

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE TUDOR ROOM, CAXTON HALL, LONDON, SW1, ON SATURDAY 28th APRIL 1956 COMMENCING AT 4.0pm

PRESENT:	Hon I Montagu (in the chair) A K Vint (Hon Secretary/Treasurer)
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)	Mrs F A Merryweather, H J Amery, T Blunn, J Carrington, N Cook, I C Eyles, L E Forrest, W G Goldfinch, R S .G Good, G James, D P Lowen, F G Mannooch, E Reay, M Scott, W Stamp, H Walker, L S Woollard.
Representatives from County Associations	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Devon, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Northumberland, Norfolk, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Wiltshire, Yorkshire
Affiliated Leagues	Acton TTL, Aldershot, Ashton-u-Lyne, Barrow, Bradford, Bristol, Bury, Central, Cheshunt, Cheltenham, Chesterfield, Chelmsford, Darwen, Durham, East London, Exeter, Film Renters, Folkestone, Gloucester, Haslingdon, Hastings, Heywood, Insurance Offices, Kent Schools, Lincoln, Liverpool, London Civil Service, London Business Houses, Middleton, Manchester, North Middlesex, Northumberland, Northwich Methodist, North-West Kent, Oldham, Portsmouth, Potteries, Ramsbottom, Rochdale, Rossendale Stockport, Stockport Youth, Romford, Salford, Staines, Sutton, South London, Sittingbourne Slough, Youth, Urmston, Uxbridge, Wandsworth, Wembley, Wirral, Willesden, Winchester, Worthing, Wolverhampton
Directly Affiliated Clubs	Beverley Club, Lensbury Club, North-West Kent Club
Registered member	T E Sears
Individuals	A E H Clewer, J Kurzman, E G White
Other Association	Western Counties TTL
Apologies for absence	Mrs Jarvis, Herfordshire TTA, G R Harrower, S Kempster, J Senescall, Gallants Farm TTC

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th April 1955 were signed as a correct record.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NEC: It was agreed that the result of the postal ballot for the election of the Officers and members of the NEC should be taken as the first item and the Hon Secretary announced the results as follows:

<u>Officers</u>	Chairman	MONTAGU I G S	Unopposed
	Treasurer	VINT A K	Unopposed
<u>NEC</u>	Midland Region	2 members to be elected. GOLDSTEIN M	Unopposed
		SCOTT M E	Unopposed
	North-Eastern Region	1 member to be elected. 14 papers out of a possible 20 were returned, The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		REAY E	7
		WAUGH J R	7
	North-Western Region	2 members to be elected	
		COOK N	Unopposed
		STAMP W	Unopposed
	Southern Region	2 members to be elected. 49 papers out of a possible 90 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		JASCHKE C	26 Elected
		MANNOOCH F G	22 Elected
		Goldfinch W G	18

	Grace K	17	
	Thompson L	8	
	Bromfield L	7	
South-Western Region	2 members to be elected. 28 papers out of a possible 55 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:		
	AMERY H J	30	Elected
	EYLES I C	23	Elected
	Northcott P	12	
Eastern Region	2 members to be elected. 50 papers out of a possible 89 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:		
	WOOLLARD L S	36	Elected
	WALKER H	25	Elected
	Fairhead E J	15	
	Merryweather Mrs	15	
	Constable L R J	9	
London Region	2 members to be elected. 45 papers out of a possible 94 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:		
	JAMES, G	27	Elected
	GOOD, R St G	24	Elected
	Hoddy S R	18	
	Clemett C J	17	
Yorkshire Region	2 members to be elected. 29 papers out of a possible 47 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:		
	FORREST L E	28	Elected
	SENECALL J	21	Elected
	Rushton, N	9	
National Members	2 members to be elected. 269 papers out of a possible 540 were returned, of which 3 were invalid. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:		
	CARRINGTON J	154	Elected
	BLUNN T	99	Elected
	Thompson L	48	
	Bromfield L M	34	
	Jones L W	39	
	Haydon A A	37	
	Merryweather Mrs F	36	
	Rushton N	26	
	Clemett C J	17	
	Constable L R J	14	
	Durrant A E	12	
	Wall A A	10	

