

## ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE POLYTECHNIC, 309 REGENT STREET, LONDON, W1, ON SATURDAY 26th APRIL 1947

PRESENT: Hon I G S Montagu (Chairman)  
Representatives of the following Leagues and directly affiliated Clubs: Acton, Aldershot, British Workers' Sports, Barnet, Cheltenham, Croydon, Croydon Business Houses, Central, Film Renters, Hastings, Kent County Association, Lincoln, North Middlesex, Oldham, Plymouth, Salisbury, Sittingbourne, SW Middlesex, Staines, University of London, Willesden, W London, Woolwich, Wembley, Yiewsley & W Drayton, All Saints Club, Peak Freen Club, Imperial College Club  
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC): Mrs D M Anderson, Miss L Ferguson, Miss K White, Messrs J Kurzman, R C M Mann, L E Forrest, C Richards, J M Rose, W Stamp, E Worsley  
A K Vint (Hon Treasurer), W J Pope (Hon General Secretary)

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting, and read a letter of apology from the President who was unable to attend owing to ill-health. It was agreed unanimously that a letter be sent to Mr Oldroyd saying how much it was regretted that he could not attend and hoping his health would improve. The Chairman announced the news of the death of Mr B L Hookins, one of Yorkshire's greatest enthusiasts for table tennis and who had been one of the founders of the present Association. He had also been Secretary of the Association in 1929-1930. It was decided to place on record our regret at the news and to convey to Mrs Hookins the sympathy of all our members with her in her sad bereavement.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 4th May, 1946, as circulated, were adopted.

REPORT OF THE NEC: The Chairman, in presenting the report of the NEC gave a brief resume of the play in the World Championships held in Paris, mentioning particularly that for the first time England had won the Corbillon Cup, and without losing a single game. Generally our players had done extremely well in the Championships, Johnny Leach in particular had proved and proved himself to be quickly adaptable to the rather difficult conditions. Viktor Barna had reached the semi-finals of both doubles events, which was a gratifying result for someone who was no longer a young player. Of the girls, our sheet anchor was Vera Dace, who in the World and the English Championships reached the semi-finals. Elizabeth Blackbourn, our No 2, although having lost many times to English players this year has, at one time or another, beaten every first-class woman player in the world, and her game against Pritzi in Paris, produced some of the finest women's table tennis ever seen. Never before had he seen such a fine team spirit, and good captaincy, as had existed this year throughout the World Championships.

The Chairman said that we had been granted the World Championships for London next season. The running of the Championships in these days was a great and difficult responsibility. It was being run during the 21st Anniversary of the ETTA and it was hoped to make the events a memorable jubilee occasion. The work of the Association this season had been very strenuous and the Officers had received splendid co-operation from all workers; County bodies were gradually coming into being which would prove of enormous help to the game. A great deal of comment had appeared in the national Press regarding encouragement of seniors, but it was evident the younger players needed time to develop. Schemes would be put into operation next year which would have been premature this year.

The report of the NEC had been circulated to the meeting and the Chairman proposed to take the items seriatim. Arising therefrom, the following points and small alterations were made:

- Item 6 Page 2, line 14 - the words "appearing in" should be deleted and "selected for" substituted.  
Page 2, line 26 - add "B Casofsky".  
Page 2, line 27 - insert before "the following players" "in addition to various of the above".  
Page 2, line 28 - after "World Championships" add and Open national Championships".
- Item 16 Page 3, line 7 - after "grateful" delete to end of paragraph and substitute "to these players and to others who placed their services at our disposal".
- Item 17 Page 3, line 4 - after the words "Miss Blackbourn" insert "and Ivor Montagu as non-playing

captain".

Item 18 Page 3, line 1 - delete "twenty-two" and substitute "twenty-five".

Item 21 Official Magazine: The representative of the Staines League asked if it had been decided to continue the publication throughout the summer months and, if so, was it considered this would be a paying proposition. Mr J Carrington, the Editor of the Official magazine, said that no decision had yet been taken regarding the publication of the magazine during the summer months. The eight issues of the magazine had not yet been published owing to the fuel cut and consequent difficulties; two more issues would be published, probably during May and June, leaving only July and August with no publication. The new issue would then start in September next. The Editor said he would like to receive news of closed championships and photographs of local champions from League Secretaries and others interested in the magazine, and as soon as it was possible to increase the size of the journal more League notes and items of interest to League players would appear. The delegate from West London said he felt more instructional articles and less advertisements would be welcomed, but it was pointed out that as the journal costs only 6d the maximum number of advertisements were necessary. He suggested that consideration should be given to an increase in price to 9d, when it would be possible to print a very satisfactory magazine. On being asked for particulars of circulation Mr Carrington said it was approximately 7,000 a month, which was about the amount of paper we could get, and it was about 9,000 for the special February/March issue.

