

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
Tangent®
CLUBS

MINUTES

OF THE

52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT

Europa Hotel,

Belfast

On

Saturday 14th April 2018

The National Association of Tangent Clubs

**MINUTES of the 52nd Annual General Meeting held at
Europa Hotel, Belfast on Saturday 14th April 2018**

National Executive present:

Melodie Brookes	National President	Salisbury 389
Paula Farnfield	National Immediate Past President	Maidenhead 151
Jill Harris	National Vice-President	East Grinstead & District 266
Glynis Sutton	National Secretary	Chesham 794
Ruth Lamb	National Treasurer	Mendip 874
Ruth Sage	National Sales & Regalia Officer	Southend-on-Sea 5
Morag Daley	National Editor & Website Co-ordinator	Turriff & District 717
Jilly King	National Executive Administrator	Oxted & District 121

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

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
AAACT	940*	LICHFIELD LADIES TANGLE	931
ABERDEEN	99	LODDON	917
ABOTS	889	LONDON, CITY OF (COLT)	929
AMERSHAM	68*	LONDONDERRY	730
AMPTHILL & DISTRICT	504	MACCLESFIELD	78*
ANGELS OF THE NORTH	907	MAIDENHEAD	151*
ASCOT	487	MAIDSTONE	14
BAILDON & DISTRICT	720	MALVERN HILLS	256
BANBURY	84*	MARKET DRAYTON & DISTRICT	327
BATH	804*	MARKET HARBOROUGH	224
BATH TANGLE	935*	MORPETH	334
BERKHAMSTED	867	MOSELEY	133
BILLERICAY	402	MUMBLES	852*
BISHOP'S STORTFORD	269	NIDDERDALE	623
BOSTON & FENLAND	893*	NORTH BERWICK	817
BOURNEMOUTH	1	NORTH NORFOLK	498*
BOURNEMOUTH NORTH	632*	NORTHAMPTON NENE	519*
BRENTWOOD	127	NORTHFLEET (GRAVESHAM)	702
BROMLEY	801*	NORTHWICH	426
BURNHAM-ON-SEA	338*	NUNEATON	510
BURNTISLAND & DISTRICT	888*	OATS	897
BURY ST EDMUNDS	187*	OCTAGON ELY	926
BUSHEY & OXHEY	441*	OMAGH	851

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
CAMBRIDGE	54*	PORTSMOUTH & SOUTHSEA	44*
CAVERSHAM	532*	POTTERS BAR	105
CHEADLE & GATLEY	448	PRESTON & DISTRICT	904
CHELMSFORD	96*	RAYLEIGH & DISTRICT	135
CHESHAM	794*	READING VALLEY	401
CHILTERN AREA BELLES	949	REIGATE & REDHILL	172*
CHRISTCHURCH	447	RINGWOOD & DISTRICT	570
CLEVEDON & DISTRICT	195	SALISBURY	389
COASTAL CLUSTER (CCT)	948	SALTBURN & DISTRICT	357
COLCHESTER TANGLE	934*	SANDY & DISTRICT	768
COSTA DEL SOL	*	SAUNDERSFOOT TANGLE	957*
CROWBOROUGH	749	SHEPTON MALLET	673*
DARWEN	761	SHIRLEY	86
DERBY MERLIN	876	SOUTHAMPTON XL1	185*
DEREHAM & DISTRICT	791	SOUTHEND-ON-SEA	5
DROITWICH SPA	115*	SOUTHPORT	210*
DUNSTABLE & DISTRICT	378	ST NEOTS	286*
EAST & WEST HAM	910	STOURBRIDGE & DISTRICT	913
EAST GRINSTEAD & DISTRICT	266	STOWMARKET	826*
EASTERN DELIGHTS	920	STRATFORD-UPON AVON	740
EASTLEIGH & CHANDLERS FORD	478*	SUTTON COLDFIELD	7*
EDDISBURY	580*	SWANSEA	629*
ELLON & DISTRICT	837	TAKE TWO (BERKHAMSTED)	939
FAREHAM	92	TAUNTON	199
FARNHAM	469	TELFORD LADIES TANGLE	937*
FOURTITUDE	891	THORNBURY	400
GORDANO VALLEY	500	TOTTIES (KINGS LYNN)	938
HALIFAX	231	TOWCESTER & DISTRICT	679
HARPENDEN	137	TRURO, CITY OF	331*
HARTLEPOOL	236	TURRIFF & DISTRICT	717*
HERTFORD & DISTRICT	423*	TWYFORD & DISTRICT	456
HEXHAM	37*	WALLINGFORD & DISTRICT	716*
HIGH WYCOMBE	170*	WALTON & WEYBRIDGE	125*
HINCKLEY	52	WARMINSTER	536*
HODDESDON	377*	WELLINGTON	16*
HORLEY & DISTRICT	386	WESSEX LINK	881
HUTTON & SHENFIELD	666	WESTERHAM	739*
ISLE OF MAN	549	WESTON-SUPER-MARE	314*
KEYNSHAM & DISTRICT	104	WEYMOUTH	818
KINGSBRIDGE & DISTRICT	248*	WHITCHURCH	439
KNOWLE & DORRIDGE	175*	WHITLEY BAY	17*
LAFF (LEICESTER)	933	WHITTLESEY & DISTRICT	721*
LAGAN VALLEY	707	WIDNES & DISTRICT TANGLE	954

<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Number</u>
LEAMINGTON SPA & DISTRICT	243	WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE & DISTRICT	534
LEEDS & DISTRICT TANGLE	947	WREKIN	83*
LEICESTER DE MONTFORT	15	YORKSHIRE MIXTURES	923
LICHFIELD	116		

The following Past National Officers attended the Annual General Meeting:

Beth Allen	National President 2000-01, National Sales & Regalia 1996-1999
Janis Atwell	National President 2006-07
Margaret Barker	National President 2003-04, National Sales & Regalia 1999-2002
Jenny Bevan	National Sales & Regalia 2011-14
Melodie Brookes	National Secretary 2013-16
BJ Brown	National Secretary 2004-07
Pauline Campbell	National Editor & Website Co-ordinator 2014-16
Linda Denson	National Sales & Regalia 2002-05
Alex Desborough	National President 2015-16
Jan Dowling	National President 2011-12
Karen Durie	National President 2013-14, National Sales & Regalia 2008-11
Jackie Hampton	National Executive Administrator 2015-17
Jill Harris	National Treasurer 2015-2017
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
Anne Onyett	National Secretary 1998-2001
Gill Preston	National President 2010-11
Lesley Seville	National Treasurer 2007-10
Jan Turner	National Sales & Regalia 2005 - 08
Barbara Whale	National Treasurer 2004-07
Gill Young	National Secretary 2007-10

Visiting guests:

Ginette May, Ladies Circle GB& I National President 2017-8,
Joanne Hudson, Ladies Circle GB&I National Vice-President 2017-18,
Gerd-Inger Kaasen, , Tangent Club International, President 2017-18,
Representatives from Tangent Denmark, Tangent Sweden, Tangent Norway, Tangent Germany,
Agora International, and Emma Donnelly, British Association for Music Therapy.

Apologies received:

Past National Presidents Jean Jones (1974-5), Sheila Ponsford (1998-9), Joan Crabtree (2007-8), and Pat Paulson (2008-9). Salisbury Tangent members Anne Chalke and Helen Lawson, members of Tangent Denmark Anne -Mette Thomsen, Susanne Norager and Helle Midtgaard, and the following GB&I Tangent clubs:

Cardiff 304; Erdington 100; Gillingham & Shaftesbury 339, Leicester 152, Loughton 361, Minehead 216.

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 Melodie Brookes, who arrived to two verses of the song 'Oh we're so glad that we're part of Tangent' (to the tune of 'Oh I do Like to be Beside the Seaside').

1. Welcome

National President Melodie welcomed the members to the 52nd National Annual General Meeting. She thanked everyone involved in 'her Tangent song' - it had given her great pleasure all year. Melodie thanked everyone for travelling huge distances to be here in Belfast and was delighted to see so many Tangent members attending. She reminded everyone that the ladies on the Executive are all volunteers and introduced the team individually. Happy birthday was sung to Morag and she was presented with a cake.

Melodie introduced the Minutes secretaries, Janice O'Neill and Gill Taylor, the AV operator, Steve, Joan Henderson, the Belfast Tangent Conference Liaison Officer, and her wonderful team of stewards and tellers, and Michael Daley our photographer, and thanked them all for their help. She announced that the Executive wanted to keep the timing of the meeting as tight as possible, while still allowing members to have their say. Many questions had already been received and would be dealt with later.

1.1 Melodie invited Jo Dawes and Caren Clarke, both from Salisbury Tangent 389, who had been a great support to her during the year, to light the Candles of Friendship. A moment's silence was held in memory of all those members of the 4-club family who had died during the year, in particular Irene Moore, past National President 1996-97, who had recently died.

