

**41 Club**  
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

**THE ASSOCIATION OF EX-ROUND TABLERS' CLUBS**

**MINUTES OF THE 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SATURDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 @ 10.00 A.M.**

**By Video Conference**

**MINUTES OF THE 75th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2021  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**1) Welcome and Notice of Meeting**

National President Peter Good opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the 75th Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs. The President declared the Annual General Meeting to be in session at 10:00 am and called upon the National Secretary to deal with the approval of the notice to convene the meeting.

The National Secretary explained the procedures for the Zoom webinar. The panellists were the Board members, invited guests, tellers and co-hosts. All other attendees were not visible, unlike a Zoom meeting. All participants were muted on entry. Those who wished to speak on a resolution, or any other matter were asked to use the Q&A facility and would be unmuted by a co-host and invited to speak in turn.

Voting on resolutions and all other matters which would normally be by a show of cards would be by means of the polling function in Zoom. There were several polls which had been set up and delegates were asked to use the polling facility to cast their votes. The exception to this was where a delegate is voting for more than one club. Those delegates were asked to record their club votes using the Chat facility. The tellers would add the Chat votes to the ones cast by polling.

The results of the polls would be available after the meeting in the form of a spreadsheet, which would be downloaded by the Secretary and sent to each of the tellers. In this way, it was possible to keep a tally of who had voted on behalf of which club and compare with the delegates who registered. Only those who had registered as voting delegate for their club were allowed to cast a vote.

The voting for candidates in contested elections would be by means of a secure link to a platform called Choice Voting. The election window was from 10:00 to 14:00.

**2) Introduction of Special Guests**

National President of Tangent – Tracey Pickin Tracey brought greetings from Tangent and was pleased to be working alongside 41 Club. She complemented us on 41 Club Connects and Buddyline. Tracey gave a brief summary of Tangent's activities and promoted their new website. She hoped to see as many 41 Clubbers as possible at her Charity Ball in January 2022 in Stratford-on-Avon.

National President of Round Table – Matt Eaton Matt brought greetings from RTBI, and there was an appreciation of their late patron, HRH Duke of Edinburgh. He would be pleased to hear from any 41 Club members who had anecdotes of meeting the Duke at Round Table functions. Matt congratulated us on our work with dementia and was happy to help 41 Club create a dementia garden. He also mentioned 41 Club assisting their feeder Round Tables in their local communities.

National President of Ladies Circle – Michelle Chapman Michelle brought greetings from Ladies Circle and said how impressed she was with 41 Club and the support she had received. Membership of Ladies Circle had fallen over the last few years, and the coronavirus situation had made things



particularly difficult. Ladies Circle had been “blown away” by the support from 41 Club at a local level, and particular mention was made of Boston and Fenland 41 Club.

President of 41 Club International -Luc Trigeaux Luc brought greetings from 41 Club International and congratulated 41 Club GB&I on all our online events. He said that the Round Table Family was growing stronger and sharing common values. He was concerned that the Covid crisis could last longer than anticipated, with a knock-on effect on international meetings and events. Luc also talked about 41-er World, which was an online communication and networking database, which was connected to the other associations in the Round Table Family. The purpose of it was to connect clubs and associations around the world.

Regional Fundraising Executive, Dementia UK (National President's Charity) – Anna McNee President Peter thanked all those clubs and members who had done so much to support Dementia UK, his chosen charity for the year. Anna thanked 41 Club on behalf of Dementia UK for almost £22k being raised so far. It was intended to spend the money on a dementia nurse service. The charity had been set up by the Levy family in 1990 after their father was diagnosed with dementia. The charity had funded Admiral Nurses to care for people with dementia.

