

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE POLYTECHNIC,
309 REGENT STREET, LONDON, W1, AT 4.0pm ON SATURDAY, 4th MAY 1946

PRESENT: Hon I G S Montagu (Chairman)
Mr A K Vint (Hon Treasurer)
Mr W J Pope (Hon General Secretary)

Representatives of the following Leagues:

Aldershot, Bournemouth, Birmingham, Bristol, Bath, Crewe, Chelmsford, Chester, Central, Cheltenham, Canterbury, Dartford, Exeter, Epsom, Grimsby, Guildford, Hull, Ilford, London, Liverpool, London Business Houses, Manchester, North Middlesex, Romford, Shrewsbury, Stockport, SW Middlesex, Swindon, Salisbury, Staines, St Albans, Scunthorpe, Sunderland, South London, Torbay, West Bromwich, Wembley, Willesden, Wolverhampton, West London, Yiewsley & West Drayton.

1 MINUTES OF LAST AGM: The Minutes of the last AGM held on April 29th 1939, as circulated, were adopted.

2 MINUTES OF SGM: The Minutes of the Special General Meeting held in London on September 8th 1945 were adopted.

3 REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC): The Report of the NEC having been circulated, the Chairman took the items seriatim. Arising therefrom, the following points were raised:

Item 3 - Meetings In second paragraph, line 7, "generally" should read "generously". The Chairman said that since the preparation of the report, he had received news of Mr Mechlowitz of Hungary, and he was hopeful that the Veterans Cup was still in his possession although the report stated that during the war he had lost all his possessions.

Item 5 - International matches A delegate expressed the opinion that there should be a player on the Selection Committee. The Chairman explained that Mr A A Haydon, a very experienced player, had been appointed to the Selection Committee. A delegate asked whether leagues could be informed of forthcoming events, such as international matches, etc. The Chairman said he hoped that the magazine would be published next season and would give publicity to such events. We hoped in future to have the season's programme mapped out well in advance and every effort would be made to give advance information to league secretaries.

Item 6 - The National Championship A delegate asked whether, in view of the fact that there were only two entries for the women's junior event, it would not be possible, if this happened again in future years, for leagues to be circularised with a view to encouraging more entries. The Chairman explained this would be difficult owing to the fact that entries often came in at the last minute, leaving insufficient time before the event, but the matter would be considered and perhaps a special invitation to entrants could be published in the magazine. A question was asked about the seats for the Wembley finals which were allocated to competitors. It was stated that players had sold seats they had purchased because they were promised seats at the Pool which did not materialise. The Chairman said it was not until we arrived at Wembley in the afternoon that we knew that seats for the players could not be provided, as promised. At the last moment, after all arrangements had been made, the Stadium authorities decided that the heads of the players would obstruct the view of those people sitting in the front seats of the arena. A protest was made but, having regard to the consideration we had always received from the Wembley authorities, it was impossible to make an issue of the matter. The Bath delegate expressed the view that the writing of advertisements and news items on the screen at Wembley should not be continued whilst the games were in progress as it attracted the attention of the spectator.

Item 7 - Open Tournaments The delegate from North Middlesex League asked whether tournaments not applied for by the 30th June in any year would automatically be cut out, as the word "must" was used. Mr Kurzman, a member of the tournament sub-committee of the NEC, replying on behalf of the NEC, said it was hoped to put the rules into effect for the 1947/48 season, and to act as far as possible on those lines for the coming season. If a league applied after the 30th June to run an open tournament, this might still be sanctioned, provided there was a vacant date. The Chairman explained the rules had not been worded as carefully as they would have been if it had been the intention to have them passed at that meeting. In reply to a question he said that tournament dates would be circularised when they had been approved.

The adoption of the Report was moved by Mr A H Lewis of the London Business Houses League, seconded by Mr Kurzman of the London League and unanimously adopted.

The adoption of the Addendum to the report was moved by Mr R C M Mann of Wembley League, seconded by Mr M M Croydon, Shrewsbury League, and carried unanimously.

4 TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer submitted a Receipts and Payments account from July 1st 1945 to 30th April, 1946, showing a deficit of £46 2s 3d. He said that as our financial year ended on June 30th it was impossible to prepare an Income and Expenditure statement which would give the true financial position of the Association for submission to the AGM. There were, of course, still many amounts to be received and payments to be made. The deficit shown would become larger but it would be offset by the profit which we expected to make on the English Open Championship. But for the profit made on the Championship, the Association would have been in a very unfortunate financial position this season.

In reply to the delegate from Gloucester who asked whether the Treasurer could estimate the profit on the English Championships, the Treasurer said he thought it might be about £400. The delegate from North Middlesex suggested that the loss on international matches was not a loss on matches arranged in this country but included fares and expenses of players taking part in matches in other countries. The Treasurer agreed this was the case and explained the sums would be offset by receipts from the matches which will be held in this country next season.

