

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE INDIAN STUDENTS' HOSTEL, 112 GOWER STREET, LONDON, SUNDAY APRIL 24th 1927 AT 10am

Present:	Hon Ivor Montagu	(London) President (provisional) in the Chair
	Mr C W Allwright	London League
	Mr S A Thurley	London Business Houses League
	Mr W Raven	London Business Houses League
	Mr A C Kirby	Civil Service League
	Mr D Milne	Civil Service League
	Mr A E Stillwell	Luton & District League.
	Mr T A Moody	Birmingham City Table Tennis Club.
	Mr J Thompson	Bristol (County Club)
	Mr A W Palmer	Bristol (County Club)
	Mr B L Hookins	Pontefract
	Mr J H Johnson	Whitby
	Mr M R Crawley	St Albans
	Mr F Clark	Rickmansworth
	Mr G W Decker	St Bride's (All England) Table Tennis Club
	Mr M Rosenbaum	Coterie Club (London).
	Mr W J Pope	Secretary (pro tem)
	Mr K F Haider	was present as a representative of the India TTA

The Secretary stated that he had received letters from the following Leagues and Clubs regretting their inability to send delegates, expressing their cordial support to the Association and their views upon some of the questions to be discussed:

Birmingham & District League
Exeter & District League
Liverpool & District League
Sunderland & District Ping Pong Union
North Staffs League
Aylesbury (Table Tennis Club)

The Chairman outlined the events which had led up to the formation of the Provisional Committee and explained the steps which had been taken to get into touch with all Table Tennis organisations in the Country. He briefly explained the International developments which led up to the Congress in December to which nine Countries had sent representatives, and emphasised the necessity for a strong and active governing body in England. This was supplemented by the Secretary who announced that 12 Leagues, 21 Clubs and 17 Individuals had affiliated to the Association and that the necessity for such an organisation seemed to be felt in all parts of the Country where the game is played. He stated that he was not in a position to submit an audited balance sheet owing to the fact that the account in connection with the National Tournament and Dance was not completed. He estimated however that there would be a debt of approximately £20 but as the Leagues had not yet paid the full affiliation fee, that would be considerably reduced when that balance was received. These reports were adopted.

The meeting then proceeded to consider the proposed Constitution which had been circulated to all affiliated bodies. It was generally agreed that the proposals covered every necessary point but discussion took place in connection with the following items:

Clause 3: The representatives of the London Business Houses and the Civil Service Leagues pointed out that they were parts of General Sports Associations and their affiliation to the organisation could only be through their governing bodies. The proposed fee based upon Clubs affiliated to a Table Tennis League would not be acceptable to their Association unless all the members were covered. It was agreed that affiliation of such Associations should be accepted but only registered members of Clubs attached to the Table Tennis League should be eligible for open competitions. The fee to be based upon the number of Clubs in the Table Tennis Leagues.

- Clause 6: In reply to questions the Secretary stated that the fees suggested appeared to be generally acceptable. The activities of the Association would be limited by its income and the basis could be reconsidered after a year's experience.
- Clause 11: Line 2. Each "directly" affiliated Club.
- Clause 15: The representatives of the Pontefract and Whitby Clubs explained the present position in their district. For some years an organisation governing the game in Yorkshire and Lincolnshire had been functioning but they had now decided to throw in their lot with the new national Association and to take advantage of Clause 15. Mr Hookins had already been appointed as Secretary, pro tem, to the new Area body and undertook to obtain the direct affiliation of all Clubs and Leagues hitherto associated with the Northern Counties Table Tennis Association. It was agreed that pending further developments four members representing the Northern Counties should be elected to the Executive Committee. The proposed Constitution was then unanimously adopted.

The meeting then considered the proposed Regulations, Definitions and Instructions 1926-1927 which had been circulated.

