

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE WALDORF HOTEL, LONDON, ON SATURDAY 28th APRIL 1934, AT 6.30pm

PRESENT: The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association. The representatives of the Abbey, Birmingham, Brighton, Castleford, Chester, Civil Service, East London, Hastings, Leicestershire, Liverpool, London, London Breweries, London Business Houses, London Labour Sports, Luton, Manchester, Manchester Women, North Derbyshire, Sittingbourne, South London, St Albans, Swindon, Wembley, West Yorkshire, and Woolwich Leagues or Associations, and of the Gonville and Jacobs Sports Clubs, who together with other members made a total of 55 members present.

CHAIRMAN: Mr C Corti Woodcock, who extended a hearty welcome to the many members present and thanked them for providing such a representative meeting.

VOTING: Mr Pope (London League) asked for the Chairman's ruling on voting at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman ruled that each League, Association, or Directly Affiliated Club would be allowed to vote, 1 vote being allowed except as provided for in Rule 15 Sections (c) & (e).

MINUTES: The Secretary read the Minutes of the AGM held on 6th May 1933, which were agreed subject to the "Leeds Minute" being altered to "lie on the table". (Amies, Montagu) The Secretary then read the Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 30th September 1933 which were agreed subject to Rule 12(f) being made to read that Officers need not necessarily be drawn from the General Council. (Swann, Vint)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Mr Swann (Manchester League) expressed deep regret on behalf of the President at his being unable to attend the meeting owing to ill-health. The Secretary was instructed to convey to Mr Oldroyd the sympathies of the meeting and the hope that he would very quickly recover. (Montagu, Vint)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr C Corti Woodcock gave a very comprehensive report of his period of office, dealing briefly but thoroughly with each department of the game and its organisation. In complimenting his co-officers and the members of the Emergency Committee, he drew attention to the tremendous increase in the Association's membership which necessarily meant a proportionate if not greater increase in duties to be performed. The Emergency Committee had, he said, upheld a policy of strict economy wherever possible with the result that our financial position now gave us every hope for a successful future. In dealing with membership, the Chairman remarked on the growing feeling of some members to regard the Association Executive as a body apart from themselves, and stressed that this feeling must be dispelled if a smooth-running and prosperous organisation were to ensue. English table tennis, he added, was most definitely increasing in popularity. The press and public had now taken the sport seriously, as evinced by the regular articles in the press, exhibitions, and even broadcast items. Our standard of play, however, was not good enough except against our neighbours Wales and the Irish Free State. As a nation we were not in the top class, and from a careful study of our play and players during the past season he had prepared a list of general criticisms. These were:

- 1 Insufficient command of stroke making technique.
- 2 Insufficient enterprise without initiative, resource, or real constructive thought.
- 3 Clumsy footwork, bad body balance and poor anticipation, mainly due to the disregard of the necessity of physical fitness.
- 4 Lack of power to grade the speed and flight of the ball both in defence and attack.
- 5 Careless serving.
- 6 Careless play of the smash shot.
- 7 Inability to angle shots.
- 8 Inability to sustain a hard driving attack beyond about four consecutive drives.
- 9 Lack of the knowledge of how to play a drop-shot from the end line, or the "dead-bat" shot.
- 10 Lack of nerve after 20-all is called.
- 11 Lack of nerve to play even one's ordinary game when facing what appears to be probable defeat.

To our future internationals he gave the motto "Control, concentration and hard work", with the advice to refrain from the common practice of friendly knock-ups when wearing one's day shoes and collars and ties. In giving his own personal list of the first twelve men and women players, the Chairman noted the absence of F J Perry, owing to his lawn tennis activities, and asked that the Secretary be instructed to convey to him the

