

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WAS HELD ON SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 2nd/3rd 1931, AT ST BRIDE'S INSTITUTE AND THE ST GEORGE HOTEL, LONDON, AT 7.0pm & 11.0am RESPECTIVELY

Present: Hon Ivor Montagu, President
Mr H M Bunbury in the Chair
Mr D W Poupard (Hon Gen Secretary) and S W Richardson (Hon Ass't Secretary)
Mr R C Dawson (Treasurer)
Messrs W J Pope, C Corti Woodcock, Forrest, Scholefield, (Liverpool), Oldroyd, Swann (Manchester), McNeal (Civil Service), Robinson (Swindon), Miss H Gibbs, A K Vint (Hastings), W Parsons (Basingstoke), Emdin (St Albans), Mrs Poupard (Cheadle Hulme).

Minutes

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Manchester on April 7th 1930, and an Extraordinary General Meeting held on May 25th 1930 were read and adopted.

President's Report

The President outlined briefly events at Budapest dealing with the Swaythling Cup Competition and the ITTF Conference. The ITTF not being able to recognise the present American Federation, it was recommended that no members be allowed to compete with their players. Suggestions that a special appeal for a "fighting fund" early next year; that five-set matches be played as much as possible; and that minor singles were run in all tournaments were put before the meeting for consideration. The World Championships will be held in Prague and England has the option for 1933, until April 1932.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman, in lamenting the retirement of the Hon Ivor Montagu and Mr W Pope, detailed the necessity of considering a wider administration and suggested that a divisional scheme be outlined to overcome the ever-increasing work of administration. The publishers of "Table Tennis Illustrated" were satisfied with the progress made and were prepared to continue its publication. A very hearty vote of thanks and appreciation was accorded to the Hon Ivor Montagu and Mr Pope for their untiring efforts on behalf of the Association during the past years. On the proposition of Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Swann, it was resolved that Miss Bromfield be congratulated upon her effort in recovering for England the title of Ladies Singles Champion.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary expressed satisfaction with the great success of the past season's activities and reported an increase of 16% and 100% in League and Club affiliations. The very creditable position of England in the Swaythling Cup competition; a subscription list totalling over £60; a satisfactory profit from sale of Rule Cards; three successes out of four International events; a successful tour by Continental players; and general steady progress were also reported, together with a tribute to the unseen lady workers and the other officials.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer submitted no written statement but detailed figures which indicated that at the end of the season, after bring forward the debit balance carried forward from last year, the latter would be reduced to £106/17/10d with cash in hand £89 odd.

Revision of Constitution

Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Woodcock, and resolved that a sub-committee be formed of Messrs Bunbury, Poupard and Swann, in collaboration with Messrs Montagu and Pope, to draft a revised code of rules for submission to a Special General meeting to be held in August or September. The following alterations to be included:

Revision of Rules

- (a) Recommended that Rule 11 be worded to provide for wider representation at the AGM but that adequate safeguards be included to ensure protection of the Constitution both in debate and voting.

- (b) Recommended that Rule 6 be altered raising League subscriptions to 3/6d and Clubs affiliating direct to 7/6d per annum.
- (c) An amendment proposed by Mr Swann, seconded by Mr Woodcock, was carried that a free copy of the Association Handbook be supplied to all League and Club Secretaries.
- (d) Proposed by Mr Woodcock, seconded by Mr Poupard, and resolved that the AGM be held during the last week of April or first week in May each year, and that the financial year of the Association shall end on June 30th.
- (e) Proposed by Mr Poupard and seconded by Mr Richardson and resolved that the English Open Championships be held in February each year.
- (f) On the proposition of Mr Woodcock, seconded by Mr Poupard, it was resolved that Regulation 4(b), para 2, of the ITTF Rules in relation to clothing be adopted in the new Constitution.
- (g) Resolved on the proposition of Mr Montagu, second by Mr Poupard, that all Open Championships entrance forms must state number of tables to be employed, make of ball to be used and run back (approximately) at each end of table.

Regulation Dress

It was resolved on the proposition of Mr Emdin, seconded by Mr Richardson, that a sub-committee of Messrs Bunbury, Woodcock and Poupard be appointed to investigate this matter and to consider any alterations necessary in the International badge.

Election of Officers

In accordance with Rule 8, all existing Officers resigned and the following appointments were effected:

President:	H W Oldroyd (Manchester). Proposed by Mr Pope, seconded by Mr Swann
Vice-Presidents:	B L Hookins (Whitby), P Bromfield (Bromley), C Corti Woodcock (London), L J McNeal (Civil Service, London), F S B Lawes (Birmingham), J Bartholomew (Liverpool), G W Tarrant Swindon). Proposed by Mr Corti Woodcock, seconded by Mr Swann.
Chairman:	H M Bunbury (Manchester). Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Pope.
Vice-Chairmen:	Appointments deferred until Special General Meeting. Recommended that the Constitution Committee endeavour to arrange for inclusion in the new Constitution of a large number of individuals to hold nominal appointments.
Hon General Secretary:	D W Poupard (Manchester). Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Swann.
Hon Assistant Secretary:	S W Richardson (Manchester). Proposed by Mr Forrest, seconded by Mr Poupard (to be nominated at Special General Meeting).
Hon Treasurer:	A K Vint (Hastings). Proposed by Mr Woodcock, seconded by Mr Richardson.
Auditors:	L E Forrest, J Scholefield (Liverpool). Proposed by Mr Poupard, seconded by Mr Swann.
Direct Club Representatives	These to be nominated if necessary at Special General Meeting, after consideration of divisional scheme.
Magazine Editor and Press Secretary:	C Corti Woodcock. Proposed by Mr Bunbury, seconded by Mr Montagu.
Stipendiary Typist:	Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Swann and resolved that the Hon General Secretary be empowered to employ a stipendiary typist when required at a cost not exceeding £1 (one pound) per week.

Banking Account

On the proposition of Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Pope, it was resolved that the account standing in the name of the Association at the Westminster Bank Ltd, Branch 638, Victoria, London, be transferred to Lloyds Bank Ltd, Hastings, and that Mr Vint be empowered to endorse and draw cheques on behalf of the Association. Proposed by Mr Swann, seconded by Mr Richardson, and resolved that the offer of Messrs Montagu, Pope and Bunbury to guarantee an overdraft of £25 be gratefully accepted, and that application shall be made to Lloyds Bank Ltd, Hastings, to grant same.

American Federation

On the proposition of Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Woodcock, it was resolved that, considering the doubtful amateur status of the American Federation, English players be prohibited from playing in any exhibition match or contest with American players without the sanction of the ITTF.

International Appeal

Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Woodcock, and resolved that a monthly collection sheet, and an appeal for funds to cover the expenses of sending a team to a 1932 Swaythling Cup Contest, be issued to all Clubs and that where possible this be supported by personal applications by the Officials.

Open Championships

Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Richardson, and resolved that a circular be issued to members recommending that the usual five events be run in all open championships, and that minor singles (excluding internationals but including all those knocked out in the first two rounds) be also arranged, and that a special recommendation to all Leagues to adopt the five set match principle wherever possible be also issued.

Amateur Status

On the proposition of Mr Poupard, seconded by Mr Montagu, it was resolved to circular (*sic*) all members with a questionnaire in regard to the attitude to this matter.

Ireland

Proposed by Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Bunbury, and resolved that the Association agree to the principle that England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland have a combined voting strength of two, with separate debating power, at the ITTF conferences, although the doubt raised by that body on this matter is considered trivial.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and the St Bride's Institute for the loan of the accommodation closed the meeting.