

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE LECTURE HALL, KINGSWAY HALL, KINGSWAY, WC2 ON SATURDAY 26th APRIL 1958, COMMENCING AT 3.30pm

PRESENT	Hon I Montagu (in the chair) D P Lowen (Hon Secretary) A K Vint (Hon Treasurer)
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)	Mrs E Fletcher, T Blunn, J Carrington, N Cook, C J Clemett, I C Eyles L E Forrest, M Goldstein, G James, C Jaschke, L W Jones, F G Mannooch, P H Northcott, E Reay, J Senescall, M E Scott, H Walker, L S Woollard
Representatives from County Associations	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Yorkshire.
Leagues	Acton, Ashton-under-Lyne, Barrow, Billericay, Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Buckingham, Bromley, Castleford & Pontefract, Central, Chelmsford, Cheltenham, Cheshunt, Crawley, Croydon, Darwen, Dorchester, East Ham Youth, East London, Film Renters, Gloucester(City), Hastings, Haslingdon, Heywood, Ilford, Kent Schools, Liverpool Business Houses, London, London Business Houses, London Civil Service, Manchester, Northmet Sports, Northwich, North-West Kent, Oldham, Oxford, Petersfield, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Romford, Rossendale, Saddleworth, St Albans, Sittingbourne, Stockport, Stockport Youth, South London, Slough, Sunderland, Sutton, Thames Valley, Uxbridge, Wandsworth, Wembley & Harrow, West Essex, Watford, Wirral, York
Directly Affiliated Clubs	Barnehurst Residents' Association, Lensbury, North-West Kent, Polytechnic
Individuals	A E H Clewer, W J. Comber
Registered Members	L G Adams, G V Barna, G R Cooper, J A Leach, T E Sears
Other Organisations	Western Counties TTL
Apologies for absence	Derbyshire TTA, Devon County TTA, Isle of Wight TTA, Lincolnshire TTA, Northumberland TTA, Airedale & Wharfedale TTL, Bath & District TTA, Devizes TTA, Huddersfield & District TTL, Hull & East Riding TTA, Leeds & District TTL, Leicester TTA, Mid-Cheshire TTL, Scarborough & District TTA, Southport & District TTL, Yorkshire Association of Boys Clubs, L M Bromfield.

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman of the Association welcomed the Press. He reported that this was the first AGM of the Association to which the Press had been invited.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 27th APRIL 1957: The Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th April, 1957 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

The Chairman then outlined the proposed procedure for dealing with the items on the Agenda. It was agreed that Item No 4 on the Agenda, the result of the postal ballot for the members of the NEC on a regional and national basis and the report of the election of the Chairman and the Hon Treasurer should be taken as Item No 2. The Chairman stated that the resolution of the NEC regarding the standardisation of the racket was apparently in direct contradiction to that resolution proposed by the Stockport & District TTA. He stated that it had been agreed with the mover of the Stockport Resolution that they would prefer their resolution left as a resolution and not moved as an amendment to the NEC resolution. They had agreed that if the NEC resolution was carried the Stockport resolution would fall to the ground. It was further agreed that, should the NEC resolution failed to be passed, then the Stockport resolution would be in order and would be taken in the normal way. The Chairman explained to the meeting that on page 3 of the Agenda under a proposed alteration to the rule by the NEC, Rule No 13(j), a typing error had occurred and in line 3 the word should be "the" and not "their".

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NEC SEASON 1958-59: The results of the elections were announced as follows:

Officers	Chairman	VINT A K	Unopposed
	Treasurer	BLUNN T	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
	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	Unopposed
		L W JONES	Unopposed
	Southern Region	2 members to be elected. 47 papers out of a possible 88 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		JASCHKE C	41 Elected
		MANNOOCH F G	29 Elected
		Thompson L	20
	South-Western Region	member to be elected. 14 papers out of a possible 50 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		NORTHCOTT P	12 ELECTED
		NEWELL F C	2
	Eastern Region	2 members to be elected. 46 papers out of a possible 88 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		WOOLLARD L S	34 Elected
		WALKER H	26 Elected
		Fairhead E J	13
		Constable L R J	10
		Durrant A E	7
	London Region	2 members to be elected. 45 papers out of a possible 79 were returned. The votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		JAMES, G	32 Elected
		CLEMETT C J	23 Elected
		Bulport L C T	18
		Hoddy S R	17
	Yorkshire Region	FORREST L E	Unopposed
	National Members	3 members to be elected (at least one of whom shall be a woman). 251 papers were returned and the votes polled for the candidates were as follows:	
		CARRINGTON J	192 Elected
		SENECALL J	87 Elected
		FERGUSON Miss L	83 Elected
		Lightfoot Miss M	73
		Benson Miss	59
		Bateman F H	49
		Bromfield L M	43
		Haydon A A	37
		Thompson L	32
		Waines Miss K	24
		Wendon D	12
		Rix G F	8
		Durrant A E	6

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 moved, seconded and agreed to place on record a vote of thanks to the two scrutineers.

REPORT OF THE NEC FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 26th FEBRUARY 1958, TOGETHER WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT: The Chairman stated that he would take the Annual Report of the NEC

paragraph by paragraph and asked the members present to speak on any particular point they wished to raise as he came to that particular paragraph.

Item 9 - English Open Championships Mr Tyler (Hastings) stated that in the report the NEC congratulated the English Open Championships Committee for their work for the Championships and he felt that these thanks should be placed on record in the AGM Minutes. It was agreed that the Secretary should convey the thanks of the AGM to the English Open Championships Committee.

