

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
HELD IN THE BISHOP PARTRIDGE HALL, CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER,
LONDON SW1, ON SATURDAY 27th APRIL 1957 COMMENCING AT 3.30pm

PRESENT:	Hon I Montagu (in the chair) D P Lowen (Hon.Secretary) A K Vint (Hon.Treasurer) The Dowager Lady Swaythling, OBE (President) D W Poupard (Vice-President)
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)	Miss E Grimstone, T Bunn, J Carrington, N Cook, I C Eyles, L E Forrest, M Goldstein, R St G Good, G James, C Jaschke, F G Mannooch, E Reay, J Senescall, W Stamp, M Scott, H Walker and L S Woollard
Representatives from: County Associations	Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire and Yorkshire.
Leagues	Acton Ashton-u-Lyne, Barnets, Billericay, Birmingham, Bishop Auckland, Bishops Stortford, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Cannock, Central, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Cheltenham Youth, Cheshunt, Cirencester, Coventry, Crawley, Dagenham, Darlington, Darwen, Doncaster Youth, Dukeries, Durham, Dursley, Fast London, Eastwood, Farnworth, Film Renters, Gloucester, Harlow, Hartlepoons, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Heywood, Insurance Offices, Kent Schools, Leeds, Liverpool, Liverpool Business Houses, London, London Business Houses, London Civil Service, Manchester, Mansfield, Middleton, Merseyside Civil Service, Murton, Newark, Newbury, Northallerton, North Acton, Northmet, Northwich, North Middlesex, North-West Kent, Nottingham, Oldham, Petersfield, Philadelphia, Portsmouth, Potteries, Ramsbottom, Reading, Retford, Rochdale, Romford, St Albans, Saddleworthy Salford, Scarborough, Sittingbourne, Slough, South London, Staines, Stanley, Stockport, Stockport YOC., Stockton, Sunderland, Sutton, Taxes, Urmston, Uxbridge, Wandsworth, Warrington, Watford, Wembley, West Essex, West Ham Youth, Willesden, Winchester, Wirral, Wolverhampton, Woolwich, Worthing and York
Directly Affiliated Clubs	Barnehurst Residents Association, Grosvenor Club, North-West Kent, Lensbury, London University
Individuals	A E H Clewer, G W Decker, R Senior and K Wheeler
Registered Members	L G Adams, G V Barna, R Bergmann, K Craigie, R Crayden, J Leach and T E Sears
Specials	Kent County Umpires Association.
Other Associations	Western Counties TTL
Apologies for absence	Norfolk TTA, Northumberland TTA, Somerset TTA, Bath TTA, Hertford TTL, Lincoln TTL, Rossendale Youth TTL, Weston-Super-Mare TTC, Mrs F A Merryweather, H J Amery and J Kurzman

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 28th APRIL 1956: The Minutes of the meeting held 28th April 1956 were signed as a correct record after the following amendments had been noted: Page 4, Item 21 - Umpires. In para 5, line 2, delete "rather" and substitute "not". In para 10, "Tayler" should be "Tyler"

At the request of the Hon Secretary, the Chairman announced that the AGM was open to only affiliated members of the Association, and not to members of the Press. The Chairman then outlined the proposed procedure for dealing with the items on the Agenda. It was agreed that the Report of the NEC be taken first; on reaching item 3, the Dowager Lady Swaythling OBE, (the President of the Association), would be welcomed to the meeting to present to Mr A K Vint the radiogram which had been purchased for him from the A K Vint Presentation Fund, a fund which had been organised by the NEC during the past season. After the presentation had been made the meeting would continue taking item 4 next, then the remainder of the Report of the NEC, and Agenda. The Standardisation of the Racket resolution would be taken before the Hon Treasurer's Report

