

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 29th 1939
AT 5.0pm AT THE FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, NW1

PRESENT: H Oldroyd (President)
Hon I G S Montagu (Chairman)
Representatives of the following Leagues: Barnet, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Blackpool, Bristol, Bury, Chelmsford, Civil Service, Coventry, Dartford, Exeter, Farnborough, Film Renters, Folkestone, Grimsby, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Hull, Ilford, Leicestershire, Liverpool, London, London Business Houses, Macclesfield; Maidstone, Manchester, Manchester Women, NALGO (MD), Northampton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Romford, Salisbury, Sheffield, Sittingbourne, Southampton, South Devon, South London, Staines, St Albans, Stockport, Surrey, Swindon, Spalding, Skegness, Wembley, Willesden, Wolverhampton.
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 adopted.

2 REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC): The Chairman read the report of the Executive Committee and the items were then taken seriatim. Arising therefrom the following points were raised:

Items Nos 8 & 9 - Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl Competitions

It was suggested that

- (1) The winners of the Cups be presented with medals each year.
- (2) That Welsh teams should be admitted to the competition.
- (3) That the number of players in the teams in the "Rose Bowl" competition be increased because the event was usually over so quickly that it was impossible to arrange it as an evening's match or to attract crowds.
- (4) Regions should be extended for the earlier rounds so that Leagues are drawn against other Leagues than those they play regularly in local League and other matches.
- (5) That the last eight in the previous season's competition be exempted until the third rounds in the following season.

In connection with (1), (2) and (3) it was agreed that the NEC should give consideration to these points; in connection with (4) the general opinion was expressed that this was a question of expense in travelling, some Leagues being prepared to pay this, but the majority would not be able to enter if it necessitated long travelling in the early rounds. The proposal contained in (5) was put to the meeting as a resolution and defeated.

Item No 12 - The Official Magazine "Table Tennis"

This question was very fully discussed and many delegates expressed their opinion on the position in their areas. The following is a summary:

- (a) That 3d per month was too much for a table tennis magazine having regard to the position of a large number of table tennis players. Therefore, it was not essential to have a stiff cover or such good paper. It should be produced on a cheaper scale and more local news, league tables and results of competitions, with less articles, and less space given to such matters as "Hints to Beginners" etc.
- (b) That the present magazine was satisfactory but it was difficult for League Secretaries to devote the necessary time to pushing sales.
- (c) That officials of Leagues were interested in a magazine but the general body of the players were not.
- (d) Many delegates expressed the opinion that it was possible to develop a good sale everywhere if an enthusiastic Magazine Secretary could be appointed to deal with this only. Instances of great increase in circulation were given.
- (e) The Hull delegate said that in his League they had at first a very poor sale. The League then decided to take responsibility for 144 per month and each Club was supplied direct. This had been found to be quite satisfactory, there had been no complaints, the magazine was appreciated and generally read. He expressed the opinion that their action had increased the interest in the game nationally and locally, and also benefited the League in its administration.
- (f) The Exeter delegate said that they had increased the sale by appointing a Magazine Secretary who

collected 2/- from each enthusiast at the beginning of the season and sent the whole of this to HQ with their names and addresses. The magazine was then posted to the subscriber each month from London. This obviated any further local work and they had increased their sales by 50% since adopting this method.

- (g) A delegate suggested that with a sale of 8-9,000 saturation point had been reached and we should be satisfied. The Secretary pointed out, however, that over 100 leagues did not take any copies, and that with the game growing each season there should be a constant increase.
- (h) A number of delegates expressed their satisfaction with the magazine in its present form and opposed the suggestion that we should alter its present standard for the sake of cheapness.

The discussion was ended with a resolution put to the meeting and carried unanimously that it was the opinion of the AGM that each League should undertake to take a minimum supply, based on their membership, and that they should take financial responsibility for this supply each month. That the delegates should recommend this to their Committees with a suggestion that a Magazine Secretary should be appointed.

Item No 13 - Central Administration

In connection with this item the Chairman read a memorandum from the Secretary which had been previously circulated to the delegates. This summarised the difficulties which had been experienced during the past season and suggested the time had come when the work of the General Secretary could not be performed by a part-time official. It also contended that more staff would be required if we were to continue the present policy of propaganda and expansion. Mr Montagu said that the NEC had considered the facts as set out and suggested that it should be fully considered by the new NEC. It was agreed to leave the matter until a later stage of the Agenda.