Association's congratulations and good wishes for continued success. Great appreciation was shown to the Chairman for his report which was readily adopted. (Poupard, Ward) Mr Key (Gonville Club) proposed that the 12 points should be circulated to all clubs.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary apologised for his indisposition, and stated that his report was somewhat brief, most of his remarks having been circulated when calling the AGM. He remarked on the considerable increase in affiliations as compared with twelve months ago, and added his belief that twelve months hence the Association would have a total membership, of over 2000 clubs. Mr Pope (London League) adversely criticised the circular letter which was, he considered, sent out at a very peculiar time, since its issue coincided with the Postal Ballot. The Secretary replied that the circular had been in process for some time, and had been in the hands of the printer some days before he, the Secretary, had received his nomination paper. Mr Montagu (Woolwich League) also adversely criticised the circular, stating that while it drew attention to all the things which had been done, it omitted the many things which had not. Mr Swann (Manchester League), replying on behalf of the Secretary, stated that he knew what could be done, had been done, and that it must not be forgotten that the Emergency Committee was only elected when the season had practically started. Mr Poupard, as a past Secretary, supported Mr Swann in his remarks, adding that he considered the Secretary to have done remarkably well under the conditions of last season. Mr Montagu replied that his remarks were not intended in a personal note, but in a constructional sense as he appreciated the work which had been put in by the Secretary. The Secretary's Report was then adopted. (Amies, Swann)

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer submitted a detailed account for the period from 1st July 1933 to 25th April 1934, which, at the former date showed a deficiency of £69 9s 1½d and at the latter date a deficiency of £8 18s 9½d. He indicated that sources of improved income were Affiliation Fees (£58) and the English Open Championships (£33). He added his appreciation for the efforts of certain members in raising, by Exhibitions and other means, a sum of £35 for the Fighting Fund, and for the generosity of Mr Montagu in not pressing for the amount of £40 which was due to him by the Association. The report was unanimously adopted and congratulations passed to the Treasurer and the Emergency Committee. (Montagu, unan.) Mr Rose (South London League) asked the Treasurer if all leagues and clubs in the handbook had paid affiliation fees, and why the Southampton League had been informed that if they paid their subscription now it would be held over until next season. On being informed that the affiliation was received late, Mr Rose declared that this was incorrect as the application was despatched to the Secretary in September 1933, but that the Secretary had not replied to the communication. The Chairman enquired of Mr Rose if he knew to whom the application had been addressed, the present or late Secretary. The matter was adjourned but, in view of the Postal Ballot, the Southampton League could not be regarded as affiliated.

REPORT OF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE: Mr Rose, as Secretary of the committee, reported on the progress of negotiations with the Wembley Sports Pool and also with the London University and Imperial Institute.

	L. University & Imp. Inst.	Wembley Sports Pool
	£	£
Hire of Halls	275	nil
Seating, flooring & Lighting	350	nil
Hospitality for 120 persons (approx.)	450	450
Advertising, & clerical expenses	200	200
Full-time employees	<u>50</u>	<u>nil</u>
	1325	650

The arrangements suggested, relative to Wembley, were that the Association should take half the gross receipts, and should guarantee £200 to Wembley. Apart from the financial side, Mr Rose continued, the principal features of the two possible venues were:

Imperial Institute & London University: Commanding central position. Accommodation for one centre court with 2,000 spectators, and 4 or 5 tables with a total of 1,000 spectators.

Wembley Sports Pool: A vast new sports centre, with immense advertising facilities, controlled by a special publicity department in daily contact with the national press. Accommodation for one centre court with 4,000 spectators, and 12 tables with 330 spectators at each. With the advantages of the Wembley Sports Pool, Mr Rose also gave its disadvantages, which principally referred to its less central position and also the fact that ice

skating would also be in progress during, and in the same hall as, the championships. This was, he thought, deprecating the value of table tennis as a public spectacle. Concluding, Mr Rose appealed to enthusiasts to give all the help possible in the staging of the event which was sure to give the game in England a tremendous wave of enthusiasm. It was agreed that the present existing sub-committee should continue in office and meet continuously, but that the committee should have power to co-opt. (Swann, Stillwell)

ALTERATIONS OF RULES: It was agreed that the following alterations be made:

- Rule 3 DELETE "other"
Rule 12(a) After "Women's Committee", ADD "The Executive Committee shall have power to co-opt not more than two members of the Association."
Rule 12(d) DELETE "Members of the Association" and SUBSTITUTE "persons"
Rule 12(f) After "of the Association" ADD "except the President"
Rule 12(g) After "of the Association" ADD "except the President"
Rule 19 After "sanction of" ADD "a member of" and, after "Committee", ADD "which must be notified, to the, Hon. General Secretary within 7 days of such sanction"

It was proposed: Rule 12(f) DELETE "from among the Council" and after "no more", ADD provided such persons are duly in membership with the Association" (Hills, Montagu)

An Amendment was proposed: That, subject to the necessary alteration being made as provided for in the Minutes of the Special General Meeting, any further alteration should be deferred until the next Annual General Meeting. (Rose, Swann) The Amendment was carried.

It was agreed that the matter of definition of Open Championships should be referred to the ITTF and that the Executive Committee should use its discretionary powers pending such definition being forthcoming. (Montagu, Forrest)

REPORT OF THE ELECTION & SCRUTINEERS COMMITTEE:- A report by Mr Elvin (London Labour Sports Association) that his name was not included in the list of General Council Members, nor in the voting paper, was discussed. It was agreed that the position was unfortunate but that, had the change of representative been notified earlier, the position would not have arisen. Mr Sunbury, as Chairman of the Committee, announced the result of the Postal Ballot to be:

President	H Oldroyd
Chairman	C Corti Woodcock
Hon General Secretary	J Siddron
Hon Treasurer	A K Vint
Executive Committee	Messrs F A Amies, R Emdin, L E Forrest, F J P Hills, K A Nicholson, J M Rose, J W Swann & P Walker

He urged the Association to draft out, before the next election, more definite rules, pointing out that there would have to be for example a definite date fixed after which no league would be allowed to change its representative for the purpose of nomination and election, and also that there was yet no ruling for the procedure in case of a tie. An encouraging feature of the ballot was, he said, that 75% of the Council had voted, which was much higher than he expected. Only 50% returned nomination papers. A vote of thanks was raised to the Election & Scrutineers Committee for the way in which they had carried out their duties (Montagu, Pope)

VICE-PRESIDENTS: It was proposed and agreed that the President and Vice-Presidents be invited by the General Council and that the invitations should be ratified at the next AGM. (Montagu, Swann)

AUDITORS: It being understood that Mr J Scholfield wished to resign his position as Auditor, Mr L Coldrick was elected. (Forrest, Romain) Mr Forrest was unanimously re-elected and a vote of thanks passed to the Auditors for their valued services. (Vint, Rose)

WOMEN'S REPORT: Mrs Bunbury (Joint Chairman of the Women's Committee) stated that a meeting of the North and South Committees had been held that afternoon, and that she had been instructed to report the following recommendations:

- Trials: These should not be held at the same time and place as the men's trials, nor should they be held in the form of a match, as was the last trial. At least one woman should be on the selection committee and the method of selection should be made known before the trials commenced.
- Dress: Definite stipulations should be made as to the type of dress to be worn in representative

hatches, the suggestion being that the standard shirt together with grey skirt should be worn. In rules for tournaments it was suggested that dark, dress must be worn, and not as now generally stated "not white".

Leagues: It was recommended that separate leagues for women should be formed where possible.

Representation: It was recommended that Miss Anderton (North) and Miss Wood (South) be accepted for service on the Executive Committee.

Agreed that the Women's Committee recommendations be accepted, and that Mrs Bunbury be appointed Joint Chairman of the Women's Committees. (Vint, Swann)

It was agreed that the Hon General Secretary should receive the sum of £75 honorarium during the coming season. (Montagu, Amies)

Matters referred to the Executive Committee were:

- 1 Wilmott Cup Competition - with definite instructions that the competition must be played during the coming season
- 2 English Championships - venue and date
- 3 Junior Championships - rules, dates, etc
- 4 Affiliation of individuals whose amateur status is in doubt
- 5 Election of Vice-Presidents

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman. (Swann, Vint)