### **3) Welcome to National Council and Past Presidents**

President Peter welcomed the following to the meeting:

- All National Councillors
- Honorary Webmaster Mark House (Southend)
- Honorary Archivist Hugh Millward (Ashby de la Zouch)
- Honorary Solicitor David Smith (Long Eaton)

President Peter welcomed the following Past Presidents

- 1994 – 95 Alan Reynolds
- 1996 – 97 Geoff King
- 2000 – 01 Gordon McNab
- 2001 – 02 John Bellwood
- 2005 – 06 Mike Fitchett
- 2006 – 07 Ian Mackenzie
- 2007 – 08 Keith Howard
- 2008 – 09 Drew Cochran
- 2012 – 13 David Smith
- 2013 – 14 Martin Green
- 2014 – 15 Jim Smith
- 2015 – 16 Terry Cooper
- 2016 – 17 Barry Durman
- 2017 – 18 Dave Campbell
- 2018 – 19 Phillip Ellis
- 2019 – 20 Andrew Mackereth

### **4) Formal Notice to Convene the Meeting**



National Secretary stated that the notice convening the 75<sup>th</sup> AGM had been communicated to all constituent clubs by use of the bulk e-mail system on 18<sup>th</sup> March. **Notice of the meeting was approved.**

#### **5) Purposes and Objects**

Nick Morcumb (Whitchurch and VoRTE<sub>x</sub> 41 Clubs) read Purposes and Objects.

#### **6) In Memoriam**

President Peter reported that several 41 Club members had died during the year and asked the meeting to observe a minute's silence in their memory.

#### **7) Apologies for Absence**

None received

#### **8) Tellers and Scrutineers**

Tellers and Scrutineers appointed in accordance with Standing Orders and voted for by the meeting:

Mike Fitchett, Derek Knowlden and Mark Baker, of Isis 41 Club.

**Approved**

#### **9) Quorate**

National Secretary announced that voting delegates from more than 5% of constituent clubs were present, and so the meeting was quorate.

#### **10) Minutes of Previous Meetings**

Minutes of the 74<sup>th</sup> AGM held in Torquay in 2019 and the Special General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 had been circulated in accordance with Rules and Standing Orders and agreement was requested that they should be signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

The President requested if any amendments had been received. The Secretary confirmed no amendments had been received.

**Meeting approved the Minutes and they were signed by the President.**

#### **11) Matters arising from those Minutes**

There were no matters arising.

#### **12) Election of Officers**

National Vice President

3 Nominations received:



**Jim Conway** (Past Epping Round Tablers)  
**Duncan Kennedy** (Barry 41 Club)  
**Manny Martins** (Hamble Valley Stick 41 Club)

Pre-recorded videos of 5 minutes for each candidate were played to the meeting in the following order:

Jim Conway  
Duncan Kennedy  
Manny Martins

#### Post of National Councillors' Liaison Officer

2 Nominations received:

**Graham Sloan** (Lytham St Annes 41 Club)  
**Des Fulcher** (South Norfolk 41 Club)

Pre-recorded videos of 3 minutes for each candidate were played to the meeting in the following order:

Graham Sloan  
Des Fulcher

The National Secretary then explained the voting system. The voting delegate or another officer within each constituent 41 Club had received a message at 10:00 am that morning from Choice Voting. Each message contained a secure link, which could only be used once to cast a vote in each election. Delegates voting for more than one club would have received separate messages, each containing a secure link in order to cast more than one vote accordingly. The ballot had opened at 10:00 am that morning, and would close at 2:00 pm.

As there were three candidates for Vice President, the voting would be by the instant run-off method, whereby, if the candidate achieving the greatest number of first choice votes did not achieve a majority, the candidate who scored the least number of first choice votes would be eliminated. The second-choice votes on the eliminated candidates' ballot would be reassigned accordingly, so that one of the two remaining candidates achieved a majority.

As there were two candidates for National Councillors' Liaison Officer, this would be decided by a simple majority.

There then followed a 10-minute break for delegates to cast their votes.

After the break, the National Secretary asked all delegates voting for more than one club to send their message to "All Panellists" rather than "Teller Mike Fitchett", as it had been discovered that attendees were not able to send messages to individual panellists. The votes lost had so far not affected the outcome of the polls that had taken place.

### **13) Adoption of the National Board Reports for 2019 and 2020**

Annual Reports of the National Board were printed in the Agenda Paper. President Peter invited any Officers who wished to update their report to do so. National Secretary explained that reports for two years were being presented for approval, as there had been no AGM in 2020 to approve the 2019 report.