Item No 16 - Women's Advisory Committee

This development was noted with pleasure as was the intention to try to build up the women's side of the game.

Item No 17 - Suspensions

It was suggested that in future all Leagues should be notified of suspensions by the NEC so that it could be guaranteed that the suspensions would be fully carried out by any league which might be involved. Under this item the question of the foreign players playing in an unaffiliated hall where an unaffiliated League was engaged in a tournament was raised and the Secretary explained that, whilst he was not aware that unaffiliated players were involved, it had been the policy of the NEC to arrange exhibitions by the players where financial benefits could be obtained for the Association funds and with a view to propaganda. This policy was supported by delegates and instances of Clubs and Leagues becoming affiliated as the result of exhibitions being given were quoted. Another question under this item was raised by the Wembley delegate, who mentioned an exhibition given in Harrow on a Sunday during the period the Wembley League was holding its annual tournament. The Chairman suggested that the facts of this case should be considered by the next meeting of the NEC and this was agreed to.

Item No 22 - Legal status

The Treasurer explained that the question of the legal status of the Association was a very difficult matter and incorporation might bring complications as well as being a costly process. In answer to questions as to the responsibility for the debts of a League he stated that the Officers of a League could be made responsible or the members of the League individually. The enquiries we were making were still not completed but the interests of our members were being closely watched and a decision would be made as soon as possible. Several verbal alterations were made in the report as circulated and the whole report, being put to the meeting, was then adopted.

3 TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer submitted a receipts and payments account from 1st July 1938 to 27th April 1939 which showed a balance in hand of £21 19s 5d. Mr Vint explained several items and replied to a number of questions after which the report was adopted. It was suggested that a copy of the final Statement of Account as at the end of the financial year, should be circularised to the Leagues in the event of the Handbook not being ready earlier.

4 ITTF REPORT: Mr Montagu explained that it had been proposed to alter the Constitution of the ITTF but in view of the present political situation this had been left in abeyance. He stated also that contrary to expectations, the playing conditions at the World Championships at Cairo were perfect, although the actual running of the events could have been improved upon. The World Championships next year would be in Paris and the Association intended to make early preparation for sending teams. The Chairman made a brief survey of international table tennis and expressed the opinion that the standard of play was the lowest for many years. Next year we had a real chance of winning the Corbillon Cup. Mr Montagu also expressed the thanks of the Association to Mr Rose for taking charge of the teams and acting for the Association at Cairo.

5 ALTERATIONS TO RULES: The Chairman pointed out that there were a very large number of resolutions and amendments under this heading and asked the meeting if they would consider a proposition he was going to put forward. A glance at the proposals would show that a considerable number of the proposals dealt with County or Area administration and it appeared clear that three principles were involved, which he summarised as follows:

- 1 The NEC's recommendations, which suggested County Bodies on a strict County Basis.
- 2 The proposals by the Blackpool & District League which provided for Area bodies to be set up on the basis of amalgamation of Counties, where such County Bodies agreed and
- 3 The proposals by the Bristol & District TTA to divide the country into ten districts, each of these to be a self-controlled body.

He expressed the opinion that it would waste the time of the meeting to discuss these three principles when each item came up and that this would lead to repetition and controversy. It also might lead to contradictory decisions. The conflict of opinion surrounded Rule 17 and he suggested that the meeting should take this Rule first, accept the NEC's proposal as the resolution, the Blackpool proposals as the amendment, and the Bristol proposals as the second amendment. Then, when the meeting had decided on the principle, and which of the three ideas met with the approval of the delegates, all the supplementary alterations to Rules should be taken as being defeated as the result of the vote on the larger question. The Chairman's proposal was discussed and the Blackpool delegate opposed and argued that it would be better if each item were taken as it appeared on the Agenda. On being put to the vote the Chairman's proposal was carried.

The Secretary then moved that the proposals in the name of the NEC on Rule 17 be adopted and argued that they were designed to meet the requests received from the members. If any further development was found to be necessary it could be considered after a year's experience but the points had been very exhaustively considered by the NEC. Mr Worsley said he was very largely in agreement with the proposals as laid down by the Committee but thought that in different districts different conditions obtained. He instanced the position in Lancashire and Cheshire, where the interests of the game were very largely interwoven and thought it would be in the best interests of the game if they were allowed to form larger bodies by amalgamation if the players in particular counties so desired. If they did so desire then provisions should be made in the constitution so that they could function as a part of the Association. The Bristol delegate thought the time had come to reorganise the country on an area basis, that we should benefit by the experience of other sports, and that the adoption of the Area body would relieve the work at Headquarters. He claimed that the NEC's proposals would be difficult to adopt in such places as Bristol, Birmingham and London, where the County boundaries would complicate the formation of administrative bodies. He also claimed that participation in Area bodies should be compulsory and that no League or Club should affiliate unless they were part of the Area Body.