In the case of the North-East Region, where there was a tie, The NEC recommended that there should be a further ballot in that region and, in the event of there being a further tie, the NEC should determine the member for that particular Region. It was agreed to adopt this procedure. The Secretary said that the elections had been carried out by the Proportional Representation Society and the NEC had appointed as scrutineers G W Decker and D W Poupard. It was agreed to place on record a vote of thanks to the two scrutineers.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEC: The Annual Report of the NEC, having been circulated beforehand to all Counties, Leagues etc, each item was taken seriatim, together with the duplicated supplementary report compiled since the original document was printed.

Item 13 - Wilmott Cup & J M Rose Bowl Competitions Mr Waugh (Northumberland) felt that it would be more practicable to organise the quarter-finals on an area basis and so alleviate the extensive travelling which arose when the competitions reached that particular stage. Mr Eyles (Glos) was of the opinion that the time had come to stage the Wilmott Cup and J M Rose Bowl competitions in the same way as an open tournament. Last year he had made a suggestion with regard to playing all the matches in his particular zone on one day, but this had been turned down by the Wilmott Cup and J M Rose Bowl Management Committee. Next season something should be done on these lines.

Item 15 - Open Tournaments Mr Watts (Hastings) said that in the Hastings area there was some difference of

opinion as to the interpretation of the regulation governing Invitation Tournaments. Where players from a County Association were invited to take part, the names of those players should be sent to the particular County Association in advance. Entry forms were being sent about the country in the same way as those for Open Tournaments, and he was of the opinion that there should be something more definite laid down to govern Invitation Tournaments. Mr Waugh (Northumberland) agreed with the points raised by Mr Watts. It was agreed the point should be considered by the Open Tournaments Committee.

Item 18 - Coaching Mr Eyles (Glos) raised the question of whether anything was being done by the Coaching Committee for those players who attained a certain standard of play, but did not seem to improve beyond it. He felt something should be done in this respect. In reply the Chairman said that one of our great drawbacks was that we had no headquarters to which at any time players could be invited for special training and coaching, such as the Lawn Tennis Association and other sports bodies had, but that the point raised by Mr Eyles would be put before the Coaching Committee.

Item 19 - ITTF In the supplementary report mention was made of the formation of a Development Committee and Mr E G White queried the purpose of this Committee. The Chairman in reply said that the main function of the Committee would be for propaganda for the game and development work in backward countries. It was proposed to call a Conference during the next World Championships in Stockholm and each Association would be called upon to send two or three delegates to the Conference which would revolve round the work of the Development Committee. He said it was gratifying to find at the ITTF Congress so many of the proposals put forward by the ETTA accepted. The delegates at the last AGM had given encouragement to the Association to send representatives to Tokyo. On the whole he thought the teams had done as well as any others, apart from the Japanese. They had a very heavy burden to bear in view of the number in the teams, and he felt a tribute should be paid to them. Mr Randall (Hants) asked whether the ITTF Congress would still be held annually in view of the decision to stage World Championships biennially. Mr Montagu in reply said that a decision in respect of this would be made at the Stockholm Congress in 1957, also on the question of holding a meeting of the Advisory Committee during the year when Congress would not take place. So far as the Continental Championships were concerned, it had not yet been decided whether these would be in the form of an Open Championship, or whether certain restrictions would be laid down such as holding a qualifying Tournament in the first half of the season, and it was possible, that the holding of Congress or a meeting of the Advisory Committee would be linked with the Continental Championships.