The President asked any Board member if they wished to update their reports. Steve James, National Fellowship Officer said that a date for the walking weekend had been arranged, which would be 24-26 September 2021.

Andy Ventress, International Officer, said that the International AGM planned to be in Verona would now be an online event on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May. David Leach, our past National Treasurer, would be standing for the role of International Treasurer.

Niel Knight (Grimsby 41 Club) queried the cost of 41 Club insurance. He noted that we had spent £10k last year and asked whether household or personal insurance would cover most of the risks. He also queried £3k for wine insurance. Kevin Lovett, National Treasurer, replied that we had a very general policy, of which several elements we did not use. It was intended to have an in-depth review of what our policy covered.

Glen Lyon, National Membership Officer, added Dunfermline, Birmingham Jewellery Quarter and Cumnock to the list of those clubs affiliated.

Nick Morcumb (Whitchurch and Vortex) asked about Special Interest Groups, and how they would work. Don Mullane, National Comms and IT Officer, replied to this. It was noted that those not on Facebook would not be able to benefit from these Special Interest Groups. It was also noted that Round Table and Ladies Circle members were joining these Special Interest Groups.

Mark House, Honorary Webmaster, gave a presentation on 41 Club Connects and a summary of the programme so far, with how many members had logged on and engaged. The plan for the future was to continue with them, but less frequently as 41 Club members were starting to get out and about. All forthcoming 41 Club Connects events were publicised in the newsletter.

Esa Pirttijarvi (Ribble and Lune Active) asked about up-to-date numbers for 41 Clubs and members. Glen Lyon replied that we had 13,347 members and around 650 clubs, with another five expected to join later in the year. It was pointed out that there were around 20,000 former Tablers who had not joined 41 Club, and Glen Lyon said that there would be a push to encourage these ex-Tablers, many of whom had joined another service club, to join 41 Club.

Jim Smith (Bishops Stortford) asked why 41 Club had not decided to go into a joint database with Round Table instead of CAS2. Glen Lyon replied that there were problems with GDPR as we were two separate organisations. However, Round Table and 41 Club were jointly sending a birthday card to every Tabler who reaches the ages of 40 and 45, with an invitation to join 41 Club. Phill Ellis (Bangor) added that Round Table had decided to go their own way, and so 41 Club had to develop a replacement CAS system as CAS1 had reached the end of its life.

Terry Cooper (Clevedon) asked the Fellowship Officer about the motorbike rally, which was listed on the website with no details. Steve James confirmed that the event was cancelled.

Esa Pirttijarvi asked the Fellowship Officer about plans for the next National Sports and Social Weekend. Steve James replied that discussions were ongoing with Potters Resort, and that he and Kelly Clarke (NC Region 17) would bring an update in the autumn.

Esa Pirttijarvi asked the International Officer if he would be continuing this year. Andy Ventress replied that all visits to the end of June had been cancelled, and he was waiting to see which countries could be visited after that.

Frank Venables (Isis and Faringdon&District) informed the meeting that he had 17 copies of his book "Continued Friendship – 41 Club at 70" available.

**Meeting asked to accept the Annual Report for 2019. This was Carried.**

**Meeting asked to accept the Annual Report for 2020. This was Carried.**

#### **14) Resolutions**

There were 5 Resolutions for consideration. No amendment can be received unless 7 days prior notice is given.

Resolutions that affect rules require a two thirds majority to be carried.

Resolutions that do not refer to rules require a simple majority vote to be carried.

#### **Resolution No. 1**

Resolution 1 was proposed by Kingston 41 Club and Seconded by Wimbledon Womblers 41 Club.

That new Rule 17.5 be added in the following terms:

“Every constituent club shall be entitled to send one delegate, appointed from its full members, who shall not be a current member of the National Board, to a General Meeting. Each constituent Club shall have one vote on the Election of National Officers at a General Meeting (subject to Rule 4.6). Such vote shall only be given by the voting delegate appointed by the constituent Club from its own membership and attending the meeting.”