1.2 Joan Henderson, Tangent Conference Liaison Officer, welcomed everybody to Belfast, the first time Tangent/41Club Conference had ever been in Northern Ireland. She made the Health and safety announcements and confirmed timings and arrangements for lunch. She reminded Delegates to give their names to steward Maureen Craig, if they left the room, in order to keep track of the correct number of voting delegates. She pointed out that there was a roving mic should that be needed. Melodie thanked Joan and Maureen, and also Pauline Ormerod and Judi Steen, the other Tangent members of the Conference Committee for all their help and gave them each a gift.

1.3 Glynis, National Secretary, then read out the National Association of Tangent Clubs Aims and Objects.

2. National President's opening remarks

Melodie explained about some regalia items which are used at the AGM. Salisbury Round Table had given her the Lectern and the Bell when she was National Secretary, and she now donated them to the Association to mark her year as National President. She thanked Moira Cochran, from North Berwick Tangent, who had given the Association the embroidered top-table tablecloth, which she had made, (which now has on the names of all the National Presidents), and the embroidered jewellery roll for the President's chain. She also thanked Anne Chalke, from Salisbury Tangent, for her tablecloth which was on display, which had been signed during each of Melodie's visits throughout the year. Anne would later be embroidering all the names for her.

Melodie thanked Liz Stevenson who had provided and arranged the flowers for the candelabra and for the Ros Raper rose bowl, which is passed on to the incoming President. This year Melodie had put different garden flowers in it each month. At all her events, Melodie had been delighted to use the goblet presented by Liz North, past National President 1987-88, for the Toasts.

Melodie asked, all those ladies attending their first AGM; ladies from new clubs who had chartered during the year; and any sole representatives of a club; to stand and be recognised. She went on to ask the 'dream team' of Tangent Chairman 2017-18 to stand and thanked them together with 'the Golden committee', those ladies organising the 50th anniversary celebration of Tangent in 2020.

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

2.1 Melodie asked all Past National Officers (PNOs) to stand and be recognised. Whilst standing they were all given a gift as a memento of the day. PNOs were reminded to sign in to ensure that their names would be recorded in the Minutes (names listed on page 4). The now very splendid President's chain had been refurbished this year and some of the bars which were of different lengths had been remade. Melodie has the old bars to be returned to Jan Dowling, Margaret Barker, Judy Holdaway, Rosemary Culver, Joan Crabtree and Hilary McCall.

2.2 Melodie then welcomed all the overseas visitors present – (listed on page 5) especially Gerd-Inger Kaasen, President of Tangent Club International 2017-18. She gave a particular welcome to Jean Noble from our overseas club Costa del Sol. She was delighted to welcome Ginette May, National President of Ladies Circle, and Jo Hudson, her Vice-President. Melodie also welcomed Emma Donnelly, the Northern Ireland representative from the British Association for Music Therapy, Melodie's charity for the year. Greetings had been received from Dave Campbell, National President 41 Club 2017-2018 who was holding his AGM at the same time.

2.3 Glynis announced the apologies - (listed on page 5), and the President of Ladies Circle and the President of Tangent Club International were then invited to speak.

3. Greetings from Ginette May, President, National Association of Ladies Circle 2017-18

Ginette brought greetings on behalf of Ladies Circle.

4. Greetings from Gerd-Inger Kaasen, President, Tangent Club International, 2017-18, on behalf of International guests

Gerd-Inger brought greetings on behalf of the international visitors.

5. Remarks to Voting Delegates

Glynis went through the instructions for the Voting delegates and thanked the wonderful Registration desk ladies for doing a fabulous job that morning. It was noted there were **141 voting delegates** and she asked the Stewards to keep the Executive up-to-date with anyone arriving or leaving.

The membership was reminded that no one was permitted to speak for more than 3 minutes or repeat something someone else had already said. Everyone must use the microphone at the lectern or a roving microphone if this would prove difficult. She reminded the speakers to clearly state her name, club and club number for the Minute takers.

Glynis advised that the Executive had received a question about the ethics of 'touting' for proxy votes. She explained that wherever they had gone, they had urged clubs to make sure their voice was heard at the AGM as the Agenda items were so important. The Executive had encouraged clubs to organise proxy voters if they were unable to attend themselves. There were over 30 proxy votes today, and Delegates had been given signed instructions from the voting club.

6. Minutes of the 51st Annual General Meeting, 22nd April 2017 in Blackpool

Melodie advised that we had received two corrections: Tagent club **Thornbury** Cleveleys 317 was listed as present, this should be **Thornton** Cleveleys 317. Past National Secretary Anne Onyett was listed as an apology with her name misspelt. These two corrections had been made on the master copy. Melodie asked if there were any further corrections; there were none. It was proposed that the Minutes of the 51st AGM be adopted.

Proposed by Thornbury 400, Seconded by Camberley 277

The proposal was carried, and the Minutes adopted.

The Minutes were then signed by Melodie as a true record of the 2017 AGM.

7. Matters Arising

There were two issues which the Executive had been asked to consider.

Section 10 revisited on page 18

* IRO post: It was raised in Blackpool that a new post be made available on the Executive, that of International Relations Officer. The Executive had discussed this and felt that it was premature to have this additional post. Anyone who applies for the position of Vice- President/President/ Immediate Past-President of NATC knows that the third year usually involves being the International Officer on the TCI Board.

* Funding of TCI President 2018-19: It was raised in Blackpool that Paula, as the TCI President should be funded within NATC capitation. (TCI do give a small amount of financial support for expenses to the TCI Board members.) The NATC Executive have looked at the NATC Expenses policy re International.

The International budget of £3000 is for travel abroad. The NATC Executive had agreed that this year, the allocation of NATC International funds will be dealt with as per our expenses policy and then shared between Melodie our IRO and Paula TCI National President.

Melodie asked if there were any other matters arising, there were none.

8. Election of National Officers

Melodie advised we had received one nomination for the position of National Vice-President by the closing date, Sue Hill.

For the post of National Secretary, no nominations had been received by the closing date and Melodie asked if there were any members wishing to stand from the floor. Heather Parry from Baildon & District 720 came forward. Melodie welcomed her and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no others.

For the post of National Editor & Website Co-ordinator, no nominations had been received by the closing date and Melodie asked if there were any members wishing to stand from the floor. Terrie Hewitt advised that Gill Rich, a Whitchurch 439 member, was willing to stand but was away on holiday. Terrie had a speech to read out on her behalf. Melodie welcomed Terrie and asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no others.

She then asked the three ladies to leave the room with the stewards to prepare themselves. Jilly King, National Administrative Officer, gave instructions about voting. She pointed out the ladies acting as Tellers. **Number of voting delegates 141.**

8.1 Sue Hill, standing for position of National Vice-President, was proposed by Northwich 426 and seconded by Dragons 942. Her biographical details were included in the Agenda and there was an article from her in the spring edition of the Tangent magazine. Sue was welcomed to the room, Melodie asked Sue to speak on the question: *What would you do to strengthen our membership?* Following Sue's speech Melodie asked if anyone had any questions for Sue, there were none. Sue left the room and the Delegates voted.

8.2 Heather Parry, standing for position of National Secretary, was proposed by Baildon & District 720 and seconded by Nidderdale 623. Biographical details: Baildon LC Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman, LC Area 23 Secretary, Treasurer, Sales and Chairman. She was Secretary and Treasurer for three successful Northern regional lunches and Chairman of the 2014 Northern Regional lunch. Baildon Tangent re-chartered in 2007 and she was one of the founder members, and had been Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman.

Heather was welcomed to the room. Melodie invited her to introduce herself and to tell us: *Why would you like to take on this post?* Following Heather's speech Melodie asked if anyone had any questions for Heather, there were none. Heather left the room and the Delegates voted.

8.3 Gill Rich, standing for position of National Editor & Website Co-ordinator, was proposed by Whitchurch 439 and seconded by Turriff & District 717. Biographical details: Joined Tangent 2011 from Ladies Circle, she was Vice-Chairman 2016-17 and had just finished being Chairman. Terrie Hewitt was welcomed into the room, Melodie invited her to read out Gill's prepared statement. Afterwards Terrie left the room, and the Delegates voted.

Melodie congratulated the candidates returning to the room, for standing for election. Whilst the candidates came back into the room, Melodie mentioned that 2017-18 has been a memorable year for the advancement of women. Apart from it being the 100th Anniversary of the Representation of the People Act which for the first time gave women (over 30) the vote, Melodie mentioned some other notable women at various points throughout the meeting.

We then sang two more verses of Melodie's song....

9. Executive Reports for the year 2017-2018

Glynis reminded the audience that full Executive reports were printed in the Agenda on pages 4-14 and the Accounts and Budgets on pages 15-25. The reports given today were updates to these; any questions received by 30th March would also be addressed.

