sections. It was agreed that RW would liaise with JB and look at the wording on the document outside of the meeting.
- 4.11 SC stated that he would like to see a permanent chairman in position for the next meeting and that it was important that it be decided today. AER agreed and advised that the procedure of how to elect the chairman needed to be decided. AC confirmed again that nomination forms were available and it was agreed that the forms be completed and returned to the secretary to count.
- 4.12 RW referred to 9.9 on the document

5. REPORT BY TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND CHAIRMAN - Paper no. 15-3-2

5.1

6. REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE - Paper no. 15-3-3

6.1 SS announced an addition to her report and advised

**7. REPORT BY TREASURER/HEAD OF OPERATIONS WHICH INCLUDES FINANCE REPORT
– Paper no. 15-3-4**

7.1

8. REPORT BY HEAD OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS – Paper no. 15-3-5

8.1 GC announced an additions to her report and advised

9. REPORT BY HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT – Paper no. 15-3-6

In the absence of ESTJ, SS took questions on her behalf.

9.1

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- 10. REPORT BY HEAD OF COACHING AND PERFORMANCE – Paper no. 15-3-7**
- 10.1 NLM questioned why we did not have a team at the Baku Games. SM confirmed this was because we did not qualify. It was a Great Britain event and none of the Home Counties qualified. SS confirmed it was not through choice and that the qualifications were named.
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 11.1 AER questioned
11. The result of the election of chair was calculated and the numbers were as follows.
Anthony Catt - 12, Karen Tonge - 9, Estyn Williams - 1.
Anthony Catt will chair National Council meetings for the next year 2015/16.
11. The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

Action Appendix

<u>Minute</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>By Whom</u>	<u>When</u>
4.10	Re-wording of the National Council Guidance Document	RW/JB	ASAP