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION**

The President invited the Proposer, Duncan Brown from Kingston 41 Club to move the resolution.

The President then invited the Proposer to speak in favour of the resolution. Duncan Brown explained that the resolution sought to disallow proxy voting for candidates standing for National Board posts at the AGM. He argued that proxy votes could only be based on what the candidates had written in their manifestos which were circulated before the meeting. Such votes could not consider what each candidate said during their address to the meeting, which was a crucial part of deciding which candidate to vote for. This would also have the effect of encouraging clubs to send delegates to annual general meetings and increasing attendance.

After being put to the vote, the resolution was **carried**, having achieved the necessary two thirds majority.

#### **Resolution No. 2**

Resolution 2 was proposed by Kingston 41 Club and Seconded by Wimbledon Womblers 41 Club.

It is proposed that Rule 6.6 (as to canvassing) be deleted in its entirety.

#### **NATIONAL COUNCIL DO NOT SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION, AND PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT**



"6.6 Members standing for election for any role on the National Board are allowed to canvass. Canvassing is defined as promoting themselves as a candidate via any conversation, speech, printed material or social media.

A detailed CV and 300-word statement by each candidate will be published in the relevant meeting Order Paper. A ballot will be taken by the members of constituent clubs attending the General Meeting. Proxy voters are not allowed to vote at elections.

Encouraging members to attend the National AGM is permitted.

Candidates must not:

- Contact clubs and members of clubs to seek a vote.
- Offer any form of incentive to an individual or a club to obtain a vote.
- Use a third party to perform either of the above two actions on their behalf.

Should there be any evidence of the above taking place, then this will be investigated at a meeting of two members of the National Board and the National Honorary Solicitor. The candidate will also attend the meeting to answer any allegations made and may bring a representative. A recommendation will then be made to the full National Council and if it is agreed by the National Council that there has been a breach of this rule, the candidate will be disqualified from the relevant election."

The President invited the Proposer, Duncan Brown from Kingston 41 Club to move the resolution. The President then invited Graham Hunter Wimbledon Womblers 41 Club to second the resolution.

The President asked if any amendments had been received. The Secretary confirmed that the only amendment on the table had been submitted by National Council. The President then asked the Secretary to propose the amendment. The Secretary explained that National Council agreed with the original resolution that the current restriction on canvassing was unworkable, particularly in the current era of social media. It was unrealistic to expect candidates not to promote themselves in one form or another, but there still needed to be safeguards to prevent those candidates with deep pockets and time on their hands to go around visiting clubs and "buying" votes.

The President invited discussion. There was a variety of views expressed, and the amendment was put to the vote. The **amendment was lost**, and so the debate reverted to the original motion.

Duncan Brown, of Kingston 41 Club, spoke for the resolution. His club felt strongly that the current rule on canvassing should be deleted entirely, and candidates free to promote themselves to other clubs and their members as they saw fit. This was accepted practice in other organisations notably Round Table. A member of his club had been disqualified for having fallen foul of the rule on canvassing, which they felt was very unfair. He was of the view that clubs and their voting delegates could make up their own minds at the ballot and would not be swayed by attempts to influence their vote.

The President opened the meeting for others to put forward their views, and the Resolution went to a vote. As the Resolution was a rule change, it required a two-thirds majority. Vote taken and President announced that the **resolution was lost**. *(Secretary's Note: The vote was very narrowly lost, and an analysis of the votes by Zoom, by polling and chatbox, was carried out the following day. After elimination of invalid votes cast by those who were not voting delegates, the resolution remained lost. There were 83 valid votes for the resolution and 48 against, totalling 131 votes. 83/131 is 63.3%. This is less than the 66.6% required for this resolution to be passed by a*





*two-thirds majority. This outcome and supporting documentation was ratified by the tellers and Honorary Solicitor)*

### **Resolution No. 3**

That rule 6.5 be amended as follows:

“6.5 Nominations for office (under Rule 6.1) shall be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Nominees for National Vice-President shall have served on the National Council for at least two (replacing one) years in the previous three years. Nominees for all National Board posts (replacing ‘for the National Councillors’ Liaison Officer’) must have served as a member of the National Council for a minimum of two years. Such nominations may be submitted by any constituent club (subject to Rule 14.1.). Such nominations must reach the National Secretary by 1st February. In the event of no nomination for any office being received by the closing date under this Rule, nominations may be received for any such office until immediately prior to voting for that office.”

