



41 Club
CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP

THE ASSOCIATION OF EX-ROUND TABLERS' CLUBS

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2021 @ 9.00 A.M.**

**Banqueting Suite
DeVere Conference Centre
Beeston Lane
University of Nottingham
NOTTINGHAM
NG7 2RJ**

1) Welcome

National President Peter Good opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the Special General Meeting of the National Association of Ex-Round Tablers' Clubs.

2) Introduction of Top Table

National Vice President – Jim Conway
Immediate Past President – Andrew Mackereth
National Secretary – Bernard Elwen
National Treasurer – Kevin Lovett
National Fellowship Officer – Steve James
National Membership Officer – Glen Lyon
National Comms and IT Officer – Don Mullane
International Relationships Officer – Andy Ventress
National Councillors' Liaison Officer – Peter McBride

3) Welcome to National Council and Past Presidents

President Peter welcomed the following Past Presidents

- 1994 – 95 Alan Reynolds
- 2000 – 01 Gordon McNab
- 2006 – 07 Ian Mackenzie
- 2013 – 14 Martin Green
- 2014 – 15 Jim Smith
- 2016 – 17 Barry Durman
- 2017 – 18 Dave Campbell
- 2019 – 20 Andrew Mackereth

4) Formal Notice to Convene the Meeting

National Secretary stated that the notice convening the SGM had been communicated to all constituent clubs by use of the bulk e-mail system on 25th August. **Notice of the meeting was approved.**

5) Purposes and Objects

Bosco Townsend (Beeston 41 Club) 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) Welcome to International Guests

President Peter welcomed Luca Colombo, 41 Club International President. He asked IRO Andy Ventress to introduce other international guests as follows:

David Illingworth – IRO Cyprus
Marko Paldan - Finland



Alex Abela – Malta

Greetings had also been received from Ulrich Suppan (Past 41 Club International President, from Austria) and the 41 Clubs of Denmark and Holland.

Andy Ventress also introduced Barry Durman as the 41 Club International Vice President Elect.

8) Apologies for Absence

Geoff King – Past National President 1996-97

David Smith – Honorary Solicitor and Past National President 2012 -13

Terry Cooper – Past National President 2015-16

9) Tellers and Scrutineers

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

Hugh Milward, Ian Silver and Patrick Maxwell, all from Ashby-de-la-Zouch 41 Club.

Approved

10) Quorate

National Secretary announced that voting delegates from more than 5% of constituent clubs were present, and so the meeting was quorate. 69 out of a possible 702 had registered to attend.

11) Presentation of Association Awards.

President Peter was pleased to announce that he would be presenting three Association Awards, for significant service to the wider Association beyond club level over an extended period. This is the second highest honour that the Association can bestow on an individual.

Tom Atkins – citation read by Wynn Parry

Sean McCormick – citation read by Jim Conway

Nick Morcumb – citation read by Glen Lyon

12) Presentation of Jewels to past National Council Members

President Peter presented past National Council jewels to the following:

Sean McCormick – National Secretary

Tom Atkins – National Councillors' Liaison Officer

Kevin Stewart – Region 2

Kevin Lovett – Region 7

Ralph Small – Region 12

Jim Conway – Region 14

Andy Ventress – Region 15

Kelly Clarke – Region 17

Mark House – Region 18

Bernard Elwen – Region 19

Glen Lyon – Region 21

Mark Hinchliffe – Region 22

Peter McBride – Region 24



13) Resolutions

There were 6 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 National Council and hence required no seconder.

Amend Rule 6.2 to read: All members of the National Board (with the exception of the National President, National Vice-President, Immediate Past President and National Councillors' Liaison Officer) shall be elected for an initial 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) 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 National Vice-President shall serve a period of one year prior to becoming National President.

Add new Rule 6.9 as follows: The National Councillors' Liaison Officer shall serve on the National Board for a period of one year, commencing immediately after the AGM. The postholder shall be a current National Councillor, who has served at least two years in the role, and shall be selected by National Councillors immediately after the AGM. The postholder will be expected to serve for the whole year, even if his term as National Councillor is due to finish before the end of the year. If no suitable candidate is forthcoming, the National Council may co-opt as they see fit.

The President invited the National Secretary to move the motion and deliver the rationale.

Rationale: For the past several years, the post of National Councillors' Liaison Officer has been an elected post at the AGM, with the outcome decided by the membership. This resolution seeks to revert to the previous arrangement whereby the National Councillors themselves select who will represent them at Board level and communicate with them the reasoning behind Board discussions and decisions.

The National Secretary explained that an election took place at the online AGM in 2021, after which the chosen candidate resigned a few weeks later. National Council had taken the opportunity to review how this post was selected and had decided that it was one best selected by National Councillors rather than the wider membership. Martin Green (Isis, Abingdon and Showtime) opposed the resolution, as he felt that the person most popular with the National Councilors may not be the best man for the job. He thought that National Councillors needed to be managed. He also thought that one year was not sufficient time to get to grips with the job. John Manley (Derby Merlin) supported the resolution as he thought it better to have someone representing the National Councillors who was aligned with their culture. Esa Pirttjarvi (Ribble and Lune Active) supported the resolution. Jim Smith (Bishops Stortford and Eastern Promise) was confused by the resolution and opposed it. Kevin Chard (Norton - Radstock) pointed out that National Council have the option of voting in a person beyond a year.