The adoption of the Treasurer's Report was unanimously agreed.

5 REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION: Mr Montagu gave an exhaustive report on the international situation. He said our Association had invited a large number of countries to send representatives to an informal discussion at the English Championships, and ten countries were represented. Problems facing the International Federation were discussed, decisions were taken, and these decisions had been circulated to all countries asking for their views, with the idea of arranging a further meeting during the summer. One difficulty was that only five of the ten ITTF officials could be contacted but votes of these five, together with the Chairman's casting vote, would be sufficient to get the Federation functioning again, although possibly not quite in its previous form.

The Swindon delegate raised the question of the Anglo-Netherlands Sports Scheme. He said he understood there were about 18 towns in England intending to send sports teams to towns in the Netherlands, and he presumed, if Table Tennis was included, there would be no objection. The Chairman said no objection would be raised provided the clubs in the Netherlands who were concerned, were properly affiliated to their parent organisation and had their consent. Mr L Bennett of Grimsby said he felt the importance of international table tennis was appreciated by all present. He would like to propose that the action of the English Association officials in calling the meeting be endorsed, and that the President of the ITTF be congratulated on his efforts to re-establish the international game. The Exeter delegate said that during the war he had been stationed in South Persia, and he had played with a number of foreign players, including Russian players.

The adoption of the ITTF Report was unanimously agreed.

6 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Rule 6, Clause (a) The Treasurer spoke on the need for increasing the affiliation fees and moved the proposal put forward by the NEC. This was seconded by Mr W J Parker of the Ilford League. Mrs Anderson of Bristol moved the proposal submitted by the Bristol League, and this was seconded by Mr Swayne of the Central League. The Romford League delegate was in sympathy with the thought behind the ETTA proposal but was against the proposition from the point of view of the smaller leagues who, he felt, could not afford such an increase. The West Bromwich League delegate appreciated the Association's difficulties but felt the increase would mean that a large number of clubs would not be able to affiliate next season. The North Middlesex League delegate said the increased fees would cost their league £12 10s 0d extra, but in spite of this they would support the general increase to 7/6d. per club, but he considered the Bristol proposal to be the better one as this would encourage clubs to put more teams into the league and would in fact raise as much revenue as the Executive Committee's proposal. The Willesden League delegate considered the Bristol proposition a reasonable one involving quite a small sum which he felt could be raised from the members of a club, if necessary, without difficulty. The Exeter delegate said he would be agreeable to some increase in affiliation fees but felt that these were being increased too much.

Mr Croydon of Shrewsbury agreed that something must be done to raise funds for the Association and would agree to support the Bristol proposal. The delegate from Torbay said he was in agreement with the increase to 7/6 but felt the Bristol proposal was the better one as it would help to encourage the clubs to enter more teams in the League. The delegate from Aldershot said he had been instructed to vote against the proposed increase, but having heard the Treasurer's views he appreciated that something must be done and would therefore support the Bristol proposal. The Swindon delegate said he had been instructed to support the Bristol proposal. He felt the primary object of the Association should be to encourage as many players to play the game as possible and felt it would have been better to introduce a sliding scale of charges for teams in order to encourage as many as possible, with a lower fee for a larger number of teams. Mr Hoy of Manchester and Mr Stamp of Liverpool both held a number of proxy votes for their areas and said they would be willing to support the Bristol proposal.

The Treasurer, replying to the debate, said he felt it would be impossible to defer the question of increasing the affiliation fees for another season. He pointed out that in June of last year, at the Conference held in London, there was a very decided vote in favour of increased affiliation fees and he felt this step would have the support of the country as a whole. On behalf of the Executive Committee he said he was quite willing to accept 2/6d for additional teams instead of 4/- but would like to alter the proposal of the NEC to read "For clubs having more than one team 2/6d, for each additional team", as the Bristol proposal was not worded quite correctly and might lead to confusion. The Chairman then asked the meeting if they would agree to the alteration in the wording of the EC proposal. This was agreed and the Bristol delegate agreed to withdraw the proposal submitted by the Bristol League. A vote was then taken and the proposal to increase the affiliation fees to 7/6d per club in a league with 2/6d for each additional team was CARRIED, 271 votes for and 97 against.

Rule 6, Clause (b) The NEC's proposal to increase the direct club affiliation to 15/- was CARRIED. The Bristol delegate agreed to the word "minimum" being deleted from their proposal, as it was felt the fee should be a definite one, but the proposal was DEFEATED.

