



TABLE TENNIS WALES

Minutes of TTW EGM 25th April 2022 held via “TEAMS”

Present – Nicola Arthur (NA), Mostyn Lewis (ML), Rhian Pearce (RP), Neil OConnell (NOC), Peter Francis (PF), Ben Stirling (BS), Ben Rose (BR), Andrew Thomas, Steve Heydon (SH), Dennis Bromage (DB), Penrheol TTC, Ben Rose (BR), Ben Stirling (BS), Jude Whitton Penlan TTC, Stan Eastwood (StE) Swansea League, Tim Evans (TE) Carmarthen TTC, Jon Nelson Ewloe TTC, Richard Thom Hawarden TTC, Paul Collins (PC) Llandudno League, Barry Robertson (BaR) representing Wrexham league, Peter Gordon Cardiff League, David Webber Bridgend TTC, Harold Furber North Wales Counties, Andrew Ryder Gwent League,

Also present , Natasha Hurd (NH), Paul Holiday, Susie Osbourne (SO) Sport Wales, Rebecca McCarthy (RMcC) Loosemores solicitors, Dave Loosemore NSO, Joanna Evans, Catherine Jones (CJ), Nathan Thomas, Shelli Porter Doherty, Ryan Trigg, Josh Morgan, Matt Porter, Stephen Jenkins, Victoria_Ward WSA, Roy Gibson, Geoff Lloyd,

Apologies – Greg Price North Gwent TTC (voting by email), Mostyn Lewis.

NA Opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present. She reminded everyone that the EGM had been called to vote on the special resolution to adopt the new articles of association. She informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and asked participants to raise their hand if they wanted to speak. Voting will be anonymous, and a result should be available at the end of the meeting. She reminded the meeting of the importance of the articles to TTW with regards funding and the fact TTW were currently on special measures funding due to the fact that the articles had not been adopted by the end of March. The articles being proposed have been signed off by solicitors and Sport Wales have agreed that they comply with the capability framework. She informed the meeting that following the adoption of the Articles members of the board would meet with voting members (VMs) to work on the byelaws.

PF outlined the process followed on the writing and agreement of the articles with the Voting Members. On 21 Feb members of the board met with the voting members and agreed the articles. RMcC informed the meeting that item 18.5 was not needed in the articles because of duplication. PF asked if anyone present considered any of the articles unfit for purpose and why they thought so. TE informed the meeting that the Carmarthen club had obtained legal advice from JCP on the articles and they were advised that there was no provision in the articles to influence byelaws. He had informed TTW of this a month ago and no counter proposal had been made.

RMcC informed the meeting that whilst there was no specific article that allowed members to change byelaws there is a reserved power for members (5%) to call a meeting and change by special resolution. PF repeated the offer to work with the VMs to write the byelaws. TE stated that because of the legal advice received by his club, the recent byelaw change to admit more VMs, and requests to be informed of the contact details of the new VMs being unanswered, he was concerned that the power of VMs was being reduced.



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PF replied that TTW must increase participation under the Governance and Leadership Framework which is why the decision was taken to increase the number of VMs. NOC confirmed that there were currently 20VMs and PF stated that if the new VMs were willing, their contact details would be shared. PG confirmed that he had requested a list of the VMs from TTW, and queried why no mention was made on the board meeting minutes of putting the staff on notice of redundancy. PF replied that this was because it was a decision taken outside of the board in consultation with the Finance Director on staff matters following current employment law. PF asked the VMs what could be done tonight to allow the articles to be voted through. He offered to meet with VMs and propose an amendment to the articles to address the issue around changing byelaws and set another EGM to vote them through, he also offered to meet with the VMs to set byelaws.

VW (CEO WSA) addressed the meeting and reported that the issues outlined were quite common in other NGBs in Wales. A big opportunity for TTW is to allow smaller clubs a voice, and TTW has an opportunity in that the schools sports survey carried out by Sports Wales placed table tennis in the top 3 sports which young people wished to play. This informs how funding is allocated and TTW is in a strong position to receive additional funding. But before that can happen they need they need confidence that there is equity across the sport. RT stated that he had a background in corporate governance and he agreed with PF. He informed the meeting that he was involved in canoeing and that sport had gone through these changes. VW agreed and stated that the only source of funding for non profit organisations was public funding. NA asked VW about the sports that had lost funding asking how long it would take to get back to a position where they could be funded by Sport Wales. VW replied that some had never recovered, and they would need to get back to apposition where Sport Wales had confidence in them as a business. There were 8 or 10 sports that had lost around £8m between them, some because of governance issues, others because they were unable to demonstrate demand for the sport. TTW was in a good position as the demand has been proven but without a suitable set of articles investment from Sport Wales would not take place. BaR stated that he had been involved in TTW for 50 years, and had changed byelaws at the AGM, not prior at any meeting.

TE stated that if the articles fail TTW could convene another EGM with the 1st item on the agenda being change to byelaw, the 2nd item being vote on proposed articles.

PF summarised the position and the meeting voted.

RP asked VMs to check their inbox and junk mail folders in case the email to vote was there. Any VMs not receiving the email to indicate which way they wished to vote via email to RP and NOC.

RP shared the result of the vote – 12 voted to adopt the articles, (15 required to pass the proposal) therefore the proposal had failed.

NA thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

