

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
**Tangent**<sup>®</sup>  
CLUBS

**MINUTES**

OF THE

50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

The Crown Plaza Hotel, Central Square,

Birmingham B1 1HH

On

Saturday 16th April 2016

# The National Association of Tangent Clubs

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting held at The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Central Square, Birmingham, B1 1HH on Saturday 16th April 2016.

## **Present:**

Alex Voller	National President	ABOTS 889
Paula Farnfield	National Vice President	Maidenhead 151
Janice O'Neill	National IPP	Bushey & Oxhey 441
Melodie Brookes	National Secretary	Salisbury 389
Jill Harris	National Treasurer	East Grinstead 266
Sue Hill	National Sales & Regalia	Northwich 426
Pauline Campbell	National Editor & Website Co-ordinator	Westerham 739
Jackie Hampton	National Executive Administrator	Twyford 456

## **Visiting Guests:**

Monika Friedsam	Germany
Carin Caristrom	National Treasurer Tangent Sweden
Kristina Sjoo	National Secretary Tangent Sweden
Linda Stennert	Tangent Sweden
Asa Cato	National President Tangent Sweden
Zoe Gaskill	National President Ladies Circle GB&I
Alex Bennett	National Vice President Ladies Circle GB&I

## **Past National Officers present**

Pam Brain	National President 1971 - 72	
Beth Allen	National President 2000 - 01	Sales & Regalia 1987 - 90
Margaret Barker	National President 2003 - 04	Sales & Regalia 1999 - 2002
June Boden	National Treasurer 2010 - 13	
BJ (Brenda) Brown	National Secretary 2004 - 07	
Rosemary Culver	National President 1995 - 96	Sales & Regalia 1987 - 90
Linda Denson	National Sales & Regalia 2002 - 05	
Jan Dowling	National President 2011 - 12	
Karen Durie	National President 2013 - 14	Sales & Regalia 2008 - 11
Vivienne Foster	National President 1994 - 95	
Penny Gibbons	National President 2002 - 03	
Terrie Hewitt	National Secretary 2010 - 13	
Sue Hill	National Editor & Website Co-ordinator 2011 - 14	
Judy Holdaway	National President 2005 - 06	
Sue Marlow	National President 2012 - 13	
Liz Morgan	National President 2001 - 02	
Anne Onyett	National Secretary 1998 - 2001	
Pat Paulson	National President 2008 - 09	
Sheila Ponsford	National President 1998 - 99	Treasurer 2001 - 02
Gill Preston	National President 2010 - 11	
Jan Turner	National Sales & Regalia 2005 - 08	
Jane Watts	National Treasurer 2002 - 04	
Barbara Whale	National Treasurer 2004 - 07	
Joce Wilkinson	National President 1978 - 79	
Gill Young	National Secretary 2007 - 10	

## Apologies were received from:

Janis Attwell	National President, 2006 - 2007
Joan Crabtre	National President, 2007-2008
Irene Fyfe	Independent Member
Dudley 229	Friendship at Colchester Tangle 934
Halstead Coln 392	Kinder 289
Loughton 361	Lymington & District 336
Newbury 287	Shrewsbury 24
Thornton Cleveleys 317	Towcester & District 679
Whickham & District 189	Woodvale and District 443
Yella Belly Tangle 943	

## The following Registered Clubs were present:

\* Denotes Proxy Delegate

Club Name	No	Club Name	No
AAACT	940	CLACTON-ON-SEA	558
ABOTS	889	CLEDON & DISTRICT	195
ABERDEEN	99	COSTA DEL SOL, SPAIN	
ALCESTER	710	CROWBOROUGH	749
AMERSHAM	68	DARWEN	761
AMPTHILL & DISTRICT	504	DERBY	22 *
ANGELS OF THE NORTH	907	DERBY MERLIN	876
ASCOT	487	DEREHAM & DISTRICT	791
BANBURY	84	DRAGONS (LLADUDNO CONFERENCE	
BATH	804 *	2013)	942
BATH TANGLE	935	DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT	378
BEDFORD	263 *	EAST & WEST HAM	910
BEDWORTH	887 *	EASTLEIGH & CHANDLERS FORD	478
BERKHAMSTEAD	867	EMERITUS	900
BICESTER	298	FAREHAM	92
BLT (BICESTER LADIES TANGLE)	941	FARNBOROUGH (KENT)	762
BILLERICAY	402 *	FARNHAM	469 *
BISHOP'S STORTFORD	269	FOLKESTONE	150
BOGNOR REGIS & CHICHESTER	394 *	FOREST OF DEAN	617
BOOTLE, CROSBY & DISTRICT	148 *	FORMBY	349
BOURNEMOUTH	1 *	FOURTITUDE	891
BRENTWOOD	127	GORDANO VALLEY	500
BROMLEY	801	HARPENDEN	137
BROMSGROVE	91	HARTLEPOOL	236
BURNHAM-ON-SEA	338 *	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	398 *
BURNTISLAND & DISTRICT	888	HESWALL	308 *
BUSHEY & OXHEY	441 *	HEXHAM	37
CAMBERLEY	277	HINCKLEY	52
CAVERSHAM	532	HORSFORTH	495
CHEADLE & GATLEY	448	HUTTON & SHENFIELD	666
CHESHAM	794	IPSWICH	180

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>No</b>
ISIS	870	REDDITCH	220
ISLE OF MAN	549 *	RINGWOOD & DISTRICT	570
KEYNSHAM & DISTRICT	104	RIPLEY	158
KNOWLE AND DORRIDGE	175	SALISBURY	389
LAFF (LIFE AFTER 45)	933	SALTBURN & DISTRICT	357
LANCASTER	238	SANDHURST & YATELEY	611 *
LEAMINGTON SPA & DISTRICT	243	SANDY & DISTRICT	768
LEICESTER	152*	SHIRLEY	86
LICHFIELD	116	SODBURY & DISTRICT	128 *
LICHFIELD LADIES TANGLE	931	SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	5
LISKEARD & LOOE	737	STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT	913
LODDON	917	SUNSHINE COAST	932
LONDON, CITY OF	929	SUTTON COLDFIELD	7
LONDONDERRY	730	TAKE TWO (BERKHAMSTED)	939
LOUGHBOROUGH	305	TAUNTON	199
MAIDENHEAD	151	THORNBURY	400
MALVERN HILLS	256	TOTTIES (KINGS LYNN)	938
MARKET HARBOROUGH	224	TOWCESTER & DISTRICT	679 *
MENDIP	874	TRENT VALLEY	341 *
MORPETH	334	TURRIFF & DISTRICT	717
MOSELEY	133	TWYFORD & DISTRICT	456
NIDDERDALE	623	WALSALL	9
NORTHAMPTON NENE	519	WELLINGTON	16 *
NORTHWICH	426	WESSEX LINK	881
NORTON RADSTOCK	169	WESTERHAM	739 *
NUNEATON	510	WEYMOUTH	818
PENARTH & DISTRICT	902	WHITCHURCH (SALOP)	439
PONTELAND	484	WHITLEY BAY	17 *
PORTSMOUTH & SOUTHSEA	44 *	WHITTLESEY & DISTRICT	721
POTTERS BAR	105	WOKINGHAM	268
PRESTON & DISTRICT	904	WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE	
RAYLEIGH & DISTRICT	135	& DISTRICT	534
READING	81	WYTHALL	681
READING VALLEY	401	YELLA BELLY TANGLE (LINCS)	943 *

Tangent Day Chairman **Sharon Taylor** asked the members to stand and welcome the National Executive, who processed into the room to applause.

National Secretary (NS) Melodie Brookes called the meeting to order using the Tangent Day bell before National President (NP) Alex Voller then welcomed everyone:

### **1.Welcome**

NP Alex Voller welcomed the members to the 50th National AGM & explained the numbering, which was a result of NATC only starting to number the AGMs in 1980 at which time they decided to start at number 14 and they have increased each year since then, hence this year was the 50th! She further explained that first ever Tangent meeting was organised by Sybil White and held on 15/2/1950, that the inaugural meeting of the Tangent association was held in April 1965, but that the National Association of Tangent Clubs was only officially formed at the AGM in May 1970, which is why we celebrated the 40th birthday of NATC in September 2010. She was delighted to be chairing the 50th AGM and welcomed everyone.

1a. NP Alex invited Zoe Gaskill, National President of Ladies Circle 2015-16, to light the Candle of Friendship which she did whilst thinking of all past, present and future members of Circle and Tangent both internationally and locally.

Alex then reminded all members to ensure their phones were on silent.

1.b. Sharon Taylor, Tangent Day Chairman, then made the Health & Safety announcements, repeated the request to turn phones off and asked that coats/bags were placed in a safe place, she advised that Lunch would be held at 12.30pm & that it was a ticket only event, detailing where tickets should have been collected from. Stewards were wearing pink sashes, organising committee wearing white hats. Alex thanked her profusely for all her work. The number of voting delegates was 128.

NP Alex explained that it had been a pleasure to bring greetings from NATC to HM The Queen in the week before her 90th birthday advising that National Secretary Melodie Brookes had sent a letter from the NATC to Her Majesty wishing her a Happy Birthday from her obedient & loyal servants from Tangent.

NS Melodie Brookes introduced the Minute Secretaries Barbara Whale and Barbara Middleton who were acknowledged and thanked for stepping into the breach!

NS Melodie then stated that the apologies received would be included in the minutes but there was one special one she wanted to mention which was from Joan Crabtree who was not attending as she had suffered an accidental dislocation of her replacement hip whilst in Tenerife and was on crutches. Joan sent her good wishes to NATC and the AGM and Tangent good wishes were sent back to her for a speedy recovery.

NS Melodie Brookes then read out Tangent's Aims and Objects:

1. To link together Tangent Clubs
2. To promote amongst Tangent Clubs the continuation and extension of friendships made in Ladies Circle
3. To help Ladies Circle when requested
4. To work side by side with all members of Ladies Circle, Round Table and 41 Club
5. Tangent clubs may provide community service and raise funds for good causes locally, nationally and internationally

## **2. National President's Opening Remarks**

NP Alex then reminded everyone that this was the second year that the new format AGM would take place and that the plan was to have 45-minute lunch break at 12.30pm and that the meeting would finish at 3.30pm.

Sharon Taylor, Tangent Day chairman then welcomed everyone to Birmingham and acknowledged the high numbers attending necessitating them having to source extra chairs to accommodate everyone! She thanked the stewards (ladies & gents) saying she could not have managed without their help. She thanked the National President Alex, all the Conference committee team and the staff at the Crowne Plaza Hotel for whom nothing had been too much trouble.

## **3. Roll Call of Past National Officers**

NP Alex Voller recognised the Past National Officers in attendance in groups according to the group titles.

## **4. Overseas Visitors**

NP Alex Voller then welcomed the International guests

## **Greetings from Tangent Club International President and the Board**

National Immediate Past President Janice O'Neill brought greetings on behalf of TCI President Susanne Norager, who apologised for not being present.

## **Greetings from Tangent Sweden**

Asa Cato, National President Tangent Sweden, brought greetings, stating that she had returned with 3 other Swedish Tangent members, the Swedish tigers from Harrogate last year who were all looking forward to visiting Blackpool in 2017.

## **5. Greetings from Zoe Gaskill, National President of Ladies Circle 2015-16**

Zoe Gaskill brought greetings from the National Association of Ladies Circles and thanked Alex and NATC as Circle's bigger sister for all their help throughout the year.

## **6. Remarks to Voting Delegates**

NS Melodie Brooks explained that the ladies with the yellow sashes were tellers and would be responsible for counting votes using empty champagne buckets to collect the votes in (sadly no champagne in them!) She thanked Ann Chalk for the flowers which came from Salisbury and were in the Ros Raper rose bowl on the top table. Ros was Ladies Circle National President at the same

time as Ann was LC Area Chairman and Melodie was chairman of Salisbury Ladies Circle so there was a very special connection for them and they smell lovely.

Melodie then asked everyone to raise their green cards so tellers could see where the voting delegates were in the room. She then asked delegates to keep their cards raised if they had read the agenda and reports at the back.

Melodie then explained the voting delegate packs and checked they had the necessary paperwork in their packs:

- The agenda including Executive reports page 14 onwards and the Accounts page 28 onwards; she asked everyone to turn to Page 13 & highlighted an error in numbering, which she asked everyone present to manually amend.
- Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting in Harrogate 2015
- The yellow 2015-16 Directory with the Constitution and Rules of the Association (pages 10-13)
- GREEN CARD for yes
- RED CARD for no
- YELLOW CARD for abstention

Various voting slips to be used as follows:

- SWATCH OF 4 SLIPS for voting on National Vice President; National Secretary; National Sales & Regalia Officer and National Editor & Website Co-ordinator
- WHITE SLIPS to be used for all other voting if needed

Melodie confirmed that there were 128 voting delegates present at the meeting.