- Clause 1: It was decided to add the words "without the express sanction of the Executive Committee" to this clause.
- Clauses 2-4: These clauses were agreed to.
- Clause 5: Line 1, insert the word "open" before "competition".
- Clause 6: This clause was agreed to.
- Clause 7: Deleted.
- Clauses 8-11: These clauses were agreed to.
- Clause 12: Section A: Agreed to recommend to all affiliated Clubs that a trial be given.
 Section B: It was agreed that the Executive Committee should draw up Rules for Lawn Tennis scoring to be published in the Rules of the Game. Such method to be permissible and to be played in Competitions upon sanction by the Executive Committee.
 Section C: All affiliated Clubs to be strongly recommended to play the "doubles" game and Executive Committee instructed to draft official Rules.
 Section D: This Section was agreed to.
 Section E: Not to be made compulsory but strong recommendation that affiliated bodies should fully consider the advantages of the proposal.
- Item 13: It was decided to hold the National Open Championships as at present. The Executive Committee were instructed to consider the question of running a national competition confined to members of the ETTA, with eliminating rounds to be played in the country.
- Item 14: The following Rules for Open Tournaments were adopted:
- (1) No Open Tournaments to be held without the sanction of the Executive Committee.
 - (2) 12½% of all entry fees must be remitted to the Association.
 - (3) After each Open Tournament the responsible Secretary must within fourteen days furnish the Executive Committee with a complete list of the entrants and their addresses.
 - (4) All Open Tournaments sanctioned by the Executive Committee before October 1st each year to be included in the ETTA Handbook.
 - (5) No seeding is allowed in any Open Tournament sanctioned by the Executive Committee, with the exception of visitors from other countries.

The Regulations, Definitions and Instructions as amended were then unanimously adopted.

Other Business

- (1) The Executive Committee were instructed to consider the question of the definitions of the bounce of the ball with a view to standardisation.
- (2) It was decided to endeavour to arrange Inter-Town, Inter-League and County matches under the auspices of the Association, and representatives were asked to collaborate with the Executive Committee in making the necessary arrangements. The Committee to consider the question of awarding badges to players taking part in such representative matches. Fixtures to be published in the Association Handbook.
- (3) Venue of National Open Championships 1927-28 - London and Birmingham proposed. The

Birmingham representative made a strong appeal that these events should be held in Birmingham. It was decided to take a postal referendum of all affiliated bodies, the Executive Committee to act upon the results.

- (4) It was decided that membership cards be supplied to the members of the Executive Committee.
- (5) International Championships 1927-28: It was reported that the International Championships were to be held in Stockholm in February 1928 and the Chairman appealed for the cordial support of all English players, not only to provide the best possible national team but for a good entry in the singles and doubles events.

The Officers and Committee were then elected as follows:

Chairman	Hon I G S Montagu	
Secretary & Treasurer	Mr W J Pope	
Committee	Mr Martin Baker	Birmingham & District League
	Mr R C Hurford	Exeter & District League
	Mr L E Forrest	Liverpool & District League
	Mr S A Thurley	London Business Houses League
	Mr C W Allwright	London League
	Mr A C Kirby	Civil Service League
	Mr J K Werners	North Staffs League
	Mr A E Stillwell	Luton & District League
	Mr B L Hookins	Pontefract)
	Mr J H Johnson	Whitby) Northern Counties
	Mr H A Lambert-Smith	Grimsby) " " " " " "
	Mr W Tindall	Grimsby) " " " " " "
	Mr G W Decker	London) Individual Club
	Mr J Thompson	Bristol) " " " " " "
	Mr T A Moody	Birmingham) " " " " " "
		Bristol & District League, Longton & District League, Reading League and Sunderland & District League - to be nominated

The following resolutions were then unanimously adopted with acclamation:

- (1) That this Conference places on records its cordial appreciation of the work done in connection with the International Tournament by the Hon Ivor Montagu and thanks him for the financial provision made by him which ensured the success of this historic competition.
- (2) That this Conference places on record its recognition of the work and enthusiasm of Mr W J Pope in the reorganisation of the Association.
- (3) That this Conference places on records the thanks of the Association to the officials of the Indian Students Hostel for granting the use of the hall for this meeting and asks the Secretary to convey our cordial appreciation of the hospitality extended to the members of the English Table Tennis Association.