Item 22 Umpires: A delegate asked whether the umpires sub-committee had met. The Chairman replied "No" but the new NEC would pursue this matter at an early date.

Item 25 Page 5, line 2 - Delete "asks" and substitute "has asked".

Page 5, line 4 - Delete "for your consideration" and substitute "with the recommendation of the NEC". This was agreed to.

Items 25 & 26 Rose Bowl Competition and Wilmott Cup Competition: In reply to a question on the rules regarding these two competitions, the Chairman said that this matter was being considered very fully and changes were being considered to be put before the Trustees for their approval; these changes would be brought before the next AGM.

Item 27 Page 5, line 6 - Delete "Chairman" and substitute "President".

Item 32 On the question of Office administration, Mr Richards of the British Workers' Sports Association thought we should place on record our appreciation for the services rendered to the Association by Mrs M A Carrington in an honorary capacity and this, being seconded, was carried unanimously.

Item 32 Supply of balls: A delegate asked whether permits would be necessary next season. The Secretary replied that we had no information yet on this point from the Board of Trade. The delegate from Hastings said the League had had difficulty in getting balls for one of their youth clubs and there seemed to be no hard and fast rule governing the supply of balls to junior clubs. The Secretary replied that we were not allowed to supply Youth Clubs with permits, but would assist Leagues in getting an allocation from the Board of Trade for their youth members if they were in difficulties.

The adoption of the report and the addendum to the report was moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The Treasurer submitted a financial statement in the form of a Receipts and Payments account from 1st July 1946 to 20th April 1947. He explained that as the financial year ended on June 30th, it was not possible to give a final statement of account on the situation as at the end of the period. He said the Income and Expenditure this season was a record. The payments received on behalf of the World Championships were from members who travelled with the official party. Our President had sent a donation of £10 which, incidentally, was the only donation received by the Association this season. Financial arrangements in connection with the Europe Cup had not been finally cleared; certain amounts were owed by us to other countries, and owing to currency regulations amounts could not be transferred, but the general position is that we have lost about £60 or £70 on these matches.

We anticipate that next season the financial burden on our Association will not be so heavy, owing to new regulations which are being drawn up by the ITTF. The English Championships had shown the best financial result we had ever had. At the beginning of the year we had an amount in credit, and we hoped at the 30th June that this amount would be increased. He mentioned that next year will be the 21st anniversary of the Association and he hoped that by this time we should have a substantial balance. A delegate asked why the credit balance was not shown in the accounts, and the Treasurer explained that he had only submitted an income and expenditure statement; the credit balance would be brought in to the final balance sheet at the 30th June, which was the end of the financial year.

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

INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION: The Chairman, reporting on the ITTF, said details of the new Constitution had been settled and there were now no outstanding differences. An Advisory Committee had been set up consisting of a President and five Vice-Presidents, each from a different zone, a Secretary and three more members, making ten on the Committee in all. Ex-enemy countries had now been admitted into the Federation, with the exception of Germany and Japan.

World Championships: The USA had agreed that the Championships should be held mostly in Europe which had eased the situation, as obviously very few countries would be able to afford to compete in the Championships if they were held in America and thus they would not be fully representative. Next season England would stage the World Championships, then Sweden, the third year Dublin, the fourth Holland.

New Rules: These had been considered fully in Paris, and it was generally agreed that the present serving rule was unsatisfactory and put too much responsibility on to the umpire. Therefore, the new rule stipulated that the server must release the ball from the open hand which would, it was hoped, prevent a player from imparting spin. Regarding the anti-pushing rule, it is expected that this rule will not need to be applied in this country except in international competitions, and therefore the new NEC will consider some try-outs, as our players and officials must get familiar with it for the World Championships. The wording of the rule is as follows:

"Whenever in any game, the style of play is considered uninteresting to the spectators or threatens to upset the schedule of other matches, in the opinion of the umpire, referee, or referee's committee, it shall be the duty of the umpire to call a "let" and notify the players before the next serve that that particular game will proceed under the following rule: The server shall be permitted to hit the ball 12 times, excluding the service stroke, and if all such strokes are safely returned by the opponent one point shall be scored for the opponent. The serve shall alternate after each point when the rule is in force".

Cups: Unfortunately, both the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups have been lost, but news had just been received that, during the war, the Corbillon Cup was taken to a club in the suburbs of Germany for safe keeping. As the result of our enquiries, Military Intelligence in Germany appear to be on the track of it. It seems that the game is more popular in this country than anywhere else in the world as figures show that both in the number of clubs and players we have approximately one-third of the number in the entire world.

The Chairman then asked the delegates whether they agreed to the new serving rule being adopted for domestic play in this country, and this was agreed to unanimously. The delegates agreed also to authorise the NEC to take steps to familiarise those players likely to encounter it, with the anti-pushing rule.