After the matter had been fully discussed by the delegates the question was put to the meeting, both amendments being lost and the resolution carried. The NEC's proposal then becoming the principle favoured by the meeting the Chairman proceeded with the Agenda, those proposals consequent upon the resolutions of Blackpool and Bristol on this point being accepted as lost by consent. The resolutions and amendments on Rule 17 were as follows:

Rule 17 - Proposed NEC

County Administration. Delete whole of rule and substitute:-

- (a) Where a majority of affiliated local leagues or local Associations in any County agree, a body shall be set up for the purpose of administration in the County.
- (b) Membership of such County Body to be compulsory on all affiliated Leagues, Associations and Clubs in the County, except that any League, Association or Club has the right to appeal to the NEC; the financial provisions laid down by the County Association shall not be a ground of such appeal.
- (c) The Constitution and Regulations of each County Association shall be approved by the NEC and any subsequent amendments shall be submitted for approval.
- (d) Applications for the running of open tournaments shall be submitted to the appropriate County Association, who shall recommend them to the NEC for approval.
- (e) The County Association shall have power to organise open tournaments (subject to the sanction of the NEC), closed tournaments, County leagues, County Championships, inter-League matches and inter-County Championships. They shall also have power, in conjunction with other County Associations, to run representative matches, leagues, etc.
- (f) A County Association shall have complete autonomy in organising and administering the game in the

County 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.

- (g) A County Association shall have power to suspend local Leagues, Associations, Clubs, players or officials and such suspensions to be carried out compulsorily by all bodies in the County, subject to a right of appeal to the NEC. The suspension to be made national if so decided by the NEC.
- (h) County Associations should be formed on a strictly County basis except that, in local Leagues, Associations or Clubs which have been Associated in membership with an Area body formed under the previous rules of the Association may make application to remain therein although they are in a different County, provided such application is made by the 1st November 1939
- (j) Count Associations shall be entitled to a refund of 6d per club, from the affiliation fees paid by local Leagues, local Associations and directly affiliated clubs, composing the County Association,

Amendment Blackpool

(a) to read: "Where a majority of affiliated local Leagues or Associations in any county agree, a body shall be set up for the purpose of administration in the County and where two or more adjacent Counties so desire, as signified by a majority of the Leagues within both Counties, it shall be permissible to set up an Area Association, which shall be empowered to do everything which by these rules a County Association can do, as though it were, in fact, a County Association."

Amendment Bristol

"For the purpose of administration the following Area Associations shall be formed: NORTHERN, NORTH WESTERN, NORTH EASTERN, NORTH MIDLANDS, SOUTH MIDLANDS, EASTERN, SOUTH EASTERN, SOUTHERN, SOUTH WESTERN and HOME COUNTIES. Each Association shall Function as the governing body, 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. No local Association, League, Club or individual player shall be affiliated direct to the ETTA but shall be affiliated to its Area Association. Each Area Association shall forward to the ETTA annually a list of Officers, and of all affiliated local Associations, Leagues, Clubs and players together with a copy of its rules, and subscriptions for all local Association, League, Club or player under its jurisdiction. For the purpose of administration the Hon General Secretary of the ETTA shall communicate with the Area Association Hon Secretary, and in no case to the persons direct."

An amendment by the South Devon League to delete from clause "B" the paragraph "objection to the financial provisions laid down by the County Association shall not be the ground of such appeal" was CARRIED.

ALL RULES - Proposed NEC

In all Rules before "Leagues" or Associations" insert "Local"

CARRIED

RULE 3 - Proposed Bristol

The Association shall consist of President, Vice-Presidents and duly elected Officers, and Area Associations.
LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 4 - Proposed Bristol

Any local Associations, League, Club or individual player playing the game under the laws of the Association, through its Area Association shall be eligible for affiliation.

LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 5 - Proposed NEC

Add to end of Rule "The NEC shall have power to refuse any application for affiliation without giving reasons."

CARRIED

Proposed Bristol

Every applicant for membership of the Association shall be forwarded by the Area Association to which such Association they belong.

LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 6 - Proposed NEC

(a) Delete from "3/6" to "Association" and substitute: 4/6d. for each club having one team in the League or Association. For clubs having more than one team, payment to be on the following basis:-

For each additional team up to 4	1/- per team
For each additional team over 5 and up to 10	2/- per team
For each additional team over 10 and up to 15	3/- per team
For each additional team over 15 and up to 20	4/- per team
For each additional team over 20	4/6 per team

LOST

Amendment Blackpool

(a) Delete from "3/6" to "Association" and substitute "4/6d. for each Club having one team in the League or Association". For clubs having more than one team payment to be on the following basis:

For each additional team up to 10	1/- per team.	
For each additional team over 10 and up to 15	2/- per team	
For each additional team over 15 and up to 20	3/- per team	
For each additional team over 20	3/6 per team	CARRIED

Amendment NE Lancs

That the affiliation fees to the national Association be 2/6d per club per annum instead of the present 3/6d per club. LOST

Amendment NE Lancs

That the affiliation fees shall remain at 3/6d, per club] and that 50% of this amount be refunded to the Area body of which the League is a member, to use in promoting table tennis in that area. LOST

Amendment Radcliffe

Delete "4/6" in line 1 and substitute "3/6". LOST

Amendment Macclesfield

(a) Delete from "3/6d" to "Association" and substitute "That a levy of 2d per registered player be imposed with a minimum guarantee of 3/6d per club. LOST

Proposed Sittingbourne

(a) After "Associations" in line 1 insert "£1 plus". LOST

Proposed NEC

(b) For "7/6d." substitute "10/6d". CARRIED

(c) Additional clause: "Boys' clubs affiliated to their appropriate national organisations may be affiliated for 2/6d per club." CARRIED

Proposed Bristol

Add to present rule "The Area Association shall be responsible to the ETTA for the payment of all subscriptions for the local Association, League, Club or an individual player in its area. LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 7 - Proposed Bristol

Delete from "Affiliated local Associations" to "any year" and substitute "Affiliated Area Associations shall be held liable for their subscriptions for the succeeding season if they shall not have given notice of withdrawal from the Association before September 15th in any year. LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 8 - Proposed Sittingbourne

Delete whole of Rule. LOST

Amendment Rossendale

That the Handbook be supplied free on the basis of 20% of the clubs in the League to be distributed by the League committee. LOST

RULE 11 - Proposed NEC

(a) After "League" on line 5 insert "Local Association and County Association." CARRIED

Proposed Bristol

(a) Delete "who shall be responsible" to end of rule. LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 12 - Proposed NEC

(a) Delete "eight" on line 4 and substitute "ten"; add two new paragraphs:

(a) "The NEC shall be elected on a regional basis and the country shall be divided into Regions with representation as follows:

North Eastern Region	1 member
North Western Region	2 members
Yorkshire Region	1 member
Midland Region	1 member
Eastern Region	1 member
South Western	1 member
London Region	2 members
Southern Region	1 member

(b) "Each member of the General Council, according to his region, shall be entitled to nominate and vote for as many vacancies as is laid down in that region." CARRIED

It was agreed that the NEC shall have power to define the areas having regard to the necessity of equalising the number of clubs per NEC member, and the special position of London.

Amendment Northumberland

(b) to read: "Each member of the General Council shall be entitled to nominate and vote for as many vacancies as are laid down in those regions." LOST

Proposed Bristol

(a) The Affairs of the Association shall be managed by a National Executive Committee consisting of the President, Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. General Secretary, together with one member from each Area Association. Such members shall be elected annually, the President Chairman, Hon Treasurer and Hon General Secretary by the General Council and the Area members by each Area Association. The NEC shall have power to co-opt not more than three women members.

(f) ii: Delete.

LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 15 - Proposed NEC

(j) Delete the word "recommendation" and substitute "nomination". Add to end of rule "The number of Vice-Presidents shall be limited to 25". CARRIED

(a) delete "affiliated" and insert "County Associations". CARRIED

(b) after "each" on line 2 insert "County Associations and". CARRIED

Amendment Blackpool

(a) Delete "affiliated" and insert "County and Area Associations"

(b) After "each" on line two insert "County and Area Associations and" LOST BY DECISION ON RULE 17

RULE 25 - Proposed NEC

(a) delete all words after "Committee" on line 2. CARRIED

(c) after "entry fees" on line 1 insert "(including consolation and minor singles)". CARRIED

(d) after "Tournament" on Line 1 insert "run on the knock-out or group system". CARRIED

(f) After "make" on line 1 insert "and class". CARRIED

Proposed Sittingbourne

Delete "Open" in every case except in (d).