9.1 National President – Melodie Brookes

Melodie was thrilled to announce that Tangent members have raised over £10,000 for the British Association for Music Therapy, with more monies to come in. She thanked the members for their interest and support and for their generosity. A video was shown from Grace Watts, a Director of BAMT, who thanked everyone for all their hard work and generous donations. Melodie invited Emma Donnelly, the representative from Northern Ireland from BAMT, to join her on stage. Emma gave a most illuminating and moving insight into her music therapy work, mostly working with children, in Northern Ireland.

Glynis asked if there were any questions for Melodie; there were none.

Proposed by: Salisbury 389, Seconded by: Bournemouth 1

The report was adopted.

9.2 National Vice-President and Membership Officer – Jill Harris

Jill announced one further club has been chartered since she wrote her report, and congratulated Charnwood Tangent club 959. There had been a number of clubs disaffiliating this year, with a total of 358 members.

Jill advised we had received a question:

Q: Do National have any storage facilities for returned regalia? We are worried that the Chain might end up in somebody's loft and the family will then not know what to do with it.

A: 'I'm afraid we have no facilities for storing returned items. We, the Tangent Executive, just work out of our own homes as Tangent doesn't have a Head Office. You could consider loaning your regalia to a local museum or history society perhaps or nominate one member to be the guardian. It is possible that, in time, a local Circle group or other like-minded ladies might want to reinstate your Tangent club and the regalia could be passed to them. We know of a few clubs who are looking for dress chains so please do let us know if you are willing for these to be passed on.'

Melodie asked if there were any further questions for Jill.

Q : How many clubs have closed this year

Jill answered that she would check – the answer was 15 clubs.

Proposed by: East Grinstead & District 266, Seconded by: Leicester de Montfort 15

The report was adopted.

9.3 National Immediate Past President and International Relations Officer – Paula Farnfield

Since she had written her report, Paula had visited Tangent Suomo Finland for their AGM, although the meeting was held in Finnish, what was easily recognisable was the fun and friendship in the room. Paula was looking forward to being the first TCI President from GB&I and hoped Tangent ladies could either join her on her travels or catch up via the TCI newsletter. She will be submitting reports to the Tangent Executive. She was planning to visit Austria, Israel, Norway, Sweden, Morocco, Cyprus, Belgium, and possibly India.

Paula went on to say: “Throughout our membership of this great club, we have shared great moments. We’ve done things we never would have dreamed of, met people who would not have crossed our paths if not for the Round Table family. We’ve raised funds in aid of local, national and international charities and whatever we have done, it’s given us unique and irreplaceable memories and friends to treasure.

Why should we restrict all these special times to those who found us through Ladies Circle, before they were 45, or just because they happen to be a partner of a Round Tabler? Did we stop making friends when we left primary school, university, when we moved home or moved jobs, or on our 45th birthday? Certainly not outside our Tangent lives. There is room in our hearts and lives to make new friends until the day we die, and membership of Tangent is one of the greatest gifts we can give. Not just to our existing friends who are not Tangent members but, as our Circler friends

say, to 'friends we have not yet met'. Let's not be selfish and keep this to ourselves, let's be generous and extend the opportunity to make once in a lifetime memories. Let's hold Tangent in our hearts, cherish it, love it and let it grow".

Paula gave an update on the Kidstime Foundation; Tangent donations have funded projects in Bedfordshire, Marylebone, Barnet, the Wirral, and Dundee, as well as improving the materials on the schools learning platform. In addition, donations from her shop and tombola have supported chemo gift-bags, a Kenyan orphanage, Women Beat Cancer and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Paula went on to thank each and every Tangent member who had helped her, supported her, and travelled this journey with her, from standing for Vice-President to today's AGM. She thanked everyone for the special memories and asked that her motto 'To treasure every meeting' be remembered.

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

Proposed by: Maidenhead 151, Secoded by: East & West Ham 910

The report was adopted.

9.4 National Secretary – Glynis Sutton

Glynis said it had been tremendous working with the two Executives, with Presidents Paula and Melodie at the helm. She has thoroughly enjoyed being National Secretary, giving her the opportunity to involve herself completely in all things Tangent. Glynis thanked everyone for the privilege, she wished Jill and her new Executive all the best for the coming year.

The Executive had received a request from Dereham & District Tangent club 791 to move from the Midlands region to the South East. Glynis advised that a single club on its own cannot move from one region to another, so the Executive had contacted the rest of the clubs in Norfolk and Suffolk and asked them if they want to move too. As the Executive had received no negative responses to that, it was decided to go ahead and move Norfolk and Suffolk clubs to the South East region from this AGM.

Melodie asked if there were any questions for Glynis; there were none.

Proposed by: Chesham 794, Secoded by: Dunstable & District 378

The report was adopted.

At this point Melodie announced that the result of the voting for new Executive candidates had been confirmed. She welcomed and congratulated Sue Hill as the new National Vice-President, Heather Parry as the new National Secretary, and Gill Rich as the new National Editor & Website Co-ordinator.

9.5 National Sales & Regalia Officer – Ruth Sage

Ruth encouraged ladies look at the Tangent Shop. She was pleased to say she had sourced both dangly and stud marcasite earrings; a marcasite necklace pendant; and also a Pandora style charm. These would be ideal gifts for Chairmen who already had a marcasite Brooch, or as a Tangent gift for a special friend.

She thanked all those Tangent Ladies that have welcomed her so warmly into their homes for the night - it was much appreciated. Ruth wished Jill and her new Executive good luck and congratulated Melodie on yet another fantastic year in the Tangent calendar. She said she would miss all the Tangent emails but, as she is going to be Secretary for Southend Tangent for the 3rd time and Secretary for Chelmsford Tangent as well, she will soon fill her time.

Melodie asked if there were any questions for Ruth; there were none.

Proposed by: Southend-on-Sea 5, Seconded by: Leeds & District Tangle 947

The report was adopted.

9.6 National Editor and Website Co-ordinator – Morag Daley

Morag had nothing to add to her report but advised we had received a question:

Q: Our club has been told we can no longer have a directory due to GDPR, what advice can you give?

A: Morag advised that clubs had recently received guidance on GDPR (general data protection regulation) which comes into effect 25th May 2018. 'Do not worry! We are recommending clubs do what they have always done, you can continue to have your club directory but keep that directory, with the national directory, in a safe place. We are also recommending that you bcc emails if sending to more than one person.'

Morag asked Tangent ladies to 'please destroy personal information once you no longer need it, and please could clubs destroy the old directory securely once they receive the new one. If you provide your personal data to NATC then you will receive a personal information statement advising you as to why and how your data will be processed, and your rights in relation to that. GDPR information will appear on all National Association forms, you do not need to print that if you are printing a form and returning it to the Association. For instance, the new Capitation form now consists of 3 pages, page 1 has GDPR guidance on it, please only just complete and send back pages 2 and 3.'

Once the National Executive have signed off the full GDPR policy and personal information statement, this will come to you from the National Secretary. The Executive have completed an analysis of their requirements and are in the process of putting it into 'legalise'. The personal information statement will be available following the AGM and the full GDPR policy by 25th May, which is the date of compliance. Although Morag will no longer be a member of the Executive, she will continue to fulfil the Association's GDPR requirements. All queries should be sent to the National Secretary, but you may get an answer from Morag.

Melodie asked if there were any further questions for Morag.

Q: Lis asked how do charities get our gmail address?

Morag advised that the Tangent Association has had quite a few issues with spam over the last year. Gmail addresses appear on the Tangent website on our club finder, which is a public area, and bots troll the internet looking for gmail addresses. The Executive have taken advice and quite frankly, it is more cost effective for clubs to please just junk these emails.

Q: How can we be sure our data is deleted from the personal computers of Executive members when they leave their role?

Morag advised she is working on the policy for the Association and would be recommending that all data is password protected. 'Ultimately, we can't force anybody to do anything, but the spirit of the regulation is that we have to have a proportionate response.' Morag had taken part in training in GDPR, and has had several conversations with other lawyers on the matter; she had mentioned that she was a member of Tangent and that we don't hold sensitive personal data on anyone, what did they recommend? The proportionate response was to do our best in terms of the regulations; we don't want to spend lots of time and money on this. We refuse to bog down clubs and the National Executive in regulations that are frankly not needed.

Q: Can a disgruntled Tangent member risk our data, what is the risk to Tangent and what is put in place to avoid fines?

Morag advised we are required to put a proportionate response in place, the Executive have identified the basis for processing which is our 'legitimate interest', when you pay your subs you are part of our legitimate interest. The Executive have put in place encrypted emails, the website is encrypted, we have a robust personal information statement we can enforce, we can remove your data if you want us to. Ultimately, this legislation is not targeted at our Association, we don't market your data. If one member did challenge NATC, Morag is quite satisfied we would be successful at opposing that. Morag is looking into some small technical issues, but really it's no big problem.

Melodie explained that we have 3 computers for the Executive, and these get passed on to the next post holder. The membership has made it clear that they still want a printed Directory, which states 'please destroy last year's Directory securely'. She emphasised that we rely on clubs to keep that information safe, and securely destroy old Directories. She thanked Morag for all her work on this and looked forward to more information being available.

