

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE ONWARD HALL, DEANSGATE, MANCHESTER ON SATURDAY 25th APRIL 1959, COMMENCING AT 3.30pm

PRESENT	A K Vint, OBE (in the Chair) I C Eyles (Deputy Chairman) T Blunn (Hon Treasurer).
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)	Miss L Ferguson, J Carrington, C J Clemett, N Cook, L E Forrest, M Goldstein, G James, C Jaschke, L W Jones, F G Mannooch, P H Northcott, E Reay, J Senescall, M Scott, H Walker, L S Woollard
Representatives from: County Associations	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Dorset, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire
Leagues	Ashton-u-Lyne, Barrow, Birmingham, Bolton, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Buckingham, Castleford & Pontefract, Central, Chelmsford, Cheltenham Youth, Dagenham, Darwen, Derby, Doncaster Youth, East London, Farnworth, Gloucester, Heywood, Huddersfield, Ilford, Kent Schools, London, London Civil Service, London Insurance Offices, Leeds, Leeds Civil Service, Liverpool, Liverpool Business Houses, Macclesfield, Manchester, Mid- Cheshire, Northmet, North Middlesex, North-West Kent, Northwich, Methodist, Oldham, Plymouth, Potteries, Romford, Rossendale Youth, Saddleworth, Salford & Eccles, Scarborough, Sittingbourne, Slough, South London, Southwark, Stockport, Stockport Youth, Stone, St Albans, Sunderland, Urmston, Wakefield, Warrington, West Ham Youth, Wharfedale, Widnes, Wigan, Willesden, Wirral, Wolverhampton, Worcester, York
Directly Affiliated Club	Crescent
Other Organisation	Western Counties

In attendance D Peter Lowen (Secretary to the Association)
Apologies for Absence: The Chairman stated that the Association had received from the President a telegram of good wishes. Other apologies for absence had been received from Lincolnshire County TTA, Bath & District TTA, Cheshunt & District TTL, Miss K Benson, Mrs F Jarvis, Mrs Merryweather, Mr T E Sears and Mr J Livingston, President of the Manchester League. Mr Livingston was ill and it was agreed to send to him best wishes for a speedy recovery.

MINUTES OF THE AGM 26TH APRIL 1958: The Secretary stated that the minutes had been circulated and the Chairman asked the meeting for permission to sign same as a correct record. Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that he had been reported wrongly as saying at the last meeting that "Women were essential on the NEC" (Page 11). What he had in fact stated at the last meeting was that "Women were not essential on the NEC" and the Chairman inserted in the minutes the word "not" in the appropriate place. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) stated that on page 8 of the minutes he felt that he had been reported wrongly regarding the question of affiliation fees and he asked that the following should be inserted instead of the paragraph already in the Minutes:

"In my experience in more than one League, finance is equally as important to the average player as any matter of principle. Players and members often ask "What are we getting for our affiliation fees?". Although we who are present at this meeting consider national matters of the sort for which a football pool would raise money of great importance, nevertheless, such matters are rather remote from the ordinary player in the affiliated league, and not of all that importance to him personally. Players of local Leagues cannot be expected to pay an increase in affiliation fees for purposes which they do not feel to be of much personal concern to them. We are just as likely to lose members through increasing the fees payable to the Association as through introducing a Football Pool scheme."

Subject to the foregoing alterations, it was agreed that the minutes should be signed as a true record.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE NEC SEASON 1959/60: The Secretary read to the meeting the report which had been received from the Proportional Representation Society, which was as follows:

Officers:	Chairman:	VINT A K.		Unopposed
	Deputy Chairman:	EYLES I C	160	Elected
		Hoddy S R	50	
	Treasurer:	BLUNN T		Unopposed
NEC	2 National Members, nationally elected (215 valid papers returned)			
		CARRINGTON J H	143	Elected (1)
		SENECALL J	62	Elected (2)
		Bateman F H	43	
		Landry L F	41	
		Adams L G	35	
		Howcroft A	35	
		Haydon A	24	
		Thompson L	24	
		Mannooch F G	15	
		Constable L R J	8	
	1 Woman Member, nationally elected (211 valid papers returned)			
		FERGUSON Miss L.	64	Elected
		Fry Miss M	59	
		Benson Miss K M	36	
		Lightfoot Miss M	31	
		Moss Miss I	21	
	Midland Region, 2 to be elected			
		GOLDSTEIN M	18	Elected (1)
		SCOTT M E	15	Elected (2)
		Phillips M E	5	
	North-Eastern Region, 1 to be elected (No effective nominations received)			
	North-Western Region, 2 to be elected			
		COOK N		Unopposed
		JONES L W		Unopposed
	Southern Region, 2 to be elected.			
		JASCHKE C	27	Elected (1)
		MANNOOCH F G	23	Elected (2)
		Goldfinch W G	12	
		Thompson L	12	
	Eastern Region, 2 to be elected			
		WOOLLARD L S	40	Elected (1)
		WALKER H	30	Elected (2)
		Constable L R J	12	
		Fairhead E J	12	
	South-Western region, 1 to be elected			
		NORTHCOTT P H		Unopposed
	London Region, 2 to be elected			
		JAMES G	36	Elected (1)
		CLEMETT C J	28	Elected (2)
		Bulport L C T	11	
	Yorkshire Region, 1 to be elected			
		FORREST L E		Unopposed

