

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

**MINUTES**

OF THE

51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

The Hilton Hotel,  
Blackpool FY1 2JQ,

On

Saturday 22nd April 2017



# The National Association of Tangent Clubs

MINUTES of the 51st Annual General Meeting held at

The Hilton Hotel, Blackpool FY1 2JQ on Saturday 22nd April 2017

## Present:

Paula Farnfield	National President	Maidenhead 151
Alex Desborough	National Immediate Past-President	ABOTS 889
Melodie Brookes	National Vice-President	Salisbury 389
Glynis Sutton	National Secretary	Chesham 794
Jill Harris	National Treasurer	East Grinstead 266
Ruth Sage	National Sales & Regalia Officer	Southend-on-Sea 5
Morag Daley	National Editor & Website Co-ordinator	Turriff & District 717
Jackie Hampton	National Executive Administrator	Twyford & District 456

## The following Registered Clubs were present (\*denotes proxy voter):

Club Name	No	Club Name	No
AAACT	940	CAMBERLEY	277
ABOTS	889	CAVERSHAM	532*
AMERSHAM	68*	CHEADLE & GATLEY	448
AMPTHILL & DISTRICT	504	CHESHAM	794*
ANGELS OF THE NORTH	907	CHICHESTER CITY	862
ASCOT	487	CHILTERN AREA BELLES	949*
BATH	804	CLACTON-ON-SEA	558
BATH TANGLE	935	COASTAL CLUSTER (CCT)	948
BERKHAMSTED	867	COULSDON & PURLEY	36*
BILSTON	188	CROWBOROUGH	749
BISHOP'S STORTFORD	269	DARWEN	761
BLACKBURN GREYS	501	DERBY MERLIN	876
BOSTON & FENLAND	893*	DEREHAM & DISTRICT	791
BOURNEMOUTH	1	DOWNEND (BRISTOL)	177
BOURNEMOUTH NORTH	632	DRAGONS (LLANDUDNO CONFERENCE 2013)	942
BRENTWOOD	127	DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT	378
BROMLEY	801	EAST & WEST HAM	910
BURNTISLAND & DISTRICT	888*	EAST GRINSTEAD	266*
BUSHEY & OXHEY	441	EASTERN DELIGHTS	920

<b>Club Name</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Club Name</b>	<b>No</b>
EASTLEIGH & CHANDLERS FORD	478	NORTH BERWICK	817
EMERITUS	900	NORTH NORFOLK	498
F@CT (COLCHESTER TANGLE)	934*	NORTHWICH	426
FAREHAM	92	NUNEATON	122
FARNBOROUGH (KENT)	762	O.A.T.S (OLD AREA 27)	897
FARNHAM	469	OXTED & DISTRICT	121
FOLKESTONE	150	PONTELAND	484
FOURTITUDE	891	POTTERS BAR	105
GORDANO VALLEY	500	RAYLEIGH & DISTRICT	135
GRANTHAM & DISTRICT	550*	READING VALLEY	401
HARPENDEN	137	RINGWOOD & DISTRICT	570
HARTLEPOOL	236	RIPLEY	158*
HEXHAM	37	RIPON	267
HIGH WYCOMBE	170*	SALISBURY	389
HORSFORTH	495	SHERINGHAM & CROMER	802*
ISLE OF MAN	549	SHIRLEY	86
KEYNSHAM & DISTRICT	104	SODBURY & DISTRICT	128*
KINDER	289*	SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	5
KINGS NORTON	76	STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT	913
KNOWLE AND DORRIDGE	175*	STRATFORD UPON AVON	740
LAFF (LIFE AFTER 45)	933	SUNSHINE COAST	932
LANCASTER	238	SUTTON COLDFIELD	7*
LEAMINGTON SPA & DISTRICT	243	TAKE TWO (BERKHAMSTED)	939
LEEDS & DISTRICT TANGLE	947*	TAUNTON	199
LEICESTER DE MONTFORT	15	THORNBURY CLEVELEYS	317
LICHFIELD	116	TURRIFF & DISTRICT	717
LLWCHWR	916*	TWYFORD & DISTRICT	456
LODDON & DISTRICT	917	WELLINGTON	16
LONDON, CITY OF	929	WESSEX LINK	881
LONDONDERRY	730	WESTERHAM	739
LOUGHBOROUGH	305	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	314
LYME	435	WHITCHURCH (SALOP)	439
MAIDENHEAD	151*	WHITLEY BAY	17
MALVERN HILLS	256	WINCHESTER	680
MARKET HARBOROUGH	224	WOKINGHAM	268
MENDIP	874	WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE & DISTRICT	534*
MOSELEY	133	YELLA BELLY TANGLE (LINCS)	943*
NEWBURY	287*	YORKSHIRE MIXTURES (AREA 3)	923
NIDDERDALE	623		

### **The following Past National Officers attended the Annual General Meeting:**

Beth Allen	National President 2000 – 01, National Sales & Regalia 1996 – 1999
Jenny Bevan	National Sales & Regalia 2011 -14
Melodie Brookes	National Secretary 2013 -16
BJ Brown	National Secretary 2004 - 07
Rosemary Culver	National President 1995 – 96, National Sales & Regalia 1987 - 90
Linda Denson	National Sales & Regalia 2002 - 05
Jan Dowling	National President 2011 - 12
Karen Durie	National President 2013 – 14, National Sales & Regalia 2008 - 11
Terrie Hewitt	National Secretary 2010 - 13
Sue Hill	National Sales & Regalia 2014 – 16, National Editor & Website Co-ordinator 2011 - 14
Judy Holdaway	National President 2005 – 06
Jilly King	National Treasurer 2013 - 15
Sue Marlow	National President 2012 - 13
Liz Morgan	National President 2001 - 02
Janice O’Neill	National President 2014 - 15
Sheila Ponsford	National President 1998 – 99, National Treasurer 2001 – 02,
Gill Preston	National President 2010 – 11
Lesley Seville	National Treasurer 2007 - 10
Jan Turner	National Sales & Regalia 2005 - 08
Jane Watts	National Treasurer 2002 – 04
Gill Young	National Secretary 2007 - 10

### **Visiting guests:**

Alexandra Bennett, National President 2016-17, Ladies Circle GB& I  
Ginette May, National Vice-President 2016-17, Ladies Circle GB&I  
Gerd-Inger Kaasen, President 2017-18, Tangent Club International  
Anna Akesson, Immediate Past-President 2017-18, Tangent Club International  
Gry Haugen, President 2016-17, Ladies Circle International  
Anne Ahlefelt, Vice-President 2016-17, Ladies Circle International  
Ursula Lejeune, President 2016-17, Agora Club International  
Gabrielle Lorenz, Kidstime Foundation

### **Apologies received:**

Jean Jones, Past National President, 1974 - 75  
Liz North, Past National President, 1987 – 88  
Ann Onyett, Past National Secretary, 1998 – 2001  
Mary Howard – Independent member

Aberdeen	99	Loughton	361
Dudley	229	Sandy & District	768
Dundee	290	Shrewsbury	24
Gillingham & Shaftesbury	339	Stamford XC	906
Ipswich	180	Wakefield	10
Leek & District	141		

The meeting was called to order by National Secretary Glynis Sutton, those present were asked to turn their mobile telephones off for the duration of the meeting. Glynis asked the membership to welcome National President Paula Farnfield.

## **1. Welcome**

Paula welcomed the members to the 51st National AGM. The number of voting delegates present was 112.

1.1 Paula invited Kate Jones, her Presidential Liaison Committee Chairman, to light the Candle of Friendship.

Paula announced the death of Ros Raper, National President 1982-83, and asked that everyone take time to reflect in silence in memory of all those members of the 4-club family we have lost this year.

1.2 Glynis then read out the National Association of Tangent Clubs's Aims and Objects.

1.3 Paula invited Sue Hill, Tangent Day Chairman, to speak to the meeting. Sue welcomed everyone to sunny Blackpool and made the Health & Safety announcements. Sue advised that lunch was booked for 12.45pm and is a ticket only event; any ladies who would like lunch but haven't booked, food can be ordered from the bar. Paula thanked Sue and her team for all their work.