There were no other questions.

Proposed by: Turriff & District 717, Seconded by: Aberdeen 99

The report was adopted.

At this point Morag was delighted to announce the winner of the Star Award. The Award had been donated to the Association by Emeritus 900, for fundraising efforts. The winner this year was Southend-on-Sea 5 for their Fashion Show article in the most recent edition of Tangent News. Gill Young of Southend-on-Sea 5 collected the trophy.

9.7 National Executive Administrator – Jilly King

Jilly reminded ladies that we need the new Directory details in as soon as possible, even if details from their club had not changed. She asked ladies to either go on to the Tangent website to submit them or wait until the new form is emailed out at the end of the month by the National Secretary

and send Jilly the completed form by the due date. There will be GDPR information on the form and you need to make sure that tick box is ticked.

Melodie asked if there were any questions for Jilly; there were none.

Proposed by: Oxted & District 121, Seconded by: Taunton 199

The report was adopted.

9.8 National Treasurer – Ruth Lamb

Ruth advised all the Accounts were in the Agenda pages 14-18, and that hopefully members had read these and understood them. Ruth advised she had received two questions:

Q: We have concerns regarding computer expenses. We wonder if you have considered leasing the Executive laptops?

A: Ruth had done some research on this and, due to the small volume of business (total 3 laptops) business leasing would not be cheaper.

Q: We also feel the additional storage space of £228 per month to be a little OTT and wonder what other options were explored before agreeing to this.

A: The additional storage required was for email for the President and National Secretary whose jobs necessitate more email contact than other member of the Executive. Ruth apologised and said the explanation of this might not have been as clear as perhaps it needed to be - £228 is not the additional storage cost, it is the total cost for email provision for 10 National Executive email addresses, website hosting & support services. The extra cost is only 2 x £10+VAT per month on top of our previously contracted amount.

Melodie asked if there were any further questions for Ruth.

Q: Why is there so much money held in reserve, in excess of £153,000? Could you clarify how much of this is required should the Association close, and are there any plans for reducing that?

Ruth advised she had inherited a reasonable reserve fund, that the accounts were reviewed every month and that the Executive has a reserve policy. We do have to keep membership costs for one year, about £70,000, we have increasing costs with Regional Lunches, Executive costs, and printing costs. Ruth explained the Accounts run Jan-December, but the Tangent year is April-March, so she has to cover significant costs between December and April, before subs come in. In addition, she explained there is a contingency fund for unexpected events, loans for Regional Lunch venues are larger each year so we need to keep funds for that as well, and possible GDPR expenditure.

Proposed by: Mendip 874, Seconded by: Stourbridge & District 913

The report was adopted.

The membership sang two more verses of Melodie's song.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.20pm and resumed at 1.15p.m.

Melodie welcomed everyone back to the AGM and advised that we now had **137** voting delegates. Past National officers were reminded to sign in to ensure that their attendance was listed in the Minutes. Steve Grew, National President of Round Table, would now bring greetings.

11. Greetings from Steve Grew, National President of Round Table 2017-18

Steve thanked everybody for their welcome, and Melodie for her support and friendship during the year. He gave an update on Round Table.

The meeting then resumed at item 10 on the Agenda.

10. Propositions from Clubs

Proposition 10.1 – Executive Travelling Expenses

Proposal:

That rule 9.4 *'The necessary travelling expenses of the National President and National Executive shall be met'* to be deleted and replaced with:

The National Executive travelling expenses shall be paid, the travelling expenses to be by the cheapest, most reasonable mode possible for:

- The National Executive to attend Regional lunches, Executive meetings, 41C/Tangent Executive joint meetings and National Conference;
- Presidential visits to individual clubs when requested for each 5-year charter, including overseas clubs affiliated to NATC;
- IPP to attend TCI AGM and HYM, President to attend one overseas meeting (as the NATC calendar year spans two TCI years);
- Membership/VP to attend bi-annual 4-club meetings, along with President and Secretary when Tangent are hosting;
- Attendance at Remembrance Services as 4-club representatives – President at the Cenotaph in London, IPP at the National Arboretum, Alrewas.

Proposed: Coastal Cluster 948 Tangent, Seconded: AACT Tangent 940

Melodie asked Treasurer Ruth to respond to questions previously received.

Q: How much will be saved by limiting the travel expenses for the National President to only be paid on the 5-year anniversaries and not other club visits? If clubs wanted her to visit outside of this what is the current rate of travel costs as I am sure if both parties agreed a club could pay them to the President as is the practice for Inner Wheel.

A: Ruth advised the monetary saving cannot really be ascertained as some years there are a considerable number of 0 or 5 charters, for instance in 2018-9 there are a lot of 50th charters, and if the President was invited to each one the money spent would be considerably over that budgeted. In fact, this proposition has encouraged one club to ask for the President to attend their 35th and they said without seeing this they would not have thought of inviting her. The mileage rate is 45p per mile. We do have Expense guidelines and the Treasurer regularly reviews these, sometimes the cheapest possible route is not the most practical.

IPP – Paula , gave additional information:

‘We have looked at the visits made this & last year by Melodie & myself, we have not gone further back as we may not have been comparing the same things. We have both carried out a similar number of visits, 85 & 79. This excludes 4 clubs, Executive meetings, Conference, etc.

The average number of new clubs chartering per year is 7, based on the last 7 years. If the numbers of clubs celebrating charter anniversaries (at 5-year intervals) is 20% of clubs in existence, that is 120 clubs per year, and if 75% of those clubs request a Presidential visit that would be 90 clubs. Add in the 7 new clubs chartering that makes 97. These clubs can and will be spread geographically anywhere in the country, and the visits will not benefit from the arrangements Melodie & I were able to make – visiting another club en-route or nearby - to make the trip more cost effective. Jill has seen more requests for next year, from clubs who have been reminded to ask for visits to ‘5’ charters, where historically we mainly see the 10’s requested.

We know that there are years with more charters than others and anticipate that this would result in clubs not being able to get a visit in what should have been their year and having to wait another 5 years to try again. There are clubs who invite the President year on year, but by far the majority of these are friendship or cluster evenings with other clubs invited - on my 85 visits representatives from over 150 clubs were present.

I know that many clubs celebrating charters do not open the events to other clubs, concentrating on their past members, so we may not get as many clubs having the opportunity to see the President. Our expectation is that cost per visit will increase due to less ‘doubling up’ of visits made in 1 journey and more visits will be requested. So, for the 85 visits I made, they cost 46p per member, if we are worried about the £6 capitation, perhaps we should worry about the other £5.54. If we are to move forward with recommendation to grow our numbers, we cannot restrict the opportunity for a club to have a Presidential visit’.

Melodie advised we do have Expenses guidelines which we passed onto Coastal Cluster Tangent club, but the Executive thought this extra information would be useful. She thanked Ruth and Paula for their explanations and asked if there were any further questions.

Lynda Weiland, Widnes and District Tangle 954 – We should be careful not to make things too restrictive. This list would not enable the President to attend the Round Table or Ladies Circle Conferences - today we have said how important it is that the four clubs work together. As a new club, we would have been extremely disappointed not to have Melodie at our event, and this proposal would not have allowed her to attend.

Dorothy Peacock, Angels of the North 907 – We have already invited the National President to our 10th Anniversary, is she going to cancel if this goes through? We would like to submit an amendment, proposed by us and seconded by Hartlepool 236 – “Presidential visits to individual clubs when requested to be at her discretion” – It is more of a choice for the National President instead of the 5-year charter.

A vote was taken on the amendment, which was lost.

A vote was taken on the original Proposition, which was lost.

10.2 Executive Out of pocket expenses

That an annual contribution of £100 towards Out of Pocket Expenses be paid to each member of the National Executive (with the exception of the National President); that thereafter the contribution be reviewed annually.

Proposed: Turriff and District 717, Seconded Coastal Cluster: 948

Melodie advised this proposition from Turriff & District 717 had been withdrawn, she asked Morag if she would like to speak on the matter.

‘Turriff & District had been given information by one of our members that this proposition would attract income tax and national insurance payments. As a consequence, the National Executive are reviewing its Expenses Policy. The income tax and national insurance payments isn’t the problem, but the concern is, this would create an Employer: Employee relationship with members of the National Executive. Any company employing two or more persons would have to auto-enrol them into a pensions scheme, consequently we did not consider this proposal is in the Association’s interest at this time.’

12. National Executive Financial Recommendations

Ruth confirmed that the Financial Recommendations were in the Agenda on pages 21-25 with extensive explanatory notes.

12.1 Budget

Treasurer Ruth started by saying she had to make an amendment to the Fred Olsen item. At the time of writing the report she had received commission payments from 41Club. We now had to call it ‘marketing contribution’ rather than commission, as we are not an agent for the company. The amount of £2,663.83 represents half of the amount paid to 41 Club up to close of accounts in December 2017. The last ‘marketing contribution’ for monies earned in the period up to December 31st 2017 was not received by 41 Club until January 2018, and later to us, and will be accredited in the 2018 accounts. The amount received was £1,191.38.