Item 27 - Official Magazine Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that he was of the opinion that the magazines published during the past season were of an anti-the-official-body and anti-the-workers nature. He felt that this policy was wrong as the people who read the magazine were the principal supporters of the Association. He wondered if the NEC thought that this type of editorship was desirable or whether the Committee were concerned about the unfair criticism. In reply Mr Eyles stated that his view was that the magazine was for everyone interested to read and state their views on any topic whatsoever, whether it be for or against the policies of the Association. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) felt that it was a good thing to have the opposition view in the magazine but he considered that the Editor should state the name of any contributor whose contribution on any subject attacked the game or the Association. Mr Corser (Watford) stated that he was under the impression that it was the usual journalistic procedure to withhold the name of the contributor if he had expressed the wish for the Editor to do so. He appreciated the fact that the Editor would of course have the name of the contributor for record purposes. Mr Vint stated that the Editor of the Official Magazine was not present at the meeting as he was a working journalist and had a professional duty that afternoon. He felt that the Editor had tried very hard to carry out his task doing his best for the Association and maybe the NEC were at fault and had not given enough aid and guidance to him. He further stated that the Chairman had on more than one occasion reminded the NEC that care should be taken regarding the magazine and its contributions. Mr Carrington was of the opinion that all the contributions should be signed with the writer's correct name. Mr Newell (Cheltenham) thought it would be best to have the name of the contributor at the foot of any article or letter so that should any member meet the contributor at any time, the matter could be discussed with him personally as well as in the official journal. Mr Cooper (Registered Member) said that in his opinion the magazine was not worth the money one had to pay for it as it contained details which was already circulated to the Clubs. Mr Woollard stated that as a former Editor he agreed with the criticism of Mr White but he felt that Mr Harrison Edwards in his job of Editor of the official journal had tried to represent the Association very fairly, and he felt that he was doing a very great work for little return. Mr Landry (Willesden) stated that he had with him a 1954 magazine in which were presented factual notes which he felt were of interest to a greater majority of the readers. There was little controversial matter in those days and he wondered whether in the current issues too many letters of an anti-Association nature were being written and published. Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that he did not wish to be unfair or criticize the magazine but he felt that by not publishing the names of the contributors of letters the impression might be gained that the official body was giving the information. In conclusion, the Chairman stated that Mr Harrison Edwards would be informed of the opinions expressed at this meeting and that the Magazine Committee would meet with Mr Edwards to discuss points for the forthcoming issues of the official journal.

Item 30 - ETTA Archives (Library) Mr Woollard explained to the members the reason why the NEC had given him the job of starting an archives library. He stated that he wished to get into his possession a copy of every book that had ever been written on table tennis. He invited authors to send a copy of their book autographed for the library to him. At the moment he had only received two copies of "Table Tennis 1902".

Item 33 - Office Administration The Secretary explained the position that Mrs Pegg had left the employment of the Association on April 11th 1958, and explained the current position operating in the ETTA Office. Mr White (London Civil Service) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Pegg for all the work she had carried out for the Association so efficiently. The Secretary stated that Mrs Pegg had been asked to attend the AGM and to accept a gift from the Association, but he had been informed that morning that Mrs Pegg would be unable to attend owing to domestic reasons. He stated, however, that a gift would be presented to her during the following week. Mr Bateman (Romford) expressed the wish that the Secretary should convey to Mrs Pegg the meeting's appreciation for her work and the Secretary stated that he would most certainly do this.

Wolfenden Committee on Sport The Chairman stated that Mr Vint would make a verbal report to the meeting regarding this matter. Mr Vint stated that the NEC had expressed the wish that he should inform the AGM that the Association had received an invitation from the CCPR to submit evidence to the Wolfenden Committee on Sport. Mr Vint then read to the meeting the Terms of Reference of the Committee as follows: "To examine the factors affecting and development of games, sports and outdoor activities in the United Kingdom and to make recommendations to the Central Council of Physical Recreation as to any practical measures which should be taken by statutory or voluntary bodies in order that these activities may play their full part in promoting the general welfare of the community", and stated that the NEC had formed a sub-committee to deal with this

matter of which he was the Chairman. He thought it might be of interest for the meeting to know that the sub-committee had commenced to collect material and documents which would be forwarded to the Wolfenden Committee and that in addition this matter had been discussed at a meeting of representatives of the Irish, Scottish and Welsh Table Tennis Associations. At this meeting it had been decided that each country should make their own representations but it had been mutually agreed that all Associations would circulate to each other the various documents which were forwarded to the CCPR so that all might walk in step regarding representation. He further stated that the ETTA would offer to send representatives to meet the Wolfenden Committee to discuss orally the various points submitted by the Association. The one big factor which concerned everyone in the organisation of sport was finance and he felt that the meeting should be aware that the NEC were taking an active part in forwarding fact and data regarding table tennis to the Wolfenden Committee.

It was moved by Mr Bateman (Romford) and seconded by Mr Ingrey (St Albans) that the Report of the NEC together with the Supplementary Report be adopted and this was agreed.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT: The Hon Treasurer submitted a balance sheet as at 30th June 1957 and a receipts and payments account from 1st July 1957 to 24th April 1958. In dealing with the Accounts Mr Vint stated that the figure of receipts from affiliation fees had risen this year but he wished to point out that a certain amount of it had been given back to the Counties in the form of rebate. The English Open Championships would not show such a handsome profit as last year when we had the Japanese in this country. He hoped that at the end of the financial year the Accounts would break even, but there would be a very considerable reduction in the amount which the Association would receive from Wembley. The Treasurer felt he should give a warning to the meeting that the organisation of the game was always costing more, not only in general administration but also in the field of the organisation of Championships and international matches. He posed the question as to whether we should increase the affiliation fees to the Association or look to some other means for raising funds. He felt that the provision of international matches which had in past years provided handsome profits was not now necessarily the answer to the problem. In conclusion he expressed his gratitude to all those who had assisted him so well during his term of office, and he hoped that Mr Blunn would receive the same co-operation from the membership axed experience a very happy period of office as Hon Treasurer of the Association. He produced an account which he had received from the Hon Treasurer of the Association in 1930 when he first took office which showed an income of £101 and a deficit of £33. He had at that time to negotiate an overdraft with the bank of £25 which had caused considerable difficulty and required all the Officers of the Association to act as guarantors.

It was moved by Mr Eyles and seconded by Mr Forrest and agreed that the Treasurer's Report be received.

RESOLUTIONS:

Proposed by the NEC

Standardisation of the Racket

"That the standardisation of the racket by pimped rubber covering (undertaken in accordance with the ITTF 1957 Stockholm Congress recommendation that member countries should undertake trials of racket standardisation measures) for the purpose of play in this country in all events during season 1957/58, except any specially exempted by the NEC, SHOULD CONTINUE during season 1958/59, unless altered at a Special General Meeting which may be called (under the terms of Rule 20) in the light of any new decisions or recommendations by the ITTF".

