

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, 213 STRAND, LONDON WC2, ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th 1928 AT 11.0am

Present	Hon Ivor Montagu	(London) President, in the Chair
	Mr C W Allright	(London League)
	Mr D T Rowbottom	(London League)
	Mr G C Baggley	(Manchester & District League)
	Mr J W Swann	(Manchester & District League)
	Mr L E Forrest	(Liverpool & District League)
	Mr D W Johns	(Hull & District League)
	Mr R S Baker	(Folkestone & District League)
	Mr J Waghorn	(Maidstone & District League)
	Mr M R Crawley	(St Albans)
	Mr S C Bull	(West Middlesex)
	Mr A J Vinall	(Eastbourne)
	Mr S A Hales	(Watford)
	Mr L Gunnell	(Watford)
	Mr F Clark	(Rickmansworth)
	Mr G W Decker	(London)
	Mr W J Pope	Secretary

Letters of apology for inability to attend but pledging support were received from the following Leagues: Aylesbury, Birmingham, Exeter, Hastings, North Staffs, Stoke, Whitby, Swindon, Plymouth and Reading.

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were circulated, taken as read and adopted.

The President gave a lengthy report of last year's working having special reference to the International aspect of the Association's activities. He reported that the International Federation had decided to incorporate in the Laws of the Game the definite prohibition of the wearing of white clothing in games run under the auspices of the Federation and that it had been decided to recommend to all affiliated bodies that the following experiments should be tried during the coming season:

- 1 Playing the Doubles Game serving alternately from left to right instead of always from the right-hand court.
- 2 That in the final game of a match the winner must gain a lead of three, not two, points over his opponent.

He also reported that the date for next year's International Championship had been fixed for January 14th to 21st, 1929 at Budapest and that an invitation had been received from the Hungarian TTA to an English Team to tour Hungary following that event.

The Secretary gave a report upon the activities of the Association and stated that last season 21 Leagues and 21 independent Clubs had affiliated. He had already received intimation that seven new Leagues had decided to affiliate and he was in touch with a number of others who had hitherto not linked up. Considerable advance had been made in the direction of developing Open Tournaments all over the country, in arranging representative and exhibition matches and in bringing the game prominently before the Public and the Press.

The financial position was then considered after reports had been given by the President and Secretary. The statement revealed that there was a total deficit of £38 15s 9d but all outstanding accounts had been paid and the amount was due to the Officers of the Association. This report was very exhaustively discussed and it was pointed out by the Secretary that in addition to the £150 paid by the President to meet the expenses of the 1926 Tournament he had also paid out sums in connection with the visit of the Hungarians and had now agreed to meet the loss of £20 19 10d on the first issue of the official Handbook. The meeting proposed, and it was decided, to appoint a Sub-Committee to issue an appeal to all players asking for Donations towards the Funds, to appeal to all Leagues and Clubs to support the sale of the new issue of the Official Handbook, and to ask all affiliated bodies to adopt the "Villa" Ball from the sale of which it was hoped a considerable revenue would accrue. The President mentioned cases where affiliated bodies and individual members had not paid amounts due to the Association and had not remitted sums due on account of Tournaments. It was decided to instruct the new Executive Committee to take disciplinary action in cases where satisfaction could not be obtained.

The Official Ball: Reports were received from all Districts and after the question had been very fully discussed it

was decided to repeat the resolution of last year and to adopt the "Villa" ball for all matches and Tournaments run under the auspices of the Association.

The Official Handbook: The question of the loss on the publication of the Handbook was considered and also the question of the need for a further publication. The desirability for a new issue was emphasised by all delegates and suggestions for pushing the sales were made. The President mentioned that a Donation of £5 had been offered by the International Federation towards the expenses and it was decided to instruct the new Committee to prepare a new edition and to appeal to all affiliated bodies to sell the book to all players registered in their Clubs.

Proposed Table Tennis Magazine: The possibility of publishing a Monthly Magazine devoted to Table Tennis was considered and the steps which had already been taken were reported. It was agreed that such magazine was very desirable and that the EC be instructed to explore ways and means - the meeting registering the promise of their organisations to give full support.

Resolution from the West Riding League re meetings of the Association being held on Sunday: After discussion the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the delegates present. "That having regard to the necessity for all bodies being represented at the Annual Meeting we are of opinion that Sunday was the most suitable day for it to be held. Whilst we regret the necessity, we approve the action of the Executive Committee in this matter and are of opinion that the best course has been adopted."

Resolution from the West Riding League suggesting that the proportion of affiliating fees due to County Committees be paid direct instead of through the National Association: Having regard to the fact that this involved an alteration to the Constitution of which adequate notice had not been given the Chairman ruled it out of order.

Printing of Rules of the Game: West Riding League asked that the Rules of the Game should be printed separately at a low cost and it was agreed that they be allowed to print the Rules themselves if they wished but that having regard to the financial position of the Association they be asked also to push the sale of the Handbook amongst all players.

West Riding League ask that the Association should run a Closed Championship, to which only English players should be admitted, in addition to the usual Open Championship. After discussion a resolution was carried unanimously that such a Tournament was neither practicable nor desirable.

Proposed County Championship: This question was considered and it was agreed that where County Organisations existed such matches should be mutually arranged in conjunction with the Secretary. Matches sanctioned by the Executive Committee are to be played by teams of three a side, all playing all and will be recognised as carrying the official County Championship title. The meeting called upon all districts to form local Committees in order to take part in this Championship.

Resolutions from the Yorkshire County Committee were received and after the position had been unofficially discussed the Chairman ruled the resolutions not in order having regard to the Constitution of the Association.

Programme for the coming season: In connection with the selection of the English team to go to Budapest it was decided to circulate all Leagues and Clubs asking for the names of players willing to undertake the journey, and to hold a series of trial matches in order to find the best possible team. An appeal was made to all players to consider visiting Hungary in January and entering for the Singles and Doubles Events. All Leagues and Clubs were asked to arrange their programme for the coming season as quickly as possible and to send the dates of any Tournaments or representative matches arranged to the Secretary as early as possible so that a full and comprehensive list of the activities of the Association should be published in the new Handbook. The Secretary stated he would be prepared to take the initiative in arranging matches between affiliated bodies upon request.

The following officers were elected for the coming season:

President:	Hon I G S Montagu
Secretary & Treasurer:	W J Pope
League representatives on EC:	As nominated.
Representatives of Individual Clubs:	T A Moody (Birmingham), G W Decker (London) and P E Bromfield (London)
Auditors:	P E Warden and C Woodcock (London)