## **2. National President's opening remarks**

Paula welcomed everyone and thanked the membership for attending your AGM, without all of you there would be no meeting or Tangent Association. She said how important it is that we continue friendships made in Ladies Circle and ensure Tangent members of the future enjoy a healthy Association. Paula asked those ladies attending their first AGM to stand and be recognised. She then asked ladies from new clubs who had chartered this year, or are waiting to be chartered, to stand and be recognised.

Paula announced the winner of the Tangent Golf Trophy was Jane Bizley from Dereham & District 791. Jane came to the stage to receive her award.

Paula stated that the 2016-17 Executive have tried to do their best for the Association over the year, balancing family, work, personal issues and the needs of Tangent. The decisions made may not have been the same decisions that you would have made, but at all times the Executive have done their best for Tangent. The aim is for a 12.45 lunch, and you will be kept informed of how we are doing.

2.1 Paula asked all Past National Officers (PNOs) to stand and be recognised. Whilst standing they were all given a rose, a small thank you for their past work. Paula asked all PNOs to make sure they had signed in to ensure that their names would be recorded in the Minutes (the names are listed on page 3).

2.2 Paula then welcomed all the overseas visitors present, from Tangent Club International Anna Akesson, Immediate Past-President, 2016-17 and Gerd-Inger Kaasen, President, 2017-18, members from Tangent member and associate member countries – Finland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Israel, also Tangent Germany. Also present were Gry Haugen, Ladies Circle International President 2016-17 and Anne Ahlefeldt, Ladies Circle International Vice President 2016-17,

plus Ursula Lejeune, Agora International President 2016-17. Paula then asked Anna Akesson, Immediate Past-President of TCI to bring greeting on behalf of international visitors.

Anna was pleased to be here at her first NATC AGM and to bring greetings, and thanked all the ladies who had attended the Tangent Club International AGM the day before. Anna thanked everyone in GB&I for their hospitality and wished everyone an enjoyable meeting. Paula presented Anna with a gift and a pennant. The TCI raffle was drawn, and the winners collected their magnum bottles of champagne.

2.3 Paula invited Ursula Lejeune, Agora International President, to give greetings on behalf of the Association. Ursula thanked the membership for the invitation and urged the two clubs to work closer together. Ursula has enjoyed meeting old friends and making new friends at Blackpool and all over the world. We are all one as we have the same objectives and values. Paula presented Ursula with a gift and a pennant.

2.4 Glynis read out apologies received, these are listed on page 3.

### **3. Greetings from Alexandra Bennett, President, National Association of Ladies Circles 2016-17**

Paula invited Alex to the stage to give greetings from NALC. Alex asked the Ladies Circlers in the room to stand and to thank Tangent for their support this year. The four-club family has worked really well this year and Alex thanked Tangent for their amazing active support of Ladies Circle groups throughout the country. Alex and Paula presented each other with a gift.

Paula advised she has new Side-by-Side badges for Circlers who have supported Tangent members and Tangent members who have supported Circlers this year to recognise that support. We need each other for the two clubs to flourish and grow. Circlers and Tangent ladies were encouraged to see Paula during the day to collect a badge if they have supported each other in any way this year, and asked that ladies not present at the meeting to get in touch with Paula to receive a badge.

### **4. Remarks to Voting Delegates**

Voting delegates were asked to check the content of their delegate envelopes. Stewards had extra materials if anything was missing. At the end of the AGM the delegates should put everything back into the envelopes and deliver back to the Stewards. At this point in the meeting there were 112 voting delegates.

Paula then pointed out the two Minute Secretaries Kaye Dickinson and Naomi Hickey and thanked them for volunteering. Any pre-prepared notes should be given to the minute secretaries. Everyone was reminded that no one was permitted to speak for more than 3 minutes, once they got to that time a bell would sound; no-one should repeat something someone else had said. Anyone wishing to speak must use the microphone at the lectern unless this would prove difficult. Please give your name and club name, only one club will be recorded. Paula added that, if a voting delegate needed to leave the room (apart from lunch), please let the Stewards know to keep a count of the number of Voting delegates coming and going.

## **5. Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting, 16th April 2016 in Birmingham**

Paula advised that one correction had been received, that Anne Chalke's name had been mis-spelt on pages 5 and 6. This has been corrected on the master copy. Paula asked if there were any further corrections; there were none. It was proposed that the minutes of the 50th AGM be adopted.

*Proposed by Shirley 86*

*Seconded by Burntisland & District 888*

**The proposal was carried, and the minutes adopted.**

The minutes were then signed by Paula as a true record of the 2016 AGM.

## **6. Matters Arising**

Paula asked if there were any matters arising from the signed Minutes; there were none.

## **7. Election of National Officers**

Paula advised we had received nominations for 2 of the 3 open positions by the closing date. One candidate for National Vice-President, Jill Harris, and one candidate for National Treasurer, Ruth Lamb. Photographs and biographical details for both are on page 3 of the Agenda and introductory words were published in the Spring edition of the Tangent magazine. Paula asked Jill and Ruth to leave the room with the stewards to prepare themselves.

For the post of National Executive Administrator, no nominations had been received by the closing date, but since then 2 members have come forward who are willing to stand from the floor – Jilly King and Lynn Bennett. Paula asked if there were any other candidates wishing to stand from the floor; there were none. Paula asked Jilly and Lynn to draw straws to decide who spoke first; they were asked to leave the room with the stewards to prepare themselves.

Paula then advised voting is by secret ballot on the coloured swatches in the delegate envelopes. Voting delegates should mark on the appropriate voting slip their choice of candidate, keep the swatch stapled together and tellers will collect the whole swatch after all 4 candidates have spoken.

**7.1 Jill Harris, standing for position of National Vice-President**, was proposed by East Grinstead 266 and seconded by City of London 929.

Jill was welcomed to the room, Paula asked Jill to speak on the question: What is the one thing you would like to change to improve the Association?

Following Jill's speech Paula asked if anyone had any questions for Jill, there were none. Jill left the room and Paula instructed the voting delegates to mark on the appropriate voting slip their vote leaving the swatch stapled together.

**7.2 Ruth Lamb, standing for position of National Treasurer**, was proposed by Mendip 874 and seconded by Weston-Super-Mare 314.

Ruth was welcomed to the room, Paula asked Ruth to speak on the question: *What is the one thing you would like to change to improve the Association?*

Following Ruth's speech Paula asked if there were any questions for Ruth, there were none. Ruth left the room and Paula instructed the voting delegates to mark on the appropriate voting slip their vote leaving the swatch stapled together.

**7.3** Paula asked the membership to welcome the first of the two candidates for the **position of National Executive Administrator.**

**Jilly King** was proposed by Oxted & District 121 and seconded by Westerham 739.

*Biographical details:* Circle Area 17 Chairman 1998/89, SERL committee 1989/90, Tangent chairman twice 2010/11 and 2015/16, National Treasurer 2013-15.

Paula asked Jilly to speak on the question:  
*What skills do you have to bring to the role.*

Following Jilly's speech Paula asked if there were any questions for Jilly, there were none. Jilly left the room

**Lynn Bennett** was proposed by Leicester De Montfort 15 and seconded by LAFF 933.

*Biographical details:* Circle Area chairman, NERL luncheon chairman twice, Tangent chairman, RT NSW sponsorship officer, 3 National President's PLCs.

Paula asked Lynn to speak on the question:  
*What skills do you have to bring to the role.*

Following Lynn's speech Paula asked if anyone had any questions for Lynn, there were none. Lynn left the room and Paula instructed the voting delegates to mark on the appropriate voting slip their vote for one of the two candidates leaving the swatch stapled together. Tellers collected the votes.

Paula asked for the results as soon as possible to be announced and congratulated the returning candidates for standing.

## **8. Executive Reports for the year 2016-17**

Glynis reminded the audience that full Executive reports are printed in the Agenda on pages 4-15, and the Accounts and Budgets on pages 16-23. The reports given today from the Executive are just updates to these; any questions received by 7th April will also be addressed.

### **8.1 National President – Paula Farnfield**

Paula would be giving her full report later in the meeting but wanted at this point to just add to the report contained in the AGM agenda that she had attended two more fabulous regional lunches; in the Midlands and in Belfast. Round Table celebrated their 90th where Melodie represented the Association at a lunchtime sofa chat with the other Presidents, and Paula attended the 90's party event in the evening. It was great to be there to support Mark House as Round Table President 2016-17.

