

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON ON SATURDAY APRIL 30th 1938 AT 5.0pm

PRESENT: H Oldroyd, Esq, President
Hon I G S Montagu, Chairman
Representatives of the following Leagues: Birmingham, Bishops Stortford, Bromley, Cambridge, Camden, Castleford, Chelmsford, Civil Service, Coventry, Dartford, Dewsbury, Exeter, Film Renters, Grimsby, Hastings, Halifax, HSA Hull, Liverpool, London, London Breweries, London Business Houses, Manchester, Manchester Women, NALGO, North Middlesex, Northumberland, North West London, Plymouth, Reading, Sheffield, Skegness, Southampton, South London, Staines, St Albans, Stockport, Surrey, Swindon, Watford, Yorkshire TTA
Mr A K Vint (Treasurer)
Mr W J Pope (Secretary)

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

2 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: This report as circulated was taken item by item. Each item of the report was discussed, and was eventually adopted with the following alterations, additions, and recommendations:

- Item 2 Meetings: The meeting expressed a desire to be associated with the tribute paid to Mr Swann
- Item 3 Selection Committee: The London League representative raised the question of the personnel of the Selection Committee, and expressed the opinion that his League did not think some of them were the best judges of players.
- Item 5 World Championships: It was agreed to add "The Executive wishes to place on record their congratulations to Miss W Woodhead on the occasion of becoming the first English woman player to win, in partnership, a World title."
- Item 6 National Open: The Association wishes to thank Mr Worsley and his helpers for the very fine way in which the National Championships at Blackpool were organised.
- Item 7 Open Tournaments: It was agreed that in future the mark of ball as well as the actual brand, should be shown on the entry forms for open tournaments, and the Executive Committee were instructed to see that this was accepted before sanctioning events.
- Item 8 Wilmott Cup: The London League representative complained of the conditions prevailing at the finals and semi-finals in Liverpool. The following suggestions were considered:
- (a) That the four semi-finalists should be exempt from the preliminary rounds in the following year's competition.
 - (b) That teams affiliated to the Welsh and Scottish Associations should be allowed to enter.

Both questions were referred to the Trustees of the competition with power to act.

It was also suggested that the rule regarding expenses was not clear, and that a maximum should be fixed. This was also referred to the Trustees with the opinion that "reasonable expenses should be mentioned.

- Item 11 Registered players: On the question of the registered players it was suggested that a standard of play should be set and only those players who qualified should be registered. The Manchester representative stated that the Manchester players considered the fee of £1 too high. The Chairman reported on the correspondence which had taken place and the Executive's decision that those players who had not paid the fee were to be suspended unless they paid within 14 days. It was suggested that a list of all registered players should be circulated each year for the information of Leagues. The matter would be dealt with at the next Executive Committee meeting.
- Item 12 Magazine: The Secretary pointed out that of the 206 Leagues, there were still about 100 Leagues who did not take the magazine. He appealed to all members to support the magazine, and emphasised its usefulness in the work of the Association. In order to assist sales, the Dartford representative suggested that at the beginning of the season every club who took 10 copies of the magazine and paid for them in advance, should have them at 1½d per copy, the same rate as the League. It was pointed out that the magazine was a great factor in popularising the game and helping to build up the personalities which are so vital to the game. It was suggested that the price charged to Leagues made it almost impossible to make any profit and might have to be

reconsidered and the Magazine Committee were asked to decide as quickly as possible and let Secretaries know, in order that they could make arrangements for next season, in good time.

Item 13 Central administration: The London League representative expressed the opinion that Headquarters administration was not satisfactory and suggested that the members of the Executive Committee themselves, did not do their share towards meeting the problems with which the Association is faced. The Secretary outlined the developments of the Association during the past year or two and pointed out that more and more we were dealing with outside organisations, business firms, exhibition organisers, the BBC, the Press etc, and in addition to the problems of catering for our members, Clubs and Leagues, organisations had to be set up to deal with National and World Championships trial matches, training, the Handbook, the magazine, etc. A tremendous correspondence had to be dealt with each day, and continual interviews had to be arranged with the various interests. To deal efficiently with all these aspects of administration on a voluntary basis was becoming more and more difficult but, he stated, the most willing help was given by the other officers and members of the Executive Committee at all times. In addition, they gave the most careful and exhaustive consideration to all the problems of the game at their meetings. The whole question was to be considered at the first meeting of the new Executive Committee, and the Secretary appealed to all those interested to give the most sympathetic consideration to those entrusted with the difficult task.

