

AGM MEETING MINUTES, 24 March 2024



2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ENGLAND TOUCH ASSOCIATION LIMITED (COMPANY NUMBER 07164624)

Date: 24 March 2024, 9.30am to 9.50am

Venue: Zoom call

The following were present at the meeting:

Name	Capacity
Tim Loveridge	ETA Chair
Chris Simon	ETA CEO Club - Nottingham Touch Club League - Nottingham Touch Leagues
Will Tenbroeke	ETA Finance Director
Emma Hardaker	ETA Non-Executive Director
Emi Beredugo	ETA Non-Executive Director
Alison Devlin	ETA Company Secretary
Rich King	ETA Membership Secretary
Matt Emmerson	Club - Cambridge Touch Association
Elliott Russell	Club - London Eagles
James Berkeley	Club - London Vipers
Joe Swanson	Club - Nailsea Touch
Chris Simon	Club - Nottingham Touch Club
Gabe Pennington	Club - NQ Rebels
Katy Harrison	Club - Percy Park Pirates
Richard Chadwick	Club - Saracens Touch Club
Julia Cole	Club - Thames Valley Vikings Touch Club
Courtney Horrocks	Club - Wigan Touch Club
Michael Abromowitz	League – In2Touch
Joy Carter	Observer
David Cope	Observer
Erica Robertson	Observer
Julian Edwards	Observer
Vicki Franks	Observer
Ed Pearce	Observer

1. Welcome and Introduction

Tim Loveridge (ETA Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting started at 9.30am.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

- Club - Ashington JW RFC Touch (Stuart Armstrong)
- Club - Bedford Eagles Touch (Adrian Twigg)
- Club - Blackadders Touch Club (Ben Peters-Jones)
- Club - Clapham Feelers (Trent Sparks)
- Club - FN Barbarians (Charlie Rigby)
- Club - Isle Touch Rugby (Warren Steele)
- Club - Staffordshire Stormers (Samuel Oxford)
- Club - Warwick Touch Rugby Club
- League - In2Touch TV Maidenhead (Sammie Phillips & Paul Farrington)
- Observer (Jay Wainwright)

3. Registration and accreditation of nominated delegates

There were no proxy votes received.

There were 17 Voting Members present in the meeting:

Voting Member	Voting Representative	Votes
Club - Cambridge Touch Association	Matt Emmerson	1
Club - London Eagles	Elliott Russell	1
Club - London Vipers	James Berkeley	1
Club - Nailsea Touch	Joe Swanson	1
Club - Nottingham Touch Club	Chris Simon	1
Club - NQ Rebels	Gabe Pennington	1
Club - Percy Park Pirates	Katy Harrison	1
Club - Saracens Touch Club	Richard Chadwick	1
Club - Thames Valley Vikings Touch Club	Julia Cole	1
Club - Wigan Touch Club	Courtney Horrocks	1
League – In2Touch	Michael Abromowitz	1
League - Nottingham Touch Leagues	Chris Simon	1
ETA Board	Chris Simon	1
ETA Board	Will Tenbroeke	1
ETA Board	Tim Loveridge	1
ETA Board	Emma Hardaker	1
ETA Board	Emi Beredgo	1
Observer	Joy Carter	0
Observer	David Cope	0
Observer	Alison Devlin	0
Observer	Julian Edwards	0
Observer	Vicki Franks	0

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Observer	Rich King	0
Observer	Ed Pearce	0
Observer	Erica Robertson	0

In accordance with Article of Association 30.2, the meeting was quorate (*quorum is 10*).

4. Receive and consider the minutes of the 2023 AGM

The minutes were proposed by Will Tenbroeke and seconded by Emma Hardaker as being a true and accurate record. The minutes were approved.

5. Receive and consider the Annual Report

The Annual Report was made available to the member in advance of the meeting.

The Chair (Tim Loveridge) provided a brief summary of the Annual Report.

The focus this year has been on growing the game, developing the sport and evolving the ETA organisation going forward. Major achievements have included attaining national governing body status with Sport England, the culmination of a number of years work by the CEO and others. It is anticipated that this will lead to additional funding to help grow the game. In terms of developing the game, we saw success with changes to format of national competitions last year and with the continued success of the high performance programme. A highlight for the coming year is England hosting the World Cup 2024 in Nottingham in July. There are 190+ teams entered, a significant increase on the previous World Cup in Malaysia. The focus will be to deliver a great World Cup experience for all participants and to use this as a springboard for further developing the sport in England.

Chris Simon concurred that 2023 was a significant year for the sport in England. Attaining top level FIT Status was a pleasant surprise, although not something the board had been striving towards. This now gives us a seat at the table to help influence the sport globally, working towards World Cup New Zealand 2028. We have also seen progress in the evolution of the junior game including the BUCS programme which has now seen its first full year delivered. Chris thanked Jack Harris for his work on the BUCS programme. There are also 5 new schools events coming up this year and further developments taking place with In2Touch leagues. We hope to see more of this in the future.

6. Receive and consider the ETA accounts

The draft final P&L and balance sheet were included in the Annual Report made available to the members in advance. The Finance Director (Will Tenbroeke) provided a brief summary

We have had an independent auditor review the accounts for the first time. This was a useful exercise and no concerns were raised. The 2023 financial year saw a continued improvement coming out of the Covid years. Certain changes had to be made to address our financial position including reviewing the membership structure and rates and controlling costs (eg broadcasting) carefully. There was a small increase in revenue in 2023 (4.5%) and admin costs held steady. This resulted in us

reducing the year end deficit from £25k in 2022 to c. £7k. We would have reached breakeven but for a couple of items. We also improved our cash reserves position to £39k (previously £30k). Going forward, the board aims to run a small surplus each year and maintain a cash reserve of £50k (£100k in the longer term). Will noted that the World Cup would leave the sport on a strong financial footing going forward.

7. Appointment of directors

The ETA currently has 10 directors. The directors are a mix of appointed and executive positions. The Chair noted that several directors have left in the past year (Andrew Wilding, Jane Sabuguero and Ben Powell). Ben remains involved in the sport in his capacity as HP director. The Chair thanked each of these directors for their contribution.

There are currently 3 board vacancies, 2 appointed directors and 1 exec position. In addition, Amy Gardner has confirmed her willingness to extend her term and will be reappointed in April 2024 for another 2 years. The 2 appointed vacancies have been advertised and 10 applications received. The remuneration committee will interview 4 shortlisted candidates shortly and communicate the new appointment in due course. Regarding the additional exec position, the board will take its time to consider what will best support the organisation going forward. This appointment will likely be after delivery of the World Cup.

8. Closure of the meeting at 9.50am

All members were invited to stay for an informal Q&A with the Board.