Throughout the year Paula had asked the membership to support her charity – the Kidstime Foundation which support children of parents with mental health issues, running after-school clubs and have recently developed a teaching programme in schools. Paula was delighted to have Gabrielle Lorenz at the meeting, and advised if anyone wanted to talk to her about the work the charity are doing they could do so at lunch time. Round Table have supported Kidstime in the Wirral recently, Paula expressed her gratitude that other clubs support her charity. When she started the year she hoped to get 3-5 teaching projects into schools, costing approximately £5,000 each.

Paula asked Gabrielle Lorenz from the organisation to join her on stage. Paula was delighted to hand over a cheque for £15,690.22 and mentioned she knew of more monies on its way. She thanked everyone for their contributions to her charity. Gabrielle received the cheque on behalf of the Kidstime Foundation and thanked everyone for their support. Paula reminded the meeting that her Presidential shop was out in the foyer. Three schools had been supported so far in Marylebone, Bedfordshire and Barnet. Glynis asked if there were any questions for Paula; there were none.

*Proposed by: Maidenhead 151*

*Seconded by: Turriff & District 717*

**The report was adopted.**

### **8.2 National Vice President and Membership Officer – Melodie Brookes**

This time last year you elected her as your Vice-President. Little did she realise that during the year she would take on the Vice part with such enthusiasm. Not only had she been involved with vandals, but had also ended up in prison. Jane Bizley from Dereham 791 Tangent was her partner in crime.

The vandals involved were only the Norfolk shoe manufacturers Van-Dal, where she was tempted to buy several new pairs of shoes while visiting Norwich for the excellent Midlands Regional Lunch in February. The prison in question was HMP Norwich – namely the Britannia Café where she and Nigel were taken by Jane & her husband Stuart for a very pleasant supper! So no harm done to the good name of NATC – but she must watch out for any Tangent members leading her astray in the future!

There was little to add to the printed report. On the membership front, congratulations to everyone concerned in the formation of 9 new Tangent clubs - long may they prosper. There are now over 600 clubs, including our Overseas affiliated clubs Costa del Sol, Spain and Niort Atlantique 2, France. Congratulations and thanks too to those clubs involved in setting up and supporting the several new Circle clubs around the country. Please help where-ever you can – these are our future! Tangent membership stands at 11,892.

Our two Overseas clubs in the Netherlands, De Dellen & De Haar, are moving on to become Associate members of Tangent Club International and we wish them continued success. There have been 22 disaffiliating clubs this year, but we must not be too downhearted as, on the figures that we have, we have lost 250 members (2.1%) compared with 285 in 2015-16, and 283 in 2014-15.

Obviously, this is still not good news and one of the reasons for the Membership Survey. We are delighted with the level of the club responses so far with still 2 months to go before the end date. Please keep them coming – you can reply individually too. Paula asked if there were any questions for Melodie; there were none.

*Proposed by: Salisbury 389*  
*Seconded by: Reading Valley 401*  
**The report was adopted.**

### **8.3 National Immediate Past President and International Relations Officer – Alex Desborough**

IPP Alex thanked everyone for their kindness and understanding as it had been a difficult year for her. She has struggled to cope with what life has thrown at her. Over the last 23 years in the Round Table family and especially the last 3 years on the Exec, she has met the most wonderful and wild friends. Alex said she has been lucky enough to serve with the best TCI Board this year. She congratulated Anna Akesson on the TCI AGM the previous day, and thanked the TCI and NATC executives for their support.

She thanked her two ‘besties’ for all their love, support and care. Tangent is about people, fun and friendship rather than rules and regulations. Alex thanked Tangent for being a great friend and then sang to the membership So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen goodnight! Paula asked if there were any questions for Alex; there were none.

*Proposed by: ABOTS 889*  
*Seconded by: Darwen 761*  
**The report was adopted.**

### **8.4 National Secretary – Glynis Sutton**

Glynis thanked all club contacts for opening her emails and forwarding them to the members. She was pleased that the email opening rate is now 68% and asked clubs to look out for an email next week with the Directory and Capitation forms attached.

Glynis advised that a few comments have been received relating to the more frequent electronic communications and how this could be discriminatory and disenfranchising for clubs who are less likely to be using electronic communication.

Glynis explained that the digital communication is aimed at supplying additional information to clubs on a more frequent schedule, how this passes from the club contact onto their members is the decision of each individual club in the same way as a single paper version would always have been. There are a few clubs who do not use emails and they continue to receive printed copies of the mailings via post. Paula asked if there were any questions for Glynis; there were none.

*Proposed by: Chesham 794*

*Seconded by: Take Two Berkhamsted 939*

**The report was adopted.**

### **8.5 National Sales & Regalia Officer – Ruth Sage**

Sales Officer Ruth had nothing to add to her report. Paula advised we had received questions from Sue Hill, Past National Sales & Regalia Officer and a member of Northwich 426. There are several elements to this, so various members of the Executive would answer the questions.

We were asked about the Sales commission level against past sales income and that it appeared to be a reduced figure compared to previous years, also that due to this reduction should it not have been brought to the AGM for discussion.

Treasurer Jill: “The contract started in July 16 after the financial year commenced and the accounts, on page 16 of the Agenda, confirms the figure received for the part financial year and the budget shows anticipated future income, on page 28. It is difficult to make an historic comparison as there does not appear to be a full split between regalia and other sales in the past as it was all done in-house. Income is reducing and has been for several years due to reduced club numbers and officers in clubs repeating roles. The previous Sales Officer had looked at new suppliers providing items direct to us to enable the profit level to be higher but unfortunately the quality of the goods received after she left office was not felt up to the standard required and the supplier’s manner on the phone was not how we would like to conduct further business. We could not wait 9 months before taking a decision on this and we had to have something in place for receiving the 2016-17 orders”.

A further question was made raising concerns about the sales officer feeling that sending out regalia to clubs is too much work.

*President Paula:* “The Sales Officer is aware that sending out items is part of her job but Parrys used to send on our behalf. The proposed new supplier was going to send all items to us to resend, increasing the time of the Officer concerned. At the time this was reviewed, the incoming Sales Officer could not comment on the amount of work required as she had only just taken on the position”.

A comment was made that some clubs are still sending orders to a past officer and why had the Executive not informed all members correctly.

*Secretary Glynis:* “Clubs have been informed in many ways of the process to place orders, this includes on the website, in the National Magazine, in electronic mailings and on Facebook. The change has been mentioned at Regional lunches, when reminder slips with the website address have been available and on the Presidents club visits. Any contact with the Sales Officer regarding regalia results in

the member being directed to the correct place. The Executive feel they can do no more here and Clubs using out of date forms is beyond their control”.

The last point made was regarding the bank account to which she previously had control.

*Treasurer Jill:* “The Executive admits there have been difficulties in getting signatories changed and have done everything to organise this after the Sales Officer’s changed. It was found that for some reason the bank had opened the account as a savings account and it was being used as a chequing account, something to do with differences in Community Accounts, this prevented a change of address taking place. This has now been resolved and an apology is given to the member concerned”.

Paula asked if there were any more questions for Ruth; there were none.

*Proposed by: Southend-on-Sea 5*

*Seconded by: Coastal Cluster (CCT) 948*

**The report was adopted.**

### **8.6 National Editor and Website Co-ordinator – Morag Daley**

Morag announced she had nothing to add to her report. However, she was delighted to announce the winner of the photograph competition, that being Dereham & District 791 for their drumming photo; their Chairman collected their certificate.

Morag also announced the winner of the Star Award, originally the award was donated by Emeritus 900, for a fundraising article in Tangent News. The winner is Teignmouth 727 for their article in the June 2016 edition of Tangent News. This Tangent club with a combined age of 580 took part in the Rowcroft Colour Rush and raised almost £600 for their local hospice. Teignmouth Tangent could not be at the AGM, but they would be presented with their award at their regional lunch.

Paula asked if there were any questions for Morag; there were none.