The Chairman stated that at the NEC meeting held before the AGM the members of the NEC had agreed that he should at this stage vacate the chair as he wished to speak for this resolution and the NEC had agreed that he should do this. Mr Vint then moved that Mr Eyles should take the chair during discussion on the above resolution and Mr Jaschke seconded. Agreed. Mr Eyles took the Chair.

Mr Carrington in moving this resolution stated that the question of the standardisation of the racket was fundamental to every player and, he felt, affected every player's attitude to the game. During the year that had passed a number of people in the world had been puzzled and confused so far as the various rackets in use had been concerned, but he felt that as far as the home game had been concerned, we had at least cut out the confusion and puzzlement by the introduction of a standardised racket. He knew that a number of our members had not been very happy when the resolution had been passed last year, but it appeared that those who were unhappy regarding this matter had knuckled down to it and he stated that the members of the Association had appreciated their effort. The resolution last year had been passed with a simple majority of 7-2. He appreciated that not every member of the Association had come to the AGM last year but it was true to say that more came on that occasion than ever before and it could be said, fairly he thought, that their combined votes represented the general feeling of the whole country. He stated that in his experience positions taken by leading countries

were usually followed by the lesser ones. The ETTA had carried out a great deal of hard work on the international front, trying to convince our foreign friends of the reasons of our stand in standardising the racket in this country. The result of this had been that 8 or 9 countries had passed experimental rules standardising the racket and he felt that if England had not carried out a standardisation policy first they might not have followed in step. He knew that certain countries felt even more strongly on this matter than the ETTA and we had done all that we could to foster this feeling and he felt considerable progress had been made in less than a year. Without doubt progress in this question had been made and he reflected that so far as the ITTF side of the question was concerned the ETTA had only had six months in which to try to get other countries to appreciate our stand. Because of this he hoped that those ETTA members who did not agree with standardisation would not stand in the way of what he felt was a move to standardise the racket throughout the world. He asked the members to be reasonable, in view of the immense amount of work still to be done, and allow the experiment to continue for a further period up to the next ITTF Congress. He quoted the case of Sweden who were one of the biggest opponents to the standardisation of the racket question, and stated that they had now come round to a slightly more favourable view. He thought that given a little more time Sweden would probably follow our lead and, if this was so, he felt that Finland, Denmark and Norway would follow Sweden as this was invariably their policy. The USSR had also stated attitudes which were not at all unfavourable and regarding the points that he had heard that our top players when selected to go to the next World Championships would be at a disadvantage when they met players from different countries using other than pimped rubber bats he felt that this would only last for the coming year. He stated that an opportunity would be given however for our top players to have the chance of playing against other than pimped rubber rackets before they departed to take part in World Championships and he therefore hoped that the members would stand by their decision of last year to standardise the racket in this country on pimped rubber for the time being to avoid confusion. Mr James stated that it gave him great pleasure to second this resolution. Mr Offer(London) was in favour of the rejection of the NEC standardisation of the racket resolution. He asked the AGM to cast their minds back to the 1957 World Congress where it had been stated it had been impossible to obtain a three-quarters majority for standardisation. In his view the situation had not materially altered as to his knowledge only eight of the 73 countries affiliated to the ITTF had followed England. Could we in view of this, he said, reasonably go on with the standardisation of the racket in this country thinking that we could at the next Congress get agreement to standardisation. He felt that without doubt we would not get standardisation by pimped rubber and that we should be realistic in our approach to the matter. Mr Woollard then suggested that the Chairman should obtain the feeling of the meeting as to whether they were in favour or not of the NEC resolution. Agreed. Mr Newell (Cheltenham) moved and Mr Bateman,(Romford) seconded that the NEC resolution be put to the meeting and carried. Mr Montagu then returned to the Chair.

Mr Montagu on his return to the Chair stated that it seemed to him that there were very difficult problems connected with this matter and he felt that our Association as a whole had much to gain by the pooling of views in order that the NEC might be guided by what our members really desired. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) suggested that as Mr Montagu had not had the opportunity to speak in the previous discussion that he be allowed to give the meeting his views on the subject in an item under "Any Other Business". The meeting agreed to this suggestion. Mr Jaschke stated that on the standardisation of the racket question there had been one or two members who had accused the NEC of steam-roller tactics in getting the matter approved. He had himself been accused of misrepresenting the feelings of the members of the ETTA and he wondered whether it would be the AGM's wish, in view of the manner in which the resolution had been carried this year, that the resolution be carried without proper block voting. In reply the Chairman state that the question was now close and that every individual at the meeting should make up his or her mind as to what had transpired.

Proposed by Stockport & District TTA

That the Stockport Association view with apprehension the so-called experiments with the laws of Table Tennis viz - doubles lines, racket standardisation and the height of the net. They consider these experiments cause uncertainty amongst players and are detrimental to the game. They therefore wish to propose the following: "The Laws of Table Tennis as adopted by the ITTF be adhered to without alteration until such time as any alterations are finally approved and passed by the ITTF".

As had been previously stated by the Chairman, this resolution now fell to the ground. But the Chairman suggested that for the benefit of the AGM perhaps the Stockport representative would like to express his views so that the members present knew of the thoughts of the Stockport and District Table Tennis Association. The Stockport representative stated that his Association's opinion was that the ETTA should not take part in ITTF experiments as this affected the whole of play in England and this could be detrimental to the game in this country. He felt also that a uniformity of play throughout the whole world was an essential part of the ITTF's function. Any experiments, his Association felt, should be carried out by players using various types of racket at specially staged events for them. Finally, his Association regarded the standardisation of the racket in all

match play was completely the wrong way to go about this matter. The Chairman thanked the Stockport Representative for expressing his Association's views which he felt had been beneficial to the members who had attended the AGM.

