

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE WALDORF HOTEL, ALDWYCH, LONDON, WC2, ON SATURDAY, MAY 1st 1937, AT 6.0pm

PRESENT: H Oldroyd Esq, President
Hon Ivor G S Montagu (Chairman)
Mr A K Vint (Hon Treasurer)
Mr W J Pope (Hon Secretary)
Mr L E Forrest (Hon Asst. Secretary)

Representatives of the following Leagues:

Birmingham & District, Bristol, Bromley, Chelmsford, Civil Service, Dartford, Hastings, Ilford, Leicestershire, Liverpool, North West London, South London, London, NALGO (Metropolitan District.), North Middlesex, Northumberland, Peterborough, Reading, Rochdale, Sheffield & District, Sheffield Works, Sittingbourne, Southampton, Southend, Staines, Swindon, Uxbridge, West Essex and Woolwich

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting as already circulated were taken as read and adopted.

2 REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC): This Report as circulated was taken item by item. Every item was discussed and it was eventually adopted with the following alterations, additions, and recommendations:

Item 2 - Meetings Mr King was co-opted to the vacancy, not elected.

Item 7 - Open Tournaments The meeting recommended the to consider the whole question of granting permission for Open Tournaments where it was known that the facilities were not satisfactory and to take steps to obtain the opinions of players generally to assist them in a decision.

Item 11 - Women's Dress To add "cardigan" the same shade of colour instead of same colour.

Item 12 - Wilmott Cup The opinion was expressed that this Competition should be completed earlier in the season.

Item 13 - Aarons-Glickmann case The question of the suspension of Miss Ruth Aarons and Mr M Glickmann was dealt with at length by the Chairmen and the action of the NEC unanimously endorsed. The action of the USTTA in the matter was also considered and a resolution moved that an apology be asked for was withdrawn at the suggestion of the Chairman.

Item 20 - Official Handbook The Secretary explained the difficulties experienced in the preparation of the Handbook and the reason for the delay in publication, and the question of the revision of the present form of Handbook was considered. A recommendation to the NEC that the present particulars relating to Clubs etc should be omitted in future issues was put to the meeting and was lost.

Item 21 - Official Magazine "Table Tennis" A resolution was unanimously adopted that each League should be asked to take a number of copies each month.

The Report as varied above was then put to the meeting and adopted.

3 TREASURER'S REPORT: The Hon Treasurer submitted a Receipts and Payments account for the period from the 1st July 1936 to the 21st April 1937 which showed a balance in hand of £189-17s 6d. He went through each item of income and expenditure and after a number of questions were asked and answered the Report was adopted.

4 ALTERATION OF RULES.

(a) Rule 22 - by the NEC The following resolution was adopted:

"Delete all words after "opponent" on line 4 and substitute "and all competitors under the control of the Association must wear a sports shirt of single colour (except for a badge of reasonable size) and rubber shoes. Men must wear grey flannel trousers or shorts, and women grey flannel skirts, trousers, or shorts. If a cardigan is worn whilst playing it must be the same colour as the shirt."

A recommendation that "grey rubber shoes" should be substituted for "rubber shoes" was carried and the Executive Committee instructed to make this alteration at the next alteration of Rules.

(b) Meetings of the NEC. A resolution that 'Meetings of the NEC of the Association should be held at least monthly during the season' was withdrawn.

after discussion by permission of the meeting. The question of the NEC having been compelled to hold Sunday

meetings was raised and an assurance was given that every effort would be made to avoid this.

(c) County Bodies. The following resolution was carried:

"Where it is mutually desired by Associations or Leagues, an Area or County body may be formed for administrative purposes, subject to the approval of, and any regulations formulated by, the NEC, an Area or County body may function and have complete autonomy in organising and administering the Game in its area but shall have no power to alter the Rules of the game or the Rules and Regulations of the Association, or to over-ride the decisions of the NEC."