*Proposed by: Turriff & District 717*

*Seconded by: Sunshine Coast 932*

**The report was adopted.**

### **8.7 National Executive Administrator – Jackie Hampton**

Jackie had just a little to add to her report published in the agenda. As highlighted, one of the Administrators duties is to liaise with the Regional Lunch co-ordinators, which she found very rewarding and thanked the ladies for helping her during the year. One thing that could be improved for next year is that the Lunch co-ordinators should continue to liaise directly with the National Executive Administrator. There were a few situations that led to confusion as people went directly to other members of the Executive.

Jackie took this opportunity to pass on her thanks to both her clubs - Loddon and Twyford Tangents for their support this year. She thanked Paula and the National Exec for their fun and friendship over the past two years.

Finally, she congratulated Paula and hoped that she had enjoyed her year and had made many memories to treasure, she also passed on her best wishes to Melodie and her Exec for the New Year. Paula asked if there were any questions for Jackie; there were none.

*Proposed by: Twyford & District 456*

*Seconded by: Yorkshire Mixtures 923*

**The report was adopted.**

## **9. National Treasurer's report – Jill Harris**

Jill thanked everyone for being so kind to her this year as she did not receive any questions in advance of the AGM at all, which either meant it was so complicated you gave up at line 1, you all understood it all, or you saw it related to Accounts and quickly shut the Agenda booklet! Please see point 9.2 pages 16-23 at the back of the Agenda document for explanations on the Accounts.

In respect of the balance sheet, we have reduced the amount of stock, the exception being the Marcasite brooches which have been a great seller and we have purchased more stock of these. Jill talked through the notes and issues in the agenda and said she had thoroughly enjoyed her two years as Treasurer. Paula asked if there were any questions for Jill; there were none.

*Proposed by: East Grinstead & District 266*

*Seconded by: Lancaster 238*

**The report was adopted.**

National President Paula thanked all the Executive for their reports.

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**Agenda item 7**, following on from the earlier voting, Paula announced the new Executive Members for 2017-18:

National Vice-President: Jill Harris

National Treasurer: Ruth Lamb

National Executive Administrator: Jilly King

Paula congratulated them, and thanked Lynn Bennett very much for standing and asked her to consider standing again next year for one of the roles.

## **10. NATC Explanation of TCI Presidency 2018-19**

Paula advised the membership that there are points that clubs would like to raise relating to this item so it would be moved to later in the meeting, following the lunch break – to allow time for discussion over the break should you want to.

Glynis gave a brief explanation for consideration: as a few people had commented that they didn't understand this item in the Agenda.

Item 10 explained how the Executive analysed the issue of who should be the Tangent Clubs International (TCI) President for 2018/9. Those of you who attended the 2016 AGM would remember a lot of discussion about our commitment to TCI. The 2016 Minutes pages 9-11 contain a long report about this.

When NATC (that's us, the National Association of Tangent Clubs Great Britain & Ireland) joined Tangent Clubs International, we signed an agreement that the five founder countries would take it in turns to be President and it's our turn for 2018-19.

There were several options your Executive considered for who should take the role of President, these are noted in today's Agenda on pages 24-26.

We decided on what we felt was the most logical and least disruptive option for our Association, of having Paula Farnfield be the TCI Vice- President once she has finished being our President, so this coming year 2017-18. As our Immediate Past President, she will be on the TCI board already, and will seamlessly go from our Immediate Past President and the International Vice-President then to President 2018-19, thereby fulfilling our commitment.

Paula advised the membership that we will go back to Item 10 after lunch.

## **11. Propositions from Clubs**

### **Proposition 1 – AGM format**

#### Proposal:

That a new rule 7.10 as follows: Tangent Day should consist of two distinct parts, separated by a lunch. The morning session would include greetings from Overseas Clubs and International together with presentations from charities and any inspirational speakers or similar. This would be followed by a SHORT lunch break. The afternoon session would be for matters requiring a vote followed by the induction of the incoming executive.

*Proposed: O.A.T.S. 897 Tangent, Seconded: Bilston Tangent 188*

#### Explanation:

Tangent Day used to be a day for ladies to meet for lunch, have a good gossip and then move onto the formal business of the Association within an Annual General Meeting. The whole day is now an AGM with business both before and after lunch.

The finish time for the day is primarily set by the minute by minute that the National Executive work to so where anyone exceeds the time they are allocated to speak for or where no allowance has been made for how controversial a proposal

might be resulting in more ladies wishing to raise points, the day will finish later than scheduled. In Harrogate and Birmingham both Tangent Days' ran on beyond their scheduled finish time and the incoming President was then left in an invidious position of having ladies leaving whilst she was making her inaugural speech.

The number of overseas clubs bringing greetings, the advent of Tangent International from whom there are also greetings as well as the President of RTBI and the inclusion of a speaker and presentation from sponsored charities, together with two additional members on the National Executive, has added to the length of the reports and activities being included within our Tangent Day, as a result of which we feel that matters that are important to the National Association are not given the time that is required for proper discussion.

Paula invited representatives from the proposing and seconding clubs to speak.

*Jan Gray OATS Tangent Club 897:* OATS put this motion forward for discussion at the Half-Year meeting which was unfortunately cancelled. They feel that if Tangent Day and the National AGM was split into two distinct parts it would give the day a clearer structure and time to focus on the important business and decision making for our organisation. OATS strongly support our National Tangent Executive and all the work they do on our behalf, and do not wish to take anything out of the National AGM, but OATS feel that a change in format would give more focus to the business that needs to be done.

*Roe Andrew, Bilston Tangent Club 188:* This proposal was put forward for the HYM "Thoughts on how to run an AGM in a more focussed, time managed and business-like manner". A reply was received from the National Executive: "The AGM is primarily to discuss and run the business of the Association of course, but many ladies do meet up with friends and have a bit of fun, so unfortunately it is not 'one size fits all'". We agree with both the business and fun aspects but wish to emphasise the importance of the business side to members who only attend the meeting and not the conference.

The proposal that business be conducted after lunch would mean that members who come for the day have time to travel and register, to meet old friends and make new ones and discuss the AGM agenda informally before going into the meeting. We are aware that some clubs are proposing that the business meeting should be in the morning, this would require a very early start for members travelling for the day and could possibly mean that they would leave after lunch, thus reducing the numbers in the afternoon for the induction of the new Executive. We feel we are in danger of losing the fun we used to enjoy on Tangent day and would like to retain the social aspect of the morning.

Paula asked if anyone else would like to speak regarding the proposal, and reminded the audience they would have 3 minutes to speak then a bell would sound; please give name, club name and number.

*Julie Elliott, Nuneaton, 510:* Whilst Nuneaton appreciates the proposition to change the format of the AGM to ensure it is also a social event it is also felt important to consider the following points: In order to maximum the number of voting delegates in the audience, it would help if propositions were put to the floor in the morning. In the present format, these are often very late in the day and not

all voting delegates are still present; this could be due to having left the venue to get ready for the evening meal or to join their partners who have attended the 41Club AGM which often finishes around lunchtime. This is an expensive weekend with many ladies enjoying socialising with their partners and other 4-club family friends from all over the country. Regional lunches do give us lots of opportunities to just socialise and have a good old gossip.

*Ruth Ball, Angels of the North 907:* Angels of the North fully support the idea of two distinct parts to the Tangent Day. However, they believe the business meeting should take part in the morning, given time for discussion and voting and the opportunity to have time to do the business. The important things should be done first with the more fun part in the afternoon.

Paula asked if this is proposed as an amendment to the original proposition; Angels of the North confirmed that is the case.

*Terrie Hewitt, Whitchurch 439:* Terrie wondered, looking at this Agenda, what we will be leaving out. Terrie pointed out that we are already well on with business and its not lunchtime yet and if we go with this proposal, it will make the day longer, with more time for business discussion. Terrie asked where would the extra time come from to discuss the extra business without going past a decent finish time.

An amendment to the proposal was made by Angels of the North Tangent club 907, Seconded by Hartlepool Tangent club 236.

#### Proposal:

A new rule 7.10 as follows: Tangent Day should consist of two distinct parts, separated by a lunch. The morning session would be to prioritise the business of the National Association of Tangent Clubs, including any and all matters requiring a vote. This would be followed by a short lunch. The afternoon session would then be an opportunity for any presentations and greetings followed by the induction of the incoming executive.

