

## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ENGLAND TOUCH ASSOCIATION (COMPANY NUMBER 07164624)

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 9.30am to 10.45am

**Venue:** Zoom call

### Q&A with the board (including discussion in the AGM)

The following questions were received prior to the board meeting and were either discussed during the AGM or at the follow-up Q&A session.

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#### Question from London Galaxy HP with regards Euros 2020 refunds

Can we have a detailed breakdown of where our money has been spent/ what it will be going towards (money in/money out detailed by expense line)? Will it cover costs for the new campaign (ie. 2022) and reduce our payments then? Or be put toward something else?

#### Response

Ben advised that this had been covered in HP comms to players directly on 11th February 2021 and refunds had been offered. However, funds had been retained to date as we expected to be participating in an HP event in 2021. Funds have been retained to assist with the deposits still held by the University of Nottingham which are being carried forward to the 2022 Euros.

Ben offered to pick up any further detail directly with anyone in the HP programme.

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#### Question from London Galaxy

What was our annual ETA membership for 2020 spent towards as there were no centrally held events?

#### Response

Chris advised the cost of membership at just £20 is one of the cheapest in sport. The ETA had offered lots of online activity, including CPD learning, referee and coach development to replace some of the lost events. There had been one event held in March, as well as four University events during the autumn and winter.

Funds received also contribute to the overall organisation running costs including: the paid workforce, insurance, IT and finance.

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## Question from London Galaxy

- In the past year it was clear substantial profit was being made from events. The payment to referees has not changed in the last few years, are there plans to review this and/or bring down tournament fees for teams after a financially testing time for all?

## Response

Robin has advised that this had been previously recognised and a proposal had been worked on for last year. This was being reviewed before the 2021 season gets underway.

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## Question from NQ Rebels

- Please would it be possible to provide an aspirational roadmap for the club season? (i.e.: what is the best case scenario?)

## Response

We are close to sharing the plans for this year, but as an overview we expect to focus on the following:

April – Local

May – Regional

June onwards – National

August/September – hope for some representative competition

This has recently been shared with the regional leads and a calendar for the season will be announced soon. The aspiration is to give as many people as many playing opportunities safely over the next six months as possible.

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## Question from London Galaxy

- We were previously notified in 2019 when enquiring about the FY18 report that the accounts were no longer being prepared on a cash accounting basis. In the FY20 accounts it again mentions the accounts are not being fully prepared in this manner. We ask for reassurance that the accounts will be prepared using correct accounting policies, and that prior years will be restated to allow for accurate comparison and correct results being published? It is absolutely essential for the club legally and for compliance.

## Response

The accounts have been prepared on a P&L basis for the last two years since the current FD came into post. However, there are still some historical areas that have had to be addressed. For the latest accounts, membership income had previously been taken at the point the payment had been made. This is now being accounted for over the period that the individual or club membership is taken. This has led to a hit of £12k this year, which has been carried forward for 2021-22 year.

## Question from London Galaxy

- In the Annual Report, the FY19 figures differ by line compared to what was reported in the 2019 annual report, including total profit/loss. Can we please have an explanation for this?

## Response

For the last two years the reporting of financial information has taken longer than expected and figures reported at the AGM and even those submitted have had to be adjusted. The figures shown for this year are likely to be adjusted.

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## Question from London Galaxy

- Where have the restructuring fees of £10k been classified in the P&L? What is the driver of bank charges increasing from £200 to £7000? Previously members were provided with revenue and expenses by stream (HP, events, membership etc). Could we please have visibility of this for FY19 and FY20 to allow comparison and maintain consistency of what is reported to members?

## Response

An allowance for the restructuring costs of £10,000 has been included but this has not yet been confirmed.

Bank charges were previously not included with income reported on a net basis.

The income and cost reporting breakdown will be included in the final financial reports which will be made available to members.

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## Question from London Galaxy

- Board Diversity - Could the Directors please clarify their stance on putting greater emphasis on diversity in Board recruitment? How do they plan to achieve a Board that better reflects its sporting community and what are anticipated timelines for this?

## Response

This is very important to the board and the wider workforce and organisation. We have a high focus on the area of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in our desire not just to tick boxes, but to truly make Touch a sport for all to participate in.

On behalf of the Board, we have established and empowered a small working group, led by NED Jane Sabugueiro and featuring a small group of players and volunteers from across the touch community. This group has created a strategy, action plan and role description for an EDI Officer.

From a board level, we have introduced a skills matrix to assist with both the appointment of future directors, but also to help us produce relevant advertisements for positions that are elected. The one produced for this year, identified HR, Legal and Governance as key areas, as well as emphasising the desire for more diversity on the board.

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## Question from London Galaxy

- Code for Sport Governance (the "Code") - Could the Board please clarify whether they plan to act in accordance with the Code? If so, which Tier, as set out in the Code, are they aiming to adhere to, moving forward? This will allow the membership to measure the Boards success in meeting the expected standards of their chosen tier.

## Response

Yes, we intend to act within the code and this has been the intention for a number of years as we have moved closer to the Sport England recognition process. The new Code of Sport Governance is yet to be introduced, but we will review this when it becomes available, identifying any actions that we need to take.

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## Question from London Galaxy

- New Committee (Rewards, Remuneration & Recruitment) - Will there be a publicly available set of terms of reference for review so that the membership can understand the Committees focus?

## Response

The committee has only had one meeting and our intention is to share the terms of reference.

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## Question from Becci Pearce, Manchester Chargers

- How will the losses from 2019-20 be recouped?

## Response

The loss has been funded by positive surpluses from previous years and we retain around £40k of reserves for future issues. Plans are still changing and the aim for 2021 is to get us back on an even position. Previous positive surpluses have normally been achieved in major event years, which we haven't had since 2018.

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## Question from Justin Conway, London Scorpions

- Are players and members in HP providing 80-90% of funding, if taken across events and membership as well? It's from a small group of people - in the hundreds. Has the association broken down the source of finance and based on membership growth predicted where are the additional revenues expected from?

## Response

Membership is evolving and we're trying to spread the burden. Currently we recognise a few people contribute a lot and we need to change that, although incomes are received directly and indirectly from around 3,000 participants. Our desire is to spread the costs over a much broader base of participation.

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## There was also a general discussion around the wider financial and EDI areas of the organisation.

The following actions will be taken:

- Chris to arrange a follow-up meeting with London Galaxy on the final financial information and how this is to be reported with transparency and consistency.
- Chris to arrange an additional meeting for members to receive the final accounts and ask questions.
- Chris to arrange a follow-up EDI meeting with both London Galaxy and Becci at Manchester Chargers.

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