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 National Council and hence required no seconder.

Amend Rule 4.2 to read: A club may, at its discretion, bestow Club Honorary Membership for one year at a time on such person or persons as it may decide. Club Honorary Membership is of that club and not the Association and accordingly a capitation fee is payable in respect of the Club Honorary Member. The Club Honorary Member shall neither hold office nor have any voting rights in the club or the Association nor at any time formally represent the club.

Add new Rule 4.2.1 as follows: The Association may bestow Association Honorary Membership on any individual that the National Council feels appropriate for their services to the Association. Such Association Honorary Membership will not be subject to payment of annual capitation.

The President invited the National Secretary to move the motion and deliver the rationale.

Rationale: This resolution seeks to make a clear distinction between the two types of honorary membership. With the introduction of CAS2, it has become apparent that the rule as currently worded is being misinterpreted in respect of Club Honorary Members. The proposed wording emphasises that any Honorary Members appointed by individual clubs are subject to annual capitation fees.

The National Secretary explained that this was clarification of the rules around honorary membership. There was a distinction between Association Honorary Membership (at no cost to the club or the individual member) and club honorary membership, which had to be paid for by the club, regardless of whether they chose to charge the individual member.

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

Resolution No. 3

Resolution 3 was proposed by National Council and hence required no seconder.

Amend Rule 9.2 to read: To be eligible for election a candidate shall be a full member of a constituent club within the Region he seeks to represent and, should he reside permanently outside the boundaries of that Region, demonstrate to the satisfaction of the National Council that he is able to carry out the duties of a National Councillor as laid out in the standing orders for General Meetings of the Association

Remove Rule 9.6 as follows: A Councillor shall resign his seat immediately he resides permanently outside the Region he represents unless he continues to reside within the accepted catchment area of a Club within the Region of which he is a full member.

The President invited the National Secretary to move the resolution and deliver the rationale.

Rationale: Rule 9.6 refers to an accepted catchment area, which is a meaningless term as far as 41 Club is concerned. However, National Council needs to ensure that anyone putting themselves forward to be a National Councillor is capable of adequately representing the Region that he seeks to be selected for. Where there is a contested election, National Council will satisfy themselves of the candidate's suitability before proceeding with the election.

The National Secretary explained that the purpose of this resolution was to tidy up the rules, so that any National Councillor can live anywhere within reason, as long as he was a member of a club within that Region and was able to visit other clubs within that Region as expected. National Council would have the safeguard of not approving anyone for the position of National Councillor if they were not satisfied that the incumbent could reasonably carry out the role.

Noel Tyler (Market Harborough) lived 200 yards from the geographical boundary of his Region and urged the rejection of the resolution. Kevin Chard (Norton-Radstock) thought that the previous speaker had misunderstood the resolution.

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

Resolution No. 4

Resolution 4 was proposed by National Council and hence required no seconder.

National Council seeks the approval of the membership to establish charitable status in the name of the Association

The President invited the National Secretary to move the motion and deliver the rationale.

Rationale: Our Association was established primarily as one to support and promote fellowship after Round Table, with any fundraising and community service led by Round Table and supported by 41Club. We have evolved to the point where 41Club is actively leading on a number of charitable activities, both fundraising and community service. National Council feel that the time has come to actively pursue the idea of investigating a separate charitable entity, which would separate the income and expenditure on charitable activities from that of the general fellowship activities benefitting our members.

The National Secretary explained that our Association was becoming engaged in more charitable and community work and would benefit from being recognised as a charity in one form or another. Sean McCormick (Saffron Walden and OBE) said that banks were charging us as we did not have charitable status. Martin Green (ISIS, Abingdon and Showtime) thought that the bureaucracy involved was unnecessary, as it would involve registering in each country of the UK. Roger Spensley (Clitheroe and OBE) spoke for the resolution.

Jim Smith (Bishops Stortford and Eastern Promise) proposed an amendment, to replace the word "establish" with the word "investigate". This amendment was seconded by Barry Durman (Shirley Late Nights) and accepted by the National Secretary as the proposer. Nick Morcumb (Whitchurch and VoRTEx) asked if we could consider clubs and charity status. Richard Wood (Lytham St Annes) pointed out that we would have to consider the status in England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland. Martin White (London Old Tablers society) supported the amendment to investigate. Derek Collie (Hoylake & Kirby West) said that Round Table gave their money to local charities.

After a vote, the amendment was carried by a simple majority.

After being put to the vote, the resolution was **carried**, with a simple majority

Resolution No. 5

Resolution 5 was proposed by London Old Tablers Society and seconded by Wimbledon Womblers 41 Club



Amend Rule 4.1 to read: Clubs shall only be affiliated where membership is confined to full and associate members, for whom annual capitation fees shall be payable to the Association save that no capitation fee shall be payable for any member until the financial year in which he attains the age of 46 years, or for any current member after the financial year in which he attains the age of 85 years.