Item 21 - Umpires Mr Waugh (Northumberland) said that he had had considerable correspondence with Mr Goldfinch on the question of the qualification of umpires. Umpires could not qualify in the North in the same way as other areas as they did not have the same opportunities to gain the necessary experience. Mr G James in reply, on behalf of the National Umpires Committee, said that there was a difficulty in qualification - it was not possible to qualify someone as a National Umpire who had not had sufficient practical experience. Mr K Watts (Sussex) said that in Sussex they too had come up against a similar problem. One of the Sussex Umpires had not been accepted because of this lack of experience. He felt that to accept a man for examination when it was obvious that he did not stand a chance was discouraging to the candidate. Mr G James said that it was not true that the National Umpires Committee had accepted candidates who did not stand a chance of passing the examination; the whole idea behind the scheme was to see that the National Umpires were the very best that could be found throughout the country. Mr E G White felt that there was a danger of a misconception of a National Umpire. The qualification was not a reward for good or long work in the umpiring field nationally. Mr L Thompson (Bucks) queried whether those candidates who failed in the test were told on which particular points they had failed. It was pointed out that this was being carried out by the National Umpires Committee. Mr I C Eyles (Glos) was of the opinion that more note should be taken of the hard experience gained by umpires at all levels rather than putting them through a test. The Chairman was of the opinion that the direction in which the National Umpires Committee were going was the right one. Mr D Tyler (Hastings) thought that the NEC should consider a scheme for the training of umpires. He recalled that there was a document prepared some time ago by Mr G Owen for the purpose of lecturing to would-be umpires. He thought that there should be some uniform method adopted. Mr James said that so far as uniformity was concerned, there was an Umpires Code in existence. A copy of the notes prepared by Mr Owen for the purpose of lecturing had been made available to all County Umpire Secretaries. The National Umpires Committee had given consideration to the question of holding an Umpires Conference but had decided to shelve the idea for the time being as the response by County Associations had been so poor. So far as the training of umpires was concerned, the Umpires Scheme is one which is operated by the Counties and it was up to the County Associations to train their umpires. Mr S R Hoddy (North Middx) expressed the view that one of the greatest helps to umpiring would be to train the players in the knowledge of the Laws of the Game. Mr W H Mildenhall (Middx) thought that in the first place the Committee would be well advised to award the qualification to Umpires who were very well known. He instanced a case of one of the finest umpires the Association had got having refused to

take the examination, and in other cases the umpires concerned had not been able to get to the centre where the examination had taken place, and he hoped the Committee would have regard to these facts in the future. Mr G James said the Committee were aware of the fact that travelling was difficult and they were going to try to spread around as much as possible the venues for the examination. It was true that the Committee did know quite a number of the umpires, but not all of them. It was very difficult to cover the whole country and he felt a test in the long run, properly applied, was the only way to deal with the problem.

Item 22 - Official Magazine Mr Jaschke (Kent) congratulated the Editor of the Magazine on the high standard it had achieved this season, but was of the opinion that as much controversial matter should be included in the Magazine as was possible. Secondly, on the question of circulation, he still felt that sufficient was not being done to ensure that copies were available on bookstalls. Mr Eyles (Glos), whilst agreeing with Mr Jaschke on the question of controversial matters appearing in the Magazine, felt that misleading articles should be omitted. Any article concerning a League or Association should be sent to the League or Association concerned so that their reply could be published at the same time. Mr Jaschke (Kent) agreed with Mr Eyles' remarks. Mr Landry (Mddx) felt that although generally the Magazine was of a very high standard, reports on Open Tournaments were not always accurate. Mr Jaschke (Kent) said that reports on Open Tournaments should be signed by the writer concerned. Mr J Carrington said that as a past Editor of the Magazine he had sympathy with the present Editor, who was a newspaper man and had to do the work of the Magazine under pressure of other work. There had been many difficulties this season such as strikes etc, and some allowance must be made. Mr Montagu said that as President of the ITTF he received many other Magazines published by other Associations and on the whole the ETTA Magazine was as good as many more by comparison.