The resolution was proposed by National Council and therefore did not require a seconder.

The President asked the Secretary to move the resolution.

The President then asked the Secretary to speak in favour of the resolution. The Secretary explained that in the current rules, it states that a person applying for nomination for the VP role must have one year on Council and a NCLO must have two. This had come about because several years ago, a resolution was passed which allowed for the National Councillors’ Liaison Officer to be elected by the membership, and for the candidate to have served two years on National Council. This was a confusing anomaly and thus creates confusion for all members. The reason for time served being suggested for these posts is so that their experience of Council is brought to the Board in all discussions.

The President opened the floor for discussion. Past President Phill Ellis explained that this rule had been put forward in order to ensure that there was consistency in eligibility for all Board positions. He also thought it was important that all those seeking election to the Board had experience of National Council in order to gain a wider understanding of how the Association worked.

After being put to the vote, the resolution was **carried**, having achieved the necessary two thirds majority.

### **Resolution No. 4**

The following rule amendments to be taken together/jointly, as they relate solely to the sharing of Conference & AGM cost with Tangent:

21.2 The 41 Club (added) National Council and Tangent Board (added) shall be equally (added) responsible for all arrangements and make the necessary financial provision out of the funds of both (added, in place of ‘the’) Associations (plural) in respect of each Annual Conference. The two National Treasurers shall keep an oversight of the Conference budget, liaising with the local Conference appointed Treasurer. (added, in place of ‘The National Treasurer or his Deputy shall be a member of the local Conference Committee’).

21.4 If the Association holds a Regional Rally or any National Fellowship event the provisions of Rules 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4 shall only apply in respect of 41 Club. Tangent have no financial responsibility in respect of any other National Event except for National Conference and AGM.



(replacing 'All profits or losses accruing or resulting from Annual Conferences shall belong to or be borne by the Association').

21.5 All profits or losses accruing or resulting from the Annual Conferences shall jointly belong to or be borne by both 41 and Tangent Clubs. (replacing 'If the Association shall hold a Regional Rally the provisions of Rules 21.2, 21.3 and 21.4 shall apply').

21.6 In the event that two areas decide to bid to host the National AGM and Conference in the same year, a committee comprising of the National Fellowship Officer, Tangent Vice President, Tangent Secretary and two members of the 41 Club National Council (one being a member of the Fellowship Committee) shall decide following a presentation by both parties which area will host the AGM and Conference. In the interests of objectivity, no member of this Committee should be from an area wishing to bid. The National Fellowship Officer will chair the meeting and carry the casting vote in case of the possibility that there is a split view as to who should host the Conference. (New Rule)

National Council propose & therefore support this Resolution

The President asked the National Fellowship Officer to move the resolution.

The President then asked the National Fellowship Officer to speak in support of the resolution. The Fellowship Officer explained that the annual National Conference was a joint undertaking between 41 Club and Tangent. Both Associations jointly arrived at all decisions which needed to be made in order for conference to happen, which had worked well. What was needed to ensure true joint ownership was an acceptance that the benefits and risks should be shared as well, and Tangent Board had accepted this. The amendments being proposed were put forward in order to make this principle clear, and how such an understanding would work in practice. It was also explained that the proposed changes to our rules only applied to National Conference and to no other fellowship Event.

After being put to the vote, the resolution was **carried**, having achieved the necessary two thirds majority.

#### **Resolution No. 5**

That rule 6.2 be amended as follows:

6.2 (~~Taking effect from the 2018 Annual General Meeting – remove~~), All members of the National Council (with the exception of the National President, National Vice President and the Immediate Past National President) shall be elected for a three-year term at the Annual General Meeting and the service in that office is limited to that three-year term (whether consecutive or not - added) unless there is no candidate to replace that Council Member. If there is no candidate for his replacement, then the incumbent Councillor or Officer may stand for re-election for a period of one year, repeatable once if there is still no candidate for his replacement after the one-year extension of his term.