The contribution rate does not drop on repeat bookings as previously reported. However, Ocean cards and individual offers may affect the discount rate. It is recommended that the Terms and Conditions are read at the time of booking to determine the discounted rate. Also, Fred Olsen Cruise Lines, has suggested that repeat bookings usually increase year on year, so the forecasted budget of £2,000 may well be too low. Good news then rather than the other way around.

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 £1530. Ruth explained this is an inflation increase only.

Melodie asked if there were any questions for Ruth, there were none. The membership voted.

The proposal was carried

12.3 Annual capitation

The National Executive recommends that the annual Capitation charge for members remain at £6 per member. Ruth advised the capitation of £6 per member will be sufficient to cover our costs for the 2018-19 year, so £6 per member for each club they belong to.

Melodie asked if there were any questions for Ruth, there were none. The membership voted.
The proposal was carried.

12.4 Independent Membership

The National Executive recommends that annual capitation for Independent Members shall remain at £11 per member.

Melodie asked if there were any questions for Ruth, there were none. The membership voted.
The proposal was carried.

13. Tangent Club International Update and Rule changes

Melodie then called upon Paula Farnfield, IPP and International Representative to take us through the TCI Rule changes covered in the Agenda, Appendix 5, pages 26-30 which had been e-mailed to clubs in January 2018. Under existing TCI rules, Suomi Finland have been asked to present a candidate for Vice-President as Cyprus was unable to do so.

Paula explained that the purpose of the day's discussion and voting was to instruct Melodie how to vote at the TCI AGM at the end of April on behalf of GB&I. Our vote will be one of 6 votes at the AGM and the decisions made may not be in line with how we as a country vote. She thanked Karen Durie and Jackie Hampton for taking specific Minutes on this section.

The first group of changes tidy up the existing rules which were agreed in 2013. The next are clarifications relating to finance, including membership number dates, mainly in relation to Full and Associate membership fees, and the Board composition as we move towards the open elections. Then new rules and changes needed in preparation for the open elections in 2019 for Vice-President and 2020 Secretary and Treasurer.

Questions received in advance:

Q: Can you please explain how open membership would work alongside the TCI Proposal 13.1 New Rules relating to TCI Board nominations, particularly new rule 5d iii). We would want all of our members to be eligible as International Officers in the future not just those who have a Round Table connection. This will only affect our Tangent as none of the other Tangent countries in TCI allow open membership and as far as I understand some are opposed to it. Might this affect our membership of TCI which we fought so hard to achieve just a few years ago?

A: We already have discretionary (by club) open membership and this is seen by some members of TCI as not something they would want in their own countries, extending open membership to all clubs would not change this. The proposed TCI rule 5diii would apply to membership of the TCI Board only, not membership of TCI. The National Executive appreciate that this would in effect give us two types of members, one of who would not be eligible for the TCI Board, which is why we will be recommending voting against this single rule conditions. Realistically with the other 5 counties expected to be in favour, this will almost certainly be passed. Once the rules are in place and agreed it will be up to the 2018-19 National Executive to determine if this is a condition we can live with in the longer term. With two additional countries expected to join TCI as full members at the TCI AGM it may be decided that our open membership rule (either as is or changed) is not something that they can endorse.

Q: I have grave concerns that TCI are proposing that only NATC rule 3.3a members will be eligible for posts in TCI. When the original TCI Memorandum of Understanding was proposed and signed we already had "Discretionary Membership" (no link with Circle/41 club partner) and therefore all Tangent members were eligible for office in TCI.

A: Under the initial MOU all NATC members were eligible for the TCI Board providing they met the correct criteria i.e. to be a member of the NATC Executive in the IRO post – the same applies to all other countries. The TCI open elections start in 2019, following discussion at TCI Board level and the TCI Half Year meeting 2017 (Riccione) these are the rules proposed. The Executive are recommending voting against this rule. We already have notice from a club, that if this TCI rule is passed, a proposition will be put to our next AGM to leave TCI.

Q: The new proposal/rule change, and if our proposal goes through, there will be no link between our membership rule that links us to Circle or 41Club, I cannot see how we can be members of TCI.

A: That may be a subject clubs might wish to take further, should both proposals be approved.

Q: Perhaps we can at least propose that full members of Tangent GB&I (from all existing rules as at TCI inception) should be eligible for TCI posts.

A: We argued this point very strongly at the TCI HYM and as a result the words 'or wife or female partner of a current or past member of Round Table' were added to the original proposal. It would be possible to take an amendment to the proposal to the TCI AGM, subject to finding another country to second this. We did canvas support for this at the HYM but there is a very strong feeling amongst the other countries that non-Circlers should not hold a Board position - they do not have non-Circlers in their Tangents - and we would expect any such proposal to be rejected at the TCI AGM.

Paula asked if anyone wished to speak regarding the matter, no-one wished to speak. Regarding new rule 13.1, the Executive recommended voting against clause 5diii, but if it is not possible to vote against the one clause then vote against rule 13.1 in its entirety.

Gill Preston, Market Harborough 224: That could get complicated, we don't know if we will be given the option of voting for one clause only. She proposed we vote for/against 13.1 New rule 5d in its entirety. The membership agreed.

Regarding item 13.3.2 *Updated Standing Orders and Voting System*, the Executive recommended voting against this as, if these became rules, it would not be able to change them if needed to cover any special circumstances during the AGM.

13.1 New Rules relating to TCI Board nominations

Recommendation for a new Rule 5d:

5 d. Nominations to the TCI Board.

i) Only Full Member Countries can nominate candidates for the TCI Board.

ii) All candidates must be approved and supported by their National Board.

iii) Candidates shall be active members of their Full Member Association and have been members of Ladies Circle or wife or female partner of a current or past member of Round Table.

iv) Nominations shall be received by the TCI secretary by 30th of November and shall be sent out by her to all Member Countries no later than 31st of December.

v) When there are no candidates for office, nominations from the floor can only be accepted with the consent of the candidate and the support by her own national Board.

vi) In the event of an officer vacancy the Board may appoint from members of affiliated Tangent Countries.

The vote was against.

13.2 Updated Rules

13.2.1 Rule 4a, ii be amended to:

An affiliation fee must be paid. The affiliation fee is EUR 120, -. An Associated member applying for Full membership shall pay a further fee of EUR 80, -, i.e. in addition to the EUR 40, - that has previously been paid to become an Associate member.

The vote was for.

13.2.2 Rule 4b, ii be amended to:

An affiliation fee must be paid. The affiliation fee is EUR 40, -.

The vote was for.

13.2.3 Rule 5a be amended to:

The TCI Board consists of the Tangent National IRO of all full member countries or a nominated country representative.

The vote was for.

13.2.4 Rule 5c be amended to:

c. Election for TCI Officers

The first open election for TCI Vice President is to take place at the TCI AGM 2019. The elected Vice President will be her country representative in the Board in 2019-2020. The first open election for TCI Treasure is to take place at the TCI AGM 2020. The first open election for TCI secretary is to take place at the TCI AGM 2020.

The additional paragraphs of rule 5.c to remain unchanged.

The vote was for.

13.2.5 Rules 7b and 7d:

Rule 7b be amended to:

The TCI AGM where possible is to be held in conjunction with 41 International Conference, or otherwise preferably in conjunction with the TCI President's National AGM.

Rule 7d be amended to:

The TCI HYM where possible to be held in conjunction with 41 International HYM, or otherwise preferably in conjunction with the TCI President's National HYM.

The votes for 7b and 7d were for.

13.2.6 Proposed amendment to Rule 8b

Additions to be included below the existing table

Proposed additional sentence 1: The Capitation fee shall be based on member count as per 31 December each year.

Proposed additional sentence 2: The Capitation fee shall be paid from the second year as Full Member.

The vote was for.

3.3 Updates to Standing Orders and Voting System

13.3.1 That the existing Standing Orders and Voting System, be modified as follows;

The Board proposes to add “normally the TCI President” in brackets after the word Chairman in clause 3, 7b, 7d and 8.

The vote was for.