#### Explanation:

Angels of the North feel very strongly that the emphasis of the National Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Tangent Clubs should be the business of that Association. Year by year, there appears to be an increasing take up of valuable time by peripheral issues.

Important issues are dealt with in a rush at the end of the Meeting when time is short. Discussion of matters, considered important by the members, is often restricted and limited to the frustration of members, some of whom have travelled long distances to take part in, and have a voice at, this event.

Paula asked everyone to use their coloured cards to vote for the amendment to the proposal from Angels of the North 907 to replace the original proposal from OATS 897. Whilst the votes were being counted, there was a question.

*Gill Young, Southend-on-Sea 5:* Gill asked if the result of the voting numbers could be clarified. As there was some confusion about number of votes counted versus the number of voting delegates it was agreed that a paper vote would be taken.

The proposed amendment was read out again for clarification and Paula asked if anyone wanted to say anything further before moving to a paper vote.

*Jan Dowling, Nidderdale 623:* She had found not many people come just for the day, those that do travel with their menfolk who need to be at the 41 Club AGM by 9am, and suggested it might be more comfortable for many to have our meeting run a little closer to the timing of the 41 Club AGM.

*BJ Brown, ABOTS 889:* BJ asked if this was now a substantive motion. Paula agreed that is the case; if the amended proposal wins this vote, the original proposal is lost forever.

Paper votes were given to the stewards to count. Paula announced the meeting would adjourn for lunch and asked the tellers to count the votes during the break. This issue would resume after lunch.

-- The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.48 --

-- The meeting resumed at 1.45pm --

Paula welcomed everyone back to the AGM and advised that we now had 110 voting delegates. Past National officers were reminded to sign in so their attendance would be included in the Minutes. During the lunch period the tellers had counted the paper votes and Paula announced the vote was carried for the Angels of the North 907 proposal to replace the original proposal from OATS 897.

Paula reminded everyone that we now needed to vote on the replaced Proposition from Angels of the North 907. Before we vote on the new Proposition, did anyone have anything further to say?

*Moira-Ann Grainger, Leamington & District 243*

Moira-Ann asked if we had properly thought this through, do we need it as a new rule? Belfast next year will be a totally different scenario. That AGM will have totally different dynamics to this one and very few ladies will be there just for the day. This AGM was going quite smoothly until we reached this item, the agenda was running well to time and she commended the current Exec for streamlining the day. Don't let us lock ourselves into a new rule, she recommended that the meeting vote against this entirely, and think about it. Maybe we should pick it up again at the AGM after Belfast and trial this at the AGM afterwards.

Paula confirmed the relevant rule in the Directory: Rule 7.2: The Agenda for the business to be conducted at the National Annual General Meeting shall be determined by the Executive.

*Lynda Wieland, PUPPIES 952*

Lynda advised everyone not to lock ourselves into this – it will mean If you haven't finished on proposals requiring a vote by 3pm you won't get lunch or a gin & tonic.

These ladies (the National Executive) need to be flexible. Alex Bennett, Ladies Circle President, must rush off to support her girls running a marathon; if you move greetings to the afternoon you restrict when someone can give greetings and you might not hear from them. Don't lock yourself into a set agenda, allow your National Exec to run this meeting how it fits. A vote was taken and the proposition was rejected.

### **13. Half year meeting review**

As per Rule 7.9: 'In October 2015-16, trial Half-Year Meeting to be held in a location to be decided, and thereafter reviewed at the National AGM in 2017'. Paula gave the membership an opportunity to talk for or against the Half-Year meeting; there were no comments or questions. A decision on the future of the Half Year meeting would be made later under item 14.1.

### **15. Greetings from Mark House, National President of Round Table 2016-17,**

Mark thanked everybody for their welcome and gave greetings from Round Table. Paula gave Mark a gift with our thanks, Mark owes Paula a gift!

## **12. National Executive Financial Recommendations**

### *12.1 Budget*

Jill went through the Budget for 2017-18; covered on pages 28-33 of the Agenda, together with explanatory notes. There is a small increase in transport and AGM costs, we of course try to keep an eye on the costs of the AGM, but Audio Visual and room hire is going up. She explained the costs relating to Directory, Magazine, Regional lunches, Conference, Travel, International, AGM, Professional fees, Insurance, Office expenses etc. The Executive would like to purchase small pennants and a new pop-up banner for use at conferences. There were no questions.

*Proposed by: Taunton 199*

*Seconded by: North Norfolk 498*

**The proposal was carried**

### *12.2. President's Out of Pocket Expenses*

The National Executive recommends that the Out of Pocket Expenses for the National President be increased by £15 to £1515. Jill explained this is 1%, the same as inflation. Julie O'Hara, Darwen 761, asked if it goes up every year, Paula advised that not necessarily.

*Proposed by: Bromley 801*

*Seconded by: Leicester De Montfort 15*

**The proposal was carried**

### *12.3 Annual capitation*

The National Executive recommends that the annual Capitation charge for members remain at £6 per member. Jill advised the budget shows this will be sufficient to cover our costs. There were no questions.

*Proposed by: Thornton Cleverleys 317*

*Seconded: Sheringham & Cromer 802*

**The proposal was carried**

#### *12.4 Independent Membership*

The National Executive recommends that annual capitation for Independent Members be reduced to £11 per member. Jill explained the costs have decreased relating to Independent membership, i.e. printing and postage e.t.c. There were no questions.

*Proposed: Farnborough Kent 762*

*Seconded: Downend Bristol 177*

**The proposal was carried**

#### **10.NATC Explanation of TCI Presidency 2018-19 (revisited)**

Glynis re-read the explanation, Paula invited anyone who wanted to speak.

*Karen Durie, City of London Tangent 929*

Karen said that City of London Tangent felt it was difficult for the Exec to justify making this decision themselves and not giving the members a vote. Having said that she was not sure the members would have come to a different conclusion, but they felt very strongly that they should have been consulted. It would have been on the agenda for discussion at the HYM in October which was cancelled, so they feel there was plenty of time for the Exec to have given us a proposal for us to vote. Karen also felt this was against the rules of TCI because a representative from a country should be on the board of the national country when taking a position on TCI. She would have hoped that it would have been on the agenda at the TCI AGM the previous day, but it wasn't.

*Gill Preston, Market Harborough 224*

Gill has written to the Exec with her thoughts and spoken to Paula about this. We are where we are, it's a situation that has occurred as TCI has moved on very quickly and we need to put rules in place. She does worry that there will be no funding for Paula if she becomes TCI President; we need to give TCI proper consideration. Paula advised that IPP gets some funding for international meetings, but she will get none in 2018-19 when she is actually the TCI President, she will be self-funded. At the AGM yesterday, it was confirmed that the TCI President get some of the funding but not all. She should be treated as any other board member, so her expenses should be covered, her TCI presidency costs should be covered by capitation. If there is nothing else we have learnt, we need to step back and look at things and make sure we are on the right path before we move forward. She hoped that you would agree she should not be funding 2018-19 herself, she wouldn't want to do, none of you would want to do it either.

*Terri Hewitt, Whitchurch 439*

Terrie commented that this year we are considering stopping having the National Sales officer and asked if the Executive should consider having an International Relations Officer purely involved in international issues, rather than the Immediate Past President being expected to be on the TCI board in future? The IPP may not be interested in international travel or may not be able to commit to that. Would the Executive consider recommending that at the next AGM?

Paula clarified that the IPP as International Relations Officer for one year as part of their role does receive their allowance as a contribution towards attending events. It would be the year after that she would not receive anything.

*Gill Preston, Market Harborough 224*

Gill asked Paula if she will still be funding 2018-19 herself as President or will she have NATC funding as our board member? Paula confirmed she will be funding it herself. Gill said we need to give that serious consideration.

*Anna Akesson, Immediate Past President TCI*

Anna clarified that TCI Board members should be International Relations Officers (IROs) of their respective countries. The TCI board will be addressing this rule as they think this is too strict. For us its more important that every country is represented at International meetings rather than the actual IRO, we are planning to put forward an amendment that it would usually be the IRO, but every country should put forward a representative. It was too late to put a proposal forward for this for the TCI AGM this year.

Paula thanked everyone for expressing their thoughts.

Paula confirmed that the number of voting delegates is now 106.