Amend Rule 4.10 to read: Complimentary National capitation of 41 Club is given for current full members of Round Table, and for current full members of the Association who have attained the age of 85 years.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION

The President invited Don Mullane from London Old Tablers Society to move the resolution and deliver the rationale.

Rationale: It is a fact that in some clubs not every member is declared to National in order to avoid the club concerned having to pay National Capitation for those members. Whilst this stops the member incurring a charge, it also deprives the member of the benefits of membership such as emails of events, magazines, newsletters, member discounts etc. In an ideal world every member would be declared but for many of the elderly or infirm who do not attend their clubs regularly this seems an unnecessary expense. It causes members who have been in the Round Table Family for 60 years or more to effectively resign from the association. We propose that National Capitation be waived for members from the age of 85.

The principle being -

- you are in Round Table until you are 40 (now 45)
- 41 Club waives National Capitation for members aged 40-45 (i.e., those under 46 as at 31/12 the preceding year)
- we propose that National Capitation is waived for members over the age of 85 (recognising that they will typically have been members for over 40 years and members of the Round Table Family for longer).

Clubs might wish to waive their own fees as well but that is up to each club to decide for itself. Members might not wish to have their fees waived – they can pay it should they wish; the choice is theirs. There will not be an incentive for any club to remove its elderly or infirm members from its declared members.

An amendment was proposed by Colin McKenzie (Royal Deeside) and seconded by Wynn Parry (Shipley). This was to add the word "infirm" as a criterion for waiving membership fees. This amendment was accepted by Don Mullane as proposer. Kelly Clarke (North Walsham) spoke in favour of the amendment. Barry Durman (Shirley Late Nights) spoke against, saying that older and infirm members did not necessarily need financial support. After a vote, the amendment was defeated.

Don Mullane spoke in support of his club's resolution, saying that the purpose was to retain elderly members who may otherwise have been lost as they can no longer attend 41 Club meetings. John Manley (Derby Merlin) asked if this information could be captured on CAS. Don Mullane replied that the month and year of birth could be entered on CAS. Richard Wood (Lytham St Annes) asked if a club would be able to invite all their over 85 members back, and Don Mullane agreed they should be able to.

After being put to the vote, the resolution was **defeated**, having failed to achieve the necessary two thirds majority.



Resolution No. 6

Resolution 6 was proposed by London Old Tablers Society and seconded by Wimbledon Womblers 41 Club

The surviving partners of deceased Members may (at the discretion of the member's club) be invited by the deceased member's club to be registered with the association in order that they might continue to receive the benefits of continued friendship as if their partner were still alive.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SUPPORT THIS RESOLUTION

The President invited Don Mullane from London Old Tablers Society to move the resolution and deliver the rationale.

Rationale: When a member dies, their surviving partner may be invited to have their contact details retained on a register by the association, so that they might continue, should they so wish; -

- to receive magazines and newsletters
- to receive discounts and benefits which would have been available to their deceased partner were they still alive

Additionally, the Immediate Past National President should seek to establish a network of welfare volunteers to co-ordinate on a regional basis occasional invitations and social functions should their partner's former club not do so or in addition to same. The proposal doesn't seek to amend the practice of clubs which currently provide support for widows rather it seeks to provide additional assistance at the discretion of the clubs, hence the wording of the proposal.

John Manley (Derby Merlin) thought that care for widows should be carried out locally. Peter McBride (Wallington and Carshalton) thought that this would be a gesture that sends out a message that we care for our widows. Kevin Chard (Norton – Radstock) pointed out that we were part of a wider Round Table Family, and family members looked after one another.

After being put to the vote, the resolution was **carried**, with a simple majority

14) Any Other Business

Jim Conway, National Vice President, drew the attention of the meeting to his report in the order paper, and asked for ideas how the forward Planning Committee could take the association forward.

Bernard Elwen, National Secretary, informed the meeting that the Administration Committee were looking at how to incorporate online voting and participation into future general meetings. Ian McKenzie asked how many clubs had taken part in the online elections compared to normal physical attendance. The National Secretary would confirm. (NOTE – at the 2021 online AGM, 185 participants voted in the election for National Vice President and 175 for NCLO, as opposed to the 120 on average who attend AGMs in the room.)

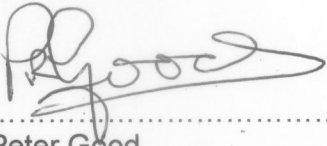
15) Time, Date and Place of the 76th Annual General Meeting

President Peter then announced that the next AGM would be held on Saturday 2nd April 2022. (NOTE – Since the meeting took place, the venue for the Annual General Meeting in 2022 has been confirmed as Mercure Holland House Hotel, 24-26 Newport Road, CARDIFF, CF24 0DD

He then declared the Special General Meeting closed at 14:45

Approval

Signed as a True and Accurate record:



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

Date

.....
2nd April 2022