

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE WALDORF HOTEL, LONDON, ON SATURDAY, APRIL 27th 1935

PRESENT: Mr H Oldroyd (President); C Corti Woodcock (Chairman).
Messrs Hills, Emdin, Pope, Forrest, Swann, Walker, Tarrant, Rose, Davies (Wembley), Mannoch, Wilmott, Lucy, Cox, Goldstein, Tassell, J G M. Davies, Charlton, Ostler, Romain, Coldrick, Symons, Vennell, Waldron, Bryant, Decker, Broadhurst, Vint (Treasurer); Siddron (Secretary), Miss P Anderton, Miss A Stevens, Miss Doris Emdin.

At the opening of the meeting, the Chairman invited Mr Oldroyd to the Chair but he requested Mr Woodcock to continue. Mr Woodcock then welcomed those present.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the last AGM (28.4.34) and the SGM (17.11.34) were taken as read and adopted.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: The President then gave his report and briefly commented in what had happened during his last period of Office. He congratulated the Association on the tremendous increase in the number of Leagues and Clubs and on the great success of the World Championships. He thanked the members for the high honour they had accorded him during the past four years and hoped that the English players would soon win the honours of the game. The report was adopted and the thanks of the meeting extended to Mr Oldroyd.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Mr Woodcock, in his report, gave an exhaustive summary of the position of the game and the work of the Association, and dealt with the problems which had been faced, and those still before the governing body. He pointed out that the enormous growth in the game had brought forward so many and varied difficulties that they had almost overwhelmed the voluntary officials and not the least of the difficulties was that of carrying on the administrative duties. He suggested that the time had come to consider the question of permanent Headquarters, with staff, to cope with the work and that now the game was taking a hold on the public and secondary schools in the Country a forward move must be made and an effort to have Table Tennis included in the programme for the Olympic Games. He dealt at length with the work done in connection with the World Championships and thanked all the voluntary helpers who had come forward to assist. The Report was adopted with thanks to the Chairman.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The Secretary then dealt with his aspect of the work of the Association and pointed out that the forward movement had been hampered because of its financial position. He expressed the opinion that the Secretarial work had so increased that it was almost impossible for one person to meet all the calls upon his time and that the Association would be compelled to face up to this aspect of the situation. The Report was adopted with the thanks of the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer presented and Income and Expenditure Statement to date. He reported that Affiliation Fees had increased by £52 and that the ball royalties of £48 12s 4d represented a portion for the season from one of the manufacturers. The small revenue from the Official Handbook was explained by its late publication and circulation. The expenditure detail had increased in postages, printing, stationery and travelling expenses - a new item - was caused by the decision of the Council to pay the expenses of the Executive Committee. It had also been necessary to expend the sum of £16 13s 1d for a duplicator to assist in the circularisation of matter to Leagues and Clubs. Mr Vint reported a balance in hand of £40 1s 11d but emphasised that this was purely an interim statement and the final figures would be very different with a balance on the wrong side. Mr Vint was thanked for his Report and explanations, and the statement was accepted.

THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS: Mr W J Pope gave a brief report on the World Championships. He pointed out that the expenditure incurred amounted to over £2,000 and that nearly 20,000 people had seen the play at South Kensington and Wembley. He made a comparison by suggesting that never before in this country had more than approximately 1,000 people attended at a table tennis match and that the Association had never exceeded £100 in the cost of running a table tennis Event. He pointed out that the estimates of the Committee had been found far too low in the first place and that they had been faced with the risk of increasing the cost in order that the Tournament should be a credit to the Association. He instanced the Centre Court which had cost £550 to erect, the building of special floors, and covering the roof to exclude light so that ideal conditions

should be provided. He also mentioned that hotel expenditure had been based on teams from a maximum of 12 countries but actually 18 nations had sent competitors. Mr Pope expressed his appreciation of the attitude of the Wembley authorities and paid a tribute to Mr J M Rose for the valuable work he had done to make the event a success. He also thanked all the volunteer helpers, too numerous to mention, who had worked on the various Committees and during the 10 days of the Tournament. Mr Vint then gave an Income and Expenditure statement up to date in connection with the Championships and reported a deficiency of approximately £511. It was suggested that the Statement should not be published at the moment but that the position should be considered fully at the first meeting of the Executive Committee. Mr Vint stated that the Committee had decided that the best method to find the money required was to ask enthusiasts to lend the Association sums of £10 each, to be repaid with interest @ 5%. Up to date, donations of £20 and loans of £100 had been received. Mr Vint expressed the view that the £500 had been well spent in the interest of the game and agreed with the Secretary that the income of the Association was too low to run the Association satisfactorily. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were adopted with thanks.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The report of the Scrutineers on the postal ballot which had been conducted by the Proportional Representation Society was then given. The results were as follows:

For Chairman	C Corti Woodcock	35 Votes
	Ivor Montagu	2 Votes
For Secretary	W J Pope	39 Votes
	J Siddron	24 Votes
For Treasurer	A K Vint	Unopposed

Executive Committee: Messrs Amies (Pontefract), Emdin (St Albans), Forrest (Liverpool), Goldstein (Birmingham), Hills (London), Nicholson (Newcastle), Swann (Manchester) and Tassell (London) were elected. 91 voting papers were issued, 61 were returned and 4 spoiled. The report of the Scrutineers was then adopted and Messrs Woodcock and Pope thanked all those present for their support. They both paid tribute to the work which the Secretary, Mr Siddron, had done for the past two years under very great difficulties. On behalf of the Association they tendered their thanks to him for the immense amount of time he had put in during a most critical period.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: Mr H Oldroyd was unanimously re-elected to the position of President of the Association with acclamation and he briefly rendered his thanks and appreciation for the honour.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: The Vice-Presidents were then unanimously re-elected with the exception of that of Mr A H Williams, whose appointment was challenged on the grounds that when his name was put forward as a reference for the Association when undertaking a contract he had refused to undertake responsibility. After the matter had been fully discussed his name was put to the meeting and he was re-elected by 12 votes to 9. Mr A Donaldson of Sunderland was elected on the proposition of Messrs Pope and Rose, Mr J Siddron on the proposition of Messrs Forrest and Walker, Mr Ivor Montagu on the proposition of Messrs Vint and Hills, and Mr J M Rose on the proposition of Messrs Hills and Vint. The maximum number of Vice-Presidents then having been elected, it was moved that nominations should be closed and this was carried.

HON. AUDITORS: Messrs Forrest and Coldrick were re-elected as Auditors after a tribute to their past services had been paid to them by the Treasurer.

THE PAID PLAYER: The Chairman proposed that the recommendations of the Executive Committee, following the decisions of the ITTF, should be adopted as follows:

Rule 4, 1st line Delete "entirely"; delete "amateurs" and substitute "players".

Rule 4, 2nd line Delete "amateur" and substitute "player".

Rules 21 & 22 Delete both Rules, and substitute:

- (a) No player may receive , or Club pay, any expenses or reward for playing table tennis (other than a tournament prize as provided in the Rules) unless the sanction of the Executive Committee has been previously obtained.
- (b) No player may enter into any contract in return for capitalising his skill at table tennis, unless the sanction of the Executive Committee has been previously obtained.
- (c) No player may enter into any contract providing for his exclusive use of certain materials, or exclusive play on certain premises controlled by a firm, in any circumstances.

This was seconded by Mr Vint and carried unanimously.

In connection with the above decision, Rule 25(g) as it affected the value of prizes was considered. It was decided to reconsider this Rule in due course and, if circumstances made it necessary, to call a Special General Meeting to revise it.

The resolution submitted by the Yorkshire Association, to appoint a Committee to investigate the method of election of Officers was fully discussed and after explanations had been given by the Treasurer, it was agreed that "Next business" be taken.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: The Chairman reported that he had received the resignation of Mrs Bunbury as Chairman of the Women's Sub-Committee. This was accepted with regret and the Secretary was asked to convey to her the appreciation of the Association for the unselfish service which she had rendered during her term of office. The appointment of a successor was left to the new Executive Committee.

It was suggested by Mr L E Forrest that a sub-committee be appointed to arrange the fixture list to avoid the clashing of dates of important events which had been so inconvenient in the past. The question was then raised of tournaments being held covering more than one week and, after full discussion, the matter was referred to the Executive Committee.

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS: Mr Siddron, as Secretary of the above, reported that the accounts had not yet been cleared up but that he hoped there would be a sum of about £25 to share between the Association and the Manchester YMCA.

COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS: The question of forming County Associations was discussed and it was suggested that difficulties would present themselves in the direction of obtaining Officers and also that if a proportion of the Fees had to be allocated this would further deplete the Association income. Mr Lucy mentioned that steps were being taken to form an Essex Association and the matter was left for the time being, it being understood that the committee already appointed would be reporting to the Executive Committee in due course.

Mr Hills suggested that, in future, the result of the National Championships should be minuted in the Report of the AGM. For 1934-35 these were:

MEN'S SINGLES:	G V Barna
WOMEN'S SINGLES	Miss M Osborne
MEN'S DOUBLES:	Barna and Sears
WOMEN'S DOUBLES:	Miss D Woodhead and Miss M Osborne
MIXED DOUBLES:	G V Barna and Miss M Osborne
VETERANS:	A J Wilmott
JUNIORS:	H Lurie

The Meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.