Proposed by the NEC

"That, in view of the controversial nature of the suggestion that funds be raised for the ETTA by the introduction of a Football Pools Scheme by an outside body, a vote be taken at this AGM to decide the following questions:

- (i) Whether it is desirable to raise funds for the ETTA by the introduction of a Football Pools' Scheme.
- (ii) Whether the sum of money (thought to be in the region of £300) to commence such a scheme should be advanced from the Funds of the ETTA.

The Chairman stated that with regard to this resolution he felt that there should be three separate votes. He explained that these three votes would be for (i) to see whether the meeting wished to discuss the question of football pools; (ii) if (i) were passed then a vote should be taken on the first part of the resolution and (iii) a vote then taken on the second part. Mr Eyles, in moving the resolution for the NEC, stated that we wanted to get England back on her feet again in the Table Tennis world but we were continually being defeated by the shortage of finance. He posed the question as to how we could send our players abroad into various national championships without cash and he pointed out to the meeting that the Hon Treasurer had already told them that money was short and looked as if it would continue to be so. He pointed out that many sports associations and large clubs in England were being supported by lotteries to make ends meet. He instanced the position in his own county, Gloucestershire, where the supporters' club formed to help the Gloucestershire Cricket Club had already given to the County a new score board, tea pavilion and only last week had donated a sum of £10,000 for the County Cricket Club's use. He felt that we had two courses to adopt, one to concentrate on home table tennis and not be interested in international play, or we had to raise money by such means as he was now outlining so that our players could travel to the end of the earth to play the foreigners in their own countries. Mr Woollard, who seconded the resolution, stated that he agreed with everything that Mr Eyles had said and he instanced Sweden as a country which ran a National Supporters' Association which supported all types of sport in that country. He felt we in this country were worried about Church and Youth Clubs when introducing a scheme such as this but he did not feel that if we ran such a scheme it would infect such clubs with the gambling spirit. In his opinion, very many clubs in this country had at some time or another run a form of lottery or gambling to raise finance for certain activities. Mr Lambell (Plymouth) said that their League were probably the most wealthy in the country. They had run draws for a number of years and last season they decided to run a football pool so that they would be in a position to build their own Headquarters. Last season they had paid 10% to their agents, 10% to the clubs who had helped them so that they could buy new equipment and yet at the end of the season they had made £600 net profit. He felt that this was proof enough that funds could be got in this way. Mr Jaschke stated that he also wished to support the idea of football pools. In Kent they had no knowledge of the scheme outlined by Mr Eyles but they had tried other types of lottery with great success. His County however felt very strongly indeed that in the setting up of an organisation for the running of the football pools the NEC must have a majority of people on the Management Committee so as to retain the final say in how the money raised should be allocated. Another point he mentioned was that a number of Leagues rely almost entirely on money raised on lotteries and they might well say "Please keep out of our territory" and the Kent County considered that they should have the right to say this without prejudice. Subject to these two points Kent were in agreement with the introduction of this idea. Mr Cooper (Registered Member) did not like the idea of a football pool in any shape or form and he stated that in his opinion the best way of making the Association pay was to increase the amount of affiliation fees payable by the Leagues. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) thought that the meeting should be aware that if they voted for this resolution they should realise that they had an obligation to support it, and he felt that the representatives present should completely understand what they were doing if the resolution was carried when they voted in favour of the introduction of such a scheme. Mr Forrest (Bradford) said that in all his 30 years' association with the ETTA he had never before seen such a resolution put to the AGM by the NEC and he felt that the NEC in so doing had gone away from the rules and principles of the Association and the Laws of the Game. He felt that this particular resolution struck a blow at the church and YMCA clubs on a point of principle. Certain churches do run football pools but this type of gambling is not looked upon in favour by the National Federation of Churches. He went on to say that 30 years ago the greatest help to the ETTA came from the YMCA clubs; even now the YMCA clubs played a big part in the various Leagues up and down the country. As a resident of Bradford he could quote numbers realistically and he stated that of the 134 teams competing in the local League just under 50% were church clubs. Many of the leading industrialists in Bradford who supported whole-heartedly table tennis in that area were opposed to the idea of football pools, and he felt that the introduction of such a scheme could make trouble for the ETTA, if the church and YMCA clubs got together and formed their own Leagues

and did not affiliate. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) stated that in his experience in more than one League, finance was equally important to any one player as any matter of principle. Players and members often asked "What are we getting for our affiliation fee?" He felt that it was quite impossible to suggest increasing our affiliation fees and although we might lose a certain number of members through the introduction of this scheme we could quite easily lose an equal number of members through increasing the fees payable to the Association. Mr Lowe (West Essex) had five points to make: (1) He had read in the official journal that the scheme was going to be run by an outside body and he wondered if this body would be authorised to do so and whether its accounts would be audited by a firm of accountants. (2) He wondered also whether the ETTA had any guarantee of the use of any of the profits made. (3) He stated that it was obvious that certain people would object to this scheme but why should these people stand in the way of those who wished to use it. He wondered if as they objected to gambling they also objected to the playing of table tennis on a Sunday. (4) He was of the opinion that much of the finance which would come from the football pools scheme would come from the relations and friends of the appointed agents and therefore no extra burden financially would come on the players of the game. (5) He posed the question that if the scheme was carried would the NEC withdraw their proposal for Rule 28? Mr Corser (Watford) felt that we should organise our table tennis so that it attracted the public. In this way we could raise our gate admissions and so make money from this means. He felt that if we all used our talents to raise money in this way we may let slip from our minds the most important point of all, that being the improving of the game. Mr Eyles, in reply to the debate, stated that many bazaars and church gatherings had adopted some type of gambling so as to raise finance and he instanced the question of jumble sales and sales-of-work. He agreed with Mr Cooper that we must at all costs pay our way but he felt that the introduction of the football pools scheme was the way in which the whole country could play its part, both table tennis players and their friends.