13.3.2 That the existing Standing Orders and Voting System, is included in the TCI Rules as rules 7f and 7g

New Rule 7f should hereafter be:

7.f. Standing Orders for the TCI AGM

- i. A record shall be held of the attendance of the Officers and voting Councillors.
- ii. The Quorum for any TCI AGM shall be a number equal to 2/3 of the Full Member Countries.
- iii. The Board shall appoint two Tellers, who shall be responsible for reporting to the Chairman (normally the TCI President) of the meeting the result of all voting. Voting on all proposals shall be show of hands except when a written ballot is specifically requested.
- iv. **In the case of elections of TCI Officers and Conference venues the voting shall always be by secret ballot. The appointed Tellers will ensure that all ballot papers, when used, remain confidential to the meeting all the times. If there are more than two candidates or choices, the single transferable voting system shall be used.**
- v. ANY MEMBER AND ONLY MEMBERS OF TCI ATTENDING THE TCI AGM MAY SPEAK ON ANY RESOLUTION, but only the **TCI Councillors may vote.**
- vi. In the event of any equal division of votes, the TCI President shall have a casting vote.
- vii. Procedure to be followed when dealing with resolutions:
 - a) Any resolution may be discussed by the Meeting before it is voted on.
 - b) At this stage, any voting TCI Councillor, subjected to the approval of the Chairman (normally the TCI President) may propose an amendment.
 - c) When an amendment has been proposed, it must be voted on and must be settled before any other amendment can be considered. A straight majority is needed to accept an amendment.
 - d) If voting is against the amendment, then it is lost, and the Chairman (normally the TCI President) will then ask for any other amendments. If there are no more amendments, the original proposal will then be voted upon.
 - e) If the voting is for the amendment, it is therefore carried and becomes the amended motion, to which any further amendments can be proposed and dealt with as in (b) and (c) above. The final amended motion then becomes the substantive motion (the new proposal) and as such must be voted on.
 - f) If the voting is against the substantive motion, it means that the whole proposal is lost, and on no account, does the meeting return to the original proposal.
- viii. The Chairman’s (normally the TCI President) ruling on any point of order shall be final.
- ix. These Standing Orders can only be suspended or altered by a 75% majority of the voting TCI Councillors present at the TCI AGM.

Rule 7 g should hereafter be:

Rule 7.g. Voting System

i. Secret ballot:

- Election of Officers

- TCI AGM venue

- TCI HYM venue

If there are more than two candidates to any of the above elections a single transferable voting system should be used.

ii. By Show of Hand:

- Amendments to existing rules

- Recommendations

Abstentions do not count – they are neither votes in favour nor against the motion. All the calculations are made on the votes cast and not persons present.

75% (3/4) majority of the votes cast is needed:

- To accept a report

- To approve a recommendation

- To pass a new rule or alteration to an existing one

- To pass a resolution regarding finance

- To accept an alteration to the Standing Orders of the TCI AGM

- To adopt the minutes of the previous TCI AGM

A straight majority (1/2 plus one vote) is needed:

- To accept an amendment on a proposal

- To withdraw an item from the agenda

- To elect an officer

- To accept an invitation to host the TCI Conference

Tellers receive, from the TCI President, casting votes in sealed envelopes for:

- TCI Vice President

- TCI Treasurer

- TCI Secretary

- Invitation to host the TCI Conference

These are only opened in the event of a tie. If these casting votes are not needed, they should be returned to the President at the end of the AGM.

The vote was against.

14. National Executive Recommendations:

14.1 Open Membership

The National Executive recommends that:

Rule 3.3 (see page 9 in current Directory) be deleted and substituted with

“3.3 Clubs adopting the Constitution and Objects of the Association will be affiliated.

3.4 All women will be eligible for club membership” The remaining parts 3 be renumbered accordingly. The words “eligible for membership under rule 3.3” be deleted from the new numbered Rule 3.5.

Melodie asked Jill Harris (V-P) to respond to the questions already received on behalf of the Executive.

Q: Whichever way the vote goes on Open membership, will 'discretionary' still be in place?

A: If the motion is defeated then the membership rule will remain the same and 'discretionary' will remain. However, if the vote goes in favour of open membership then there will be no ruling for a club to use discretion for membership.

Q: I feel strongly that Clubs need to have some links with the 4 Club family and by starting new clubs with no Tangent rule 3.3a members will not have Tangent philosophy available to them. For them, Why Tangent?

A: As per the recommendation explanation; NOTHING in this proposal will affect the Association's relationship with the 4-Club Family and we would remain committed to that precept. Were there ever to be a Tangent whose members were not linked to 41 Club or Round Table and who had no Ladies Circle, we would still expect them to link to the 4 Clubs as much as any club whose members had such links and such history. If this is approved at the AGM we would expect the 2019-20 Executive to review both the other rules and Aims and Objectives to ensure that the ethos of the Association remains and bring forward any further proposals to the 2019 AGM.

Q: Concerning the proposal for Open Membership - many of us can remember when LC changed to open membership and wonder how that boosted their numbers?

A: Most of the current Executive are too young to remember when Ladies Circle moved to open membership or the effect that this had on their numbers, records from this time are no longer available to consult. Also, as we are a completely age demographic with no upper age limit it would be a case of comparing apples with pears.

Q: We are also aware that Round Table had a big membership drive a few years ago going into Universities, bus/hoarding/tube ads etc how did this boost their numbers?

A: From the reports given at 4 Clubs meeting, Round Table have slowed their rate of member loss, again as Ladies Circle, the sex and age demographic would make these results of little relevance.

Q: I am sure you all will have taken the results of both the above into consideration before making the recommendation, so I hope you feel able to share it with us.

A: The Executive spent some considerable time reviewing the results of the survey and how this could be applied to the Association. It was our considered view, as detailed in the explanation - that the options to be considered are

- i. That the Association opens its membership and promotes itself actively to new members, or
- ii. That the Association remains as it is and plans for a reducing membership.

This National Executive is of the view that the opening of our membership and the promotion of the Association to new members is the preferred option. In addition, open membership would show that we value women as individuals rather than who they associate with or what clubs they may have joined historically (had they been eligible for membership!)

Melodie asked if anyone wanted to say anything on this matter.

Terrie Hewitt, Whitchurch 439 - Terrie was very concerned that links with Ladies Circle and Round Table would be weakened; should we add membership of the 4-club Family to the actual proposition?

Marilyn Bourgein, Maidstone 14 – How many members answered the survey, was it a big enough sample? (answer: 767 replies from 11,375 members)

Dee Lindesay, Ascot 487 – This proposition loses the concept of honorary membership. There is a big difference between a club started with ex-Circlers and a club with no ex-Circlers. For a group of ex-Circlers starting a new club, why Tangent?

Janet Walton, Lancaster 238 – Each club already has the freedom to have discretionary membership. This rule would alter the ethos of Tangent.

Alex Desborough, ABOTS 889 – Do we have any idea how many clubs will disaffiliate if they are forced to be Open?

Carol Hamilton-King, Market Drayton & District 327 – Rather than going straight to open membership for the entire Association, another option would be to reword the proposition to make it a bit more inclusive and bring it back next year? We don't want to alienate those clubs who are currently closed to discretionary members, we need the new Executive post to promote membership and marketing to Circlers we have lost.

Mandy Coombes, Salisbury 389 – She just wanted to point out that Salisbury Tangent club are delighted with, and very proud of, their open members.

Jan Dowling, Nidderdale 623 – Our Inner wheel opened their membership and it changed their ethos, now members are leaving as no link with Rotary.

Shirley Chard, Reading Valley 401 – Her Inner Wheel has flourished since opening membership, it now has more strengths and skills because of that.

Claire Cunningham, Halifax 231– What will the effect be on Ladies circle subs if younger ladies join Tangent?

Melodie thanked all the speakers for all their points. She said that the Executive were most heartened by the amount of interest and discussion that members and clubs had shown in response to this Recommendation. It was a topic raised during all her visits, and she was impressed with how strongly and passionately members and clubs felt about Tangent and its future. The Executive had put forward this Recommendation in response to the results of the Survey last year. They felt that it was important for the membership to have the opportunity to address this issue sooner rather than later. As most Delegates would already have their club's instructions beforehand, and many of the arguments had been raised today, Melodie moved that the vote be taken.

Delegates voted. **The Recommendation was lost.**

14.2 Marketing and Membership Officer

Melodie advised that it was the intention of the Executive that, if the Open Membership proposition failed, then this Recommendation would be withdrawn.

Moira-Ann Grainger, Leamington Spa & District 243 – We can't understand why we would want to withdraw this role. There will be no financial impact as the Executive have gone down to 7 members this year, so it will just go back up to 8. We should be given the opportunity to discuss and vote on this.

Melodie responded to the feeling of the meeting and went ahead with this Recommendation.

The National Executive recommends that: *Rule 5.1 (version effective from AGM 2018); The Officers of the Association shall be the National President, National Vice-President, Immediate past President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Editor and 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, Immediate past President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, National Editor and Website Co-ordinator National Executive Administrator and National Marketing and Membership Officer, who shall hold office until they resign or until their term of office expires, whichever happens first, with effect from the AGM 2019.

Melodie advised that we had received some questions on this. Treasurer Ruth to deal with these.

Q: We note that there are no 'costings' for this 'proposed post'. We do accept that it is not scheduled to take effect until the NAGM 2019. However, we are being asked to vote on a proposition that does not give any indication of costs whatsoever going forward. We understand there would be the normal Executive Member's expenses, but would like an 'idea', maybe hypothetical figures at present, that we, as members of NATC, could be looking at for the "development of a 10-year Marketing and Membership plan" and implementation of such a plan. As we believe, "You don't get owt for nowt" and "PR to the outside world" will surely incur costs. We feel we are being asked to agree to a post that will significantly increase future expenditure to our organisation.