Alex then informed Delegates that no one was permitted to speak for more than 3 minutes, once they got to that time a bell would sound and they would be faded out. No one would be permitted to speak more than once, nor to repeat the same points over and over again and for brevity & clarity to only give one Club name when announcing who they were. Anyone wishing to speak must use the microphone by coming up to the lectern unless this would prove difficult & give their name & number of their Club before speaking.

## **7. Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting in Harrogate 2015**

NP Alex referred to the Minutes which delegates had in their packs and asked if there were any amendments. She then asked Melodie to read out the one amendment received.

Page 5, section 2 on the Welcome to PNO's attending: - It has been discovered that owing to a misunderstanding a complete list of PNO's was not available for the secretary to read out to welcome them on the day and National Secretary Melodie wanted to apologise to Pam Brain National president 1971-1972 who was here last year and to all those initially left out and wanted to publicly thank Beth Allen for her help with recording as many of those present as she could identify.

Further amendment by Margaret Barker: She had attended the Conference but had

been manning the Conference registration stand and did not attend the AGM so her name needed to be taken out of PNO's attending. Page 5 of the 2015 Minutes (Past Presidents & Past Regalia Officer) to be corrected.

Pam Brain amendment: she had not been listed as attending but had been there as voting delegate.

NP Alex then asked if the Minutes could be signed as a true record of the 49th Annual General Meeting in 2015 and asked for a proposer and seconder:

**Proposer:** Aberdeen & Aberdeenshire Cluster Tangent (AACT) 940

**Seconded:** Keynsham & District 104

This was **Carried**

## **8. Matters Arising**

Alex asked if there were any matters arising from the signed Minutes and there was no response.

## **9. Reports for the year 2015-16**

NP Alex explained that to save time all National Executive reports had been included in the Agenda as Appendices together with the Accounts and Budgets at the back of the booklet. These had been posted out to Club contacts in February 2016 to enable Clubs to read and digest at their leisure. She checked that everyone had read these reports ahead of the AGM and further explained that each member of the Executive would now provide a brief update on their reports and address any questions, which had been submitted previously.

### **9.1 National President - Alex Voller**

Alex said she would be giving a very full report later in the meeting so at this point just wanted to say a few thank yous starting with her own Tangent club ABOTS and asked them all to stand to be acknowledged as they had supported her thoroughly and were fantastic. She also wanted to thank Director of Round Table Children's Wish Karen Winchcombe who had become a very close friend over the past 2 years and asked her to stand and be recognised.

Sincere thanks were given to National Executive who had all been fantastic with their help and support throughout the year, very kind and caring and asked them to stand and be recognised.

She then thanked everyone in Tangent, a fantastic association, she had been privileged to travel around and meet as many members as possible. She had been very proud to wear the chain and hoped she had done the job of being President to the best of her ability and that no one had been disappointed with her. She thanked everyone for giving her this once in a lifetime opportunity and urged anyone who wanted to stand next year to do so, Carpe Diem Ladies.

### **Questions**

None

### **Proposer:**

Wythall 681

### **Seconded:**

Bromsgrove 91

The report was **approved**

NS Melodie then reminded voting delegates that if they wanted to leave the room it was very important that Tangent Day chairman Sharon and her team knew so that the total in the room at any one time would be accurate as it would affect the counting of the votes as the total number present had to be correct.

National President Alex then announced that it would give her great pleasure to present Charter certificates to two Clubs who affiliated during her year. She invited members of Redditch 220 to come forward and presented them with their certificate and checked how their year was going and congratulated them hoping they would have continued friendship and fun.

She then invited members of Dragons (Llandudno conference team 2013) 942 to come forward and presented them with their certificate. She said she was delighted to present it to Sue Hill, her favourite roommate, and congratulated them too and wished them continued fun and friendship.

## **9.2 National Vice President and Membership Officer (VP)– Paula Farnfield**

Small update on membership, VP Paula reported that since last year's AGM there had been the loss of 16 Clubs and 237 members; Uttoxeter 648 had merged with Uttoxeter 50 so one Club lost but no loss of members.

5 new Clubs had been affiliated in that time: Dragons and Redditch who just got their Charter certificates from Alex and three more Clubs who haven't yet had their charter certificates: Yella Belly Tangle 943; Rothwell Tangent girls 944 and a very very new Club Essex & East London 945.

Two further Clubs will be affiliating very soon: Torquay Tangles who have a charter planned on 21st May and a Club made up of past Circle and Tangent executive members who are in the process of forming.

Paula had dealt with a wide range of members queries.

She had also received 130 membership enquiries direct, an estimated 40% had come via the Ladies Circle page for which she thanked Ginette May, NALC membership officer.

A couple had come through from Round Table from ladies who didn't realise RT was just for men.

Paula said that many membership enquiries were going direct to Clubs so it was difficult for the Membership Officer to keep track, so they would be tweaking the website to arrange for the membership officer to be copied in to every enquiry response so that the situation could be better monitored. If a Tangent club has a Gmail account then any enquiries for that Club would go straight to them via Club finder, but where there isn't a Gmail account then the enquiries go to Paula in the first instance.

### **Questions:**

Question: Judy Steen Angels of North 907

Highlighted the concern amongst members at the AGM regarding Zoe Gaskill's friend who had been denied membership of Tangent and wanted to know what if anything had been done to address this situation; as far as Tangent members in the room were concerned anyone who was a member of Ladies Circle was entitled to be a member of Tangent.

**Answer from Paula** – She had only heard about Zoe's friend and this situation this morning at the same time as everyone else, so had had no time to do anything, but she would obtain further details from Zoe and would seek to deal with it.

She said it could be difficult to address these situations if a Tangent Club was closed and then gave an example of a lady she knew whose parents were both in Table and Circle but her job never allowed her to join. She had recently moved somewhere and wanted to join Tangent as there was a Club locally, but it was a closed club and wouldn't allow her to join, which is a great shame. She knows the Round Table family, its aims and would be a great member.

Paula said Tangent needed to find a way to include people like this perhaps by being a bit flexible. She could understand that a closed club would not want a large number of people joining who didn't know what the organisation was about, but people who really do understand should be allowed to be part of a Club.

**Proposer:** Thornbury 400  
The report was **approved**

**Seconded:** Loddon 917

### **9.3 National Immediate Past President (IPP) and International Officer - Janice O'Neill Report (she would also deal with the TCI Board proposals)**

When writing her report, she had wondered if she should go quietly or screaming & shouting and wrote two versions, this was the quiet one!

When she had applied for the position of Vice President, NATC had not yet joined TCI. There are those who said she had volunteered for the post so she only had herself to blame but there had been nothing in the job description about any International responsibilities so everything had been new. Indeed, there had been so many teething problems & Sue Marlow, the wonderful IPP had been so distraught, she had wondered what NATC were letting themselves into.

However, NATC had joined TCI in 2014 & she had thought it was wonderful. As an avid LCI traveller, this had seemed the natural step for NATC. She had thought it was incredibly naïve that it wouldn't cost NATC anything but had learned that when she was on the Exec, she had not been expected to have her own opinion, that her role was to be the voice of the members so she had until now she had said nothing.

Last April she took over the role as IRO, a caretaker position for 1 year, with virtually no 'training' or information as TCI was so new. Unfortunately, she hadn't been able to attend the inaugural meeting in May 2014 & therefore hadn't personally signed any TCI agreements. She was telling members this as she felt there were many ladies who were not interested in TCI & didn't want to hear much about it. However, members were part of a national organisation & now also part of an International organisation & unless they did a 'Brexit', they had to abide by the rules of the club they had joined. So, on 3rd May 2014, history was made when NATC, with the memberships approval, was one of the founding members of Tangent Club International. This was a significant achievement and the extension of Tangent into the International friendship circuit. The basis for the new organisation was set out with Aims & Objectives and Rules! As with any new venture things could not be set in stone from the outset, the organisation needed the freedom and flexibility to develop over time.

At present TCI were looking at ways in which the organisation could be funded in the future to ensure its success and viability. Proposals would be discussed at TCI AGM on the 23rd April 2016 in Germany. No decision on finance could be agreed to without authority from members at an AGM but other conditions were standard as in any club. It was always envisaged that after 6 years the officers would be elected into post once the club was on its feet but last year in Cyprus, TCI decided to change the Election of Officers and appointed a Vice President Anna Akesson, who would become TCI President in July 2016 so this in fact changed the year the UK was listed for providing the TCI President and brought it forward by a year to 2019. None of the Board at the

time thought this would be a problem but they should have also changed the order of years once they put forward a TCI VP.

In the TCI Directory 2015-2016 there was a mistake which would be rectified in Landshut but the UK had a problem. All other countries knew they had to pay for themselves but in the UK it seemed to be an enormous problem & was all finance based. So as there would not be time to rectify this, it was possible that Cyprus would take the position before the UK. She asked that members understood that this was still a very new club and in the UK the position of IRO was not voted for & there was no time between the year of National President & IRO to learn the ropes. In the year the UK provided the TCI President, it would be even more difficult unless we went for a voted IRO. In other words, the Executive role would go VP, President, International President & would then have to be a 4-year position, all of which needed to be considered from a timely & of course financial position. All of this had only just been realised and therefore Janice was not able to put forward a proposal until after it was discussed next week in Germany.

NATC's agreement had been that it would not cost the members anything as NATC would absorb any costs. NATC's joining fee was a one-off payment of 120 Euros and with the exception of £3,000 per annum for expenses there had been no additional costs. However, if members were to believe that it would never cost another penny in this day & age, that would not be sensible. The website was sponsored for 3 years and pins had been sold although not enough to subsidise anything.

As members of TCI, NATC must abide by the rules and at the AGM next week in Germany the proposals for the AGM concern Capitation. There would be no perfect solution. Numbers varied in each country and NATC had by far the most members. Cyprus had 48 members and was voting on capitation of 3 Euros per member whilst the proposal for countries with over 10,000 members i.e. UK, the proposal was 10 cents per member to be fixed for a trial period of 3 years updated at the TCI AGM in 2019 with a cap of 1000 Euros. Each member country had 2 votes so although we had the most Tangent members, we still only had 2 votes. But Cyprus would be paying 3 Euros as opposed to our 10 cents & would also have 2 votes. It would never be completely fair. But we had to go to TCI with a mandate which you were all informed about and would vote on. If the current membership objected to any increase and wanted to leave TCI then this would have to be voted on at the AGM next year so whilst NATC were still members, they must vote for one of the proposals.

Janice said that if she was allowed an opinion, 10 cents (8 pence) per annum to belong to an International organisation which could encourage more Circlers to join Tangent as quite a lot of Circlers enjoy the international element (e.g. 34 Circlers travelled to New York for their charter in March) and therefore as more countries join TCI, then NATC should vote to accept the proposition. She proposed that NATC accepted the proposal from Finland. She understood there were ladies who would not wish to give a mandate today as they had not discussed this with their clubs but it was a chicken & egg situation. The TCI year started on 1st July whilst the NATC year started after the NAGM in April. NATC rules stated that they must have received proposals by 31st December in order to vote at the NAGM but this proposal for TCI had come in after December so could not be discussed in the way they had wanted it to be. Therefore, as each club had voting delegates at the NAGM and some had proxy votes, then a show of hands would take place.

She had asked various people for their opinions about TCI and LCI and also fairly recent International Circle Presidents their reasons for being International Presidents of LCI.

She thought she was veering towards Brexit herself. She had enjoyed LCI AGM's many times & made many international friends but struggled with the age idea as she appreciated it was for Circlers but NATC didn't have the same 'Club' in TCI yet. Also her peer group were growing older too so there was a dichotomy here.

So to finalise, she couldn't make any recommendations, she could only take forward the NATC mandate. But in the rules of TCI of which everyone was a member, NATC had to accept one of the 2 proposals. Based on her knowledge of Tangent members' views regarding finance, she proposed NATC accepted the proposal that NATC would make a payment of 10cents per member with a ceiling of 1000 Euros which could be paid for from funds as suggested by National Treasurer.

This was the end of her IRO report and her personal IPP report would follow later.

Alex took opportunity to sincerely thank Janice for her clear & comprehensive explanation and then asked if there were any questions.

## Questions

Question from Jane Venables ISIS 870

In the table there are members up to 50 and 150 Euros, surely that's an error.

**Answer** - Table explained by Janice and there was no error

Question from Lis Evans Keynsham & District 104

When in Ladies Circle what upset her Club was that GB&I paid the bulk of the monies to LCI but only had the same number of votes as other countries, is it the same with Tangent and TCI?