The President asked the Secretary to move the resolution.

The President then asked the Secretary to speak in favour of the resolution. The Secretary explained that the first line, regarding 2018, ensured that when the rule change was brought up at the AGM 2016, it did not affect any officer in post at the current time. As AGM 2018 had now passed, this line was no longer relevant. The comment 'consecutive or not' was always in the rules up until AGM 2017, by ensuring that it remains, we keep to the rationale for the rule in the first place. Which was that National Council needs to regenerate itself and introduce new blood on a regular basis.



After being put to the vote, the resolution was **carried**, having achieved the necessary two thirds majority.

### **15) Election Results**

The President announced the election results as follows:

National Vice President and President-Elect: Jim Conway  
National Councillors' Liaison Officer: Graham Sloan

The President thanked all the candidates who had stood and worked hard to prepare their presentations.

### **16) Presentation of Accounts for the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020** (pages 53 - 57 of the Agenda Paper)

The National Treasurer, Kevin Lovett moved that the report be received.

The meeting received the accounts.

**Kevin Lovett** (National Treasurer) (Cheadle and Gatley 41 Club)

He ran through the various lines of Income and Expenditure, providing detail on individual items if they had materially changed from the previous year or were largely over, or under, budget

The Treasurer reported that they have been examined and this is stated in the report.

**The Accounts were unanimously adopted & approved by the meeting.**

### **17) Presentation of Budget for 2022** (pages 58– 60 on the Agenda Paper)

**National Treasurer, Kevin Lovett** was invited to speak about the Budget. Kevin invited questions on the Budget as printed in the Agenda Paper.

Capitation is to remain at £14.50. The budget will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022

No amendments were received.

The Budget was proposed and voted on.

**The Budget for 2022 was carried.**

### **18) Appointment of Independent Examiners**

The National Treasurer proposed that Duncan & Toplis be re-appointed as Independent Examiners for the year 2021.

The vote for the Independent Examiners Duncan & Toplis was **carried**.



### 19) Ratification of Decisions Taken by National Council.

The National Secretary asked the meeting to ratify decisions taken by National Council, in the absence of an Annual General Meeting in 2020. This was in accordance with Rule 23.2, which states that *"The National Council shall have the power to determine any point not provided for in this Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders. Any such decision shall be submitted to the next following General Meeting for confirmation."* National Council had made three decisions during the year, due to the exceptional circumstances brought about by Covid.

The first decision was taken by National Council at the meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020. This was that all members of National Council in post as at that date would have an additional year added to their periods of office. The rationale behind this was because they would have limited opportunity to carry out their roles by visiting clubs and attending events.

The second decision was to hold more than the usual number of National Council meetings during the year. Rule 10.2 states that *"The National Council shall hold at least two meetings but no more than four per year, one of which shall be immediately prior to the Association's Annual General Meeting."* In the year 2020/21, seven were held. The reason for so doing was that there were decisions which needed to be made by National Council after proper discussion. The mitigating factor is that these were all by video conference, and therefore at little cost to the Association.

The third decision was to hold an online Annual General Meeting and carry out the elections for contested posts by means of Choice Voting, a dedicated online voting platform.

**The three decisions by National Council were each ratified by the meeting.**

### 20) Time, Date and Place of the Special General Meeting

President Peter announced that there would be a Special General Meeting, which would take place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2021 at 9:00 am in the DeVere Conference Centre, Beeston Lane, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, NG7 2RJ

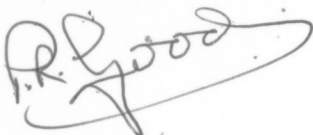
### 21) Time, Date and Place of the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

President Peter then announced that the next AGM would be held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 at the Sytner Lounge, SWALEC Stadium, Sophia Avenue, Cardiff, CF11 9XR

He then declared the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting closed at 14:45

### Approval

Signed as a True and Accurate record:



.....  
Peter Good  
National President  
2020 - 2022

.....  
Date