The Chairman then asked for a vote on the resolution which indicated on a show of hands that the resolution was carried. Mr Davis (Gloucester) asked that a block vote be taken on the items (i) and (ii) of the resolution. The meeting agreed to appoint Messrs White, Motlow, Hoddy and Sears as the tellers. The voting for No (i) was 774 votes for and 343 votes against, this part of the resolution was therefore-declared CARRIED. The voting for No (ii) was 645 votes for, 472 against which meant that this part of the resolution also was CARRIED.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES:

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 4 Qualification for membership: Delete the present rule and insert "Any local Association, local League, Club or an individual player playing under the Laws of the game as approved by the Association shall be eligible for affiliation".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr L Forrest and on being put to the vote declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 9 In line 1, after "Chairman", insert "Deputy Chairman"; in line 3, delete "the Deputy Chairman" and insert "a"; in lines 7/8, delete "but without vote unless they already be members of the Committee" and insert "the Press Officer to have the power to vote whereas in the case of the other appointments they should be made without vote unless they already be members of the Committee".

Moved by Mr A K Vint and seconded by Mr F Bateman.

Mr Hoddy asked if it were possible for him to be told whether the proposed alteration to rule at this instance was unanimous decision on the part of the NEC or whether there was a division. If there was a division, he asked to what extent was the NEC divided. In reply Mr Vint stated that in his recollection the decision of the NEC was unanimous. Mr Hoddy stated that in this instance he felt that the meeting were being asked to vote on a precedent and he was therefore speaking on a question of principle. It was his thought that under normal circumstances any association had only three officers, namely Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and he felt that the NEC were now asking the AGM for powers to appoint a Deputy Chairman and Press Officer who would have a vote on all questions of policy and yet the present rule stated that Assistant Secretaries and Assistant Treasurers should have officer rank and yet not be able to have a vote. He did not object to the Press Officer having a vote but he did object to any officer appointed not having a vote. He felt the position was that we should appoint a Press Officer who is not an officer or a Press Secretary who is not a Secretary, and therefore in his opinion the rule was loosely worded. His suggestion was that it-would be better for the Association to leave this alteration to rule for the present, look at it again and word it more tightly for the next AGM. Mr Offer felt that if this alteration to rule was carried the Press Officer would be in fact the only member of the NEC who is not elected at the AGM and that he would be merely appointed by the NEC. This was entirely wrong in principle. Why should the AGM be asked to give the Press Officer the power to vote?

The Press Officer should be appointed for his press abilities only and, as this was a specialist job, as were many others, he was strongly against this alteration to rule as it applied to the Press Officer. Mr Davis (Gloucester) made a statement that, in the view of his local Association, the Press Officer should not sit on the Committee at all, as this was the position in his own vicinity. Mr Lowe (West Essex) stated that the Deputy Chairman would only be called upon to take the Chair should the Chairman not attend the meeting, and it was his experience that normally should the Chairman not be available one of the Committee was elected to fill the vacancy for that particular meeting. He posed the question that if the Deputy Chairman did not attend the meeting the position would be the same as in his own Committee and the Chairman for any particular meeting would have to be found from members of the Committee. In reply Mr Vint stated that with regard to the question of the Deputy Chairman, what the NEC had in mind was to appoint an additional national Officer of the Association. Next year, if the alteration to rule was carried, the Deputy Chairman would be nominated and voted for on the ballot papers. This year the NEC would have to appoint a Deputy Chairman as there would be a vacancy. He went on to say that the organisation of the ETTA involved a great deal of work and he felt that some of the mistakes which had occurred in the past had been because the Association had not had sufficient responsible Officers. In the case of the Hon Secretary, he reminded the meeting that he was nominated by the NEC and his name put to the AGM for the approval of the members.

On being put to the vote this alteration to the rules regarding the Deputy Chairman was CARRIED.

Mr Vint then gave the NEC's views regarding the appointment of the Press Officer. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that he would support this alteration to rule because of the information contained in the first line. He stated, however, that he deplored the wording of the last three lines and he felt that the NEC should consider that any Assistant Secretaries or Assistant Treasurers appointed by them were worthy of a vote as was the Deputy Chairman and Press Officer. This part of the alteration to the rule was subjected to block voting and the result of the vote was 532 votes for, 567 against, there being 9 abstentions. This part of the alteration to rules was therefore LOST.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 10 Delete "three months before the date of the AGM" and insert "not later than 31st January in any year".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr L Forrest and on being put to the vote declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(a) Delete and insert "The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a National Executive Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Hon Treasurer, Hon General Secretary, Press Officer, members elected annually in accordance with Rule 13 (b), two members of the Association elected annually on a national basis and one woman member of the Association elected annually on a national basis; a woman may accept nomination in only one national ballot".

Moved by Mr T Blunn and seconded by Mr F Bateman.

Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that in rule 9 which had just been considered, this rule now allowed for the Association to have a Press Officer. Rule 13(a) as it was now proposed seemed to make clear that the NEC were wishing to make an application to have a Press Officer and in view of this there seemed to be a certain amount of inconsistency. He asked for an assurance that the NEC would look into this matter and have the rule tidied up next year. Mr Watts (Hastings) thought that it was essential to have a woman member on the NEC. He was all for the mixing of the sexes and believed in a free for all for the sexes everywhere. In reply the Chairman stated that should the NEC find any inconsistency they would obviously do something about it.

On being put to the vote there were 28 votes for and 9 against. The alteration to rule was therefore CARRIED.

Proposed by the Hastings & District TTA

Rule 13(b)(ii) Add "Those Regions qualifying for more than one member shall be divided into sub-regions, each sub-region to elect one member."

Proposed by the Hastings & District TTA

Rule 13(b)(iii) After "Region" add "and sub-Region".