**Answer** – Janice says there is absolutely no fair system how does Cyprus with 48 members compare with other countries that have 1000+ members. Cyprus members have to pay 3 Euros each whilst our members only pay 10 cents, which can be upsetting for them, there is no ideal solution

**Proposer:** Alcester 710

**Seconders:** TakeTwo 939

Janice then asked for a show of cards by voting delegates if they were happy for her to take the mandate for our members to pay 10 cents up to a maximum of 1000 Euros.

**The mandate was Carried**

NP Alex then explained that this matter had overshadowed Janice's IPP report, which would be delivered with the other personal reports later in the meeting.

## 9.4 National Secretary - Melodie Brookes

Melodie Brookes stated that it had been a huge privilege, and enormous fun, to meet and work with so many ladies at Regional Lunches, different Tangent fundraising and social events, and to be involved in the Bournemouth, Harrogate and Birmingham Conference preparations and thanked all her many delightful and generous hosts.

She congratulated and thanked Presidents Sue Marlow, Karen Durie, Janice O'Neill and Alex Voller, and passed on her best wishes and good luck to Paula and the Executive for 2016-17 - especially to her successor!

She had received prior questions & would read out the questions and answer them:

### **1. Ottery St Mary 687**

**Q.** Re Proposition 1, how was the 11p arrived at?

**A.** This was an oral figure given off the top of someone's head after rough calculation at the HYM.

**Q.** Re Proposition 2, what would happen to the £18,000 saved?

**A.** This would be covered in the Treasurer's additional remarks.

### **2. Angels of the North 907**

They had notified her of a slight amendment they would put to Proposition 1, to clarify the wording but would not affect the meaning.

They asked for clarification of the implications if the Proposition is passed, which Melodie said she would include when that part of the Agenda was reached for the benefit of everyone present.

**Q.** They asked for numbers attending the HYM last October.

**A.** Total numbers of attendees: 54; NATC members (excluding National Executive): 38

### **3. Berkhamsted 867**

**Q.** Implications on voting rights at National, if Proposition 1 is passed? Could they pass a local rule that members could only take part in a vote re National at the Club where they had paid their Capitation?

**A.** No doubt this would come up in the discussion, but Melodie's interpretation would be that they were members of affiliated Clubs & their vote could be counted towards the Club's decision in each of their Clubs.

Melodie then advised that the NATC Directory form & Capitation form for 2016-17 had been prepared in draft but would not be able to be finalised until after the AGM. They would be available on the website & would be sent out to the existing club contact addresses asap by the Printers. The deadline for both forms

**Directory & Capitation fees was 30 June 2016.**

Melodie further advised that there would be vacancies on the National Executive in April 2017 for Vice President, National Treasurer, and National Executive Administrator.

Melodie then thanked everyone for listening.

Alex thanked her as the last Secretary to serve for 4 years and asked if anyone had any further questions, but there were none.

**Proposer :** Salisbury 389

**Seconded:** Fareham 92

The report was **approved**

### **9.5 National Treasurer (NT) - Jill Harris**

NP Alex asked members to refer to Appendix 2 Pages 28-35 in Agenda for the Accounts Information and that Jill would precis questions provided in advance and provide answers and would also deal with questions from the floor.

NT Jill Harris said she had received over 35 requests for information regarding the Accounts, 10 in the last few days and apologised for not being able to respond due to time constraints over the past few days. These had been on all points of the budget, the accounts and also the financial implications of the propositions on them and it would take too long to summarise each and every one of them so she has just taken the main concerns and would address them now:

**Increase in cost of the magazine each year** – Jill apologised as she thought she had covered this in the agenda; in 2014 only two bills for the magazine were allowed within the accounts, the November issue was late and only paid in December so ended up in the 2015 accounts and hadn't been accrued, therefore it meant that in 2015 there were 4 copies of the magazine in the accounts which increased the figure quite considerably. If the proposition does not go through & we still have a magazine we will be back to 3 magazines so the amount will be less.

**Increase in cost of conference** Jill said that this was addressed at last year's AGM by Jilly, the AV costs were higher last year as was the room hire and the main thing we are now running conference as a joint conference therefore additional costs are incurred. We were guests before of 41 Club and they paid for our President and they helped with quite a few of our costs but now we have to pay for ourselves, which increases our costs.

**International** A lot of clarification was asked about the £3000 and whether or not this included HYM or whether this was on top of that figure. The international part of the HYM was included in that £3000. Our IPP did not travel as much only to Harrogate so her costs were down. There is a separate line within the accounts for the UK HYM and that was half the hotel costs and a small amount of package costs because she made the Exec pay part of their costs to attend as she felt this was only fair.

Jill said she felt that licence had been given to the National Treasurer in the past as to where the costs were allocated e.g. do all costs for attending a lunch go under the heading Regional Lunches & National Conference or do some go under Other Executive travel costs? Due to the fact she was handed over the accounts on Excel spreadsheets only there wasn't Sage or Quicken and due to her changing the accountants over, she was not totally aware where each part went, so she had tried her best to link things and tried to set things out more clearly in columns against heading, so that in future people can see how things have been allocated and make it easier to read and to tie one thing up with another. It was challenging doing it in a 2-year post as in the first year a lot of it was not hers & was expended before she got there and she only had a say towards the end of the year, she apologised for the slight overspend but hoped she had explained where the money had gone.

**Loans for lunches** Jill said that in times gone by one could go to a venue and put a deposit of £200 down for a lunch but now that was not the case. Higher & higher deposits are being asked for by venues and she quoted a club who was organising a lunch in 2017 who were being asked to put £2,500 down in tranches before they start getting money in. They had tried to negotiate without success so NATC has had to loan them the money, it was always repaid eventually, but it ate into the monies held in reserve, which is why Jill was not too keen to use reserves against the budget.

**Budget prepared** Jill said that since this had been calculated she had finalised the costs to Tangent for this year's AGM and also room hire for 2017 and realised that the figure in the budget was slightly low, the bill this year for AV costs, meeting costs and a few incidentals was just over £3700 and she had allowed £2,750 in the budget, and she apologised for the error, saying she and Melodie were learning fast about AV, terminology like cache boxes things they never thought they'd need to know but do need to find out about to enable them to keep the costs down on future meetings, but enabling PowerPoints and other technology to be used.

**Sales** Jill said that she would leave questions about Sales to Sue Hill.

Jill then thanked the new Accountants Tax Assist especially Richard Dean who was there in case of any accountancy questions which she couldn't answer then he would assist. He was brilliant, lived very close to her and dealt with everything very efficiently and was ready way before their meeting in Rednall, and enabled her to save money.

One additional area Jill wanted members to look at was benefits for belonging to Tangent; e.g. Hyundai cars; there was also an offer with Fred Olsen for cruises; she was looking at other items like travel insurance; talking to the other 3 Clubs to see what benefits they have for their members to see if we can benefit in our own right and might help towards capitation costs.

Jill then added a personal thanks to everyone, who may have become fed up by her requests for pins to go on Vaughan's jacket she will be raffling for Round Table Children's Wish and she thanked everyone very much and she hoped to get to Vaughan's target of £250,000.

Jill then quoted a Business owner who was interviewing people for a Divisional Manager's position and asked them whether they could answer him how much was  $2 + 2$ . The engineer got out his slide rule and said it was between 3.92 and 4.02. The mathematician said if he had two hours he could show him it was 4. The social worker said they didn't know the answer but was glad they had discussed the problem. The attorney said that in the case of Stephenson against the State  $2 + 2$  did equal 4. The trader asked are you buying or selling? The accountant looked at the business owner and got out of his chair went to see if anyone was listening at the door, pulled down the drapes and then returned to his chair and turned to the business owner leaned across the desk and said in a low voice "what would you like it to be?"

Jill hoped that she had made the answer 4 by providing a thorough breakdown of the accounts for the year and a full budget and used the adage that more is less and from the comments she has had from previous treasurers that no-one would ever ask her a question, more has definitely not been less.

National President Alex called for everyone to thank Jill for her report and covering everything so thoroughly but asked if anyone had any questions:

## **Questions:**

### **Rainey Faisey ABOTS 889**

Q. Thanked Jill for clarifications. One question Re Accounts on P28 looked at difference between 2014 and 2015 at the bottom it showed a deficit of £14,000 against a surplus a year ago of just over £7,000. Then asked to look at bottom of P29 to see that the reserve fund had gone down £15,000. What she was not clear about although Jill had given lots of information, were there actually budgets set for all these individual items or was this just a record of what was spent? There is a difference between having a budget and deciding whether an area is overspent or not or whether you just spend and spend & eventually you overspend. She wanted clarification as to what the situation would be for next year for the new treasurer.

Jill responds – when she took over there was no written budget, which is why she has prepared a full written budget and each month she was putting the expenditure against that budget and if any item was getting towards what it should be in that particular quarter then she talked to the people concerned in that area of spending and told them they were getting close and to try and keep things in check; when she took over there was nothing handed to her by way of written budgets.

Rainey Q – the question remains was there actually a budget or was this just a record of spending

Jill A – there was a budget for the current year.

Rainey Q – if this is a record of the accounts and the overspending why has there been an overspend if an eye was being kept on what was being spent?

Jill A – last year there were no actual budget figures given to her and by the time the accounts were handed over to her together with the cheque books etc it was June and half the year had been expended. She had tried to keep a close eye on everything since but this was difficult because of the additional magazine costs for this year which were £6000 and because of the increased costs of Harrogate were all expended before she took over. She tried to limit the spending as much as she could from then on, but many expenditures were pre-planned and it was difficult to limit payment when it had been agreed 5-6 months earlier e.g. the printer's bill. This year she was making sure as much as she could, bearing in mind she did not necessarily have the knowledge to pin a budget on, because it was now only a 2-year post, she was doing as much as she could to limit this.

Rainey Q thanked her but said that nonetheless there had been a £15000 overspend & she wanted to express her concern about this.

### **Pat Paulson – Clevedon & District 195**

Q. What had concerned her and she mentioned it at Harrogate last year, was the large amounts of spending; the Tangent Association money being spent, things suddenly appearing e.g. new computers, a new emblem, which had not been brought to the AGM for discussion. The National President's honorarium was fine, money for presents, which is another lot of money, which they never had. She thought that everyone should bring expenditure to AGM for discussion before it's decided on. She thanked Jill for doing a brilliant job.

Jill A - In respect of comment about bringing expenditure to the AGM it was explained during last year's AGM by Jilly that there had been an overspend on conference, which was part of the increase within this year, but the main problem has been the magazine, the £6,000, there was also a small increase for insurance which was due to looking at the sums insured and making sure that everything was covered. Jill had looked at this again this year and had been negotiating and got a new deal with new brokers, getting a better deal for this year. She reassured everyone that there had not been any expenditure by the Exec, she had not let them go and buy anything and disclosed that they called her The Rottweiler because of how closely she was monitoring the financial side of things. She was very conscious it was not her money it was NATC money and only spent what needed to be spent.

**Proposer:** Camberley 277

**Seconded:** Lichfield Tangles 931

The report was **approved**

NP Alex then thanked Jill for her report and presentation.

Interruption was made by the Birmingham Conference committee with a 50th AGM anniversary cake by Conference chairman Andy Ventress who was thanked by NP Alex.

## **9.6 National Sales and Regalia Officer (SRO) - Sue Hill**

Sue Hill said that since she wrote her report the situation regarding Tangent regalia had changed fundamentally as the suppliers F. C. Parry's of Birmingham ceased trading suddenly and without warning in February 2016. They had not fulfilled a lot of orders for Clubs and items for the Shop had not been supplied. It was a big shock. She had spent a lot of time trying to establish what had been ordered, what had been and what had not been supplied. At the same time, she had sought quotes from 3 other companies & was subsequently trialling one of these, Selcraft, by ordering 150 collarette name bars, which were outstanding from previous orders. Their prices were very comparable with what Tangent were paying before and in fact were a bit cheaper a decision had been made dependant on quality and efficiency of this supplier and happy with what they were doing a decision was made to use them in future, their prices were very good and the chap there very helpful and Tangent needed to buy this stuff from somewhere.

She hoped members would be happy with this decision. These outstanding name bars should be with new Sales Officer by the end of April, which considering they have had to make new dyes and tools to make the bars, is very good considering she had placed the order in March.

She highlighted that there would be a new process for the Sales Officer. Up to this point she had always received the forms and sent to the supplier, who had then sent out the stuff direct in return, which meant the sales officer was blissfully unaware that people weren't getting their items so it came as a very nasty shock to her.

From now on the name bars will be sent back to the Sales officer & she will send them out to Clubs. She did appreciate it would mean more work for her successor, but compared to the chasing up it was nothing. The Sales officer would co-ordinate it and again there should be savings as Parry's used to charge £3 for postage, but Sue had padded envelopes and charged £2, but said the new Sales Officer would be in control and would know who's had what and what was outstanding.

