

## ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF THE THIRD ANNUAL CONFERENCE HELD AT THE GEORGE HOTEL, 213 STRAND, LONDON WC2, ON SUNDAY APRIL 28th 1929 AT 11.0am

Present: Hon Ivor Montagu (London) President, in the Chair  
Miss D Emdin (London League)  
Mr G W Decker (London League)  
Mr G C Bagglely (Manchester & District League)  
Mr H M Bunbury (Manchester & District League)  
Mr L Witt (Bournemouth & District League)  
Mr B L Hookins (West Riding League)  
Mr A N Robinson (Swindon & District League)  
Mr F T Masters (Folkestone & District League)  
Mr R S Baker (Folkestone & District League)  
Mr J Waghorn (Maidstone & District League)  
Mr R Mayger (Maidstone & District League)  
Mr R Emdin (St Albans TTC)  
Mr W J Pope Secretary

Letters of apology for inability to attend were received from a number of Leagues and Clubs and the opinions of the organisations on the points set out on the Agenda were read during the meeting when the subjects were under discussion.

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

The President gave a lengthy report dealing with the international aspect of the game and gave details showing the tremendous growth of the International Federation. He also reported upon the visit to Budapest and pointed out that for the first time in the history of the Association two international singles titles had been won (F J Perry having won the World Championship and C H Bull that of Czecho-Slovakia) whilst F J Burls and A A Haydon won the Doubles Championship of Czecho-Slovakia; L S E Farris, who at the request of the Association visited the Championships of France in Paris, was defeated in the Final. Mr Montagu mentioned that the International Tournament would be held in Berlin during Season 1929-1930 and suggested that the Association should take stock of its resources with a view to holding the Championships already won and making an attack on the other titles on this occasion. He expressed the opinion that whilst in England the League system was the backbone of the game, the general playing of one game of 21-up did not tend to develop the game of the young player in the way necessary to combat the foreign players and suggested that League Committees should give attention to this aspect. After full discussion the report was adopted.

The Secretary gave a report on the activities of the Association and gave details of the efforts which had been made during the season to popularise the game in all parts of the Country and to foster and encourage the playing of the modern game by helping to start Leagues and Clubs. He dealt with the tournaments which had been run under the auspices of the Association, the exhibition matches which had been played, the tours of international players to the North and South of England, the financial position, and the position with regard to the official Handbook. The views of the various districts were expressed on this report which was adopted.

The Secretary explained that, owing to the fact that a number of Leagues and Clubs had not paid their affiliation fees or the amounts due for Handbooks, it was not possible to give the exact financial position and in addition the full account of the National Championships (concluded on the previous day) was not available. The result of the appeal circulated by the Committee appointed at the last Annual Meeting had been very disappointing; a total of only £12 16 0 had been received which, after the expenses of printing and postage had been met, left very little to meet the debts which had been incurred during the existence of the Association. He estimated, however, that if the money due on account of fees was received in due course, and 50% of the books which were still out was sold, the Handbook would not incur a loss this year and the activities of the Association for the season under notice would not reveal a further loss, although the debt with which the season was started would remain. After discussion it was decided that the financial statement be prepared as early as possible and that a full Committee be held during the first week of September when it should be considered at the same time as the programme for the new season was settled.

Relationship with the TTA of Wales: The President referred to the report he had given at the last Annual Meeting with regard to this matter and the correspondence which had taken place with the Secretary of the Welsh Association was read. Mr Montagu pointed out that the money advanced to the Welsh players on the occasion of the visit to Stockholm in 1927 was still unpaid and the debt had been increased by further expenditure he had incurred on behalf of the British party at Budapest. He gave the reasons why no official action had been taken by the Executive Committee in accordance with the authority which had been given to them by the last Annual Meeting but, as it appeared that there was no prospect of obtaining the amount due by bringing pressure to bear upon the Secretary of the Welsh Association, there appeared to be no alternative but to ask for the suspension of the individual players involved. The matter was very fully discussed by the Meeting and the Secretary was instructed to bring it before the Welsh Association, the officials to take any action they may think fit in making representations to the International Federation.

Official Ball: The question of the official ball was considered and correspondence with Messrs J Rose and Sons read. The general position with regard to the ball was dealt with by Mr Montagu and the views of the various districts were expressed. After considerable discussion it was decided that the "Villa" ball be adopted for the County Championships and representative matches run under the auspices of the Association and its use be recommended to all Leagues, the Executive Committee having power to decide the ball for matches or tournaments involving players belonging to other nations affiliated to the International Federation.

National Championship: The question of the method of running the National Championship was then considered and alternative suggestions as to venue, price of entry etc were made. The difficulties in the matter were exhaustively considered and it was eventually decided to leave the question over, the delegates to consider the points involved with a view to coming to a decision at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Proposed Magazine: The present position in connection with the proposed magazine was outlined and the Officials were instructed to go further into the matter, a report to be made at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

The alterations to the Rules of the Game, the Constitution of County Committees and the Regulations for the County Championships as circulated were then considered and the decisions are set out on the attached sheets. Special attention is called to the three decisions which involve very vital alterations to the Rules of the Game. The decisions were arrived at unanimously by the delegates present, two Leagues opposing by letter.

The following officers were elected:

President:	Hon Ivor Montagu
Secretary & Treasurer:	W J Pope
Assistant Secretary:	G W Decker
Representatives of Clubs:	J Thompson (Bristol), R Emdin (St Albans) and the nominee of the St Bride's TTC.