Item 25 - Official Handbook Mr Hoddy (North Mddx) asked whether it would not help to produce the Handbook earlier in the season by deleting the details of Leagues and County Associations. Mr Vint said that so long as he had been connected with the Association the Handbook had been a "hardy annual". Although he was interested in examining the suggestion put forward by Mr Hoddy, the question was to what extent would a Handbook in such a limited form satisfy the general membership. When published in full, the Handbook did act as a means of propaganda and was very valuable in showing the details of the membership which existed. Mr Jaschke (Kent) agreed with Mr Vint's remarks that the Handbook in its present form was a good advertisement for the game, and that it should continue as such. But in order to try to publish the Handbook earlier, he suggested that the closing date for the material should be made one month earlier. Also he asked whether it was possible to include the telephone numbers where supplied. A long discussion then ensued on the Handbook, from which it would appear that the general feeling was that the Handbook was useless when published so late, and every effort should be made to persuade Leagues to hold their AGMs earlier in the year, and that it be left to the NEC to consider ways and means of collating the material for the Handbook earlier and ensuring early despatch.

Item 26 - Office Administration Mr Vint said that since the Report had been prepared he was sure members would be delighted to learn that Mrs Pegg had now found it possible to continue as full time Administrative Secretary. Mr Scott said he thought it might be as well to advise Leagues in a circular of this position. It was moved and seconded that the Annual Report of the NEC, together with the Supplementary duplicated Report, be accepted.

REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER: The Treasurer submitted a Balance Sheet as at 30th June 1955, and a Receipts and Payments Account from the 1st July 1955 to the 27th April 1956. In dealing with the accounts he said that it must be borne in mind that it had been necessary to hold the English Open Championships away from London this season, which meant that we were without the profit which normally accrued from this event. Due to help from Leagues and Clubs, and other ways and means devised in raising the money, it was fairly safe to prophesy that the expenses of the teams travelling to Tokyo in connection with the World Championships would be met from the World Championships suspense account. We were also fortunate in having the Rumanian and Hungarian players in England this season, which meant we were able to obtain a certain amount of revenue from the matches staged with them. One of the greatest problems, however, facing the Association was the ever increasing costs of administration in the form of higher postage rates, telephone charges, which would still go on rising, and another great shock was the big increase in the rating assessment so far as the rent of the office was concerned. Certain items had been kept down to the bare minimum. So far as the Handbook was concerned, a 3-year contract had been taken with the printers, which cut down the cost to a great extent. With regard to the Magazine, basically the printers were responsible for the Magazine, but the ETTA received a percentage of the advertisement revenue. The income to a large extent remained static in the membership line and he was of the opinion that this would remain on about the same level for the next few years. Mr Blunn said he himself was more interested in what was going to be done rather what had been done. It looked pretty certain that the present surplus would be covered by future administration

with the result that there would be some deficit at the end of the financial year. We were without the usual approx. £700 profit on the English Open Championships - the money in the Coaching Fund had now been absorbed and any further Coaching Expenses would have to be met from the Association's general expenses. Mr Jones (Manchester) suggested that in view of the fact that the World Championships would in future be biennially, apart from the 1957 Stockholm Championships, some saving would be made in that direction. Mr J Kurzman queried whether the amount shown so far as ball rebate was concerned indicated the true picture. Mr Vint said that there was still some income to come in from that direction, but it was very hard for him to prophesy exactly what the final position would be at the 30th June. On the point raised by Mr Jones, it should be borne in mind that we might have to send teams to the Continental Championships. Mr Eyles asked whether it would not be possible to close the financial year in order to have a complete statement available at the AGM. It was pointed out that it would be most unsatisfactory to close the accounts say, for instance, at the 28th February, and the only way to overcome this would be to hold the AGM much later, say in July. It was felt, however, that this would not meet the case, in view of the fact that Leagues were being pressed to hold their AGMs much earlier.

It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be received.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES AS SUBMITTED

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(b)(ii) In line 4, delete "28th February" and substitute "31st January"

Moved, seconded and CARRIED.