Sue said she knew that many clubs were concerned about the financial implications – luckily, she had paid very few invoices to Parrys during 2015 as they were very disorganised company and didn't seem to be sending them out. Invoices she had paid she had established had largely been dispatched, however, there was approximately £104 worth of stock which would have to be paid for again. This was more than balanced by the number of items supplied, which NATC were never invoiced for.

Sue wanted to reassure Tangent members that all the monies paid were being held by Tangent, so many have been trying to contact her regarding payments worried that they would have to pay again, which was not the case. It was held safely in the Tangent shop account and could be used to buy items. Name bars would be ordered/sent out shortly.

Any clubs who had informed her since the last order would be dealt with by Ruth the new Sales Officer.

Chairman/Vice Chairmans jewels would be sent out asap – Sue apologised she had done her best to resolve and tried to sort out as much as possible and again reassured everyone that it would all get sorted out in the very near future & they would get them eventually. She hoped that everyone would understand that this situation was not of their making and wanted everything sorted before the new Sales Officer came into post so she wouldn't have to deal with a huge issue. Sue would be there for Ruth in future, saying she had handed over her phone number and email address and wished her a lot of luck in the role.

Alex passed on her thanks for working tirelessly etc. before asking if there were any questions:

## Questions:

Q Jan Turner, Crowborough 749

Have they had to build in the new charges for the tooling into the current company's prices?

Sue A: No, the company bore the costs.

**Proposer:** Dragons 942

**Seconded:** Reading Valley 401

The report was **approved**

Alex then introduced National Editor and Website Co-Ordinator (NE)Pauline and said she would summarise her responses to questions sent in beforehand.

### **9.7 National Editor and Website Coordinator - Pauline Campbell**

National Editor Pauline Campbell said her report was in the agenda and was quite clear. She said she had received one letter from a Club, which was in 3 parts: the first part had been dealt with by Jill Harris in her presentation and related to financial matters. The rest of it related to the magazine. There was a suggestion that this be reduced to two copies a year, which on the face of it might have seemed a sensible thing to do, but as the magazine mailings included other documents, if the magazine was stopped the Organisation would still have to send these documents out. Tangent was at the mercy of the postal system because the printing and artwork weren't the big deal breakers it was all about the postage. If there was no magazine there would be many people who don't use social media & don't have good internet connections, service or aren't interested in the Internet and we owe it as an inclusive Club to ensure that everybody has access to information. This has meant she had chased people particularly luncheon committees, had nudged them and said they must get something she can put on the website or on Facebook but more importantly so that she could get hard copy to go into the magazine, so that member's events were publicised and 'out there' and people heard about them. She queried why people were leaving them lying around and said they could be taken to local GP surgeries or the opticians once they have been read as Ladies Circle do, this can provide free advertising for NATC.

Pauline advised everyone that the Directory form invited Clubs to indicate how many magazines they would like to receive; some Clubs don't bother to answer that question at all so they get sent one magazine per member. The moment this notification is received it is implemented in the next mailing.

She also had the idea that the form could be redesigned to provide Clubs with a tick box and choice of having 5, 10 or 15 magazines and ticking the form accordingly, which she thought might work well. So many Clubs do not say anything and she felt it was up to Clubs to take responsibility for the additional costs involved if they are getting more magazines than they need.

Pauline advised that there was a question from a Club about the Minimum print run re Magazines, but the point wasn't very clear and she had written back to the Club to advise them accordingly and had not had any response so presumed they were OK with the answer they received.

Pauline stated that she did print it out when she got the draft from the printer just so she could see what it looked like. She left a few gaps in the first draft and knew what she could move round to create or fill a space accordingly. She advised members that the magazine looked horrible printed

using a printer even though she had a good quality LaserJet printer and couldn't think how it would look if she had to print off the 18 or so magazines she would need for her own Club if this was voted in.

NP Alex reminded members present that the proposition re magazine would be fully discussed under item 10.2 so asked everyone if they had any other questions for Pauline.

Questions: None

Pauline then finished with a little story about Veronica, a stalwart of Tangent, retired magistrate then spoke about her start in post 2 years ago, falling over on her way to the lectern and on her way back, she had been nervous but had given it her best, despite the huge agenda involved and the road having many twists & turns but she had taken up the challenge, travelled the path and arrived today. She taught children for many years which, was a great way to prepare her for this role. They were lively, keen to learn, bold, full of fun, very honest and sometimes full of challenges and the skills she learned in that role had stood her in good stead. There had been stumbles along the way as she had had no idea about social media & knew it caused hilarity as she has travelled around. Whilst she wielded her camera at every turn she had still not perfected the science of the "selfie" much to the amusement of Madame President. The best thing about this has been the opportunity to attend events, meet members and make new friends. NATC meant a lot to her & like all good friends it was difficult to leave & impossible to forget, but the time had come and it was right to go. She said "Au revoir" never "goodbye" thanked her Exec friends for the fun, the chocolate, the gin and the opportunities. She welcomed Paula warmly and wished her well for the year and wished her successor Morag a "bright path ahead". She also wished Ruth, Glynis and Melodie a wonderful time and then came back to what Veronica would say in this situation "Sit up, shut up and where's the wine list!" Cheers ladies!

Alex thanked Pauline and asked how many members Tangent had on Facebook and answer was 703, Alex then asked all members present who had not liked the page to do so.

**Proposer:** Westerham 739

**Secunder:** Farnborough 762

The report was **approved**.

### **Presentation of the Star Trophy**

NP Alex then asked NE Pauline to present the Star Trophy, a trophy donated by Emeritus, which Pauline was a member of, for an article, which, went in the Club magazine, by a Club, which had done some fundraising, so it was worth sending things into the magazine. She had looked very hard through all the magazines and concluded that it was not the amount of money raised but the way that it was done. There was a Club who raised money for Children in Need & raised it by doing collections for Pudsey but what they did was when their Ladies Circle closed they carried on with the good work so she wanted to give the **Star Award to Leamington Spa & District 243**.

Their members are not present but ABOTS members accepted it on their behalf.

### **9.8 National Executive Administrator (NEA) - Jackie Hampton**

Jackie Hampton did not have much to add, just that she had attended the National Exec Meeting in Shirley on 26th February and produced the minutes from that meeting. The Midlands Lunch in Stratford followed the meeting the next day, and then she attended her first Irish lunch in Belfast

the following weekend. She was continuing to update the club directory and looked forward to receiving new club details following the Tangent Clubs' own AGMs. The directory update form will be mailed shortly which Clubs can post to her or alternatively they could go online and complete the electronic version. On this note she congratulated Dunstable and District 378 as they were the first to submit their Club Directory Update for 2016-17. She wished Paula all the best for her year.

Alex asked if there were any **questions** and there were none.

**Proposer:** Twyford 456  
The report was **approved**

**Seconded:** Londonderry 730

### **9.3 Continued National Immediate Past President Janice O'Neill**

National IPP Janice O'Neill said that this was her final opportunity to say thank you to all the friends she'd met during the last 3 years & to share with everyone some of her feelings. She had come onto the Exec full of enthusiasm & energy, looking forward to being part of a great Exec team & then the bigger team of NATC. She had no knowledge of the TCI future or of her part in it. The good has been brilliant but there is another hidden side, which she might share after a few gin & tonics but not right now.

She had been told she would be given a hard time regarding TCI at this meeting & had been quite worried but it was all ok, phew. However, what everyone needed to know was that TCI was new, one-year-old with all the teething problems of a baby. In every country except the UK, membership was growing whilst in the UK it was decreasing & she heard Clubs saying they were not interested in change or new members joining Tangent, which was very sad.

She told everyone that 34 Circlers went to New York a few weeks earlier to charter a new Ladies Circle Club. Tangent needed these younger members or it would fade & die. What could Tangent offer now? She was grateful to Pauline & her website & Facebook efforts and said it should be Twitter next, hah! The younger members didn't always have the funds to attend posh lunches or big events. She referred to the next lunch costing £48 plus wine & travel expenses and asked whether this made Tangent an elitist club? Tangent would have to consider looking at things differently without having to fight for change. The criticisms for changing the AGM to an earlier start had been amazing but there had been lots of great compliments too. She agreed that the lunch arrangements last year had been difficult but asked whether Tangent members really need a huge lunch if they were staying in a hotel with breakfast & then having a banquet in the evening? Hopefully ladies who had come just for the day could meet their friends afterwards for tea & a chat. She said there were two different groups of people attending: one said it was a business meeting & the other said they only came for lunch & to meet friends, so it was very difficult to please everyone.

Tangent Exec members were ordinary human beings. Past National Officers often gave the Exec the hardest time and she asked that members supported their Exec & gave hugs instead of throwing punches. She said they were on the Exec for pleasure, not pain and reminded everyone that they had volunteered but she expected that when they did this it had been with a certain amount of naivety and in her case a bucketful of dreams. The Exec had their own lives, families, some had jobs too & goodness knows the problems they all had to contend with this year whilst smiling at all the events they had attended.

She then asked if there were any Conference Virgins present and counted 25-30? She then continued to explain that the Exec all worked from home, not in a Head Office with tea & coffee brought to them. They arranged their own transport, did their own admin, bought their own tea & coffee & attended lengthy Exec meetings such as the 3-day planning meeting for the AGM over weekends & that they did travel. Most of the time it was a pleasure, a privilege & exciting but there were times when it was a nightmare, especially at airports or driving long distances in winter on dark & wet evenings. The Exec members all knew it was her aim to get through an airport without being frisked. Don't touch her bits!

She hoped sincerely that Tangent could turn this wonderful organisation around soon with an increase in membership, modern ideas which would encourage newer, younger members. She hoped Tangent would become more of an Open club like Circle & Table & that they would continue to make friends locally, nationally & Internationally. She wished the new Exec the best of luck under the great leadership of Paula who she had every faith in. She thanked the current Exec here, saying what would she have done without them and warned that she was not going just yet, to watch out for the SE Regional Lunch in 2017.

She looked forward to returning to her Tangent clubs who had supported her and shown nothing but friendship, which was true Tangenting. Being part of the Exec had been ... an experience and it was almost time to go for a wee, sorry a gin & tonic. National President Alex thanked Janice and asked if there were any questions

**Proposer:** Berkhamsted 867

**Seconded:** Dunstable 378

The report was **approved**

**\*\*The meeting adjourned for lunch\*\***

Resumption of 50TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the National Association of Tangent Clubs.

Alex asked Past President of NATC Karen Durie to say greetings as the cake presented by the Birmingham Conference committee was distributed to everyone. Karen Durie then welcomed all the ladies back from lunch, commenting on the high numbers attending and reiterated what a wonderful organisation we all belonged to and looked forward to a great second half of AGM. She also said she had been appointed Head teller for the voting later on. She then proposed a toast to NATC (without drinks) and the cake was distributed and the AGM continued.

Alex then handed over to Judy Steen who had overseen the team selling tickets in the Tigger raffle, raffling off the Tigger, who had accompanied the National President on all her travels. She then drew the winning ticket and Tigger bounced over to Sue Umpleby of Hartlepool Tangent 236, who declared that Tigger would now be her Tangent Club mascot. £203 was raised in total for RTCW.

## 10 Propositions

### Proposition 10.1 – Finance

Proposed by Keynsham & District 104 and seconded by Wessex Link Tangent 881

That rule 9.2 At its National Annual General Meeting the Association shall approve a budget and determine the Capitation fee payable per:

- (a) Member of each affiliated club or
- (b) Independent member for the year commencing at 30th April

be amended to read:

9.2 At its National Annual General Meeting the Association shall approve a budget and also determine the Capitation fee payable per:

- (a) Member irrespective of the number of affiliated club they belong to, or
- (b) Independent member for the year commencing at 30th April.

Proposition & explanation printed in the Agenda read out by **Lis Evans from Keynsham** and District Tangent Club No. 104. She then went on to state the following:

Firstly, she corrected the figures quoted in their explanation: this was due to the amazing in depth analysis NT Jill had done on the Associations finances. So, taking into account the proposed rise to £6 for NATC subscriptions this year, they now based their figures on that and the 283 members recorded as duplicating their membership, so the potential rise to each member would be 0.14p.

At their 2014 National AGM in Bournemouth the National Executive raised the issue of Capitation fees and it was intended by them that a vote would be taken on that day to change the way everyone paid their capitations monies: one member, one fee no matter how many clubs they belonged to.

AGM attendees were told that this would only affect about 100 members, but those attending the meeting thought this had been an under estimation of those who belonged to more than one club. However, there was agreement at that time that the National Executive would be unable to take a vote as this had not appeared on the agenda and understood it would be brought back on the agenda at the 2015 National AGM. Sadly, it wasn't, which was very disappointing to many people, hence their proposition here today.

The payment of Capitation fees should be the accurate measure of the number of members an association has and in NATC's case it was obviously not. In Keynsham, there were only 4 out of a total membership of 34 who belong to more than one club, which didn't cost the association anymore because they chose to extend their friendships, but the duplication of National Capitation fees was clouding the issue of the exact number of members this association had.