Mr Tyler (Hastings) expressed his Association's views to the meeting, stating that in their opinion certain of the regional areas of the ETTA were very wide and therefore a very heavy burden was imposed upon the NEC members representing those particular regions. The Hastings Association felt that it was essential to halve the burdens in those particular areas so that the job could be adequately carried on. He gave the following information regarding the makeup of certain of the Regions as follows:

Midland Region	8 counties covering 52 Leagues
Northwest Region	2 counties covering 38 Leagues
Southwest Region	6 counties covering 31 Leagues

Eastern Region 8 counties covering 62 Leagues
London Region 2 counties covering 43 Leagues

He further stated that his Association thought that it was unreasonable that the NEC officials should be expected to have sufficient time to adequately represent and cover the affairs of so many leagues. It would be easier if each region was divided into sub-regions, each sub-region electing one delegate. If each NEC member had a more compact area in which to operate the ETTA would get more members prepared to stand. He instanced the fact of the Southern Region where in his opinion the region suffered because both their duly elected members came from the same corner of the Region. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) expressed the opinion that the NEC exists as a body of people who are elected with the quality of being able to govern. In view of this, the NEC is limited to a few regions. He realised that the nearer each representative was to his area the better and he agreed that it was far better for each particular area to vote for one person only. Mr Bateman (Romford) said that the Essex County Executive had considered this matter at its last meeting. Whilst they had every sympathy with Hastings on the subject, the Essex Committee felt that the wording was too vague. They had expressed the view that it was better for the NEC to get down to this matter and put something concrete forward at the next AGM. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) asked a question as to whether we were electing an NEC or whether we were electing representatives of Counties or Regions. If we reduced the areas of the various regions he felt that we could stand a chance of cutting out from the top administrative level people of national stature because there happened to be two of such people in the same area. How would the mover of this alteration to the rule sort out the London Area, which was terribly complicated? Mr Hoddy felt that we had at the present time the best solution to the problem. Mr Woollard stated that he did not feel that this matter should be dealt with at this meeting but that it should be brought forward at the County Secretaries' Conference which would be held later in the year. He asked the Chairman if it would be in order for him to move an amendment. In reply the Chairman stated that Mr Woollard would not be in order to move an amendment. Mr Blunn stated that the Rules Committee had considered this matter in very great detail and many suggested alterations and alternatives had been discussed. He felt that at this stage it would be far better to reject this proposal and allow the NEC to reconsider the whole question during the coming season. Mr Tyler (Hastings) replying, stated that he felt that the meeting might be considering the question of personalities. He agreed that some outstanding personalities would be put out but he felt that this matter was a vote of principle and not of personalities. He felt that it had been proved that the members present were not at all happy at the present method of voting but thought that matters could be improved. He suggested that at the present time one voted for two candidates or, in other words, members were casting their vote for the best person in a region and the second best, and in his opinion this was not a good thing. The alteration to rule was then put to the vote, 14 votes being recorded for and 27 against and it therefore fell.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(g)(i) In line 3, after "Association", add "and the one woman member of the Association".

Moved by Mr T Blunn and seconded by Mr L W Jones.

Mr Buchan (Croydon) stated that he felt that the rule was faultily worded at the present time. The Chairman asked Mr Buchan if he would withdraw his objection to the wording so long as he was given an assurance that the rule would be corrected at the next meeting. The Chairman felt that the wording if passed in its present form was perfectly clear in intention although he agreed it could be more happily worded. On being put to the vote this matter was CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(j) Delete the whole rule and insert "At the first meeting of the NEC after the AGM it shall agree the Standing Orders for the coming period of office".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr L W Jones and on being put to the vote CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(b) In line 2, delete the word "delegate" and insert "accredited representative".

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

Proposed by the NEC

RULE 19(c) In line 1, between "rules" and "and", insert "and the Laws of the Game as approved by the Association".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr L W Jones and on being put to the vote CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

RULE 19(f) Add to the present rule "The name of the proxy holder for any County Association, Local Association, Local League, Directly Affiliated Club shall be sent to the Hon General Secretary of the Association seven days before the date of the AGM".

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

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(g) In line 1, between "proxy" and "shall", insert "relating to a specific resolution"; in line 3, between "the" and "rules", insert "Laws of the Game and the".

Moved by Mr Vint, seconded by Mr G James and on being out to the vote CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19 In line 1, between "elect" and "then" insert "but only on the nomination of the NEC".

Moved by Mr T Blunn and seconded by Mr E Reay.

Mr Buchan(Croydon), speaking on this resolution, stated that he was of the opinion that the election of a President should be the prerogative of the AGM. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that he supported the last speaker. He felt that the time might come in the future when the AGM would wish to appoint their own Auditors, and he considered that the AGM should have this right to nominate the Auditors if they so desired. He agreed that it was not necessary at the moment but he thought that the AGM should retain the right should the occasion arise in the future. Mr Blunn stated that the NEC, if the alteration of rule was carried, would merely nominate and the members present at the AGM would still have the chance of refusing such nominations at the AGM. The Chairman stated that he felt that, before the meeting discussed this matter further, the NEC had put this matter forward to bring the procedure into line with regular practice. He felt that the present system could go on for a further year if the rule was rejected by the AGM and sent back to the NEC for amendment. The mover of the resolution agreed to withdraw this alteration to the rule.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 21(f) In line 3, delete the first time use of the word "rules" and insert "Laws".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr F Bateman and on being put to the vote CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 22 In line 2, insert a comma after the word "auspices"; in line 4 delete "without the sanction of the County Secretary concerned"; in line 3, after "Association", add "without the sanction of the Association".

Moved by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr Buchan (Croydon).

Mr Thompson (Slough) felt that the County Secretary was in a better position to help the people in his area by stating and giving permission to various small events which the Association were not in a position to appreciate. However, he agreed that if the alteration to the rule was passed the County Secretary should be consulted by the ETTA. Mr Fairhead (Norfolk) stated that he felt for a County Association to get permission to stage a small event or exhibition in a small village unnecessary. The alteration to rule when put to block voting resulted in 371 votes for, 211 against and 155 abstentions. The alteration to rule was therefore LOST.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 23 In line 2, delete "on standard stock"; in line, 3 between "Tennis" and "unless", insert "for public exhibition"; in lines 3/4 delete "one of the Officers of the Association" and insert "the Secretary of the Association".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr L W Jones. The Chairman ruled that in the case of this alteration there should be separate votes on the two points under discussion. Mr Bateman (Romford) thought that lines 2 & 3 should be taken together and this was agreed. On being put to the vote, both proposals declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 26 In line 3, delete "one of the Officers of the Association" and insert "Secretary of the Association".

MoVed by Mr A K Vint, seconded by Mr I C Eyles and on being put to the vote declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

ETTA 1957/58 Handbook, page 27: Delete heading "Open Tournaments" and insert heading "Open and Invitation Tournaments".

Rule 28 In line 1, after "Open", insert "and Invitation".

