

## Second Report of the Voting Review Group



### 1 Introduction

1.1 Key Recommendation 7 of the Portas review was to *'Move to a fair, efficient voting system that better represents members'*. The Board established a Voting Review Group to consider the best way to implement this recommendation. The Group consisted of three Directors (Tom Purcell, chair, the CEO Sara Sutcliffe and Mike Smith) and four National Councillors (Margot Fraser, David Hockney, Neil Le Milliere and Estyn Williams) plus the Head of Operations, Jonathan Bruck.

1.2 In October 2014 the Group produced a report which discussed the merits of possible options and invited comments by 31 January 2015. After considering the responses we have now produced this second report with our recommendations for further comment. We would ask you to comment on the principles suggested rather than the detail.

### 2. Election of Directors

2.1 We recommend that the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer should be elected by a ballot of the membership. We believe this would be the most democratic system.

2.2 We believe Table Tennis England should be an inclusive organisation. It follows that voting should be open to all who pay an affiliation fee. We recommend that every 'paid up member' (that is every Individual Member who pays an affiliation fee) should be entitled to vote in ballots for Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer regardless of their age and class of membership.

2.3 We recommend that as far as practical voting should be electronic to reduce costs but that those without electronic access should be able to vote by post.

### 3. Voting at AGMs

3.1 It would be impractical for more than a small proportion of the paid up members to attend an AGM. We therefore recommend voting at the AGM should continue to be by company members who should be as representative as possible of the wider membership.

3.2 At present local leagues are entitled to appoint company members but directly affiliated clubs (DACs) are not. (DACs are clubs – normally premier clubs - which have affiliated directly to Table Tennis England rather than through membership of a league). We cannot see any justification for this different treatment. We recommend that both types of local organisation should have the right to appoint company members.

3.3 As a paid up member is entitled to join any number of local leagues and DACs we recommend that paid up members who join more than one local organisation should only count once. This vote will be registered against whichever league or DAC they nominate as their primary organisation.



3.4 Local organisations vary widely in size. Bristol (the largest league) has 500 player members whilst five leagues and some DACs have under 20.

We recommend that the votes of local league and DAC company members should be based on the number of paid up members who have nominated their organisation as the primary organisation.

3.5 Directors are currently company members with one vote each. We recommend that this arrangement continues.

3.6 A National Councillor is currently entitled to a weighted vote calculated from the sum total of the votes of all their leagues. This means that even if all the leagues in a county vote the same way the National Councillor's vote can cancel them out. Paid up members join a league or DAC rather than a county and we do not believe National Councillors should represent these votes. We recommend that National Councillors should have one vote for each of their affiliated leagues.

15 February 2015.