It was time that each and every member paid the true price of running the association and that NATC no longer 'guestimated' the number of actual members they had.

The result of supporting this change would most probably mean that Capitation fees would rise. There could possibly be some work involved in the initial stages of that change, but she felt sure this could be kept to an absolute minimum.

They strongly believed that each member should pay the true cost of running NATC and most importantly they should know exactly how many members

they had. They urged members present to vote in favour of this proposition and thanked everyone for their time.

NS Melodie gave an explanation saying that ladies from Wessex will speak but first Melodie wanted to clarify implications – clarify position if proposition is passed, so long as a member has paid her capitation for one Club she will be considered a full member of the Association. A new capitation form would be prepared after the AGM to send out to all Clubs. It will be imperative that each Club completes the form with details of all their members and all their Clubs clearly noting on which Club each member has paid her capitation fee. This means that Clubs where all their members have paid their capitation fees to other Clubs & have returned the completed form will still be considered an affiliated Club of the National Association of Tangent clubs. The Club will be covered by insurance & will be eligible to send a delegate to the National AGM to vote on behalf of the Club.

### **Penny Tranter Wessex Link Tangent Club No. 881**

Good afternoon ladies

Wessex Link was formed some 19 years ago, as a cluster club their membership mainly came from past members of the Ladies Circle Area 5 region, their membership for 2015–2016 was 36 members with only 1 not being a member of another club.

They realised that if this proposal was passed some income would be lost to the association, but with it would come some savings. As an aside, their club received 36 magazines 3 times last year; 35 of which they didn't need, that's 105 copies wasted for their club alone as well as the postage costs involved. A flexible option of how many copies each club would prefer, as has been suggested previously by Pauline, could be one solution.

NATC could possibly save money on their insurance cover as they would be insuring less people. Admittedly there would still be the cost of regalia for each club to cover, but she felt sure NATC brokers would be able to quote for the regalia of the National Executive and that of the 600 plus clubs together with public liability cover for each member, the total cost being divisible by an exact number of members.

They were not the only association whose members belong to more than one club, many members present probably belonged to the WI, and their members only paid one National Federation fee, irrespective of the number of clubs they belonged to.

The double counting of some members could affect the amount NATC pay towards Tangent International.

The amount of NATC National Subscription is a minor cost, it was not the money it was the principal that the cost of running NATC should be shared equally by the whole membership, but perhaps more importantly that NATC should know exactly how many members they had and would therefore be able to more accurately monitor their membership numbers enabling informed decisions to be made on the best way forward for the organisation and not have this figure masked by 'multi-payers'.

She asked that those present voted to support this proposition and thanked everyone.

National President Alex said that this was a decision to be made by the members and that the National Executive would not be providing any opinions, but that Jill Harris just wanted to clarify a few points.

The explanation in the Agenda included figures she had provided at the time of the HYM and she apologised saying she thought she had underestimated the true numbers of Club members belonging to more than one club. This meant that if this proposition was voted in there would definitely have to be a further rise in capitation as it was difficult to determine the true numbers, but she thought that there were about 400-500 members who were members of more than one club. She believed that the Association would lose capitation of about £3000, which, would work out at 25p a member, which would have to be made up by increasing capitation fees to all members.

National Treasurer Jill advised that she had already spoken to the insurers regarding this proposition, if it went through and had been given quotes. In order to ensure Clubs were covered by insurance members would have to prove that they had paid their capitation to the one Club they said they had. Jill would have to design an excel spreadsheet to keep records of all members & who had paid etc. This year Clubs were asked to send lists of their members and she had to email over 400 clubs, who hadn't responded, phoning them repeatedly and still had over 100 clubs who had not responded and was able to confirm with the insurers that they were covered despite the nil return. If this went through she couldn't do that, she would have to make sure that each & every member was covered on the spreadsheet & had paid their capitation.

Regarding regalia every Club would be covered & the insurance company had confirmed this. This was worked out every year on a per Club basis estimating membership numbers as they fluctuate through the year so would still be covered and there would not be any need for reductions.

#### **Amendment proposed by Angels of North 907 & seconded by Hexham 37.**

Judy Steen spoke to say she & they were concerned by the effect of this proposal so wanted to put a comma in the middle of the wording of part a) the comma being after the word Member. This would clarify things and not leave them open to interpretation.

Rule be amended to read:

9.2 At its National Annual General Meeting the Association shall approve a budget and also determine the Capitation fee payable per:

- (a) Member, irrespective of the number of affiliated club they belong to, or
- (b) Independent member for the year commencing at 30th April.

Concerns regarding the effect of this proposal notwithstanding Melodie's explanation they thought there was a conflict with the Board's proposition that a Club is an affiliated Club only when it has paid full capitation by the required date. She then mentioned the results of research they had carried out. They were concerned that this motion would be passed before further research had been carried out and the implications looked at to see what the effects would be.

Melodie refers to Amendment proposed by Angels of the North and seconded by Hexham & read it out and invited Keynsham to respond before the vote.

Lis Evans then said that Angels of the North had been in touch by email to advise what they were proposing and she had responded that she understood what they were proposing and conceded that they had a point.

## **Discussion re amendment:**

Izzy Lambley, Northampton Nene 519 was a member of 2 Tangent clubs and enjoys her time. It did not matter to her how many capitations she paid and did not make such a big upheaval to get number counting there must be another way to get this done without all this palaver there must be a better way.

Vote took place on the amendment by a show of cards: The Amendment **passed**. This now became the substantive motion to be voted on:

9.2 At its National Annual General Meeting the Association shall approve a budget and also determine the Capitation fee payable per:

- (a) Member, irrespective of the number of affiliated club they belong to, or
- (b) Independent member for the year commencing at 30th April.

## **Discussion on the amended proposition**

Terri Hewitt, Whitchurch 439

Lots of members will have lots of votes at the AGM, she only belongs to one Tangent Club.

Made reference to the fact that members who belong to many clubs, those clubs will still have a vote even if their members don't pay capitation to that club. There will be some Tangent members who will have more votes than others who are only members of one club.

Lis Evans Keynsham response

Terry made the point that lots of members would have more votes than they had at present, but she said that ladies who were members of more than one club already had the chance to vote more than once so this would not make any difference. The reason why they had brought it up was that the National Executive raised it first, they had been quite happy with the status quo, but when it was not brought back to the AGM last year, they decided it was the fairest way for all members to look at and vote on.

Beth Allen Harpenden 137

Belonged to 3 clubs and paid her capitation to each Club for which she got a vote and she thought that if she had a vote she should pay for it.

Moira Ann Granger ABOTS 889

Lots of reservations about this amendment but understood where it had come from. The biggest one was we do need to know membership numbers especially going forward as this could affect our membership of TCI. Said that if there were 700 members of Tangent in the UK and large numbers were multiple members, (she was in 5 clubs) then this will affect things, as it would look like we had a lot more members than we actually do. If the membership is going to be capitated on numbers we do need to be designing a form for our membership to send in and where a box can be ticked if you are a member of another club, it doesn't matter how many other Clubs, that person should only be counted once. Need to streamline the administration so it doesn't make the Executive's jobs more difficult. Honesty is needed, she knew there were Tangent Clubs out there who don't send in the full amount of money for the members they've got for various reasons, e.g. they weren't there on the evening and they may not get the money back from them and it has to

paid in straight away so it is easier just to only send in the monies collected. So we are never ever going to have an absolutely accurate number but we can't afford to have a 3-400 discrepancy because that does make a difference. More time and thought was needed to get the administration of this right and in the interim those who were members of lots of Clubs carry on paying the money, at least it was going into reserves.

Margaret Barker Saltburn & District 357

One of the questions she had was about numbers, which she thought were in the Directory for each Club and asked if Tangent could go back to that system. She said that if they were contacting a Club to invite their members you could tell from the Directory what their numbers were. She hoped the motion was defeated as if it went through it would mean a lot of work for our treasurer.

Karen Clarke Salisbury 389

Suggested a spreadsheet with every Tangent member's name on in alphabetical order so it would just provide a list of all our members. That way we would have an accurate figure of membership and number of clubs they belong to is not so important then.

NP Alex then advised that this would be difficult, as it would involve the creation of a database, which would be very difficult to sort out, as there were a lot of ladies who did not want to be included on a database.

Jo Holden Twyford & District 456

Regardless of money she thought it was important to know exact membership which could be dealt with quite simply on our membership returns where one box is ticked numbers & suggested a box on the form to tick if that was that Tangent member's primary club or not. If they don't tick that box then they don't get counted. It could be a primary tick or a secondary tick.

Judy Holdaway Camberley 277

She was National President a few years ago and when she was President she visited many of the older Tangent club's numbers 1-10, where they have very old members, some over 80, who weren't charged capitation fees, but she didn't know if this was still the case. It wasn't the members it was their clubs who gave it to them as a bit of a perk, saying come along, you don't have to pay capitation fees, which she thought, was totally wrong. She belonged to two Clubs and she hadn't met one person who belonged to multiple clubs who had complained about paying double capitation fees. Then she said that in these days of technology NATC had an administrative assistant but she was not quite sure what this lady did. Judy knew she did the Directory but what did she do for the rest of the year. She felt that having been on the Exec she felt she had inside information.

NP Alex then asked if anyone else had any questions and then advised that 2 members of the Exec wanted to respond starting with Paula who would respond regarding the last point raised.

VP Paula explained the Exec Admin role saying Jackie prepared, minuted and organised almost all the Executive meetings. She wanted to remind everyone that the members of the National Executive were carrying out their roles part time regardless of whether they worked. Jackie was still dealing with Directory forms from last year, keeping the details updated on the website

together with the membership contact information and ensuring Tangent Club Finder was also up to date.

NP Alex then also spoke out saying that Jackie is a valued member of the Executive, working very hard and NS Melodie would confirm how much help she had provided to her.

Jane Lo Roche, Southend-on-Sea 5

They celebrate their 60th charter this year and had lots of older members. She thought that all the discussion had been interesting and didn't want things to get too personal. She praised the National Executive for all the time they put in.

NT Jill Harris then said that she and NS Melodie had been looking at the Capitation forms to see how they can change them to try and get recorded who is a member of what club and how many were joint members - if this proposition failed she would have no problem with keeping this on the form if that was what everyone wanted, so that there would be a more accurate method for next year. However, if the Club does not send it's form back & she has had to ask 3 times before, she would not have time to ask after that, but at least this way everyone would be covered by insurance. So she would be prepared to continue with the excel forms and try and work out what the membership numbers were if this proposition failed.

Lis Evans Keynsham - Response

It was not her or their intention for this matter to get personal nor to kick up a fuss, all she wanted to do was establish exactly how many members the Association had and the best way to do that would be "one member one fee".

Karen Durie Wokingham 268

As National President at the AGM in Bournemouth where this was raised she said that the Executive at that time had said this would be brought back to a later AGM but they had felt at that time that the feeling of the meeting was that the membership didn't want it to go ahead; so they had tried to come up with a way they could establish the exact membership numbers without going down this route. There are obviously different views in the room but she could not see that anything has changed.

Melodie then read out the amended version (with the comma) and explained voting would be on this as the substantive motion. The proposition was **defeated**.

NT Jill then asked if the members wanted the back of the Capitation forms amended and this was greeted by a resounding "Yes."

## **10.2 Proposition 2 – Magazines**

Proposed by Formby Tangent 349 and seconded by Bootle, Crosby & District Tangent 148

We hereby propose that the Tangent magazine should no longer be printed and posted out, but in future should be sent out to Tangent clubs by email.

Viv Bambery Formby 349 Read out the proposition  
Helga Dickinson Bootle 148 Read out the explanation

Viv Bambery spoke out further on behalf of Formby 349 as follows: £18,000 for the magazine is the largest single item of expenditure in the budget and most of that was for postage, which never went down. She said that the majority of women in the room were using emails to communicate and that the National Executive also communicated with Clubs via email. There were about 20 clubs who did not have email at all and she said she would address this later. She did not want any misunderstandings or for Club contacts to think they would have to print off lots of emails; she thought they would be forwarding the emailed magazines on to other members of her Club. The only ones she would have to print off would be for those members not on email to bring to the next meeting. She was not suggesting that the National Exec should be running off loads of copies for the Clubs not on email, but that the printer could also get involved and send enough hard copies for those Clubs not on email direct. Their suggestion would result in savings, which would release monies to be used in other ways. There would be no changes to the magazine just to the method of distribution. She negated peoples comments about the magazine not getting to everyone by this new method, by saying that currently the magazine didn't get to everyone, they were taken to meetings, some people took them but a lot never even noticed them, and sometimes leftover magazines ended up in the bin! Not every member sees a copy because not every member will have attended that meeting.