Rule 21(b) Delete and substitute "Membership of such County Body to be compulsory on all Affiliated Leagues and Local Associations, Directly Affiliated clubs and Individuals in the County, except that any League, Association Club or Individual has the right to appeal to the NEC contract out".

Moved, seconded and CARRIED.

Rule 26 Delete and substitute "No affiliated member, player or organiser may take part in a televised event in connection with table tennis unless sanction has first been obtained from one of the Officers of the Association or the event is one authorised by the Association".

Moved, seconded and CARRIED.

Rule 27 Delete and substitute "A person gainfully connected with table tennis, may occupy an administrative office, or serve on an administrative committee of the Association only provided that he is prepared to withdraw from any meeting or abstain from voting on any issue, on request formally passed by a majority of the meeting he is attending".

Moved, seconded and CARRIED.

NOTICE OF ALTERATION OF RULE NOT TO COME INTO FORCE UNTIL SEASON 1957/58

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 6(a) Subscriptions

In line 1, delete 7/6d and substitute 9/-; in line 2, delete 5/- and substitute 5/6d

Rule 21(h) County administration

In line 1, delete "1/- per club" and substitute "1/6d per club paying the subscription rate of 9/- and 1/- per club for all other clubs"

Proposed by the Lancashire Association

Rule 6(a) Subscriptions

In line 1, delete 7/6d and substitute 8/6d; in line 2, delete 5/- substitute 5/6d

Rule 21(h) County administration

In line 1, delete "1/- per club" and substitute "1/6d per club paying the subscription rate of 8/6d and 1/-per club for all other clubs"

Mr Vint explained the reason for submitting to the present AGM a notice of alteration of rule, which would not actually come into force until season 1957/58. When the NEC had discussed the possibility of increasing the affiliation fees, it had been pointed out by the members of the Committee that some Leagues would have to amend their rules to cover such an increase, and it would therefore be advisable to give prior notice of such an increase taking place, in order that the Leagues would have an opportunity of amending their Rules at their next AGM. For many years the work of the Association had been maintained on revenue derived from subscriptions. It was not the intention of the NEC to make any amendment so far as Junior Clubs were concerned. By making such an increase the total net income to the Association would be in the region of £600 out of, which £200 would be paid back to the County Associations in the form of rebate. This would leave a sum of £400 which would help to meet the Association's additional liabilities in which it would be involved in

organising the game. Mr Watts (Hastings) did not feel that the Committee were justified in making the increase applicable to Senior Clubs only. Youth Clubs were subsidised by Local Educational bodies, and they were in a far better financial position than the Senior Clubs. Mr Blunn, speaking on behalf of the Lancashire proposal, which was in point of fact an amendment to the NEC's proposal, felt that the heavy burden of costs ought to be shared and in this connection he had made a suggestion earlier at the NEC meeting that had been held prior to the AGM that the Registered Players' fee should be increased. He realised that in taking their proposal that the Association would only benefit by £200, in which case Lancashire were prepared to withdraw their amendment to Rule 21(h). Mr Jaschke (Kent) said on behalf of Kent that they supported the NEC's proposals. Mr E G White said that, speaking as an individually affiliated member, he too wished to support the NEC's proposals. He agreed with Mr Blunn with regard to the Registered Players, and he felt too that individual members could contribute more in view of the service they received. The proposed increase to League fees was fully justified and he felt it was all wrong that on every big occasion, such as sending teams abroad to World Championships etc, the Committee had to go "cap in hand" and beg for charity. Mr Thompson (Bucks), speaking as a Registered Player, said that three-quarters of the people who were Registered Players put far more money into the game than they took out of it. The Chairman felt that the question of raising the Registered Players' fee should be explored in conjunction with the Registered Players themselves in order to get their views. The Lancashire Association's amendment to Rule 6 (a) on being put to the vote was LOST. The NEC's proposal on Rule 6(a) was then CARRIED. The NEC' proposal on Rule 21 (h) on being put to the vote was CARRIED unanimously, the Lancashire amendment being lost.