and amendments to the Rules, so that the necessary time could be given to the counting of votes and checking of proxies.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEC: The Chairman welcomed the President, the Dowager Lady Swaythling, OBE, on behalf of the members of the Association. The President thanked the Chairman for his welcome and said she was delighted to be present, especially in view of the very pleasant duty she had to perform in presenting to Mr A K Vint, on behalf of the Association, the gift of the radiogram. It would be difficult to express in words our thanks for all the services he had rendered to the game. The meeting would be aware of the award of the OBE given him by the Patron of the Association, Her Majesty the Queen. Bill Vint had been Treasurer since 1931, taking-over the dual office of Secretary/Treasurer in 1950 on the death of Mr W J Pope. In 1956, owing to pressure of business, he resigned from the office of Hon Secretary but continued as Hon Treasurer. He had done no wonders with the finances of the Association and, what was more remarkable, maintained them. It would not be easy, continued Lady Swaythling, to make a list of all the services rendered to the Association by Mr Vint. She recalled her pleasure in seeing at Wembley in 1954 the parade of all the visiting nations, and felt it would be wonderful if the ETTA could lead the way to world-wide friendship and understanding. Mr Vint has been a leading example in this direction. In presenting the radiogram to Mr Vint, Lady Swaythling expressed the hope that it would give great pleasure both to him and his wife in the future. Mr Vint in reply said it was a very great privilege to have the occasion marked by the presence of the President of the Association. He felt there was little he could say but to convey to all his sincere thanks for the generous gesture the members of the Association had shown him and he wished to accept the gift in the spirit in which it was given. He recalled that the work of the Association in the past had been an up-hill battle, and it had been a great privilege to work with the Chairman, the Hon I Montagu. Whatever differences there had been between them they had always maintained a united front, and he wished to thank the Chairman for aiding him and helping him in the office of Secretary/Treasurer. He also wished to thank the various members of the NEC for their great friendship. Mr Vint then paid a great tribute to his wife, Mrs Nora Vint. He said she had not the slightest interest in table tennis, but assisted him in every practical way and gave of her time unselfishly. He was exceedingly fortunate in having such a wife, and thanked her for the very gracious and helpful way in which she had helped him in the work of the Association. The Dowager Lady Swaythling then left the meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NEC: The results of the elections were announced as follows:

Officers	Chairman	MONTAGU I G S	Unopposed
	Treasurer	VINT A K	Unopposed
NEC	Midland Region	2 members to be elected. GOLDSTEIN M	Unopposed
		SCOTT M E	Unopposed
	North-Eastern Region	1 member to be elected. REAY E	Unopposed
	South-Western Region	2 members to be elected. EYLES I C	Unopposed
		NORTHCOTT P	UNOPPOSED
	North-Western Region	2 members to be elected. 45 papers out of a possible 59 were returned, The votes polled for the candidates were as follows: COOK N 42 Elected L W JONES 40 Elected Howcroft A 8	
	Southern Region	2 members to be elected. 54 papers out of a possible 87 were returned. There were 2 invalid papers - marked with only 1 cross. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows: JASCHKE C 37 Elected MANNOOCH F G 32 Elected Thompson L 25 Cooper G R 10	
	Eastern Region	2 members to be elected. 50 papers out of a possible 78 were returned. One paper was not accepted for the election in this Region, as it was not signed by the accredited representatives	

of the particular Leagues. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:

WOOLLARD L S	39	Elected
WALKER H	27	Elected
Fairhead E J	11	
Merryweather Mrs F	11	
Constable L R J	10	

London Region
2 members to be elected. 46 papers out of a possible 84 were returned. There were 2 invalid papers - marked with only 1 cross The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:

JAMES, G	40	Elected
CLEMETT C J	26	Elected
Hoddy S R	22	

Yorkshire Region
2 members to be elected. 32 papers out of a possible 46 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:

FORREST L E	30	Elected
SENESCALL J	22	Elected
Flinton H	12	

National Members
2 members to be elected. 288 papers were returned, of which 2 were invalid - marked with 1 cross. 1 paper was not accepted in the election as it was not signed by the representatives of the particular League. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:

CARRINGTON J	160	Elected
BLUNN T	116	Elected
Cooper G R	62	
Thompson L	62	
Bromfield L M	43	
Grimstone Miss E	41	
Mitton W	33	
Merryweather Mrs F	25	
Rushton N	23	
Craymer A E	5	

The elections had been carried out by the Proportional Representation Society and the National Executive Committee had appointed as scrutineers G W Decker and D W Poupard. It was moved, seconded and agreed to place on record a vote of thanks to the two scrutineers. Mr Vint paid -a tribute to those members of the NEC who had not stood for re-election - H J Amery, R St G Good and W Stamp. Each had rendered yeoman service to the game and to the Association, and had contributed to the work of the NEC. Speaking on behalf of their colleagues he wished to place on record sincere thanks and appreciation to these three members for their work during the past few years. This was seconded by Mr Blunn, and carried unanimously. Mr Montagu then made the following statement:

"I have an announcement to make which concerns also Mr Vint, though he may have a few words to say for himself later. We very much appreciate the honour you have done us and the confidence you have shown, in electing us once more Officers of the Association, but we have reached the decision not to be candidates for these offices in 1958. It is no secret, I think, that for some years past - indeed, ever since the war - Mr Vint and myself have been looking forward to the day when it would be possible for us with a good conscience to retire from table tennis service. Speaking for myself, I have been in office far too long - Chairman and President of the ETTA off and on for 36 years. This is an absurdly prolonged period, longer than a generation. After such a time, one risks doing by habit what once was done by enthusiasm, and one risks thinking oneself indispensable when really one has become nothing but a nuisance and an obstruction. Mr Vint also, indeed we have been today delighted to celebrate that fact, has given very long service, in his case far more essentially, to the ETTA. Well, we are resolved to go while there may still be some who think not unkindly of us, and while we are still young enough to enjoy a retirement. If we announce this today, a year in advance, it is in order that we may thereby give the members of the Association a chance to look around, plan and achieve the best and smoothest possible succession. I am sure that we are doing, right, and that it is better that the Association should begin to be carried on by those who can be more active, and who are more representative of the present generation. My mother authorises me to say also that, complimented as she has been by your choice of her as President during the past several years, she feels it will be becoming if she leaves office at the same time, for her interest in the

game began with mine and she would like the Association to feel entirely free next year to choose an appropriate new President, unfettered by sentimental ties."

Mr Watts (Hastings League) condemned the practice of canvassing in connection with the elections by the sending out of circulars by individuals, especially when these circulars were printed on a County Association's headed notepaper. This had happened in the Southern Region and the members in his district were very unhappy about this practice. He felt that the NEC should during the course of next season consider the desirability or otherwise of this method of canvassing, and either ban same or exercise some form of control. It was agreed this be noted and referred to the NEC. Mr Tyler (Hastings League) raised a point with regard to the system of the elections. Under the present system when there happens to be more than one seat per Region, it is not possible to cast only one vote. He felt under the present system votes were thrown away. He suggested that the best way would be to have smaller regional areas, single candidates, one seat per region, or only one vote to be cast in each region. Mr Cooper (Grosvenor Club) on the question of canvassing said he felt that this was quite in order. How could people in the North vote for him, if they did not know anything about him? He could see no reason at all why he should not be allowed to put his point of view before the public. Mr Montagu pointed out that Mr Cooper's remarks were out of order at this particular stage, as it had already been agreed to refer this question to the NEC. He was pleased, however, that Mr Cooper had been able to make his point. The rest of the Annual Report. of the NEC, having been circulated beforehand to all Counties, Leagues etc, was taken each item seriatim, together with the duplicated supplementary report compiled since the original document was printed. It was pointed out that there were two typing errors on the supplementary report: at the bottom of page 3 word "chance" should read "change" and on page 4., para 4, "letting" should read "betting".

Item 15 - Open Tournaments Mr Watts (Hastings League) asked whether it would be possible in future to include the names of the Invitation Tournaments. He had in mind the NALGO (SE) competition, in which quite a number of their members had been involved. Mr Vint in reply said that the NECCommittee would look into the question of recording in the Annual Report such tournaments.

Item 18 - Coaching Mr L G Adams (Registered Member) queried the mention of a Coach badge in the report. Mr J Carrington said that the Coach's badge was now available, for distribution. Mr L Thompson (Bucks) asked what was the ultimate intention of the Coaching Diploma. Mr J Carrington in reply said that the Coaching Diploma was at the moment based on reasonably low standards. The badge, in fact, had included in its design the letter "B", which stood for "Basic". The idea was that eventually there would be a higher grade.

Item 22 - Honorary Life Members Mr Bateman (Romford league) asked whether Hon Life Members were also entitled to an official pass, or any other privilege in keeping with this honour. Mr Woollard in reply said that each Hon Life Member was entitled to an official ETTA pass. The Committee were putting forward a recommendation that an additional pass be granted to each Hon Life Member for the use of their wife or companion.

Item 23 - ITTF Mr E G White (London Civil Service League) asked that notice be given in the Official Magazine when the Supplement of the ITTF Handbook is published so that members could obtain copies, particularly umpires. Mr Tyler (Hastings League) felt that the meeting should take the opportunity of paying a tribute to the work of the Association's Chairman and Hon Treasurer in the international field. He attended the World Championships in Stockholm, and was able to see the tremendous job of work they had accomplished. Mr Tyler felt it would be the wish of the members of the Association that the ITTF would still have the wisdom of these two Officers, which had guided it over so many years. This was received with acclamation.