A hearty vote of thanks to the President and Secretary for the services they had rendered during the season concluded the meeting.

## THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (ENGLISH)

### RESOLVED

That the English laws be amended to conform with those of the International Federation in respect to stopping the ball, in play on the volley, with the racket: i.e. that this shall be penalised, even when the racket is behind the end of the table. (This does not apply to stopping the ball with the free hand or the body).

### RESOLVED

That the English laws be amended to conform with those of the International Federation in respect to changing ends in the final game (or, in a one-game match, during that game) i.e. to change not every ten points, as at present, but only once, as soon as the score 10 is reached by one or other player or pair.

### RESOLVED

That the English laws be amended to conform with those of the International Federation in respect to doubles, that is, in respect to the change of order of service in doubles in the final game (or in a one-game match, during that game) i.e. the option of changing to be not at the conclusion of the group of five services first concluded after the score 10, as at present, but immediately at the score 10, as soon as it is reached by either side.

## CONSTITUTION OF THE ETTA

### RESOLVED

That Article 15 be deleted and the following constitution be adopted for County Committees:

1 The Executive Committee shall recognise, as a duly constituted County Committee, any committee set up for the purpose of managing local affairs in any given county when requested to do so by a simple majority of the Leagues and Clubs affiliated to the ETTA and situated in that county. A simple majority shall be reckoned on the basis of one vote to each directly affiliated Club, and a number of votes equal to the half its constituent Clubs, or the nearest higher whole number, to each affiliated League.

2 Such a committee shall consist of two representatives of each affiliated League and one of each directly affiliated Club in membership of such a committee, and, in addition, of not more than five officials and extra members elected on the voting basis defined above.

3 Membership of such a County Committee shall not be obligatory upon all Clubs and Leagues in the county affiliated to the ETTA but voluntary, and the County Committee shall not accept for membership any but Clubs in the county and affiliated to the ETTA.

4 The County Committee shall hold an annual meeting, to which its accounts duly audited shall be presented, not later than the 30th April in each year. This meeting may be attended only by those representing members of the county body in the current season. Voting to be on the basis defined above, and the principle regarding proxies to be the same as that in force at the AGM. of the Association.

5 The County Committee shall have power to sanction open tournaments held within the county, provided these are held under the regulations for Open Tournaments of the ETTA.

6 The County Committee shall have power of disciplinary suspension over its members, provided that the members suspended shall always have right of appeal to the full Executive Committee of the ETTA and that, where such suspension is for a longer period than one fortnight, application for ratification by the Executive Committee shall first be made.

7 The County Committee shall have power to select, from among players attached to it, players for County teams.

8 The County Committee shall have power to nominate two players, from among those in its membership, to each national trial conducted by the ETTA, provided that the selection committee of the ETTA shall always be entitled to select for trial further players in membership besides those nominated, if it so think fit.

9 The County Committee shall have power to deal generally with all matters of local administration not involving any alteration of the Laws of Table Tennis or the Rules of the ETTA.

10 The officers of the ETTA may be represented, without voting power, at any meeting of a County Committee, in their capacities as officers of the national Association and the officers of a County Committee may be present without voting power, at the AGM of the Association.

11 The Annual Meeting of a County Committee, on the principles of voting above defined, shall have power to review any actions of the County Committee during the current season or any matters that were within its province, of which notice shall have been duly received by the Secretary of the County Committee before April 1st and circulated by him fourteen days before the meeting; to pass accounts; to adopt and elect the Committee for the ensuing year as above defined; and to determine the rate of subscription to be imposed during the ensuing year on Leagues, Clubs and players accepting membership.

#### RESOLVED

That the Constitution of the Association be altered to provide for the Presidents and Chairmen of County bodies to be, ipso facto, Vice-Presidents and Vice-Chairmen of the national body and for Secretaries of County bodies to be, ipso facto, Assistant Secretaries of the national body.

#### RESOLVED

That the English regulations be amended to conform with those of the International Federation, as amended by England's resolution, in respect to prizes: ie add to Regulation 5(e) after the word "trophies," the words, "except where the value of each is less than £3".

#### RESOLVED

That the following regulations be adopted for the County Championships (Men):

1 The County Championship shall be competed for annually by men's teams selected by duly appointed County Committees or their duly appointed sub-committees.

2 Each team to consist of from four to seven players, according to the selection of the respective County Committees, three to play in singles, four to play in doubles. Each singles player will play each singles opponent one singles match, each of the two doubles pairs to play each opposing pair one doubles match, the best of three games 21-up, scoring under the laws and regulations of the ETTA.

3 Each tie to be decided by the majority of the thirteen matches, singles and doubles reckoned together, won. The champion county to be the survivor of a competition played on the knock-out system.

4 The holder shall play through, there shall be no seeding, and the draw shall be conducted on the Bagnall-Wild principle.

5 Entries to be received by the Secretary of the Association before December 1st in the year of the competition. Draw, and draw for venue to be conducted by the Executive Committee of the Association, but the venue of any tie may be altered by agreement between the contesting County Committees with the sanction of the Executive Committee. The dates by which the rounds are to be completed to be determined also by the Executive Committee and notified to contestants before 8th December.

6 Appointment of the referee and officials for a tie to be by the home County Committee. Financial arrangements regarding the tie to be the responsibility of the home County Committee, but any profit made to be divided equally between the two contesting County Committees.

#### RESOLUTION

That regulations for the County Championship (Ladies) be adopted, exactly corresponding to those for the County Championship (Men).