If it was sent out to Club contacts via email in an A4 format, which would be very easy to read, with numbered pages then it would reach a wider audience. She had some estimated costs based on information supplied by the National Executive, with 3 printing runs a year and printing off sufficient hard copies for the 20 clubs without email, the costs would be a fraction of the budget currently.

They were suggesting something, which was possible, was sensible and would certainly save money. This is the 21st century and this is the way communication is going and believe that their proposition spoke for itself. Tangent needed to keep up.

### **Helga speaking on behalf of Bootle**

Bootle, Crosby & District were supporting the way Tangent magazine was distributed, therefore safeguarding and improving Tangent's finances. Distributing the magazine via email was a more cost effective way than sending out hard copy by post. Many of those present were already familiar with sending things this way through sending ecards instead of posting them, postage was a big cost nowadays. Many members were already familiar with reading Club newsletters, parish magazines, U3A newsletters or even blogs via the Internet, often a purely electronic way of doing things. The savings made could be used in a number of prudent or creative ways, with no increase in capitation and could help with offsetting the extra costs coming, absorbing TCI capitation fees, offset National Exec expenses and finance attracting new members into the organisation.

From saving a good deal of money another clear advantage of having the magazine distributed electronically is the immediate access for everyone for once it's sent to the Club contact and they have passed it on it can be seen and read by all irrespective of meetings attended. The magazine could be read by members at their own convenience without having to attend a meeting. Proposition allowed for a small number of magazines to be printed off and sent out to Clubs members without access to email or the internet by the National Executive, no Tangent member would be left out. They believed that an electronically published magazine with a small number of printed copies is the logical and practical extension of the website and would be in keeping with today's ways of communicating with each other. Bootle, Crosby & District Tangent believed that this proposition was in the best interests of the organisation and we're proud to second the proposition 10.2 and sincerely hoped that everyone present would agree.

## **Discussion**

Viv Wyss Lichfield Tangent 116

Lichfield Tangent Club supported the proposal, but wanted to amend the proposal to reflect the explanation to include the fact that the proposition would support the Tangent clubs who don't have email. She stated that the Explanation covered it but the proposal didn't.

NP Alex Voller then asked Viv if she had a seconder for this suggested amendment but she did not.

Penny Gibbons Emeritus 900

Speaking personally not on behalf of either Club she belonged to. She fully understood the proposal and explanation, but she liked her magazine and wanted to read it over a coffee and not have to turn on a computer or iPad to do so. She paid for it twice but got it only once and urged people to vote against the proposition.

Jean Morris Amersham 68

She wanted to point out that NATC membership should be a fully inclusive membership; and some of our members are in their 70s, 80s and 90s and from her own experience with their own older members was that they were total technophobes and NATC must be very careful that they didn't get forgotten.

BJ Brown Shirley 86

Stated that many years ago, when magazines were sent out they were allocated to each Club depending on how many members they had. Over the past few years they decided to print one magazine for every member, which increased the postage costs considerably and was probably why the postage costs were £18,000 today. Comparing it to previously when if there were 40 members they might only send 10 magazines so for the 25% or so of the members who liked a copy it meant there would not have been the wastage there is now. She wondered if there was a way to do something somewhere in between having one magazine for each member to not having the magazine for most members. Her suggestion was to consider reverting back to the system, which worked very well from about 4-5 years ago.

NP Alex asked if this was proposed as an amendment to the proposition, it was not. She then continued saying she personally enjoyed her copy of the magazine and as a past

National officer she got her own personal mailing and had not missed a copy of the magazine. She said it was nice to look back at the magazines, which you could not do if they were on an email.

Pauline Campbell Westerham 739

Pauline wanted to clarify a few points: If this proposition was carried through it would disenfranchise a lot of people. Members have made reference to the website, the magazines have always been on the website and when we moved to the new website they transferred all the old magazines. She had put the magazine straight up on the website almost before it went in the post. What members did not appear aware of was that the magazine was sent out with other mailings so these postage costs would still have to be paid. Also a lot of Clubs were not filling in their directory forms as to how many magazines they would like so the answer was with the Clubs. She had suggested some changes, at the moment there were over 44 different size packs sent out, her suggestion was to send out packs of 5, 10 or 15 magazines. This suggestion had been made to the National Exec, so that the Directory forms coming back would include this info.

Alex Voller checked whether there were any amendments being proposed to this proposition and there were none. They then went ahead with the vote. The proposition was **defeated**.

## **11 National Executive Recommendations re Finance for the year 2016-17**

### **11.1 Budget**

NT Jill Harris submitted the Budget for approval, which was in the Agenda on Pages 36-41.

Jill said she had tried to include everything regarding the Budget into the Agenda so there was an explanation for every line within the budget. As Jill had already answered questions she then asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to discuss.

NP Alex Voller then asked if there were any questions, there were none and the vote was taken.

**Proposer:** ABOTS 889

**Seconder:**

Northampton Nene 519

The recommendation was **Carried**.

11.2. Out of pocket expenses (for the National President)

The National Executive recommends that the Out of Pocket Expenses for the National President be increased by £50 to £1,500 for the year 2016-17

**Proposer:** Walsall 9

**Seconder:**

Emeritus 900

The recommendation was **Carried**.

### **11.3 National Capitation**

The National Executive recommend that the Annual Capitation shall be £6 per member for the year 2016-17

**Proposer:** ABOTS 889

**Seconder:**

LAFF 933

The recommendation was **Carried**.

## 11.4 Independent Membership

The National Executive recommends that the Annual Capitation for Independent Members shall remain at £13.75 for the year 2016-17

**Proposer:** Lichfield Ladies Tangles 931

**Seconder:** Whitchurch 439

The recommendation was **Carried**.

### **Golf trophy presentation:**

Four ladies entered the golf competition with the trophy being won by Jane La Roche from Southend and NP Alex presented her with the trophy. She then spoke briefly and thanked the organisers.

NP Alex then invited all 4 Candidates for the posts on the National Exec to leave the room to prepare themselves for their presentations. They were accompanied from the room by stewards.

## 14. Election of Officers

NP Alex announced that they had received nominations for all 4 posts by the closing date of 15th January 2016. Their photographs and a few words from each of them were in the last Tangent magazine and their biographical details have been published in the Agenda. Voting delegates were directed to take out from their packs a voting slips swatch, which was stapled together and asked people to please keep them together and not separate. She stated there was one form for each vacancy and the tellers would collect the whole swatch at the end of the process.

### 14.1 National Vice President

National President Alex then asked that Melodie be escorted into the room and directed Jackie Hampton to read out her biographical details as she did so.

**Melodie Brookes**, standing as Vice Presidential candidate was proposed by Salisbury 389 and seconded by Bournemouth 1. Her biographical details were as in the Agenda. Alex then invited Melodie to address the members with a time limit of 3 minutes.

Her subject matter was: **How would you increase the profile of Tangent within the 4 Club Group?**

"I count myself in nothing else so happy as in a soul remembering my good friends." In a week, which marks the 400th Anniversary of the death of Shakespeare, a local lad, it was apt that she began with his words. In Tangent, the members worked side by side with the other 3 members of the Round Table Family, sharing the common aims of extending friendships, locally, nationally and internationally, and having fun in shared experiences of community service and raising funds for good causes. As a confirmation of this, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in January 2014, just up the road in Marchesi House, by the National Presidents at that time, Tangent was extremely proud that Karen Durie was part of that process. From now on, she would like to have this document included in Tangent's printed Directory for the further understanding of all Tangent members so that individual Clubs could be fully aware of the wider links and opportunities available, and their responsibilities to maintain and build the membership

of Circle and Table. Tangent was fortunate that this process has been ably enhanced by current and previous Tangent National Presidents. She would like to increase Tangent's profile as an equal player in the group, by aiming to achieve, with the other clubs in the Round Table family, the sharing of facilities and resources. Round Table and 41 Club maintain offices, and paid staff, at Marchesi House; the Executive of the NATC works from home, as do Ladies Circle Executive, without any professional support, and need to be taken more seriously. She looked forward to encouraging in particular those many clubs who were already co-ordinating & developing social and working relationships with the other Round Table family clubs in their locality. They were enjoying the fun, getting to know people with the same aims, and supporting each other for the benefit of all. There is no finer way to increase the profile of Tangent. Come on girls; let's show them we can do it! She was thrilled to be in her home city for this Conference saying that even the Archers family recognised local expertise as Helen Titchener's Barrister was from a Chambers in Birmingham. With her fingers flying, she occasionally landed on the next letter on the keyboard so she was now seeking to move from Sex(retary) to Vice (President). She thanked all those people who had given her support along the way in the last 4 years, including her Ladies Circle steward today. She wanted to go forward with the motto she had had as Ladies Circle Area Chairman: 'Together in Harmony'. She then thanked everyone present.

National President Alex asked if anyone had any question for Melodie and there were none. She thanked Melodie and said she could go or stay as she wished.

#### **14.2 National Secretary**

National President Alex asked that Glynis Sutton be escorted into the room and asked Jackie Hampton to read out her biographical details as she did so.

**Glynis Sutton** proposed by Chesham 794 Seconded by Amersham 68

Her biographical details were as in the Agenda. Alex then invited Glynis to address the members with a time limit of 3 minutes.

Her subject matter was: **What life experiences have you had that would prepare you for the role of national secretary?**

She met her husband Andy at Reading pop festival, they did quite a bit of travelling when they were young. This taught them to stand on their own two feet, not to rely on anyone else and be self-sufficient. There was nothing quite like being in another country with no money to bring out the problem-solver in you! She joined ladies circle in her early thirties – quite reluctant at first, but once she was in, she loved it. She thoroughly enjoyed all those old folks' lunches, Burns nights, Area do's and Ladies nights. Going to Circle, LCI and now Tangent events gave her memories that stayed with her forever – well until the Alzheimer's kicked in! She was one of those strange people that enjoyed the business side of Circling and Tangent as much as the social side, so being Area secretary and Area chairman in Circle were a good grounding for her. Seeing Circle and Tangent as National organisations opened her eyes to the bigger picture. However, those Chesham girls keep her feet firmly on the ground – she thanked the Chesham and Amersham girls who had travelled to the AGM to help and support her! She was quite comfortable working on a committee and said that everyone brought something different to the table. Some people could radiate enthusiasm and energy, which became infectious, and some – like her - were perhaps more cautious and practical. She believed they were stronger as a team than the sum of

our parts and it was amazing what could be done when they all pulled together. If anyone present had done a Belbin personality analysis, she was a team-worker and a completer-finisher – she loved to tick things off her list! She'd done a solo parachute jump, several charity cycle rides, and sponsored swims – when she had been considerably younger and fitter! She volunteered for her local hospice and got involved in social events in her village, mainly in the pub! She was an avid Saracens rugby supporter and said that being part of a clan to experience the highs and lows with, was a great feeling. She completed an Open University degree in her 40s, whilst she was working full time. During that 6 years, she learnt a lot – that she had to focus and multi-task, she needed to plan to succeed, and she needed determination to finish what she started. She had recently changed roles to accounts manager and now worked 3 days a week, which was heaven after working full time since she was 16. So now she'd got some time she thought she'd fill her week up with Tangent! She had read the job description for the position of National Secretary and boy it looked busy. Her background was secretarial, project management, event co-ordination and more recently spreadsheets and databases, so hopefully she would fit in. She found that with a busy life it was important to have a good collection of wine, gin and friends. She liked to have a lot of fun and tried to keep a 'glass half-full' attitude. She was looking forward to working with a great group of ladies on the Exec and doing the best she could for the National organisation. She thanked everyone present.

Alex asked if anyone had a question, there were none, so she thanked Glynis and invited her to stay or go it was her choice.

### **14.3 National Sales & Regalia Officer**

National President Alex asked that Ruth Sage be escorted into the room and asked Jackie Hampton to read out her biographical details as she did so.

**Ruth Sage** proposed by proposed by Southend-on-Sea 5 and seconded by Chelmsford 96 Her biographical details were in the Agenda. Alex then invited Ruth to address the meeting for 3 minutes:

Her subject matter was **“What is your strategy for optimising the income from the written off stock”**

Ruth said she was an Essex girl and proud of it, she said she had the ability to sell ice to the Eskimos so this post seemed to be made for her. She was a senior nurse who worked on nights & helped to care for a severely disabled girl on her nights off, that is when she was not off sick. She was recovering from major surgery on her back carried out 5 weeks ago and no longer needed to take really strong painkillers! She enjoyed a challenge and had an 11-year-old Staffordshire dog who would make a really great Tangent member as she liked a fuss to be made over her, to be taken out, have money spent on her, liked a really good meal and could sleep through anything boring without snoring too loudly. Ruth had lots of really good ideas to bring the Tangent shop into the 21st Century and asked that Tangent members got in touch with her if there was anything they particularly wanted to be able to purchase from the Shop & she would see if it were possible to supply it or not. She still had strong links with her Area Ladies Circle and was currently Area 30 Honorary President for the second time, which she saw as a great honour.