PRESIDENT: On the motion of the NEC it was agreed to re-elect the Dowager Lady Swaythling OBE as President of the Association.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: On the motion of the NEC it was agreed to re-elect the following Vice-Presidents:

F A Amies	A F Carris	H R McDonald	Miss A Stevens
C E Bartholomew	E F Christopher	D W Poupard	O W Tarrant
H M Bunbury	R C Hurford	W H Pritchard	J Thompson
Mrs D L Bunbury	F S B Lawes	J Siddron	P E Warden

HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY: Mr Vint recalled that at the last AGM a procedure was adopted in relation to the election of the Hon General Secretary. HE himself as the present Secretary had indicated that he did not wish to stand for the office and the NEC had considered nominations for the position. The NEC now wished to put forward to the AGM the name of Mr D P Lowen as Hon General Secretary. Mr Lowen had been appointed as Hon. Assistant Secretary last season. He had been Secretary of the Middlesex County Association for the past two years and Treasurer for four years. Since the end of the war he had taken an active part in the Acton League. He had a business office near to the ETTA's headquarters and was a Fellow of the Commercial Accountants Society. The NEC's recommendation was carried unanimously and Mr D P Lowen was appointed Hon General Secretary.

AUDITORS: On the motion of the NEC it was agreed to re-elect Messrs. Spain Bros, Jukes & Co as the Association's Auditors.

NOMINATION OF LIFE MEMBERS: Mr L S Woollard, reporting on behalf of the NEC, said that the Committee had designated three members to submit names for consideration for the Association's highest award - Honorary Life Member. The NEC had considered the names put forward, and now wished to nominate the following:

The Dowager Lady Swaythling OBE	I G S Montagu
A F Carris	A K Vint
G W Decker	P E Warden
L E Forrest	C Corti Woodcock

The Sub-Committee had also put forward certain recommendations for procedure etc and it had been agreed that the new NEC should give consideration to same. It was moved and seconded that the names submitted should be approved, and the suggestion with regard to the recommendations relating to procedure be adopted. Mr White felt that it would not be right to close the meeting without expressing the feeling of the great debt the Association owed to the retiring Hon General Secretary - Mr A K (Bill) Vint. Everyone in their own particular fashion knew just what this meant and there was little more one could say other than "Thank you, Bill". This

was received with great acclamation. Mr Eyles (Glos) said that to merely place on record an appreciation was not enough for an officer of Bill Vint's calibre and felt that something more should be done. In reply, Mr Vint said that it was a great wrench after six years, but it had become apparent to him during the past 12 months that it was obviously impossible for him to carry on with the work. But he felt he could not possibly leave without saying how fortunate the Association was in having a Chairman of the calibre of Ivor Montagu. It was in the ITTF where he really shone. Only those who had been present at the ITTF Congresses knew only too well that the work of the Federation revolved around Ivor Montagu. The ETTA was held in very high esteem all over the World and this was due in no small way to Ivor Montagu's work. Only those in close contact with him knew how kind-hearted and sympathetic he really was. Mr Vint then went on to thank the NEC for their great tolerance and for the great help he had received from the many secretaries all over the country. It had been a great privilege to serve the Association in his capacity as Secretary, and he hoped it would be possible for him to continue to serve and help in other ways for many years to come. Finally, Mr Vint said, he could not express adequately his thanks to Mrs Kathleen Pegg, the Administrative Secretary, for the loyal, faithful and efficient service she had rendered to him during the past six years. Mr Vint continued by saying that he felt he must extend to Mr W G Goldfinch thanks for the services he had rendered whilst a member of the NEC. Mr Goldfinch had not been successful in the ballot, but the NEC hoped to be able to retain his services in some way or other. Mr Goldfinch in his quiet and unobtrusive way had got on with the job as Secretary of the National Umpires Committee and it would be a pity to lose such a man. A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman on the way in which he had conducted the meeting, and on this note the meeting closed.