Item 25 - Umpires Mr Andrews (Bristol League) felt that no examiner could pass a man as a qualified National Umpire unless first having seen him umpire at an international match. Mr G James replied on behalf of the National Umpires Committee and said that it was very difficult for the National Umpires Committee to visit all parts of the country to see the various umpires in action. He pointed out, however, that a report on the umpiring at all international matches was now submitted to the National Umpires Committee by the Hon Referee officiating at such matches. Mr Blunn (Wirral League) asked whether it would be possible to designate certain matches in tournaments for the purpose of qualifying County Umpires. The Chairman said that this point would be noted and referred to the National Umpires Committee.

Item 31 - Office Administration The Chairman expressed thanks to Mrs Pegg and Mr D P Lowen for their work during the past year.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Item 13 - Wilmott Cup & J M Rose Bowl Competitions Mr Thompson (Bucks) felt that the entries in these competitions would be less if in future the experiment of playing off a Zone on one day was continued. The Chairman said that this point would be noted for the guidance of the Management Sub-Committee of the competition. Mr Gaylard (Reading League) said that so far as Zone 8 was concerned, there was not sufficient notification of the details of the venue etc last season, and felt in future that there should be closer consultation

between those taking part and the organiser. Mr Eyles (Glos) agreed that if the Zones were smaller it would be far better, but last season playing-off Zone 8 on one day was merely in the form of an experiment and, as he had indicated in the Report, one learns from experience. He felt that the Leagues in the Slough area should be made into another Zone. Mr Davis (Gloucester League) said that his League was one of those which took part in the experiment, and they felt it had been highly satisfactory from the financial point of view. It had cost them just over £3 to participate this season, whereas previously it had cost £18. All these points were noted and the Chairman said they would be referred to the Management Sub-Committee.

Item 23 - ITTF Mr Clewer referred to the second paragraph on page 4 and asked whether it was the intention of the NEC to put forward some reference to the raising of the net to 6¾". When the net was lowered only the defensive pusher benefited, and he felt that this was the first step towards table tennis losing its attraction to the public. The general discussion which then ensued showed various differences of opinion but it was felt that experiments would do no harm. Mr Randall (Hants), however, said that experiments would do no good if they were done in a haphazard way and not conducted throughout the country on a reasonable basis. Mr A A Haydon (Birmingham) said that if experiments were carried out in England, they should also be carried out through out the whole sphere of the ITTF. They should not be carried out only in England. Mr Joy (Woolwich) felt that there was a great deal of sentiment creeping in regarding the height of the net. Experiments should be conducted in a way by which results could be compared objectively. The Chairman in reply said that in the ITTF there were 72 countries affiliated (in number about 7/8 less than those in membership of the United Nations). Sometimes a reasonable proposal is put forward for changing the playing of the game, but to change the Laws of the Game a 3/4 majority is required. Therefore experiments are carried out by various Associations to obtain their opinions on the proposal. The ITTF merely asks countries to experiment in order to keep the door open to see if a change of Law would be desirable. Mr S R Hoddy (Northmet) asked whether many other countries had experimented with the abolition of the doubles line and, if so, what was their opinion. The Chairman in reply said that it was reported at the ITTF Congress that three countries had carried out the experiment and they were all in favour of same.

It was moved by Mr G James and seconded by Mr C Jaschke that the Report of the NEC together with the Supplementary Report be adopted. This was agreed.