Rule 28(a) In line 1, between "Open" and "Tournaments", insert "or Invitation".

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 28(d) In line 1, between "Open" and "Tournament" insert "or Invitation".

The Chairman ruled that rules 28, 28(a) and 28(d) be taken together as they were complementary.

Moved by Mr T Blunn and seconded by Mr G James.

Mr Thompson (Slough) asked for information as to the difference between an area tournament and a radius tournament. He had received quite recently a form which had been issued from Bedford inviting players within a 30 miles radius of Bedford to play in what they had. called a "radius tournament". The Chairman in reply stated that the organisers could not carry on with this tournament until they had received the approval of the Counties over which the tournament was being organised. Also, if the tournament covered more than one County, then the approval of the ETTA must be obtained. Mr Senescall stated that the definitions regarding the

various types of tournaments could be found on page 16 of the current ETTA Handbook. Mr Woollard stated that Luton had been running this tournament since 1928 and as they were bordering on the boundaries of Hertfordshire, and Buckinghamshire they wished to extend their activities.

This alteration to rule, on being put to the vote, was declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 28(c) Delete the whole rule and insert "All competitors other than those in Junior events shall pay a fee of 1/- to the ETTA. The Tournament Secretary shall remit the fees collected to the Association together with a summary of the number of entrants in each event and a record of the results of each event, including details of the final and semi-finals matches, within 14 days of the completion of the tournament. A County Association shall be entitled to a refund of a sum equivalent to one-fifth of the competitors' fees paid to the Association in respect of tournaments played in the area of the County concerned".

Moved by Mr T Blunn and seconded by Mr J Senescall.

Mr Watts (Hastings) asked for an explanation as to the position when foreign players took part in open tournaments and are not normally asked to pay the appropriate entry fees. What would the attitude of the ETTA be to the shilling levy being paid by the foreign players? The Chairman stated that under the rules of the ITTF there was no legal provision for the exclusion of foreign players from paying their open tournament fees. He ruled that, in answer to Mr Watts' question, the organisers should make provision to pay the Association the appropriate fees covering the foreign entries. Mr Eyles stated that in a number of tournaments the international players in our country are invited and do not pay their entry fees. In view of the Chairman's ruling Mr Eyles felt that the organisers should make provisions to pay the shilling levy on these players too. Mr Lowe (West Essex) stated that he was against this alteration. He was of the opinion that the players who participated in the tournament should not be expected to pay the additional fee.

This alteration to rule, on being put to the vote, was declared CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 29(d) Delete "Rule 28, clauses (b) (d) (e) and (f)" and substitute "Rule 28 Clauses (b) (d) (e) (f) and (g)".

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 29(e) Delete.

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr I C Eyles and, on being put to the vote, CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 31 In line 1, between "Rules" and "shall", insert "or the Laws of the Game as approved by the Association"; in line 4, between "Rules" and "shall", insert "or the Laws of the Game as approved by the Association".

Moved by Mr T Blunn, seconded by Mr I C Eyles and, on being put to the vote, CARRIED.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: Mr Vint reminded the meeting that The Dowager Lady Swaythling OBE had intimated at the last year's AGM that she would be retiring as the Association's President at this meeting. Mr Vint stated that the NEC's nomination for the vacancy was the Hon I G S Montagu as in this way the Association would be able to pay tribute to his work and services throughout many past years. It was true to say that Mr Montagu had a "genius for leadership" and he had guided the Association through many perilous years with the greatest success, a success now recognised by everyone present at the meeting. Mr Vint in conclusion stated that he had the greatest pleasure in moving the name of the Hon I G S Montagu as President and this was seconded by Mr I C Eyles. CARRIED.

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Mr Vint moved that the following persons be re-elected as Vice-Presidents of the Association:

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 moved that Mr D P Lowen should be re-appointed as Hon General Secretary. Mr I C Eyles seconded this and on being put to the vote was CARRIED.

AUDITORS: Mr Vint moved that Messrs Spain Brothers, Chartered Accountants, be re-elected the Auditors of the Association. This was seconded by Mr Eyles and CARRIED.

NOMINATION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: The Secretary stated that the NEC had no names to put to the meeting for approval regarding this item.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Invitation Tournaments Mr Wickens (Buckingham) asked for clarification as to the procedure adopted by the NEC regarding the fact of organisers of these tournaments abiding by the Rules of the Association regarding such events. He felt that the Rules should be adhered to and some steps should be taken to see that organisers did not contravene them. He was of the opinion that several towns run tournaments of this nature or something similar and as far as he was aware never asked for any permission of the governing body. In reply Mr Vint stated that the NEC will carefully consider this matter during the coming season. It was much more essential now in view of the new rule which had been passed at this meeting. The NEC would definitely take note of Mr Wickens' remarks and endeavour to see that all tournament organisers were made aware of their obligations.

Minute Secretary Mr Woollard wished to express the thanks of the meeting to Miss Coleman who had very kindly consented to come along and take the minutes for the AGM. This was seconded by Mr G James and approved by the meeting.