A: The cost to the Association will be as if we had 8 members of the Executive again and in effect will not be additional to what we have now. I was not able to put forward a budget on this until we knew the outcome of the vote.

Q. Our concern is, that we had no figures to inform us as to what the on-going costs of this post would be, bearing in mind that in 'marketing the Association' there must surely be costs involved in such things as 'advertising, possible media involvement, Public Relations work and other possible costs' which we felt were just not there. What we were concerned about was voting on a proposition where there was no budget forthcoming even a hypothetical one."

A. It would depend on the skills of the person who was elected for the post. She may have plenty of experience in this field.

Q. – Do we know how much professional fees would be if we don't find someone from Tangent with the relevant skills?

A. The Executive would be looking into this in further detail.

Q: Re the Marketing and Membership Officer, do the Executive anticipate the new position to be in place immediately after the NAGM in April?

A: The Executive plan that the Marketing and Membership officer take up her role after the AGM in April 2019. So, the role will be advertised and job description available, as for other positions, and candidates voted on at the AGM in April 2019. The 2018/19 Executive will be writing up the job description during the year, which will vary and depend on if the recommendations for Open membership or Regional Councillors also gets approved. So, for this AGM it is just approval of the role, then it will start April 2019.

Melodie asked if anyone wanted to speak on the matter.

Jo Tinker, Leeds & District Tangle 947 – We have lost too many Circlers, very few have moved to Tangent. We feel we need this post to promote Tangent to Circlers and to eligible women.

Lynda Wieland, Widnes & District Tangle 954 – How many clubs currently have discretionary members? The Executive gave the answer: 67%.

Ginette May, Ladies Circle President – Ladies Circle think this is a crucial post, if anyone has any trouble with social media aspects your Ladies Circle sisters would be able to help.

Delegates voted. **The recommendation was carried.**

The AGM now had a change of order as Phill Ellis was ready to speak but would not be available later, owing to his Conference Chairman commitments. Melodie invited him to give greetings and that afterwards we would go back to item 14.3.

17. Greetings from Phill Ellis, National President, 41 Club, 2018-19

Phill hoped everyone was enjoying being in Belfast. He wished Jill Harris and her 2018-19 Executive all the very best. He encouraged everyone to help the 4-club family wherever they could.

Melodie thanked Phill for his greetings and congratulated and thanked him and his team for a fabulous Conference. She then continued with the Executive Recommendation 14.3.

14.3 Regional Councillors

The National Executive recommends that:

new Rule 5.4 be adopted

5.4.1 The Association will appoint 7 voluntary Regional Councillors, 1 for each of the Tangent areas (South West, South East, Midlands, Northern, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland).

5.4.2 Regional Councillor posts will be for a 1-year period, with the option to extend to a second year if confirmed to the National Executive by the appropriate nomination closing date.

Melodie asked Jill to answer on behalf of the Executive.

Q: How has the communication with the clubs worked this year and how do you see it working in the future if this doesn't get approved?

A: This year, each member of the National Executive has been given a region to look after, so as well as the block emails you have received from the National Secretary, clubs have received regional communications as well. Jill intends this to continue into 2018-19 if this proposition doesn't go through, so the Executive will let you know who your regional representative is in our first communication.

Q: How might I apply to become a Regional Councillor?

A: If this is approved, the Executive will send out job descriptions and application forms by the end of April with instructions on how and when to apply. If there is more than one candidate, we will ask for a vote within the region. We plan for Councillors to be in place by July 2018.

Melodie asked if anyone wanted to speak on this matter.

Gail Ventress, Fourtitude 891 – Gail's husband is a 41 Club Regional Councillor, he gets expenses. She thinks it's a great idea, but these proposed Tangent regions are bigger than 41 club regions, she would recommend the Councillors have expenses.

Jill replied that the proposed Regional Councillors will not be expected to do as much as the 41Club regional Councillors, we are not expecting them to visit every club in their region. We are expecting the Tangent Councillors to talk to ailing clubs, to help them, to encourage activities at club level, to keep in touch by phone and email. Once we have this trial year to see how it goes, we will look to hone this role and introduce expenses later.

Delegates voted. **The recommendation was lost.**

15. National President's Address

President Melodie thanked everybody for their attention, patience and their input during the meeting.

She continued: 'I started my year with a visit to Take Two Tangent, and my final visit last week was with Chesham. Throughout the year I've received the most generous hospitality and the most charming warmth and welcome. The special highlights have been chartering new clubs and inducting new members. I have been really touched by the musical themes that many of you have incorporated into your events and have been very appreciative of that. Thank you too for the thought you have put into the wonderful local gifts that you have given to me. I have been privileged to spend time in wonderful venues; members' homes, lovely gardens, prestigious sporting venues, spectacular historic buildings and convenient, modern hotels. Thank you so much everyone. What has been obvious wherever I have visited is the continued friendship in every group, be it 6-8 ladies or 250.

During the year I have sent electronic cards to clubs celebrating a major birthday. I am delighted we had the chain refurbished, it now looks fabulous, and we can be very proud of it now. I have been thrilled to have the logos on my car; they have been noticed, and the name of Tangent has been seen around the UK. The Executive waistcoats, made by Jo Dawes from Salisbury Tangent, have achieved everything I had hoped that they would - the members of my Executive were visible and approachable – these ladies work so very hard and I am proud to be one of them.

My President's umbrellas have gone to very special people, mostly Chairmen of where I have visited, and it has been fun to see them being used. Your huge support and interest in the British Association for Music Therapy has been very heartening to me, it has promoted their Association, and you have seen from the video from Grace how much it is valued. I did say that I was pleased that it was a very worthwhile figure and Grace said that for BAMT it was absolutely amazing; so, thank you from the bottom of my heart. The song has been great, you have taken it on with enthusiasm and I appreciate that so much. Thank you again to Joan and all her helpers; to the Registration Stewards the Minute Secretaries, to Mike for taking photographs, and to the whole of the Executive for keeping me on track today. Our very best wishes go to Paula who is to become the President of Tangent Club International. Thank you, ladies, for a memorable year.'

Melodie then presented the retiring officers with their badges. She thanked Paula Farnfield, Morag Daley, Glynis Sutton, and Ruth Sage on behalf of the Association for all their work and dedication and handed them their Past National Officer badges. She invited the new members of the Executive – Sue Hill and Heather Parry (and a cardboard cut-out for Gill Rich?) – to join other members of the Executive on the stage.

We then had two final verses of Melodie's song, (the last one having been recently written by her Executive) – her 'swan song'!

16. Installation of the New National President

Melodie then went on to hand over the President's chain to Jill Harris.

She also passed on the Ros Raper rose bowl and wished Jill a wonderful year as the new National President of NATC for 2018-2019.

There was an interruption by members Costa Blanca 41 Club with a 'This is your life' presentation.

18. New National President's Address

Jill invited Melodie, as Immediate Past President, to receive her Past-President's jewel and thanked her for her commitment and her generosity of time given to the Association in her successful and enjoyable year as President. She then welcomed both Sue Hill and Heather Parry to the Executive and gave them their Vice-President and Secretary ribbons respectively. Jill will be presenting Gill Rich with her ribbon at the next Regional lunch.

'The time has come to represent you as National President - I think I'm ready! I had never envisaged this happening but the old adage of *you get out what you put in* is very, very true. I feel very privileged, and honoured, to be able to stand here today to represent the members in this esteemed role. My late husband Vaughan, who many of you here knew, became the National President of both Round Table AND 41 Club. But it was in 1995, when he stepped up to the role of Round Table Area Chairman and Area Councillor where his love, my love, and our children's love, for the Round Table Family really grew and grew, and the rest is history. It took one day in September 2014 when my world was turned upside down.

I would like it recorded in the Minutes, so it is known for all time, that I thank each and every one of you here, in the Tangent family and all Round Table Family members throughout the world, for helping me through the last 3 and a half years from that fateful day my world changed in September 2014 to standing here as National President. Without you, and all of your kind support, I definitely

would not be in this position today. The Round Table Family acted as a second family. They helped, not only me, but also my sons through the very dark days and hard times. Together they stepped up and together they helped us to be stronger. I thank you!

Now I turn to important matters in hand - membership and growth. Those that know me know I am very passionate about the Association and that I will do everything in my ability to help it grow. Now it is my time to give more and I will give by leading from the front. We cannot grow this Association, or help the growth of the Round Table Family, with words alone. To achieve Membership growth we need desire - however, even this alone, is not enough. That desire needs to be not only felt but mixed together with effort, and then more importantly shared in a common bond of fellowship and togetherness. So it is through our EFFORTS, through YOU the members supporting each other, with our STRENGTH TOGETHER and all mixed with pure DESIRE that our combined successes will continue.