## **14. National Executive Recommendations:**

### *14.1 Half-Year Meeting*

The National Executive recommends that Rule 7.9: 'In October 2015-16, trial Half-Year Meeting to be held in a location to be decided, and thereafter reviewed at the National AGM in 2017' be deleted.

#### *Explanation:*

It was agreed in April 2015 that trial Half-Year Meetings be held in October 2015 and 2016, in order that the National Executive and the membership could discuss issues less formally than at the AGM. The idea was the National Executive would get a feel for what the membership felt on certain issues. The 2015 meeting attracted ~35 ladies (it was held alongside the TCI HYM in Birmingham), but the meeting planned for October 2016 (in Leeds) was cancelled as only 7 ladies showed an interest in attending. The Half-Year Meetings cannot be justified financially and are obviously not needed by the membership.

No one wished to speak, and the vote was taken.

**The proposal was carried**

### *14.2 Proxy Voting*

The National Executive recommends that Rule 7.4.3: 'The Tangent club should register the name of their chosen Proxy delegate with the National Secretary by 12 noon on the day preceding the National Annual General Meeting' be deleted.

#### *Explanation:*

At present a Voting Delegate needs to bring a Voting Delegate Authority form, signed by their club Chairman or Secretary, with them to the AGM as proof of eligibility. Currently, if a club nominates a Proxy Voter on their behalf they need to inform the National Secretary in advance, and send in a signed Proxy Voting Delegate Authority form. The Proxy Voter then needs to bring a copy of this form to proof their eligibility. Instead the Proxy Voter should prove their eligibility by bringing the signed Proxy Voting Delegate Authority form to registration, thus reducing the administration to

clubs. The crucial issue is that this puts everyone on an equal footing without any undue consequences.

No one wished to speak, and the vote was taken.

**The proposal was carried**

*14.3 Honorary Membership*

The National Executive recommends that Rule 3.3e: 'Honorary members are appointed annually at the discretion of the club' be modified to read: 'Honorary members not eligible for membership under rules 3.3(a) or 3.3(b) are appointed annually at the discretion of the club'.

*Explanation:*

There has been a lot of confusion over whether an honorary member should pay capitation or not. It is sad to say but it is believed that some clubs are bestowing honorary membership to avoid paying capitation and therefore depriving the National Association. This rule change will better define Honorary Members Capitation for inactive members. The National Treasurer can give guidance if required regarding inactive members.

No one wished to speak, and the vote was taken.

**The proposal was carried**

*14.4 National Sales & Regalia Officer role post 2018*

The National Executive recommends that Rule 5.1: 'The Officers of the Association shall be the National President, National Vice-President, National Immediate Past President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Sales & Regalia Officer, National Editor & Website Co-ordinator and National Executive Administrator, who shall hold office until they resign or until their term of office expires, whichever happens first' be modified to read:

The Officers of the Association shall be the National President, National Vice-President, National Immediate Past President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Editor & Website Co-ordinator and National Executive Administrator, who shall hold office until they resign or until their term of office expires, whichever happens first'.

*Explanation:*

During 2016, we have successfully transferred responsibility for ordering, stocking and selling Tangent regalia, clothing and gift items to PS Graphics. Ordering can now be done through the Tangent shop website, or at Regional lunches and at the AGM weekend, all through PS Graphics.

The National Sales and Regalia Officer has worked hard this year to resolve historical issues and in the successful transfer to PS Graphics. It is felt that the sales / regalia co-ordination role in future does not need to be a full-time position on the National Executive and that it could be incorporated in one or more of the other roles. The role will continue until the AGM in Belfast, April 2018 when the current officers period in office completes.

The membership were asked if they wanted to speak.

*Karen Durie, Wokingham 268*

As a past National Sales officer she would be sad to see the removal of this position, but she did think it is the right thing to do. Could she propose an amendment to this, that the National Sales & Regalia officer position be replaced with an International Relations Officer – assuming if this is proposed and agreed at Belfast, Paula would probably be the only candidate. It would mean that we would comply with the current TCI rule and she would then get funding as being the country IRO.

Paula thanked Karen for this suggestion, the Executive would need to think this through and will consider bringing it to the AGM at Belfast, especially with rule clarification of TCI rules. Most of you and your clubs would have no idea how to vote so it is only correct that you have more information on this and its done properly as a proposal at the next AGM.

*Gill Preston, Market Harborough 224*

She thought that the Exec are spot on in making that decisions as things will change at TCI when we have an openly elected board. We need to consider the role of IPP. If our IPP is no longer IRO she is just IPP, do we need that role as well? That needs to be taken into greater consideration and we have to look at what she does.

*Barbara Middleton, Potters Bar 105*

Barbara asked if we have no Sales & Regalia officer, how would we order Tangent items?

Paula advised that the Exec see the role falling into 3 areas – finance, membership packs and regional lunches. Finance will be picked up by the Treasurer and membership packs would go to Vice President. Representation at lunches still needed to be decided. We have only had 2 years with the new Executive Administrator and we are still moving things between her and secretary. It maybe that it could fall into IPP. We will have someone at the lunches selling various items, dealing with queries on orders, and pointing you to the website etc. We haven't made any firm decisions but have every intention of keeping the sales items at regional lunches.

A vote was taken.

**The proposal was carried**

*14.5 Rules re TCI open elections*

Glynis advised that we currently have no rules regarding TCI nominations, so the Executive recommends a new section in the rule book. As the explanation applies to the creation of all 3 new rules, we will discuss all together than vote on each rule individually.

*New rule section 11: Tangent Club International (TCI) Rules*

*New rule 11.1 Candidate Selection*

From 2019 (Vice-President) and 2020 (Secretary and Treasurer) open elections will be held for the TCI board. Members will be eligible for nomination as a TCI officer as per TCI guidelines.

*New rule 11.2 Voting*

The decision on how to vote for all TCI matters included in AGM or HYM agendas should, where possible, be agreed by the voting delegates at the NATC AGM. For all TCI meetings occurring in advance of the NATC AGM meetings, voting can be decided by the National Executive.

### *New rule 11.3 Resolutions*

Resolutions to be submitted to the TCI AGM must have prior approval of the NATC Executive.

#### *Explanation:*

The timing of the AGM meetings can be such that the TCI AGM is prior to the NATC AGM and there is no meeting close to the TCI HYM. Currently, if the NATC Councillor does not have guidance from the NATC membership on how to vote on matters, she must abstain. It is felt that the NATC Executive should be empowered to make decisions on behalf of the members, ensuring that our vote is heard at TCI meetings.

Paula asked if anyone wanted to speak about any of the new proposed rules regarding TCI.

#### *Gill Taylor, Derby Merlin 876*

Gill was quite happy to vote on TCI rules as they are not clarified yet, but she didn't think we should agree guidelines that have not been set up yet. Also, there are other ways to communicate rather than just at the AGM, I'm not sure we should clump them together.

Paula said we would vote on these rules separately. When TCI guidelines are put in place regarding elections, we will have a voice on that proposal for setting up the guidelines as one of the countries. We would bring that back to you to check you are happy with that. We want to put something there now that GB&I can build on alongside TCI writing guidelines, we don't want to go from nothing to something complicated.

#### *Gill Preston, Market Harborough 224*

It is very difficult to get voting done and opinions voiced if we only have the AGM to do that. Within our national rules the National Exec can call an emergency meeting, or fit it around Regional lunches or email communication. We need to remember we have a National rule to get around that. We need to have timings, how do we know when they need proposals. Our proposals need to go to our Exec before the TCI HYM, we need you to give us a date to work towards.

Paula advised that the TCI AGM next year is later than our AGM, so we can discuss prior to the meeting anything we need to discuss and vote on we can bring to our AGM. So, we have the option of agreeing the rule knowing the AGM dates so it's not an issue for next year or we can look to amend that rule. We will be governed by the dates that TCI give to us; we will need to take this to an Exec meeting and decide at what point in the year we need proposals for both the TCI AGM and HYM and we will put the dates into the 2017-18 Directory. We need to agree dates where we collect members views and ensure we take these to TCI meetings.

#### *Karen Durie, Wokingham 268*

No need for a fixed date, could say a date 'to be agreed with TCI board' which we then publicise to our members.