STANDARDISATION OF THE RACKET: The Chairman gave details of the procedure to be adopted. There was no provision in the Constitution of the Association for procedure for changing of the Laws of the Game; the NEC at its meeting held prior to the AGM had decided that its proposals should be dealt with under Rule 32. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the following Tellers be appointed: T Blunn, E G White, C Jaschke, A H Lewis and T E Sears. Mr E G White (London Civil Service League)-queried a point of order so far as Rule 2 of the Association was concerned, but the Chairman pointed out that the Laws of the Game were not being changed, the NEC merely proposing that experiments be carried out. Mr A A Haydon (Birmingham) felt that so far as the thickness of the racket was concerned, they should be allowed to propose alternative thicknesses apart from those as set out in the resolution. He felt that there had not been sufficient time for the country as a whole to have considered the matter, and that amendments so far as the thickness was concerned should be allowed. The Chairman said that this had already been answered in as much as the NEC had decided to deal with the matter under Rule 32, and had agreed that no amendments should be allowed. The Chairman pointed out that to allow amendments that changed the substance of the proposal would not be proper because they would not have been circulated to the whole of the country. The Chairmam then read a communication received from the Dewsbury League with regard to the resolution, which was duly noted. Mr J Carrington opened the debate on behalf of the NEC by formally moving the resolution, which was seconded by Mr I C Eyles. Mr J Carrington said the NEC tables these proposals because it was aware that many members of the Association felt that the materials of the racket were playing too great a part in the achievement of playing success. This danger had always existed, owing to the looseness of Law 4, but had lately become more acute largely because of the development of modern cellular materials in which gas was trapped in enclosed cells, giving a high degree of elasticity. These new properties enabled the player to propel the ball quickly with less muscular effort and wider margin of error; or to absorb the speed of the ball in defence with much less footwork; it could impart excessive spin with little visible action; it was bringing "spin services" back into the game; its lack of sound hindered anticipation and in the opinion of most lovers of table tennis this lack of sound combined with its encouragement of lazy or chancy play was alarming the game as a spectacle while rendering it less enjoyable to play. Authorities such as Victor Barna had emphasised its bad effects on young players, who became inclined to look for new bats to improve their result instead of making greater personal efforts of physique and mind. Mr Carrington continued "Coaches throughout the country, who can do such good service to our game, are rapidly becoming frustrated in their work because they cannot be confident in their methods of teaching, and indeed with sponge bats stroke play and footwork are limited, while nobody knows what type of

bat will be met in the coming years. Many other sports have faced these problems as equipment improved, notably, of late, golf and rifle-shooting, and now it is our turn to stabilise the position. In some sports such as Lawn Tennis the racket was standardised by custom and use, and many of our members felt that after some 30 years the pimple-studded rubber bat was indeed standardised by custom and use. Whatever one's personal views about the effect of sponge and new combinations on rackets, one must agree that we can ill afford the serious confusion and dissension which their advent has sparked off; even if this particular storm could be weathered, fresh ones were always liable to break out at any time while the development of the racket remained un-controlled. Of course, everybody knew that we could not in England make permanent changes of a Law to improve this situation; we needed ITTF agreement. Recent Press comment had perhaps given the impression that England's proposals were a form of "revolt" and had little support abroad. To present a fairer picture, Mr Carrington mentioned that about 18 countries had been willing to support our proposals at Congress and a special Commission of the ITTF was actively studying the matter." A clear decision by the ETTA would, he felt, improve our chances of securing a reasonable compromise at ITTF, although he could not make firm predictions about such a controversial matter. It was true that unilateral standardisation might handicap some of our top players in some of next year's matches. He submitted, however, that the importance of this matter had been exaggerated. There was to be no World Championships next season; some countries might in any case march with us; and, above all, it would be wrong to decide an important principle according to the personal prospects of individual players. Mr L Thompson (Bucks) said he was against the resolution as he felt that the sandwich bat was a necessity for the development of the game. Mr K Craigie (Registered Member) said he was at a loss to know why the NEC wanted to ban sponge. What was the reason? Mr Bergmann (Registered Member) said he had very strong views on the subject and supported the resolution for the standardisation of the racket. He reminded the meeting that it was a question of choosing between making table tennis as a sport as it was, or relegating it back into the game stage. Mr S R Hoddy (Northmet League) - in the Middlesex area all the Leagues had been circulated and the clubs in the North Middlesex League, in order to find out exactly just what the ordinary club player felt. One League had a majority of 4-1 in favour of standardisation, another a majority of 4-3 in favour of standardisation. We should not talk about the relative merits, but find out what other people think. Mr J Forrest (Wandsworth) felt that it was the club man and the League man who should decide the issue. Delegates should speak for "Joe Brown of So-and-so club" not for Tanaka, Ogimura, or Sido. No League Secretary was worth his salt if he did not know his League's opinion. Wandsworth were in favour of standardisation. Mr F Newell (Cheltenham) said that the question evolved around ordinary people who play table tennis. Players should play with one type of bat. Organisers wanted to stage games which proved the most enjoyable. There was no excuse for the older players to try and get back into the game again with the sponge bat. Mr G R Harrower (Herts), although not liking the sponge bat, felt that the Association was not going the right way about it. Let the freak rackets mentioned by Jack Carrington come on to the market - they will have to be banned internationally - and standardisation will come internationally. Mr D Offer (London League etc) raised a question of principle so far as the actual wording of the Resolution was concerned, comparing same with the article in the April issue of the Magazine, which gave details of the recommendation of the ITTF. He felt that the resolution should be ruled out of order. The Chairman said that under Rule 32 as mentioned previously the Resolution was in order. Mr T E Sears (Registered Member), although agreeing with the proposal for standardisation, felt that the meeting should be quite clear that the Association was going it alone. Although the ITTF asked countries to undertake experiments, very few would be doing so. As a member of the Selection Committee he was very concerned about it, as if it did go through the question of selecting players to play abroad would be a vital matter. Mr J Corser (Watford) said his Association had instructed him by a unanimous vote to vote against the resolution. What was being proposed was not an experiment - what we are doing is seeing only one side of the case; for experiments you must make a comparison. After a year we would merely go back to the ITTF, but we would not be any further forward. Our players were merely being deprived of the experience of playing against sponge. In progress, you either go forward or back; if the resolution is passed today we go back. Mr A E H Clewer (Individual) queried the question of open tournaments, which in accordance with the regulations set down have to be played under the ITTF Rules. The Chairman explained that open tournaments played under any experimental deviation from the Laws that might be adopted would not be open tournaments, but would become Invitation Tournaments. Any such Tournaments as might be exempted by the NEC would be played under the international Laws. Mr I C Eyles (Glos) pointed out that so far as tournaments were concerned, in any case the regulation covering playing conditions would become Law for season 1957/8 and those tournaments not able to comply with the conditions therefore would become ETTA Tournaments, open to ETTA members only. Only those able to comply with the playing conditions could rank as open to all ITTF members. Mr J Leach (Registered Member) agreed with Mr Harrower's remarks and those of Mr T E Sears that there should be world-wide standardisation, or not at all. It should not be enforced in England until the other