The addendum to this resolution that:

"The NEC may allow grants (which must not exceed 50% of the annual affiliation fees paid by the constituent Associations or Leagues) to cover the expenses of an approved Area or County body."

was withdrawn by the Movers, after discussion, and with the permission of the meeting.

(d) Clashing of dates of Open Tournaments. The resolution of the Surrey League:

"That no permit be granted for any two Tournaments, under the jurisdiction of the NEC, where the dates clash one with the other unless both are conducted by the same League and are coincident." was put to the meeting and defeated after it was explained, on behalf of the NEC, that they proposed to hold a Conference in the summer to go into the whole question of next season's programme and would bear the point in mind.

(e) The National League. The following resolution was carried:

"That the question of the proposed National League be submitted to a special conference of Leagues to be called in the summer, when the whole programme for next season should be considered. This conference in addition to deal with dates for Open Tournaments, Wilmott Cup, etc."

(f) The Paid Player. The following resolution was carried:

"That this AGM is of the opinion that the trial "Paid Player" regulations have not functioned in the best interests of the Association, the Leagues, Clubs, or the players, and we instruct the NEC to reconsider the whole question and submit new regulations to a plebiscite of all affiliated Leagues."

(g) Election of Vice-Presidents. The following resolution was carried:

"That steps be taken to amend the Constitution of the English Table Tennis Association to provide that Vice-Presidents of the Association shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association, only on the recommendation of the NEC."

5 ITTF REPORT: The Chairman reported that decisions of the last Congress made provision for the abolition of "finger-spin", to lower the net to 6", and to deal with "chiselling", and that the Advisory Committee had been instructed to prepare the new Rules before next August; the alterations to come into force next season. He stated that the NEC had considered these matters and had decided to submit the points to the AGM in order to find out the opinion of our Leagues before adopting the new regulations. It was agreed that the new Rules respecting "finger-spin" and the lower net should be agreed to, and the Rule about "chiselling" should be adopted if the wording met with the wishes of the NEC.

6 THE POSTAL BALLOT: The President announced the result of the Postal Ballot as follows:

Chairman	Hon I G S Montagu
Treasurer	Mr A K Vint (unopposed).
Secretary	Mr W J Pope (unopposed).
Executive Committee	Messrs Goldstein, Swann, King, Nicholson, Emdin, Hills, Rose, Robinson.

Mr D W Poupard, Scrutineer, reported upon his examination of the votes and paid a tribute to the way the Proportional Representation Society had conducted the election. It was decided to place on record our thanks to Mr Poupard for his services and to the Proportional Representation Society our appreciation for the satisfactory manner in which they dealt with the election.

7 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mr H Oroyd was unanimously, and with acclamation, elected President of the Association for the coming year. Mr Oldroyd expressed his thanks for the honour again paid to him and assured the meeting of his continued interest and enthusiasm for the game and the Association. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected en bloc, with the addition of Mr F A Amies of the Yorkshire Association, who had announced his retirement from the NEC after long service.

8 ELECTION OF AUDITORS: Messrs Spain Bros & Co were elected Auditors to the Association after a tribute had been paid to the excellent honorary services rendered in the past by Messrs Forrest and Coldrick.

9 A resolution moved by Mr Amies was unanimously carried, and with acclamation, thanking the Chairman for the efficient and dignified manner in which he conducted the meeting.

ADDENDUM In connection with the alteration to Rule 22 - item 4(a) - a discussion took place on the whole question of "dress". Delegates suggested that the time had come when one regulation colour should be adopted for the game in the same way as "white" was the colour for lawn tennis. In order to test the feeling of the meeting the Chairman accepted a motion that "the NEC be instructed to take steps to ensure that one colour should be adopted by all players playing the game under the auspices of the Association" and this was lost in favour of an amendment instructing the NEC "ask each League and Association to lay down regulations that each team should play in shirts of the same colour in all matches played under their auspices."