In relation to the National shop she intended to see what stock there was and what needed to be written off and would take steps to sell it at the best possible price depending on what there was to be written off. She would also contact Tangent Clubs to offer them the goods for raffle prizes or Ladies night gifts. She would also be contacting 41 Club to offer them goods for Ladies' night gifts via the Tangent shop. She intended to work very closely with Paul of PS Graphics to build up a really good range of items to buy via the website. She wanted to get models of our age showing off the clothing on the "on-line" pages thus encouraging more ladies to buy them.

She felt very strongly about working together with the other clubs in the Round Table family and could not just sit back and think that Ladies Circle members would automatically join Tangent once they are too old for Ladies Circle they have other options like Agora or they think they will just have a rest from Clubs in general. NATC had to make them want to join the organisation by going to their meetings and joining in with their activities and showing them that Tangent wasn't just a Club of old ladies talking about their ailments and grandchildren. We too like to have fun and asked Tangent clubs to share their yearly programme with their Circles and try to get them involved before they leave Ladies Circle.

National President Alex asked if anyone had any questions for Ruth and there were none. She was invited to remain or leave as she wished.

#### **14.4 National Editor and Website Co-ordinator**

National President Alex asked that Morag Daley be escorted into the room and asked Jackie Hampton to read out her biographical details as she did so.

**Morag Daley** proposed by Turriff & District 717 and Seconded by AACT 940 Her biographical details were in the Agenda and whilst these were being read out Morag presented outgoing National Editor Pauline with some flowers. Alex invited Morag to address the meeting for 3 minutes

Subject matter **"What would your ideal copy be and how would you present it"**

Morag thanked the National Secretary for engineering her opportunity to speak after the vote on the magazine rather than before! She was the candidate for National Editor of Tangent News, this being the copy she would be looking for. Tangent news from everyone present, Tangent news from their clubs. Whilst the days of print media were limited & a move to a digital world inevitable, she did not personally think that NATC were there yet. They all liked to sit down with a good magazine and she would be taking steps to make the Tangent News magazine more readable and that would be at a basic level. She would be introducing a bigger font for the magazine and (her particular bugbear) bigger pictures so that members could recognise the people in them!

Her role would be as Editor but she could only edit the copy members provided & asked that thought was put into what was sent in to her as it would be lovely to see pictures of the Chairman with the President but the magazine will not be called President Paula's Personal Propaganda it would be more lovely to see Chairmen doing something in their communities without the National President. She fully recognised the reasoning behind the proposal which was put before the AGM.

Cutting the magazine to save costs would be akin to putting a plaster over a gaping wound, in her opinion. Everyone needed to face the reality that planning for the future of the organisation needed to happen. Membership numbers were dropping, the membership of the sister club was now 1000, not all Ladies Circlers became Tangent

members therefore the diminution of our feeder club would result in Tangent's diminution. She believed Tangent needed to know who its members were, not just the number but their ages and location as this would help the Association plot its income and address future savings. There would need to be savings. She was conscious that the magazine was the biggest item on the budget and she would be working with the Treasurer to look at cuts that could be made within her role, which may not be popular, but she would be prepared to make them, prepared to stand by them and prepared to justify them at future AGM's. Facebook was the future together with Twitter and Morag would be changing Tangent's presence on both sites.

NP Alex asked if anyone had any questions for Morag, but there were none, so she was invited to remain or leave as she wished.

NP Alex then explained that voting was by secret ballot and to use the swatch of coloured voting slips to record their votes and then fold over. Delegates should then hold their completed swatches in the air and tellers would collect them. Proxy voters without instruction were asked to put an unmarked swatch into the container so that all delegates were accounted for. The votes will be counted and are from all delegates present and will be decided by a simple majority. She asked for the results as soon as possible at which point she would announce them.

### **13. Greetings from Marcus Jones, Round Table National President 2015-16**

Marcus brought greetings on behalf of Round Table, he then presented Alex with a personal gift from himself & his wife Jane then said there was plenty of wine in the bar downstairs, apparently with Tangent ladies' names on it!

## **15. Recommendations**

### **15.1 National Executive Recommendation**

National President Alex explains that these are recommendations not a proposition, if there are any recommended amendments then the Executive have the right to dismiss these and suggest that they are brought as an amendment to the next AGM. A proposer and seconder were not required for Executive Recommendations, however if the Executive accepts amendments to their recommendation this would then require a proposer and seconder and should then be treated as a proposition.

National Secretary Melodie then read out the first one as per agenda together with the explanation also in the agenda. (Rule 5.2)

15.1 The National Executive recommends that: Rule 5.2 'The Officers (with the exception of the National President, which is a three-year role, including Vice President and Immediate Past President) shall be elected for a term of two years, by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Except that in the event of the resignation or death of an officer in which event the person elected to replace such officer shall hold office for the residue of the period of two years.'

Be amended to:

'The Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, by ballot if there is more than one candidate. The Officers shall serve for a term of two years, with the exception of the National

President, who will serve for a term of three years, including as Vice President and Immediate Past President. In the event of the resignation or death of an officer, the person elected to replace such officer shall hold office for the residue of the period of that officer's term.'

### Questions:

Gill Young Southend on Sea 5

She was National Secretary when this was proposed in Scarborough and felt quite strongly at the time that this was a vote of confidence albeit no one has stood in opposition to the candidate, but it gives a clear indication that the members of this Club accept the candidate. She still felt quite strongly that this arrangement should be maintained yes, she knew that the ordinary members may think it was a waste of time as there was only one candidate standing, who would vote against them, but that is the principal, everyone voted and the candidate would then have the vote of confidence of the organisation and can then go ahead in her time in office with that as her back up.

Jan Dowling, Nidderdale 623

She just wanted to make the following observation that she had stood from the floor as VP at the conference in Scarborough at quite short notice with great fear and trepidation and it had been very nice to be welcomed onto the Executive and know she had the support of the membership endorsing her position.

National President Alex then addressed members and asked delegates to vote using coloured cards, for and against. She then directed Karen and tellers to do a count so asked delegates to raise their cards again for, against & abstentions.

Whilst waiting for the results of the count, Alex announced the **results of the votes for the candidates**, which was all unanimous apart from two abstentions. Alex then congratulated Melodie, Morag, Glynis and Ruth.

National President Alex then announced that the vote for Recommendation 15.1 would have to go to a paper vote and instructed delegates to complete a white slip. Melodie then instructed delegates to complete the slips with the Agenda item number 15.1. Delegates were asked to vote on the slips on 15.1 Exec recommendation amending Rule 5.2, voting for or against.

**The result of the paper vote** was a dead draw, so the Exec would leave the recommendation unchanged at the moment, but Alex extended an invitation to any members present who wanted to, to go away and come up with a proposition to bring to next year's AGM and Paula would deal with it then.

### 15.2 Executive Recommendation

National President Alex then read out the recommendation & explanation.

15.2 The National Executive recommends that a new rule be added to the Constitution and Rules at 3.6 as follows:

'A club is an affiliated club, only when it has paid its full Capitation by the required date'

There being no questions the delegates invited to vote

## **The recommendation was Carried**

### **16. National President's Address**

NP Alex started her final countdown with the presentation of the money had been raised for her charity, which was Round Table Children's Wish. It had been a no brainer choosing this charity it was set up by a Tabler 25 years ago to grant wishes to children with life threatening conditions between the ages of 4-17 years. She had become very good friends with the Director Karen Winchcombe and invited her and PLC chairman Jackie to come up, she didn't know the total yet as Jackie had prepared the cheque! Alex then presented a cheque for £28,399.47 to RTCW Director Karen and Alex thanked everyone and said there was still more monies to come in.

**Karen Winchcombe** started by acknowledging what a fantastic amount of money which had been raised by Alex and NATC and asked Paula as one of RTCW's trustees to endorse what a big difference such a large sum of money would make then gave a huge thanks to everyone for such a fantastic amount. Karen spoke about the charity and some wishes that had been fulfilled.

NP Alex continued her address by saying she had had the best time of her life and played a slide show presentation showing pictures taken throughout her Presidential year accompanied by the song "Time of my Life" taken from the Dirty Dancing film soundtrack and received a round of applause at the end.

She asked if everyone was sitting comfortably as in the words of Catherine Rose from Ripley Tangent She wanted to tell the story of her life.

After she was seeing double in 2010 and not being able to stand or drive and feeling pretty rubbish and having an MRI to discover if she ever had a brain she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. For those who didn't know about this it is an incurable neurological condition, which affects about 100,000 people in the UK. Basically, the white blood cells instead of fighting off infection attack the coatings around the nerve fibres and can cause a wide variety of symptoms leaving scar tissue in the brain so yes, you may not be surprised to learn that she did have brain damage. MS affects roughly 3 times more women than men. In September 2013, her baby girl (who was co-incidentally 22 today and she would be missing her birthday celebrations) had gone off to Nottingham University to study history and she was bereft.

On to February 2014 and the infamous Jenny Bevan who she sat next to at the Midland Lunch together with one of her besties Val Butcher had an hilarious afternoon resulting in the words from Jenny "Hey no-one's standing for VP this year you know" and so the idea started to formulate. MS, empty nest and JB I'll show you so she discussed it with her family and her trusty old sage Jackie David who briefly thought about it and uttered "Hmm that could be fun" and so it began.

Winning VP was euphoric and she tried to listen and learn in that year. This time last year, her own Tangent, ABOTS flounced in in a sea of orange. Lichfield Tangles I sincerely hope you appreciate that. So together with Tigger she began her journey, first stop off to Cyprus to TCI where she suffered a severe reaction to her daily injected medication and had to cease treatment. Then she went to Aviemore to Round Table & Ladies Circle Conference where she struggled with the language barrier and managed to gain a stalker in the form of the gorgeous Morag Badenoch. One of her first visits was with the magnificent

seven who are Ipswich Tangent and whilst over on the right side of the country she met ex-presidents Liz North and Josie Wilkinson.

Onwards and upwards to her very first visit to the Island being the Isle of Man with the very special Joan Crabtree who she was very disappointed could not be there that day as was reported earlier.

Together they had processed toured & ignored all other traffic on the road whilst Joan insulted Alex's beauty regime but she truly loved the island and her!

A week later and completely unbeknownst to Alex her husband came home and announced that their business was possibly going to be shut down by the Inland Revenue and all the bank accounts were frozen pending a Court hearing the following week, which with a plan in place would just be a formality and all would be well. On her way to Whitchurch Tangent she got the phone call that all was not well and that the business of 30 years and employing 22 people had been closed. They decided to put the house on the market and managed to get a cash buyer in two days and that Wednesday she inducted a new member Lynn Bennett who was at the AGM into LAFF Tangent and then did a mad dash across the country from Southend on Sea Tangent to Bristol for the 41 Club council meeting because apparently they are not both down there next to each other but opposite sides of the country, consequently her long suffering calendar girl Carol Harris stated "I'll take it from here!" She then told Alex where to go and when.

In mid-August squeezed between a fantastic tattoo with Moira and Drew Coughlan and the all singing and all dancing Ripley Tangent she managed to move from a six-bedroom house in the town where she had lived all her life 5 minutes from the motorway to a rented barn conversion in Leicester in the middle of nowhere & incorporating 8 storage containers of stuff. Being severely geographically challenged this really was a stretch for her.

September and the weekend of her 29th wedding anniversary saw her singing Happy Birthday to 41 Club at The Royal Armories in Leeds and chartering Yella Belly Tangent. Visiting the Kelpies with cats was almost addictive & being given a map rap of Edinburgh meant that word of her navigational dysfunction may have been spreading. A little northern tour followed and then a fantastical first birthday party with Telford Tangles. At Northwich Tangent she was given the most special and thoughtful and personal gift made lovingly by their Chairman Clare. She went back to her roots at Wellingborough Tangent where they managed to raise £1,597 for RCTW with lots of tea and cakes followed swiftly by an 'oh no' he isn't moment at Downend Tangent where a real life Panto Dame taught us how to dress and do make up. And then there is Gwen who handed me the most comedic moment of my year where she turned to me whilst on a woodland walk and said 'hey the National President is coming tonight you know!' And then Dursley Tangent's wonderful Winter Wonderland of a bit of a Christmas do. And so on to 2016, which after a second jaunt around balmy Belfast and a wedding dress fitting with my eldest daughter the week before Rednall my husband and I finally decided to split up and at this point I have to thank members of my Exec who were present for all their love and care it and it showed to her the true meaning of friendship and what Tangent was capable of. After having asked for a water to take some medication in and being forced to take it in one quick go by Jill, Melodie later stated that she would not be having that gin again as it had no taste! The moral of the story here is if Melodie asks for a gin and tonic then a water will do as she really can't tell the difference! Alex also warned everyone about Jill who forced alcohol on her like no-one's business. The most educational visit Alex had attended was the Burlesque evening with Taunton Tangent and she appreciated very much the long burlesque black gloves she received to practice in after the event! She thanked Greer. Meeting the donator of the celebrity rose bowl which is on the top table now, Ros Raper, at Portsmouth & Southsea 44 Tangent was a treat. As was the day she subsequently spent with the very special ex-President Sue Marlow. She then said to Sue Marlow, Sue Hill and Jenny in the

words of The Hangover “Will you be my wolf pack.” She had been very much looking forward to Coulsdon & Purley’s challenge without knowing what the challenge might be. She ended up decorating an Easter tree with Jill and Pauline although Pauline was not impressed with Alex’s efforts and Jill was a huge worry hacking away at a polystyrene egg, but in return Alex was not impressed with Pauline’s selfie attempts! Alex had been to several AGM’s recently all different, all very much fun and friendship and her very last club visit was last Tuesday with LAFF Tangent, at a curry night raising funds for RCTW.