countries had agreed also. The World Championships would not be held for another two years, and the only table tennis which would concern us would be in Europe. If we could get the European Associations on our side then perhaps the Asian countries would follow. Our players would have no chance to prepare for World Championships play. Mr A A Haydon (Birmingham) said that they in Birmingham voted unanimously against the standardisation of the bat. They felt that the measure now being proposed was more one of panic than of sound judgment. We had previously the parallel of the wooden racket and the pimped rubber, and the pimped rubber had eventually won. If the resolution is carried it will prevent some English players playing here, so that they can play abroad. If sponge is banned the first-class defensive player will come into his own again. Mr L G Adams (Registered Member) had two comments to make (i) Jack Carrington inferred that weapons have been standardised by custom - he thought they were standardised by efficiency (ii) there were approximately 300,000 players in the Association and assuming one in 50 plays with sponge, if the resolution was carried, the loss to those members would total approximately £3,000. Mr A E Haynes (London League) queried why so many top-class players were taking up sponge - they were merely trying to combat the other players of other countries to get to their standard. He had two amendments to put forward, but could not do so as the Chairman had ruled that they would be out of order. Mr G V Barna (Registered Member) felt it was useless continuing the debate as everyone had come to the meeting knowing what they intended to do. The ITTF had given no lead. English prestige was so high all over the World, he felt that other countries would follow whatever the English Association did. There was no doubt the sport was waning, and he asked members to search their conscience and consider what was good for the game. Mr Jack Carrington replied for the NEC. A vote was then taken, which resulted as follows:

For the resolution	972 votes
Against	358
Abstentions	120

The resolution proposed by the NEC was declared CARRIED.