Item 15 Official Handbook: On the question of the Official Handbook, the Treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Committee, outlined the difficulties and disadvantages of the present publication, and pointed out that when the decision was reached to provide a copy free to each club, the number of Leagues was small and the cost only £25. This year the cost was £182 and next year, at the expected rate of increase, it was estimated the cost would be about £250. The question was whether the expenditure was justified, especially having regard to the financial position of the Association, and also, did the book serve any useful purpose in its present form? He called the attention of the meeting to the recommendation of the last General Council, that the AGM should consider whether the names and addresses of the Club Secretaries and/or the League records should be omitted from future issues. After the matter had been fully considered, it was referred back to the Executive Committee and a vote was taken for guidance of the Committee as follows:
For omission of League records - 40 against 10.

For omission of Secretaries' names and addresses - 36 against 18.

The whole of the Executive Committee's report, as amended, was adopted.

3 TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer submitted a Receipts and Payments a/c for the period 1st July 1937 to 25th April 1938, which showed a debit balance of £301 16s 4d in the General Account and a credit balance of £302 12s 0d in the World Championship account. Mr Vint explained that owing to the financial year ending on the 30th June, it was not possible to present a full report and balance sheet at the meeting, but he went through the figures item by item. After questions had been answered the report was accepted with congratulations to the Executive Committee on the result.

4 ITTF REPORT: Mr Montagu gave a full report of the ITTF and explained the developments in connection with the dispute with USA over the "Aarons" case. He explained that arising out of the correspondence several matters had been brought forward which all agreed should be dealt with by the ITTF Constitution, such as the rights of national Associations to suspend players, the appointments of proxies and that before the last Congress, the USTTA and ourselves had met and agreed on certain principles. He also reported on the experience of all nations with the new Rules, which had now been adopted permanently, and, with regard to the "time-limit", this had been put into operation successfully. In reply to a question he explained that the time limit only applied to World Championships and international National Championships. Asked about the resignation of Mr C Corti Woodcock he explained that when the Executive Committee decided that no member of our Association could act as a proxy for another Association without permission, Mr Woodcock resigned his position in the ETTA in order that he could accept the position of a proxy for the USTTA. The report was unanimously adopted.

3 RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by the Executive Committee: That the rules be altered in each place where "Executive Committee" is mentioned and "National Executive Committee" substituted. CARRIED

Moved by the Durham Association: That 15% of affiliation fees paid by Clubs under the jurisdiction of County Associations be refunded to the County organisations.

Amendment by the Civil Service - Delete all words after "Associations" and insert "and equivalent body be refunded to those organisations. LOST

Grey Rubber Shoes: The decision of the last AGM that the Rules should be altered in accordance with the Constitution at the present meeting was then considered. **It was** agreed that a decision of the last meeting could not bind this one and, after discussion, the suggestion that grey rubber shoes should be made compulsory for all tournaments and matches held under the auspices of the Association was overwhelmingly defeated.

6 POSTAL BALLOT: The President announced the result of the postal ballot as follows:

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

Mr D W Poupard, in giving the Scrutineers' report, raised the question of the method of carrying on the ballot and suggested that in future all candidates should obtain three or four nominations before they were eligible for election. It was decided that it be a recommendation to the General Council that the regulations should include one that each candidate must receive at least four nominations before qualifying for the ballot. It was suggested that it was desirable for some information to be available regarding the candidates, and that the Executive Committee should be empowered to send out a list of qualifications of a candidate. This was left to the Executive Committee. Mr Poupard and Mr Key were thanked for their services, and the Proportional Representation Society congratulated upon the efficient way the election was conducted.

7 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: Mr H Oldroyd was unanimously elected as President.

8 ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS.: The Executive Committee reported that they had gone very carefully through the list of Vice-Presidents and candidates for this honour and recommended the following for appointment:

The Dowager Lady Swaythling	F J P Hills, Esq.	G J Ross, Esq.
F A Amies, Esq	B L Hookins, Esq.	J Siddron, Esq.
C E Bartholomew, Esq.	G B Hyde, Esq.	O W Tarrant, Esq.
P Bromfield, Esq.	A J Key, Esq.	J Thompson, Esq.
H M Bunbury, Esq.	F S B Lawes, Esq.	P E Warden, Esq.
A F Carris, Esq.	S F Perry, Esq.	A J Wilmott, Esq.
E F Christopher, Esq.	D W Poupard, Esq.	
R Emdin, Esq.	F Roberts, Esq.	

It was also stated that it was the opinion of the Executive Committee that these positions should be filled by those who had rendered valuable service to table tennis in the various Leagues and in the national game and that each year the Executive Committee would consider these services as the qualification for recommendation.

9 ELECTION OF AUDITORS: Messrs. Spain Bros & Co were re-elected as Auditors.

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