There were no proposed amendments to the rules. Paula advised the members that if anyone wanted to bring an amendment next year please do so. Paula said the Executive will have a look at the dates proposals or comments need to be received and we will publicise these. We then went to a vote.

### *11.1 Candidate selection*

#### **The proposal was carried**

### *11.2 Voting*

#### **The proposal was carried**

### *11.3 Resolutions*

#### **The proposal was carried**

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

President Paula: "Good afternoon Ladies, I was worried about getting my speech written and printed but having brought a whizzy new laptop it actually turned into a tablet, so I could just use that. I'd like to start off by saying thank you to a few people.

All the members of the Exec here today, everyone balances the volunteering they do for you with their jobs, family, friends, and personal lives - they really should be applauded. Kate and the other members of my PLC, some of them are here today and some are not. Ladies once I'm a bit less busy and I've tidied the house, we shall have a party. There will be gin!

To my Mum, who isn't here today, for giving me a key back after 35 years away from home so she didn't have to stay up waiting for me when I used her as a host on some of my Northern visits.

And some of my friends who are not even part of this Association, never been a Circler, some of them have attended lots of events with me and understand how important the whole Circle/Tangent relationship is to me and my life.

At the heart of this Association lies the friendships of the members, wherever I've gone I've received the utmost of warmth, right from the new clubs chartering to those clubs celebrating 65 years. Your generosity to KidsTime has amazed me and I know that this charity has touched some of you on a personal level and your personal stories have touched my heart.

My theme for the year has inspired you to treat family events as special occasions, giving you time to store away some special memories. I know clubs that have organised some special friendship nights in order that I could visit more than one club in an area, particularly Dorset, which is where I joined Circle, and they found it a really special occasion for them. With Tangent not having the area meetings that circle has, we sometimes lose that link in the middle, and the ladies there were delighted to come back to see each other again, some I hadn't seen for 18 or 19 years ago since I left Dorset. It was like we'd been together only 2 or 3 weeks ago.

I've been passing around a memory book whilst I've been visiting clubs, in fact I've just about squished you into two books. Going through that will give me some special memories and bring me pleasure for years to come. All over the country I've been to places I've not been to before and some really lovely places I want to go back to. I was in Morpeth a few weeks ago and it's an incredibly pretty place; it gave me a chance to visit Alnwick House and Gardens which is something I've wanted to do for years.

I've met some incredible people. I met a lady who is just retraining as a private investigator and I've asked her to come to a Regional lunch to tell us about it. The

day I met her she'd been out buying wigs and reversible raincoats – I thought that was fabulous as it's just what you hear about in stories. I met the lady who made the cake when Ladies Circle was 50, I just happen to be sat with her at a club visit. Apparently, Circle ran a competition to design a cake; if you won the competition you got to make the cake – personally that would not be winning. This lady worked in a college and the guys in the metal work department actually made her a bigger cake tin, so she could make a cake big enough.

Back in those days Circle lunches were a bit bigger and there were more circles. Each club was only initially allocated two tickets but the lady who made the cake was allocated an extra ticket for her club for the cake, as she travelled from Rotherham down to London for the lunch. Do you know how incredible the ladies are that you meet up with regularly? I'm sure the lady who made the 50th cake, some of the other ladies in her club didn't know about it. We should take time to find out some interesting things about the people we are meeting with regularly. Do one of those 'three things you don't know about me' nights or something like that. Learn a little bit more about each other. People are doing incredible things - they are doing lots of volunteering, they're working for charities you may not even know about, giving a lot more back than we all realise.

I've been in the embarrassing situation a couple of times where I've pulled out my own raffle ticket at an event and you've all been lovely and let me take my prizes away with me. I asked you to think about fundraising, if you've read that bit in the agenda you will have seen that last year we raised over £154,000 - that's just the clubs who've told us about it. I know that many of you are doing more than this and not telling us. You think that if you've done a raffle that it's not fundraising, well it is. If you made a donation to charity instead of giving each other Christmas cards, that is still fundraising. So please tell us about it when you fill in your capitation forms, I'm sure next year it may be even bigger figure. Isn't £154,000 something to celebrate, wouldn't next year raising £200,000 be even better? The celebration of what we do is something we're not good at. I think men are much better at bragging about what they've done.

I think it is something we should be talking about. It's been a special year being part of the 4-club family with Circle and Table both celebrating big anniversaries, and I've used it as an opportunity to talk about all 4 clubs where I can, and I would encourage you to do the same. We're part of a family of clubs that raise an incredible amount of money for charity. Mark's told us about what Table do; if we build the whole lot together then we do a tremendous work in our local communities.

So please talk about it, to your hairdresser, talk about it to your friends who aren't part of the clubs, and talk about it to your friends' daughter, she might be interested in joining Circle. The more we talk about what we are doing the more we raise not just our profile but the profile of Table and Circle. They need us to talk about them too – we and 41 club have a lot more members than Table and Circle do. We need to be shouting about how fabulous these clubs are.

I managed to find time earlier this week for a manicure, and Chloe who does my nails regularly was surprised how quickly the year had gone, to be honest I was a bit surprised too. Being President is a bit like when you're a child at the beginning of the summer holiday - you start off and you've got this whole long time ahead

of you and you don't know what you're going to do. And then all of a sudden half of its gone by and you've got a family holiday. It's a bit like that being President; you get to middle of December and everything goes quiet. Then you come back, middle of January you're planning for the AGM and once that's out of the way and the Agenda has gone to the printers' people start counting in weeks. I've never been pregnant so I don't know if it's the same, but I guess it's similar. People start counting in weeks when you still want to count in months. Time ran away with me a bit like it did when you're on school holidays, all of a sudden, you're sorting out the uniform.

Sorting out the uniform for the President involves putting the name bars on the new ribbon, I'm really sorry Melodie, it's on a new ribbon and we do have a hook and eye but I haven't managed to sew all the bars in place. I think I'll be doing that tomorrow afternoon before we make our way home. Running the Presidential year is a bit like a formula one team. There is lots of planning, lots of encouragement along the way, quite a few pit stops, often in places where you weren't expecting to be, refuelling with gin and chocolate, and certainly many rapid changes in cloakrooms or a quick in and out at someone's house.

What happens behind the scenes makes all the difference. The ladies who've hosted me, the gentlemen who have driven me around when I've been out and about, your support has been tremendous. The ladies from my own clubs who have come with me as my drivers, it's been really great. You've been able to chat to me along the way, so I've not had to suffer with the radio, it's been great to have company when I've been out and about. It's not always possible, sometimes I'd leave early and people can't get away with me. But you've been on the end of the phone when I needed you, when I've rung to say help I've left the address I'm going to at home and you've gone onto the drop box and found it for me.

This year for me was about building for the future, we've got new clubs forming and it's been fabulous to be out and about this year and I've chartered 8 new clubs. We've got more clubs affiliated that are not yet chartered and I know this will be really special for Melodie when she charts them.

The 'not yet left Circlers' are our future and if we want to celebrate our 80-year anniversary just as circle has done, then we must change. We must make past circlers and non-circlers alike welcome, regardless of their affiliation to Round Table. That's not to say all clubs must change; we all cherish our history and would not dream of throwing it away, but we must accept that the differences that exist are just differences, they are not wrong.

If clubs are running things differently to you then just applaud the fact that they do have a club. I found that you do run things in very, very different ways. A lot of clubs I've gone to where all the members have been Chairman, and they now do things differently. I've found places where the committee step in and 2 or 3 ladies are nominated as chairman. I've found clubs which may be very scary to some of you, where they do it in alphabetical order so if you're Ann or Barbara you'd be looking worried at this point. I've found a club where they have put together a list of roles looking forward 5 years, and asked when might you want to do that job? Not everyone can stand up and do something at any particular time, balancing family and work you might not be able to do things. But you might be able to say in 3-year's time, I'm going part time, then I might be able to do that.

What I said at the Ladies Circle 80th celebration is that we have been together through the best of times and the worst of times, at the funniest times and the saddest times. But all that has done has brought us together as closer friends. There is nothing like the experiences you share for building your friendships and giving you common things to lean on each other for.