Mr J Carrington on behalf of the NEC then opened up the discussion on what measure of standardisation is required so far as the covering material is concerned, and put forward arguments on the various suggested thicknesses as under. Referring to the material definitions Mr Carrington said that the majority of the NEC preferred to recommend pimped rubber, because it was believed that this was what most of our members really wanted, that most of our Rules and Regulations had been framed on the basis of pimped rubber technique, and that it was a simpler definition to understand and to administer. The alternatives of various thicknesses of undefined rubber were included to allow expression of preference to those who felt that the undesirable features of sponge play were due not entirely to the type of material but to its thickness. He himself inclined to this view and would have no objection to a thin sponge covering of a "sandwich" covering so long as it did not exceed 21mm. The highest alternative thickness proposed was 3mm (ie 1/8"), because it was thought that beyond this figure the propulsive effect of the covering (as contrasted with the blade) began to play too large a part in the game. Mr Carrington mentioned various experiments in which he had been helped by the English rubber and "sponge" manufacturers and cautioned the meeting that for a 2 m/m maximum they might expect instances of 2½mm, for a 2½mm occasionally 3 m/m and for a 3mm occasionally 3½mm or even 4mm. Differences of ½mm might be found in one sheet, so tricky was it to guarantee small dimensions with the elastic cellular materials. Where true scientific evidence was not available it seemed fairest to leave the decision to the preference of this representative meeting and this the NEC had done. Mr J Corser (Watford) said that there was a flaw in Mr Carrington's arguments when he said if we want 3mm we should keep it down to 2½mm. Mr C Jaschke (North- West Kent) said although he had not entered into the discussion prior to this he was for standardisation, but in his particular Region he knew some of his Leagues were against it, and he felt he could not speak against his Region. Now that the resolution had been carried he urged the electing to vote for ordinary pimped rubber covering as by this means no revolutionary change would be introduced. Mr Joy (Woolwich League) was in favour of 3mm covering as although his original feelings were against the sponge bat, which was a menace, the sandwich bat was quite a beautiful weapon to watch. Mr D Offer (London League) asked whether the Chairman, having a far greater experience on table tennis affairs, would give his views to the meeting on the subject. The Chairman said he would rather the meeting did not press him to do so as, when the question whether he should or should not had been raised at the NEC meeting, 7 members had voted that he should be allowed to do so, and 7 that he should not. Mr A A Haydon (Birmingham) felt the Association were taking a backward step in going back to pimped rubber, but so far as thickness was concerned he was in favour of 3mm. Mr Shirtcliffe (Doncaster Youth) said he represented the ordinary club man. He had been playing for 30 years, and considered that sponge was the biggest disaster which had hit the game in those 30 years. What was needed was a simplification of the tools. Players should have an equal chance of tools. All forms of sponge should be banned and a return made to pimped rubber. Mr J Leach (Registered Member) felt that knowing the results to be achieved from pimped rubber the only course now left open was to

experiment with thickness. If experiments with thickness were not carried out, the Association would get no chance of securing world-wide standardisation. Replying to the various questions Mr Carrington mentioned: the proposals due to come from the ITTF in July would almost certainly include our own proposals as these had been submitted to the appropriate special Commission. Those who would have wished to propose amendments were clearly at liberty to vote against the Resolution. He expected that eventually any agreement by the ITTF would be on the basis of a restriction of thickness and not on pimped rubber, although nobody could be sure about this. Mr D Offer (London League) queried how umpires were to measure the bats in matches to see that they were up to the correct standard. Mr Carrington replied - measurement of bat coverings would be first, by simple comparison with coins of known thickness; then, in case of complaint, by the Referee who would be provided with a simple depth-gauge; and finally by a special ETTA Committee with facilities for a workshop test. A vote was then taken which resulted as follows:

In favour of pimped rubber of a maximum thickness of 2mm	828
In favour of rubber limited by thickness	625.

(Note: 2 papers, totalling 26 possible votes, recorded no votes on this subject.)

The Chairman observed that this meant that for season 1957/58, an experimental rule would be put into operation that the racket should be standardised and that such standardisation should (subject to modification of wording but not of substance) be according to the following specification:

- (i) General The racket may be of any shape or weight; it must be dark in colour.
- (ii) The Blade The blade must be continuously and evenly rigid.
- (iii) The Covering (Material) The covering shall consist of ordinary pimped rubber (with the technical points involved in its definition) of a maximum thickness of 2mm.