The adoption of the ITTF Report was carried unanimously.

ALTERATIONS TO RULES: The Treasurer moved the following propositions on behalf of the NEC:

Rule 6 (a) After "Association" in line 2 add "or 4/- for each club certified to be a bona fide youth club by a Local Education Authority Youth Committee". CARRIED

Rule 6 (b) After "or not" in line 2 add "or 5/- for each club certified to be a bona fide youth club by a local Education Authority Youth Committee". CARRIED

Rule 12 (b) Midland Region to read "2 Members" CARRIED  
It was agreed that as the alteration to Rule 12 (b) had been carried, this would automatically change the wording of Rule 12 (a), line 4, to read "11 members elected annually by the General Council".

Rule 17 That the present Rule (a) be made (a) i CARRIED  
(a)ii to read "In the event of a League having clubs in membership in more than one County or a League being on the borders of a County, the League shall select the County Association to which it shall belong, subject to the consent of the Counties concerned. If a further County Body is formed after the League has been accepted, the League shall have the right to make a new application. A League on the borders of a County before being accepted into membership of a County other than its own must also obtain the consent of the NEC." CARRIED  
(a) iii to read: "Subject to the proviso in (ii), the name of the League shall be the basis of determining the County to which the League shall be in membership, but if the name of the League is not the name of a town or district, then the headquarters of the League shall determine the County to which the League shall be attached". CARRIED  
(a) iv to read "Where leagues. have been associated in membership with a County other than their own County they may remain in membership provided such membership was granted

prior to 1st April 1947".

CARRIED

A delegate asked whether the date mentioned in the NEC's proposal could be changed to September 1947, but the Treasurer explained that the proposal could not be altered. He explained the date was included to assist Leagues who had been in membership with a County Body for some length of time and to confirm a decision which had been acted on last season. Leagues wishing to belong to a different County Body could apply to do so under Rule (a) ii.

(a) v to read "In the event of any question arising not provided for in these Rules as to the County to which a League shall belong, the matter shall be dealt with by the National Executive Committee, whose decision shall be final". CARRIED

(h) AGREED this be deleted.

(j) after "per Club" add "and 6d for each additional team for clubs having more than one team". CARRIED

Rule 25 (f) After "entry forms" add "in accordance with conditions laid down by the NEC". CARRIED

It was noted here that delegates held 49 proxy votes in favour of the NEC's proposed alterations to Rules.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS REGULATIONS: This item had been included on the Agenda so that it could be reported that a sub-committee had been set up to consider County Championship Rules. Suitable rules had now been drafted and accepted by the NEC and the County Championships would be started next season.

RESULT OF POSTAL BALLOT: The Chairman announced the result of the postal ballot as follows:

For Chairman:	Hon I G S Montagu - unopposed	
For Secretary:	W J Pope - unopposed	
For Treasurer:	A K Vint - unopposed	
NEC:	Midland Region	G W Haydon
	North-Western Region	E Worsley, W Stamp
	Southern Region	F G Mannoch.
	Eastern Region	J M Rose
	London Region	G R Harrower, R C Mortlake Mann
	Yorkshire region	L E Forrest - unopposed.
	North-Eastern Region	E Reay - unopposed
	South-Western region	D H Thompson.

The Treasurer said he felt the meeting would wish to place on record appreciation of the work carried out by the scrutineers in connection with the ballot, and also by those members of the Committee who had been defeated in the elections - namely Mrs Anderson, Miss Ferguson, Mr Kurzman and Mr Richards. Mr Wilmott, one of the scrutineers, said the Proportional Representation Society had been very co-operative and everything had been made very clear to them.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: By a unanimous vote Mr H Oldroyd was again elected as President of the Association.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: It was agreed that the present 24 Vice-Presidents be re-elected, with the addition of Mrs D L Bunbury of Manchester.

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

A delegate asked whether the Association would consider printing a standard programme for table tennis events. The Secretary said the Walthamstow Press had considered this question and also a standardised Handbook. He thought they were going ahead with the scheme and would ascertain their progress.

The Salisbury delegate asked whether anything had materialised from a previous suggestion to train coaches. The Chairman said this had proved rather difficult this season, but would be borne in mind.

The Oldham delegate asked how young players came to the notice of the Association. The Chairman said mainly through open tournaments, and League play, and it was hoped that County bodies would assist in

discovering this talent in due course.

The delegate from Sittingbourne said that the thanks of the meeting had already been conveyed to the Secretary in the Report and he thought that the thanks of the meeting should also be conveyed to the Chairman and the Treasurer for the work they had done during the season. He also moved that the thanks of the meeting should be conveyed to the Chairman for the able way he had conducted the meeting. This was carried with acclamation.