Rule 6, Clause (d) Proposed by the NEC: After "Special organisations", add "Youth Organisations."
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rule 6, Clause (c) Proposed by the NEC: Delete "2/6" and substitute "5/-"
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rule 6, Clause (e) Proposed by the NEC: Delete "Boys' Clubs affiliated to their appropriate national organisations may be affiliated for 2/6d per club."
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Treasurer explained here that owing to the great difficulties encountered whilst looking into the question of the affiliation of Boys' Clubs, a sub-committee of the Executive Committee was appointed to make an exhaustive enquiry into the whole position throughout the country and they were now awaiting the report of this sub-committee. When this was received a decision would be reached to deal with the question of the affiliation of Boys' Clubs.

Rule 17, Clause (j) Proposed by the NEC: Delete "6d" and substitute "1/-".
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Rule 17 Addendum proposed by the North Middlesex and Wembley & Harrow Leagues: "For the purposes of County Administration the County of London shall be the Metropolitan Police Area."

Mr Harrower of North Middlesex League, speaking for this proposal, explained that to get an Association functioning in London it would be necessary to include all Leagues in the London Police area, and not to form an organisation based on the Rule regarding the formation of County bodies. Mr Vint, replying for the NEC, said he did not agree with this suggestion. He felt that at the moment we must carry out the Rules providing for County administration, but if it were considered that Area administration was better than County Administration the matter should be referred back to the committee so that they could look into the question, and if necessary, the rule could be altered. Mr Kurzman of the London League opposed the proposition on the grounds that it was contrary to the present Rules which provide for County administration, and would cause difficulties in many other centres which are in a similar position to London. The delegate from the Central League spoke in favour of the addendum. A block vote on the proposition was then taken, there being 341 for and 207 against. The proposition was declared DEFEATED as a majority in excess of opposition of one third of the total votes recorded was needed to carry the proposal in accordance with the Rules.

Rule 26, Clause (b) Proposed by the NEC: Delete "The closing date for entries shall be 14 days before the opening date of the Championships."
CARRIED

Rule 26 The following proposals were then considered:

By the Bristol and District Association: (a) That entry fees for the English Open be re-considered with a view to an increase. CARRIED

(b) That the NEC consider the advisability of publishing a monthly bulletin. CARRIED

7 THE POSTAL BALLOT: The Chairman then announced the result of the postal ballot as follows:

For Chairman	Hon I G S MONTAGU	57	Elected
	Mr C C Woodcock	14	
For Secretary	Mr W J POPE		Unopposed
For Treasurer	Mr A K VINT		Unopposed
Executive Committee:			
South-Western Region	Mrs D M Anderson	3	
	Mr A S King	3	
	Mr D H Thompson	2	
	Result indecisive		
Eastern Region	Mr C Richards	3	
	Mr F Roberts	3	
	Mr S G Beard	2	
	Result indecisive		
London Region	Mr R C M MANN	11	Elected
	Mr J KURZMAN	10	Elected
	Mr G R Harrower	9	
	Mr C H Milligan	6	
Yorkshire Region	Mr L E FORREST	4	Elected
	Mr M W Robinson	2	
	Mr A Shirtcliffe		
Midland Region	Mr A E HASKEW	9	Elected
	Mr A A Haydon	2	
	Mr E H Hood	1	
North-Eastern Region	Mr E REAY		Unopposed
North-Western Region	Mr J HOY		Unopposed
	Mr W STAMP		Unopposed
South Region:	Miss L FERGUSON	8	Elected
	Mr A E Lindsay	2	

It was agreed to treat the ties in the South-Western and Eastern Regions as casual vacancies and to conduct elections between the tying parties. Mr Poupard, the scrutineer for the elections, in reporting on his work, suggested that something might be done to prevent ties, and recommended that in future each candidate should have at least two nominations to be eligible for election. He said the elections had been carried out most efficiently by the Proportional Representation Society. The Treasurer thanked Mr Poupard for his assistance with the elections and said he wished to pay a tribute to Messrs Bennett, Goldstein, Rose and Robinson, the old members of the NEC. They had all been associated with the work of the Association for a number of years and the Association owed a debt of gratitude them for their hard work and enthusiasm over the years. He felt that the thanks of the Association should be recorded for the work they had put into the game, and this was unanimously agreed to.

8 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: By a unanimous vote Mr H Oldroyd was again elected as President of the Association. The Chairman read a letter from Mr Oldroyd regretting his inability to attend the meeting owing to the state of his health and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to him thanking him for his generosity to the Association and wishing him an improvement in his health.

9 VICE-PRESIDENTS: It was agreed that the present 25 Vice-Presidents be re-elected.

10 ELECTION OF AUDITORS: Messrs Spain Bros & Co were re-elected as auditors and thanked for their past services to the Association.

Mr Williams Of the Bath League proposed that the sincere thanks of the meeting be given to the Chairman for the able way he had conducted the meeting, and this was carried with acclamation.