The rule to apply to all events in England, except any specially exempted by the NEC. The National Open Championships would be so exempted, it had been made clear. The Rule would also not apply to international matches, unless the opposing Association agrees. The wording of the rule to be applied would be along the lines of the definition and wording already submitted to the ITTF and publicly known. It was further agreed that this decision should be communicated to the ITTF and all other countries, and every effort be made to convince other associations to adopt this or some other form of standardisation in time for a Special General Meeting of the ITTF to take place next summer (1958). If by the Spring of 1958 there are no signs from the attitude of other Associations that any such meeting can be expected to adopt a change of Laws, there may be no Special General Meeting. It will be duty of this Association at the next AGM to examine the position in the light of the international situation existing at that time. It was agreed to make a statement to the press on similar lines to the above.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT: The Hon Treasurer submitted a balance sheet as at 30th June 1956 and a receipts and payments account from the 1st July 1956 to the 26th April 1957. In dealing with the accounts Mr Vint said that the Coaching Fund had been absorbed; affiliation fees would be down by about £80, Registered Members fees about the same. Open Tournament fees £15 light. Ball and shirt rebate would probably be about the same. Table Tennis Magazine - only income derived from this - ie advertisement revenue - would be about the same as last year. So far as the English Open was concerned, he was not yet in a position to finalise same, as all the accounts had not been met, but judging from the income from Wembley and television fees, it looked as if it would be the highest on record. We had been fortunate in having the Japanese players in this country, and here again revenue would be forthcoming from the various International matches. The only one indicated on the account at the moment was the match played at Tottenham. Regarding the World Championships Travelling Expenses Fund, it had been decided to continue with the club competitions which to date had brought in an income of about £100. Out of this sum plaques would have to be purchased, but in spite of this a further contribution to the fund would have been achieved. As members would have seen, there was now on sale an official ETTA tie and, here again, this would provide a certain amount of income to the Association. The accounts indicated a reduction in wages and National Insurance, due to inability to find suitable staff. The office rent had increased, and the NEC had earlier on in the season taken a decision to find cheaper offices. It had then been considered a possibility that the Office should be transferred to the provinces. This still might have to be done in view of the increasing rent and general administrative, which would with little doubt increase again next season. Although the present financial position seemed most satisfactory, increasing costs were a real problem, and needed every attention if our good and healthy position was to be maintained. It was moved, seconded and agreed that the Treasurer's Report be received.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES:

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 3 In line 1, after "Vice-Presidents", insert "Honorary Life Members".

Moved by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr G Janes and, on being put to the vote, declared CARRIED.

In line 3, after "members", insert "in membership prior to 1st July 1957"

Moved by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr J Senescall and, on being put to the vote, declared CARRIED.

Rule 6(c) Delete and substitute "Individuals - 15/- for individuals desiring personal affiliation, provided they were in membership with the ETTA prior to 1st July 1957"

Moved by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr Blunn and, on being put to the vote, declared CARRIED.

Rule 9 In line 3, after the word "elect", insert "the Deputy Chairman, Press Officer, Director of Coaching and Editor of the Official Magazine"; in line 4, after "Treasurer", insert "and to invite such persons to attend meetings of the NEC, but without vote unless they already be members of the Committee".

Moved by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr W Stamp and, on being put to the vote, declared CARRIED.

Rule 13(a) In line 4, delete the word "two" and insert "three"; in line 5/6 delete "and at its discretion one woman member co-opted annually by the NEC" and insert "at least one of whom shall be a woman".

Moved by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr E Reay and, on being put to the vote, declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the Kent County Association Rules 13(g), 13(h) and 19(k),

The Kent County Association asked for leave to withdraw these amendments. It was agreed they be allowed to do so.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 21(b) In line 4, after the word "individual", insert the words "in membership prior to the 1st July 1957"

Moved by Mr A K Vint, and seconded by Mr T Blunn.

Mr E G White (London Civil Service League) opposed this amendment on the grounds that the new wording was ambiguous and could be read in a way not intended by the NEC. It was agreed that the NEC should withdraw this amendment, with a view to putting forward correct wording next season.

Proposed by the Kent County Association

Rule 28 c) After "minor singles" insert "but excluding all Junior events".

This amendment was supported by the NEC. It was formally moved, seconded and, on being put to the vote, declared CARRIED.

Resolution proposed by the NEC

"That the affiliation fee of 9/- be increased to 15/- in the 1958/9 season so as to include a free copy of the Official Magazine TABLE TENNIS to each and every affiliated club in the country."

After discussion, from which it appeared that no-one was in favour of the proposal, on being put to the vote the Resolution was LOST.

Resolution proposed by the London Civil Service League

"That the NEC should ensure that only such players as have played in at least six Open Tournaments in this country during the preceding twelve months should be considered for selection to play in representative matches".

This was formally moved and seconded. Discussion then ensued arising from same, when it was pointed out that the NEC opposed the Resolution in the sense it was written, but a vote was taken of those in favour of the principle, which was carried by 25 votes to 21. It was agreed to record that there was a feeling along the lines of the resolution, and that it be noted for the guidance of the Selection Committee.

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

HON GENERAL SECRETARY: On the motion of the NEC it was agreed to re-appoint Mr D P Lowen as Hon General Secretary.

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

LIFE MEMBERS: On the motion of the NEC it was agreed to add to the list of Hon Life Members the names of Mr M Goldstein and Mr W Stamp.

The meeting then closed with a vote of thanks put forward by Mr E G White (London Civil Service League) to the Chairman for the admirable way in which he had conducted the Chair at what had been a very awkward meeting.