### **So the final figures were:**

The miles she had travelled as President equal 30,293

She had spent 105 nights away from home

She had attended 180 events

Most importantly to her was the amount of hugs she had received which total 3, 318

She had been off the meds for nearly a year now and had one near death, one near birth and almost had a major fire at Banbury AGM this week, climbed one ship’s mast, jumped off one pier, taken a water ambulance down the waterways of Venice, lost a tooth at NSW and slid an After Eight down her face at Rugby Ladies Circle, she had been to all 7 Regional Lunches, 2 Ladies Circle Regional Lunches, all 4 Club Presidents balls, written 9 magazine reports, been honoured to attend the funeral of an amazing lady (Anne Winscom NATC President in 1980-81) laid a wreath at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday and had lunch with Nicole Kidman at the Women of the Year event but most of all she had been lucky to have made so many friends along the way. She was surprised to find out that each Tangent was very different, with its own foibles and lovely ways. Sutton Coldfield Tangent and Sybil Brant touched her very much with their special bond and their weekly coffee meeting get-togethers be it 4 or 24 of them. The most resounding thing she heard at Tangent has been “we have been friends for more than 40 years, we joined Circle together and enjoyed continued friendship ever since”. There were so many characters within the Tangent Association and so much history she had been very proud to wear the chain for the last year. She thanked everyone who had shared the journey with her and she hoped she had executed the job to satisfaction and been a befitting President. Her final task was to take a last selfie as President and encouraged everyone present to huddle in just a tiny little bit (which they did amidst much laughter). She then wished Paula and her Exec a fantastic year as she had been given. She thanked Tangent saying she had had the time of her life.

### **17. Installation of the New National President**

Alex then said to Paula “It’s now over to you” and put the chain of office around her neck, saying she was absolutely delighted to hand the chain over to Paula who was a lovely kind person and she truly hoped she had a fantastic year.

Paula said her first task was to introduce the new 2016-17 National Exec and it was her great pleasure to start with Mrs Bouncy herself and thanked Alex for the time and energy she had given to Tangent over the past year and if Paula had half as much fun as Alex has had she would be having a wonderful time. She started to say that she was a trustee for Round Table Children’s Wish when she was interrupted by a group of ladies from her various Tangent Clubs and PLC wearing bird masks and wings all dancing to the Birdie song which was playing and very soon everyone in the AGM were on their feet and joining in.

As she was saying it had been a great pleasure as a Trustee for RTCW this year to be able to go out and talk about the charity on my visits and support Alex which had been really lovely and presented Alex with her IPP jewel and introduced her as Alex Voller, IPP.

She then welcomed a very familiar face, who would be wearing a new hat very shortly, the new Vice President and congratulated Melodie and wished her a wonderful 3 years on the Exec and presented her with the VP jewel.

Then Paula moved onto the first of the new faces for this year, the new National Secretary Glynis Sutton and presented her with her jewel wishing her all the best for her time on the Board and that she didn't find it too hard trying to keep everyone in line!

The new Sales & Regalia Officer Ruth Sage was welcomed to the Exec and given her jewel and Paula said she was so looking forward to going shopping with her and seeing all her new ideas for the Tangent shop coming to fruition.

Last but not least of our new Exec newcomers, going from Southend to 100 miles north for our new National Editor and Website Co-ordinator Morag Daley who was welcomed to the Exec and given her jewel. Paula said she was looking forward to Morag developing the website and Tangent's presence on social media and continuing to produce the magazine.

Paula was thrilled that she would still have half the 2015-16 Exec with her and welcomed Alex, National Treasurer Jill, protector of the National Association of Tangent club funds to the bitter end and the lovely Executive Administrator Jackie who had helped everyone out during the past year when they had experienced very busy times.

Paula said that Alex had left without presenting Past National officer jewels to Pauline, Sue and Janice but after a bit of discussion Paula decided to present them. Janice O'Neill was not quite Past it yet as she still had one job to do next week, representing NATC at the TCI Board meetings and the AGM in Germany the following weekend but Paula was delighted to present her with her Past National President's jewel.

Paula then said to Melodie Brookes she would be worn down by badges this year before presenting her with her Past National Secretary's jewel.

Paula then presented Pauline Campbell with her Past National Editor & Website Co-ordinator's jewel saying she was delighted to present this to her.

Last but not least, their favourite shopping person, the lady with the lovely shoes, Sue Hill was given her Past National Sales & Regalia Officer's jewel.

### **18. New National President's Address**

Paula then said that when she was preparing for this she thought it would be a good idea to have a short and a long version ready depending on how much time there had been on the earlier agenda items. She was going to do the really short version and advised ladies present that if they wanted to hear the longer version they should form an orderly queue with Sally her diary lady. In true Oscar fashion even though she had no trophy in her hands she wanted to start off by thanking the

ladies of her own clubs, Maidenhead, Loddon and City of London for supporting her last year and knew she could count on them all for the year to come. She also thanked past and present Area 13 Circlers some of whom were there for all their help and support. She also thanked the ladies in her Presidential Liaison Committee who were going to be travelling with Paula and would be identifiable by their scarves and supporting her, ensuring she gets to the right places at the right times and hopefully wearing the right clothing! The ladies who stood today and would be forming the new Exec, they will be doing it as a new hobby, sacrificing their time, events with their families, to run the Association business. She had said at Harrogate last year that she planned to fill her life with things that brought her joy and spend time with friends she loved and she hoped that all the ladies on the National Board could do the same.

Her theme for the year was a Japanese saying **Ichi-go Ichi-e which means One Time, One Meeting**, which is a Japanese culture 4-character idiom which is a cultural concept which means treasuring any meetings with people, it's often translated as "for this time only, never again, or once in a lifetime". The term reminds us to cherish any gatherings that we may take part in. Many meetings in life are not repeated and even when the same group of people can get together again a gathering will never be replicated and thus each moment is always "once in a lifetime". She wanted us all to treasure our meetings not just in Tangent, but with your friends and families. Those memories will be more precious than diamonds to you one day.

Today was the day for a few truths, Paula apologised for being emotional earlier, coming back to Birmingham was where she had met her late husband in the ICC and started dating so coming to this conference was always going to be a bitter sweet occasion for her. In addition, she stated that the real reason she had not been able to work was that she was suffering from depression, something she had suffered from previously in her life, things were gradually improving she has seen what an effect this can have on her friends and family and she had chosen a charity which supported the parents of children with mental illness. Although she did not have children herself, she could imagine how awful it must be for them. The charity is called KidsTime Foundation they had been running workshops for over 15 years and had recently developed a "Who cares" schools programme. She said she would let the Chairman of the Trust, Alan Cooklin, tell everyone himself on a promotional video which they had made, which she assured people was very, short 3 mins.

Video played regarding Kids Time Foundation who help the children of parents with mental illness. They had evidence that there were some 2 million children in the UK who are affected by parental mental illness and although the Government and voluntary bodies had done much to improve the lives of young carers in general this group remains severely neglected. 70% of affected children will experience one or more of the following: loss of education through poor attendance and emotional distraction, high levels of anxiety, both about the parent but particularly through fears of catching the illness, social isolation, self-isolation, guilt, an excessive sense of personal responsibility and fears that they may have caused the illness and high levels of subsequent depression.

Paula then explained further that a pilot project had been running throughout the country in schools in Newcastle, The Wirral, Caerphilly, Plymouth and London and funding was in place for a further 10 schools with the aim being for a larger roll out over the next 3 years which required significant funding. Research has suggested that each School would pay around £1,500 for a package but the estimated costs of rolling it out would be around

£4,500 per school as along with putting the package into the school the teachers will need training and specialist resources will be needed for the children to go back to. Obviously the charity was working with health authorities, government etc. but it would be a slow process to get the money together.

She then stopped to allow 41 Club to bring greetings to the meeting and said she would speak a bit more later.

### **19. Greetings from Barry Durman, National President 41 Club 2016-17**

Barry Durman greeted Paula as Madam President for the first time and said that all the ladies looked fab in all their finery & came in suitably dressed as well. He introduced himself as the new 41 Club National President and had only been in the job an hour which was amazing and was making his second speech already to bring greetings on behalf of 41 Club.

### **18 New National President's address continued.....**

So what could Tangent do? Paula wanted all clubs to get involved in fundraising this year however large or small, suggesting that clubs could do a raffle at a meeting or hold their own fundraising events suggesting that Clubs chose a cause in their home towns to support if they'd rather do that than support KidsTime. There were over 600 clubs in our organisation and if every club raised £200 then NATC could stand here in a year 's time and celebrate raising an eighth of a million pounds which she thought would be wonderful. If Clubs didn't want to fundraise she hoped she could persuade them to do something else instead. She had a Presidential shop which had been on a stall outside which would be with Paula at all the regional lunches and a smaller version would be brought with her on visits to clubs. There will be special One Time, One Meeting offers. There would be two events to support the charity - a lunch in Windsor on 3rd September a whole 4 minutes' walk from the station and a ball on 19th November at a spa hotel which she hoped would tempt people to go for the night or weekend. She said that if people wanted to see where she was going she was going to have a Facebook presence as Paula Tangent so people aren't to get concerned that her account had been hijacked it was still her where she would be posting information about events and the fundraising. She was looking forward to building on the special Ladies Circle/Tangent relationships that Janice and Alex have made. She would be working with Alex Bennett who was at the back who would take over as Ladies Circle National President in Cardiff to communicate to Ladies Circle how much fun Tangent can be. She said that anyone wanting to hear more from her should book a visit and speak to her diary lady Sally, it didn't have to be a special celebration any occasion was special to her. One time, One meeting.

### **20. Any Other business**

Paula asked if there was AOB?

She then advised everyone to be aware that the Webmaster would need to redirect all the Exec@Tangent.org email addresses except for the Jill the Treasurer and Jackie the Executive Administrator so there may be an initial delay in anyone receiving a reply anyone other than them.

The next Half Year Meeting would be on Saturday 1st October at the Novotel in Leeds.

Paula asked if there was any further business from the exec?

Melodie then spoke about the many talented ladies within the association and said they were looking for someone to spearhead the compiling of a history of NATC anyone interested to get in touch, whether as individuals or whether they got together as a team to please contact the National Secretary.

Jill Harris said the accountants had been approached by a lady wanting to talk to them about the overspend and she wanted to identify this lady so she could go back to her and them.

Jo Holden Twyford & District 456 asked for clarification about the paper vote result agenda item 15.1 was the recommendation won or lost. She knew it was a draw but did not know what this meant in terms of the recommendation. Melodie then explained that when there was a draw the status quo would be retained i.e. it would stay as it was with no change in the rules.

## **21. Date of next AGM**

Paula then called on Sue Hill Tangent Day chairman for the Blackpool conference 2017 to address the meeting.

Sue wanted to tell everyone about the fantastic conference being arranged for next year. The AGM would be on Saturday 22nd April at the Hilton Hotel, North Shore, Blackpool a very nice venue. The conference events – the Presidential ball and the fancy dress would be held in the Tower ballroom, so people will have time to get all their Strictly dresses & shoes ready and get all glitzed up..... The conference hotel was the Imperial, which has been refurbished with millions spent and is much improved. She begged people to come and book, saying there was a special booking table in the foyer and said the theme was Blackpool Roxx.

## **22. Closing remarks.**

Final piece of housekeeping, Paula told delegates what to do with their voting packs on leaving the room and thanked everyone for attending saying that without them there would be no AGM and that their participation was greatly appreciated. She wished those travelling home a safe journey and those staying a fabulous evening partying. Anyone who had entered the fancy dress competition should be on the first bus leaving at 6pm.

**The meeting closed at 16.35.**