In my speech for the Vice President role, I suggested *“Wear your badge with pride wherever you go”*. IF Together, we wear our badges daily, IF we make it the first thing we do in the morning it prepares us to challenge the world with Tangent close to our hearts. IF we do this every day, and it becomes part of our daily routine, we all can explain why we are Tangent members. Why we are so proud of our membership, our members locally, regionally, nationally but especially the bond of friendship we have with all members near and far.

Be proud of your membership but also of your club meetings. Shout about them, let people know what you are going to do. Put leaflets up in your library, community centre, village notice board and TELL people about Tangent. TELL THEM when you hold your meetings and who to contact so that others have the opportunities that we enjoy because that is called friendliness and we are friendly people. Before a meeting tell the world what you are going to do but also afterwards, what you have done by sharing the fun in a picture or three. We know that a picture *tells a thousand words* so use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or whatever you fancy. If you don't have any members who use these platforms ask a son, a daughter or grandchild to help you. There is nothing wrong, and everything right about bringing your family in to help you to celebrate and to let them feel the same sense of achievement with you.

To grow with experience, we need to attract certain ladies and they are out there - Ex-circlers that have not joined, partners of RTBI & 41 Club members that are eligible to join, Tangent members that have moved and former members who have let their membership lapse. Also, let's not forget those with discretionary membership, the potential new members from your local Community. To do this we have to shout about how much our members, and clubs achieve, in the Community. I just love to see daily social media posts about our Tangent events, so I, your National President have a friendly challenge for you. Make sure there is not a morning or afternoon that I look on Facebook and I see no Tangent posts. We have approximately 600 clubs, all of who have a meeting most months, so that's over 6000 meetings. That means that each club only needs to post a minimum of once to more than cover it. I will do my part, I will do a Presidential post weekly and more often when possible, you may even see a video of two.

Let me see you go for it - I challenge you! Do remember that we only have 364 days in a Tangent year because you all allowed Christmas Day off.....but still wear your badge! So how about it?

- How about promoting ourselves?
- How about growing membership?
- How about showing all of the family members that we are united?
- How about that -
 - Together we share a common bond
 - Together we are a strong Tangent
 - Together we are a part of the Round Table Family but most of all that
 - Standing 'Together is Stronger!

Caring is sharing. Share the word Tangent to the world, share it to our group page, share things to our members and also share with all your family and friends. Share your passion and share your events so people all over see them and let Facebook and Twitter start seeing the word Tangent on a daily basis. Let's be true to our aims and objects. To link together Tangent Clubs - let's connect with our neighbouring clubs, do you know who they are? If not then please do find out. Arrange a joint meeting and grow the fellowship. Trust me, it will be a fun evening, full of enhanced friendship. I do appreciate that long distance is not always possible for some clubs but when this is the case you'll find the fun in your neighbouring clubs in events, joint meetings or even cluster meetings. Whatever you choose, do expand your experience of Tangent.

As I have said – *You get out what you put in.* We continue to offer the hand of friendship to Ladies Circle. Tangent needs to support their growth in members and we can do this in many ways. When called upon, by doing some leg work, sharing our experience and especially backing any initiatives to open a new Ladies Circle Club if you are not fortunate enough to have one near you. Ask them how you can help. Please keep in contact with the ladies and invite them to social meetings and attend theirs. Help with fund raising and community service. They are Tangent members in the making, the same as you. They have to be - it's in our DNA. If there is a large age gap between the local Tangent and Circlers, which means Circlers are not joining Tangent, then encourage them to start a new younger Tangent club. Be open to talking to them about starting a new Tangent club. Do support, not resist, as it in Tangent's name we act, not our individual clubs. We don't want to lose their experience, ideas and passion. We want them to continue the Family journey so offering your knowledge and support might just be what is needed. It is for us all to work side by side with all members of Ladies Circle. Working together with Ladies Circle is just one aspect of our vision. Working with the wider Round Table Family is what will sustain us all, including and everyone's growth. Together we are part of a four club family, we are ONE group, one collective and using our strengths leads me nicely onto my motto for the year.

I passionately believe that being one thing will help each other's clubs. That one thing is Togetherness. It is only by helping, and supporting, each other that the whole Family will grow Stronger. Putting both of these together is powerful so my motto, not only for this year, but for all time, is -'*TOGETHER IS STRONGER*'. What good are we if even ONE of our clubs starts declining and we do nothing? We are 4 clubs together and yes we CAN help each other. So do support any club in the Round Table Family, support an event, publicise joint events for all clubs, tell your family, tell your friends and even their children about the amazing Round Table Family as a collective because '*TOGETHER IS STRONGER*'. We CAN do it , we CAN help grow the Family. Tangent Clubs, and all in the Round Table Family, provide community service and raise funds for good causes locally, nationally and internationally, that's a fact. Shout out about how great we are because only

together we achieve this. It is for all of us to do, not just for any one person alone. We do not have a destination, we all have a journey and we travel it together!

I did not have to think much about what charity to ask you to support this year. Those who know me, would have already guessed. In 1995, some 23 years ago, when Vaughan was an Area Chairman, it was then that my entire family started supporting them. I recently spoke to both my children Russell and Christopher and they confirmed my thoughts and asked me why I was even asking them *'who shall we support?'* My charity, which is fully supporting my theme of *'Together is stronger'* is in my heart, it is my families heart but most of all in the Round Table families hearts – it is the Round Table Children's wish . So far, with the Round Table family's help and support, the Harris family has helped raise over £250,000 for them. How? What evidence does anyone need, other than to simply put it is that it was because *'Together is stronger'*. For those that are not familiar with the charity they help children, with life threatening illnesses fulfil one of their deepest wishes. It could be a trip to Disneyland, a laptop to interact with their friends, a tree house, meeting their hero or in fact anything at all. I have personally seen many, many of the children that have benefitted from Children's wish. The joy on their faces always brings tears to my eyes, so I am asking all of you to think of them and to support them in whatever way you can.

We can all do something. Why not get a good feeling by arranging an event or by making a donation? If we all did this, and promoted RTCW, for the year we would raise a substantial sum without even realising it. For example why have change in your pocket weighing you down? As your President, my role is to help you all and I am starting off this year by doing you all a favour. I am reliving that heavy burden from your pockets, purses and handbags with RTCW collection buckets ready for you when you leave the AGM. Anything really is gratefully appreciated. Also pick up a change bag and take it to your next Regional lunch meeting or hand to me when I visit you. Please support Round Table Children's Wish! In addition to fundraising, if you know any child that would benefit from a wish, let me know and I will put you in touch with the charity. Wouldn't it be great if all our regions could put forward a child and then we can raise the funds for their wishes - another challenge for you. We have a trustee in charge of the 4 club liaison. Jim Conway, a past RT International Relations Officer who is here today. Jim - Stand up and be recognised. I do appreciate that not all clubs are fund raisers but a little change, from many of our large membership, will go a long, long way to provide a child with their personal wish.

I thank you for putting your faith in me, for indulging my heartfelt speech so now let's finish the AGM and then party like we have never partied before and party Together. Thank you all for listening. I hope my passion for Tangent, and the wider Round Table Family, came over in my speech. I owe the Family so very, very much and I FEEL VERY PROUD to be able to call myself a Tangent member and more importantly a part of the four club family both nationally and internationally. Most of all, let's start the year together, because when we are together we are stronger - *TOGETHER IS STRONGER. Thank you all*".

Jill invited Jenny Bevan, Tangent Conference Liaison Officer for the 2019 Torquay National Conference, to say a few words. Jenny advised the membership *'that the Torquay Conference will be fabulous; there will be several very interesting tours and wonderful events so please do come along to the English Riviera. Next year's AGM is to be held on Saturday 6th April 2019. The website is open now for bookings, please pick up a leaflet and book in.'*

19. Any Other business

Jill advised everyone to be aware that the Webmaster would need to redirect all the Executive email addresses (except for Treasurer and Executive Administrator), so that there may be an initial delay in anyone receiving a reply from them. As we no longer have a Sales & Regalia Officer, the sales email address will no longer be monitored and will be removed before the end of May. The first block email that comes out from the new Secretary will advise who to contact for any Sales or Regalia and reminded everyone to please do look at the separate Tangent website.

Jill asked if there was any other business from the Executive or the membership.

Sue Eyre, Hartlepool 236 – Sue as Secretary of the 50th Tangent Anniversary Committee confirmed that the 50th Tangent Anniversary Lunch will be on Saturday 12th September 2020 in Birmingham. More information will follow in due course. If members have any suggestions to be included please email: tangent50th@gmail.com

20. Date of next AGM

Next year's AGM to be held on Saturday 6th April 2019 in Torquay.

21. Closing remarks

Jill thanked everyone for making the AGM such a success and encouraged everyone to party tonight at the Belfast Titanic.

The meeting closed at 16.02

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