If my husband Tony was here today, a few people said to me he would be really proud of me. I think he would, with his accountants head on, be pleased that I've managed to wear the same dress on three occasions. This is the dress I had for my lunch, my ball and I'm wearing again today, so I've saved him money even though he's not here to know about it.

It's been a real privilege being your President, I've made some really special friends all over the country. Ladies who shared experiences with me, ladies with whom I've had to sympathise because they've been in the same position as me. I have a list of numbers that I know I'll be calling so I can go back to visit. One place I went the lady slept on the sofa, so I could have her bedroom; admittedly she was a really short lady and fitted on the sofa really well. It looked like a really lovely sofa and I fancied sleeping on it myself. I know I'll be calling her, she's got my number and will be visiting me when she comes down to London. I've met some really, really, special people and I've been privileged to have met you.

As I said for me this year was about making special memories, not just for me but for all of you. I really hope that where ever you go now and in the future, you take the time to treat every occasion as special, whether it is or not, take something special out of the day. Even the 41 club guys with their meeting still going on, they will be planning for next year not to have so much on their agenda. So there is always something you can take out of the day, even if it is that you won't be doing that again.

I would now like to present my retiring officers with their Past National Officers gifts and jewels. So Alex, I would like to present you with the Past National Presidents jewel and a gift from the Association to thank you for your three years. I'm not going to pin Alex's badge on as I might stab her with it!  
Jill, I would like to present you with your Past National Treasurer's jewel and a gift from the Association. For the Past National Officers in the room, we made the decision last year rather than giving a cheque to retiring officers to buy what they want, to give them a gift to remember their time on the Tangent Exec.  
Jackie, our first National Executive Administrator. Jackie comes from my club, who proposed the position and I'm really proud of her standing up and taking on the role for the first time, particularly when we weren't quite sure exactly what would be happening with it. Jackie I'm happy to present you with the Past National Executive Administrator jewel and a gift from the Association.

Could I invite Ruth and Jilly to please come up and join us on the platform and Jackie and Alex to make room, thank you. It's a bit like one of those puzzles you had when you were a child, something has got to move out before something else can move in there.

Ladies, we are now moving to the point where I no longer get to wear this chain and Melodie can worry about where she has left it every night instead of me. I have two things to do and I'm going to do the flowers first. This Rose Bowl was presented to us by Ros Raper who sadly we know it's been announced today she's passed away, but I think it's especially special to Melodie because she was Area

Chairman when Ros was Circle President so it's really lovely on this occasion that I can pass this on to Melodie. I'm not going to pick it up as its full of water; this can grace your house this year and you can fill it with flowers you will undoubtedly be given when you're out and about.

Ladies, it gives me great pleasure to present to you your new National President Melodie Brookes".

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

Paula passed the Ros Raper rose bowl and the President's chain on to Melodie. There was a video interruption of a special song, made by members of Salisbury Ex-Tablers and Salisbury Tangent, which also included members of Melodie's family and the choir she belongs to. Melodie was then presented with a bouquet from her husband Nigel, and all the members of the new Exec were given a yellow rose by members of Salisbury Ex-Table.

### **18. Greetings from Dave Campbell, National President of 41 Club 2017-18**

Dave Campbell was still in his AGM, and brief greetings were read out in his absence by Jill Harris.

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

Melodie invited Paula, as Immediate Past President, to receive her badge and thanked her for her commitment and her generosity in her year as President. She then invited Jill Harris to receive her Vice-President's ribbon; she was sure Jill would do a fantastic job. Melodie invited Ruth Lamb to receive her National Treasurer's ribbon, it will be great to work with her. She then gave Jilly King her Exec Admin ribbon and welcomed her back on the Executive. Melodie than thanked the ladies who are staying on the Exec for another year – Glynis, Morag and Ruth Sage – we will all make a great team.

Melodie then addressed the membership: "Thank you for electing me to be your National President; please participate in this speech by giving a cheer or a wave if you are mentioned. I will do my best to uphold all the best things about our Association, and am proud to take on the responsibility of caring for it for the coming year. This is my 6th consecutive year on the National Exec and I am looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable time with you all.

Would all the new National Exec, and all the new 2017-18 Tangent chairmen please stand & give us a wave. Congratulations to you all. Ladies – you are the 'dream team', thank you. Would Tangent Day Chairman Sue Hill & her teams of helpers please stand – thank you for all your help and for a well organised day.

To fit with my name, I have chosen as my theme for the year - 'Together in Harmony'. I first used this for my year as Chairman of Ladies Circle Area 36, (anyone here from those days?). With your help I aim to raise the profile of our Association, so please remember to regularly publicize the fun you have in 'taking part' whether it's getting together, giving practical help, or being involved in fund-raising events.

Be proud to be positive in the name of Tangent. The Tangent yellow is such a sunny, cheerful colour & I will be using it often during the year. I have chosen to

support the British Association for Music Therapy with any money that is raised, to extend the provision of music therapy to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Having spent my working life involved in music education I have seen the beneficial effects of participating in musical activity.

It can benefit all ages from prenatal to end of life and it can facilitate positive changes in emotional wellbeing and communication, through the engagement in live musical interaction between client and therapist. It enables people, who through a variety of circumstances, would otherwise remain isolated, to connect with the world and express themselves. Our 2 big fund-raising events will take place in or near Salisbury. The dates are easy to remember - the Lunch on the 9th of the 9th, (9th September this year) and 3rd of the 3rd (3rd March next year).

As you leave the meeting there will be a bevy of handsome Salisbury helpers handing out flyers for these, & also leaflets about my charity. I look forward with pleasure to sharing my special year with Gerd-Inger Kaasen, President of Tangent Clubs International; Ginette May, soon to be Ladies Circle President; Dave Campbell President of 41 Club; Steve Grew soon to be Round Table President; Joan Henderson our Tangent Liaison Officer for next year's Belfast Conference, & all those lovely ladies organising Regional Lunches during the next 12 months:

Welsh Lunch – 20 May - **Penarth & District 902**

Northern Lunch – 17 June - **Warrington 162**

Scottish Lunch – 16 September – **Turriff 717**

South West Lunch – 23 September – **Exeter 421**

South East Lunch – 18 November – **Chiltern Area Belles 949**

Midlands Lunch – 24 February 2018 – **Ripley 158**

I wish them every success. I would like finish by expressing my thanks to my husband Nigel, members of Salisbury Tangent 389 and their partners, and of course you, for past and ongoing, great support. Thank you”.

## **20. Any Other business**

Melodie asked if there was any other business?

*Gerd-Inger Kaasen, new TCI President*, presented Melodie with a banner. She also announced Paula Farnfield as the new TCI Vice-President, and advised TCI will learn much from her experience.

Gry Haugen, Ladies Circle International President gave greetings.

Jeanett Korch, IRO Tangent Denmark gave greetings.

Melodie advised everyone to be aware that the Webmaster would need to redirect all the Exec@Tangent.org email addresses except for Secretary, Editor and Sales so there may be an initial delay in anyone receiving a reply from them.

Melodie announced that the 2019 Tangent/41Club AGM and Conference will be held in Torquay. Jenny Bevan will be the Tangent Liaison Co-ordinator.

She then mentioned that in 2020, Tangent will be celebrating their 50th charter. If there are any members willing to be part of a committee to organise a party, please let Melodie know.

Melodie asked if there was any further business from the Exec. Glynis mentioned there will be three positions available at the AGM next year: Vice-President, Secretary and Editor & Website Co-ordinator. Please do consider applying for these. Email coming out next week to all club contacts with the new Directory and Capitation forms, please look out for these.

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

Melodie invited Joan Henderson, Tangent Liaison Co-ordinator for the 2018 Belfast Conference, to say a few words. Joan advised the membership that Belfast conference will be fabulous, there are very interesting tours, please do come along. Next years AGM to be held at the Europa Hotel, Belfast, Saturday 14th April 2018.

## **22. Closing remarks**

Final piece of housekeeping, Melodie asked delegates to return voting packs on leaving the room and thanked everyone for attending.

Melodie thanked Michael Daley for being our photographer for the day.

Salisbury Tangent joined Melodie at the front of the room to sing a song they had specially written for her year to the tune of 'We do like to be beside the seaside'. The membership were encouraged to join in.

**The meeting closed at 16.04.**