LOST

RULE 26 - Proposed NEC

(c) Delete "five" and substitute "eight". After "Mixed Doubles" on line 3 insert "Junior Boys, Junior Girls and Veterans". After "Men's" on line 3 insert "and Women's". Line 5 - delete "Men's". CARRIED

(d) Delete all words after "games" on line 2 and substitute "with the exception of the Junior Boys', Junior Girls', Veterans' and Consolation events, which shall be best of three games". CARRIED

STANDING ORDERS - Proposed NEC

Delete whole, and Nos and 11 to be made clauses of Rule 12.

CARRIED

REGULATIONS FOR THE WILMOTT CUP AND ROSE BOWL COMPETITIONS

Regulations No 17, pages 27 and 30 of the official Handbook.

Proposed South London

Delete Rule 23.

CARRIED

Proposed Bristol

Delete present rule and substitute "Each league shall be responsible for paying its expenses as Visitor or Home League. Any profit shall be divided 25% to the Home League and 75% to the Visiting League."

WITHDRAWN ON THE UNDERSTANDING THE EC WILL GO INTO THE QUESTION

Amendment Macclesfield

That the Home team has the choice of venue providing that it can guarantee the visitors' expenses. If this guarantee cannot be given, then the visitors should have the option of staging the match if they can guarantee the expenses of the Home team. Should neither of the Leagues be able to offer this guarantee, then the original fixture should stand and each league be responsible for paying its expenses as visitor or Home League. Any profit shall be divided 25% to the Home League and 75% to the visiting League.

WITHDRAWN ON THE UNDERSTANDING THE EC WILL GO INTO THE QUESTION

Amendment Grimsby

Omit words "any profit" and substitute "gross takings of the match" and add at the end "Visitor expenses to be travelling and hotel if necessary and Home provision of hall, table, balls, advertising, printing, etc."

WITHDRAWN ON THE UNDERSTANDING THE EC WILL GO INTO THE QUESTION

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE "TABLE TENNIS"

Proposed Sittingbourne

That in the opinion of this AGM the magazine should be supplied to Leagues or Clubs at the following rates:

Single copies 3d each	1 dozen at 2½d each
½ gross at 2d each	1 gross or more at 1½d each

WITHDRAWN ON THE UNDERSTANDING THE EC WOULD
GO IMMEDIATELY INTO THE WHOLE QUESTION

SECRETARY

Proposed Sittingbourne

That a full-time Secretary be appointed at a salary of £260 per annum.

WITHDRAWN

Amendment Blackpool

As and when the Executive consider the appointment necessary, a full-time Secretary shall be appointed at a salary to be determined by the Executive."

WITHDRAWN

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
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	Messrs J Batty, L E Bennett, L E Forrest, M Goldstein, A S King, K A Nicholson, J M Rose, M W Robinson.

Mr D W Poupard and Mr A J Key were thanked for their services and the PR Society congratulated upon the efficient way the election was conducted. Mr Vint paid a tribute to the long service to the game and to the Association of Messrs Emdin and F J P Hills, the defeated members of the Committee, and thanked them for their services over a long number of years.

7 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr Oldroyd was unanimously elected as President on the proposal of Mr Montagu, seconded by Mr Thompson. Mr Oldroyd thanked the members for their continued confidence and said how honoured he felt at being re-elected.

8 ELECTION OF VICE- PRESIDENTS

Mr R A Driscoll of Surrey, Mr R C Hurford of Exeter and Mr W H Prichard of the Shelbourne Hotel, London, were nominated by the Executive Committee, in addition to the present Vice-Presidents, and unanimously elected.

9 ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Messrs Spain Bros were re-elected Auditors and thanked for their past services to the Association.

10 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The London League representative urged the delegates to take the Secretary's memorandum with them and consider the facts as outlined. He said that he more than anyone else knew of the devotion and self-sacrifice which Mr Pope had rendered to Table Tennis and he would not like to feel that members had left the meeting and the contents of the memorandum would be forgotten. The Chairman said it was regrettable that the meeting was ending so late and the matter could not be fully discussed but he assured the London League delegate that the NEC were fully alive to the dangers and difficulties of the present position and intended to deal with the problem immediately.