

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 64 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, WC1, ON DECEMBER 17th 1940, AT 2.0pm

PRESENT: Hon Ivor Montagu (in the Chair)
Delegates from the following Leagues: Acton, Coventry, Farnborough, Film Renters, Hastings,
Newcastle, Nalco (Met Dist), Romford, South London, Willesden, Wembley
Mr A K Vint (Treasurer), Mr W J Pope (Secretary)

The Minutes of the last meeting were not read.

The Chairman explained the object of the meeting and pointed out that it was necessary to temporarily alter our Constitution because it was impossible in the war situation to carry out the regulations adopted for peace-time. The Secretary gave a report of what had happened so far as the organisation was concerned since the outbreak of the war. He explained the work we had done in connection with the Red Cross and in entertainment of the troops and emergency services and the negotiations which had taken place for the running of the National Championships. We had the offer of the use of the Mansion House for the preliminary rounds if the date could be fixed to fall in with their arrangements and also the free use of the Empire Pool & Sports Arena, providing the proceeds were given to the Lord Mayor's Red Cross & St. John War Organisation Appeal.

The Treasurer gave a report of the financial position as at December 15th 1939, which showed a credit balance at that date of £337 17 6. He pointed out that to keep the Association going certain expenditure such as rent, wages, telephones, postage was essential and he estimated that a minimum sum of £400 from affiliation fees was necessary. The report was adopted.

THE CONSTITUTION

The following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

(1) That for the period of the war the NEC shall have full power to act and shall have the powers given to the General Council and the AGM except that a Special General Meeting must be called at once upon a request from 10% of the Leagues which are functioning and have paid their affiliation fees. Such meeting to have the powers laid down in the Constitution to check and control the actions of the NEC.

(2) That the affiliation fee for Leagues functioning during season 1939-40 shall be 1/- per team, but the NEC have power, with the sanction of the Special General Meeting to increase this fee in subsequent seasons if the war lasts and this is considered necessary. Leagues not functioning shall be kept in membership during the war without payment of the Club affiliation fee. A report having been given explaining that there were commitments in keeping the Association going which could not be met by these affiliation fees it was unanimously agreed that every League in membership, whether functioning or not, should be asked to make a donation from its funds in order to ensure the continued existence of the Association. It was unanimously agreed that the meeting should express the view to all affiliated bodies that the amount of the donation should be:

For a small league	10s 0
For a medium-sized league	£1 00s 0
For a large league	£1 10s 0

(3) Rules 20 and 25 (b). These rules to be administered by the NEC in the widest sense - no restrictions being placed on members serving in HM Forces. The NEC to give sympathetic consideration to the operation of these rules in connection with all matches, tournaments, exhibitions etc run in aid of War Charities.

(4) The operation of other Rules, Regulations and Standing Orders not consistent with the above decisions to be dropped sine die.

Before the meeting ended the Secretary initiated a general discussion upon the problems facing the organisation in war-time and the valuable work we could do in entertainment and physical recreation for the young men engaged in war service, as well as doing propaganda for table tennis. He said he had been inundated with requests from Units in the Army and Royal Air Force for exhibitions, coaching and advice as well as requests for exhibitions in aid of the Red Cross. He asked for the help of all officials to carry on this work and for a good rally round when the National Championships were run.