County Secretaries Conference The Secretary stated that the NEC had considered holding a County Secretaries' Conference during the summer months and he reported that a number of members had last year expressed the desire that the meeting should be held at the seaside rather than in London. He wondered whether the meeting would give him some indication as to whether they had a preference on this matter and on a show of hands 2 members preferred London whilst 6 preferred the seaside. The Chairman stated that this information would be duly noted. The Chairman, expressing his appreciation of the honour done him by election as President, notwithstanding that the Association had put up with him as Chairman for so long, stated that before ending the meeting he would avail himself of its consent that he should express his views on the racket problem, as Mr Hoddy (Northmet) had so kindly proposed. It was his desire that in his renewed position as President any activity on his part should serve to help to unite the Association, by bringing Executive and members together. He was very deeply concerned over the possibilities of divisions and splits, both at home and internationally. Before he was born, table tennis was played very widely in this country, and in some others too, but it came to an end for quite a long period chiefly owing to the conflicts that sprung up between different Associations, each favouring different rules. He had played a large part in international affairs, and therefore he urged his hearers to remember this and discount it if he gave too much weight to this aspect. Nevertheless, he felt the character of table tennis as an international sport was all-important. Today there are 70 or 71 countries in membership with the ITTF. We are possibly the second largest of the international sports federations. He could remember the time when no newspapers would print anything at all about table tennis, and if now we are recognised it is largely because we have established ourselves as one of the great international sports of the world. Some people say the ordinary local player knows nothing about the international side and that it has no meaning for him, but even the youngest junior as he waits at the bus stop with shoes and racket in hand feels the more important and the less ridiculous for the fact that he is part of a major sport, just as young footballers and cricketers think of Stanley Matthews and Test Matches. Mr Montagu felt that the most important point regarding standardisation of the racket was the need to remain united, and the fact that experience was teaching us every season that without standardisation it would be very hard to maintain the game without splits. So long as there was too much variety in the racket, the losing player - or country - would always tend to think he lost because of the strange racket rather than because the other player was too good. We must look at things from this human nature angle as well as the technical. On the technical aspect, experience has taught us there is a lot to say on both sides, and neither side helps our sport by being too dogmatic in generalisation or exaggerating the facts. For example, the public fell away at sponge at county level and league level. But at Championship level, both Tokyo and Stockholm had been possibly the first ever Championships to make a profit. The Japanese said sponge was the weapon of youth - so it is for their men. We said it was the weapon of the old, near has-beens - so it has been for ours. The Japanese said it was the weapon of attack and pointed to our defensive pimple players. But we pointed to the Japanese women who hit harder and more often than our European sponge women. There have been good and bad finals with every sort of racket. There have been a lot of contrary facts the interpretation of which is not at all easy and which we too often simplify. But it is the human angle we must not forget and which has in the main led him to his present fixed view that standardisation in some degree at any rate is absolutely necessary to restore unity and end quarrelling. Isn't it obvious that to maintain a sport as an international contest with players travelling from 70 countries it is only fair for them to know in advance what sort of game they will be up against? It is bound to seem unfair to travel maybe thousands of miles and then come up against a racket you have never seen and the like of which you have never had any chance to practise or prepare against. Here we have rather a similar situation to that with finger-spin services before the last war. They infuriated and made fools of players who

had never had a chance to meet them before, and although the simpler, standard service may have made the game technically weaker, it was absolutely necessary in order to save the sport. Yet it is not going to be easy to standardise. It is quite absurd to imagine that other countries will just follow England's example, or he or any other exalted person only to open his mouth for everyone to swoon in respect. Each country had its own problems and experience and they were not always the same. For example, why are England, France and Germany among the strongest for standardisation? Because each organises table tennis as a mass sport, with many players just playing for fun and keeping up the game in later life because they liked it. Experience tended to show that, at the highest level of the sport, top players, especially youngsters, could get more or less used to play with all kinds of rackets, and for them, if they worked frightfully hard, it could not really be said to spoil the game. But it was no use telling this to the League or club player. He was perfectly entitled to answer "Why should I work hard?" - he plays for fun. Japan is in quite a different situation. There the game is played in all the schools, where young players come up against every type of racket and rarely do they continue very long after leaving university. Still other, small or more distant countries do not understand that there is a problem or that any difficulties have arisen, for themselves they have never even met the sponge racket. We must understand that people who have opposite views may both be quite right and quite sincere, for their experiences may differ. Our task is to find a solution that all will accept. It would not be a good thing either for, say, England and a few others to leave the ITTF and set up on their own, or indeed to have a split which forced others out. We must try to carry all with us. One difficulty is apathy. At the last ITTF Congress only about half the Associations were represented. After a year's experiment climaxing the long row only very few Associations had yet answered the latest ITTF questionnaire. Still, remember that even in Britain, after disputes last season with campaigns and all kind of publicity and the biggest AGM attendance we'd ever had, only 29% of the ETTA members voted in person or proxy for standardisation. He did not quote this to belittle the authority of the decision - certainly not - it is right that those most interested and active should give a lead, and others will willingly follow if that lead and advice is a generally united one. He recalled this only to remind us that we should not underestimate the difficulties of getting general agreement. For example, the fact that a majority of European nations now favour standardisation, in fact standardisation with pimped rubber, but the position in Asia and South America is far less clear, and if we tried to lead a "European Crusade" this would undoubtedly lead - in the present state of affairs - not only to a crystallisation of Asian opposition (against a European "ganging-up"), but to a cleavage in the European attitude, based on political rather than technical considerations. There is no other path but convincing people, they will not be dragooned nowadays. And what form of standardisation is likely to be the best bet for getting agreement? This too is not easy. At one time Jack Carrington and the Chairman thought thickness might do the trick, but now the Japanese have pointed out that they do not have the same hard plywood for rackets we have; their wood is softer, and hence they need thicker sponge to get the same effects our players get with thin sponge. This is only one of the complexities. Our last AGM's decision for pimped rubber has done this great service for the game, it has shown at least that this is still practical to operate. He was glad the ETTA had voted as it had done to continue this for home play for the time being. Certainly it meant placing our top players at some disadvantage at next year's World Championships. But if we had not repeated the pimped rubber standardisation experiment, the world would have considered our reversion a weakening of our attitude and this could have been fatal for our hopes. It would be a task of the incoming NEC, perhaps by arranging with the Selection Committee for some exceptions, as the resolution empowers them, to try to give the top players the needed preparation. We will go on wholeheartedly trying to get the ITTF to standardise on pimped rubber. If the ITTF does agree on a standardisation of any kind worth while, even if not all we want, we shall put it up to the next AGM to think over or even a Special General Meeting. Sometimes people said the ITTF President could always get the ITTF to agree to whatever he proposed; they did not know that the art of this is, first, by hard work and trial, to find out what they are willing to agree to, then to propose it to them. We may be faced with modifying our ideas slightly, or taking two bites at a cherry, but we must keep on at what the Association wants until we get it, the NEC must keep in touch with the membership to gain its assent and understanding at every stage - all with the aim of keeping together our friendship and our sport.

After the Chairman had sat down, Mr Eyles proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Montagu for the way in which he had handled the meeting, which had been unusually long. This was received with acclamation. The meeting finished at 8.40pm.