The Chairman stated that Mr G W Decker and Mr D W Poupard had acted as scrutineers for the elections and it was agreed that they should be thanked for acting in this capacity. The Chairman stated that no valid nomination had been received for the North-Eastern Region and, therefore, it was the normal procedure for this Region to be declared a "casual vacancy". In cases such as this the NEC were authorised to fill the vacancy and the Chairman stated that the NEC would do this at their next meeting, which would be held at the conclusion of the AGM.

REPORT OF THE NEC FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 28TH FEBRUARY 1959, TOGETHER WITH THE SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT:

Item 3 - Corti Woodcock Under this item the Chairman asked the meeting to stand for a moment in memory of Mr Corti Woodcock, a past Chairman of the Association, who had died on the 25th September 1958. The Chairman reported that the NEC had decided to purchase a Cup, to be called the "Corti Woodcock Cup" which the Association would donate to the European Championships for the Women's Doubles event.

Item 5 - Selection Committee Mr S R Hoddy (Northmet) asked whether the Selection Committee arranged training for the players selected to represent the Association or whether the players themselves undertook to be physically fit when they represented the Association in international play. He wondered how much training was carried out by our leading players as he felt that players in foreign teams could withstand the prolonged five-set matches very much better than our own players. He further felt that the Association might be wasting a good deal of money in entering our players in international competitions if the players themselves did not carry out regular training so as to be physically fit when they met foreign teams. In reply, Mr Eyles stated that he agreed with Mr Hoddy but he was of the opinion that the approach to physical fitness should rest with the players. Mr Eyles suggested that we should leave ourselves a reasonable amount of time before participating in a World Championships in order to get our players to peak fitness and he further thought that if a player knew that he was not fit, then it was that player's duty to withdraw from the team. Mr White (London Civil Service) said that he recalled, at an AGM two years ago, a resolution had been carried by the meeting which dealt with the matter of selection of players for England teams. This resolution had stated that no player should be selected unless he had taken part in at least six Open Tournaments in this country and, from the debate which had followed, he felt that this resolution had received the consent of the membership. Mr White continued by asking whether the Selection Committee realised that a number of prominent players in this country considered that no attention whatsoever had been paid to the expression of opinion by the AGM on this particular point two years ago. He therefore asked the Chairman to state what had been done regarding this resolution. Secondly, was there any change of policy in this respect contemplated by the Committee and thirdly, what form of resolution on any matter like the one he was referring to would be necessary before the AGM could get obedience from the Selection Committee. In reply, Mr Eyles stated that in his recollection, the resolution had been passed at the AGM two years ago by a majority of 3. However, the matter had been referred to the Selection Committee and that Committee had considered the matter very carefully. Mr Eyles posed the question as to whether the Association could force players into playing in a certain number of tournaments and whether the Association would foot the bill for these players regarding travelling expenses and entry fees. After much discussion the Selection Committee could not agree with the majority decision of the AGM. The NEC indicated they concurred with the views of the Selection Committee and authorised the Selection Committee to consider selection of the best possible players available. Regarding Mr White's point with reference to the plans for the Selection Committee for the 1959/60 season, Mr Eyles felt that the whole set-up should be drastically overhauled. He said that when he had attended the World Championships in Dortmund he had had the chance of speaking to a great number of people from other countries and he felt that drastic action must be taken to ensure that our players had the same chance of winning in international encounters as the foreigners. He felt that standardisation of the racket would not be the answer necessarily and that we must carefully consider the whole basis of selection. Mr Carrington spoke as a member of the Selection Committee and Hon Director of Coaching and stated that, with regard to Mr Hoddy's remarks on training, he knew full well that Johnny Leach always trained hard during the winter months so that he was as fit as possible when representing the Association when abroad. He felt that this training had stood Leach in very good stead as it was obvious that Leach had the best results of any of our players. Mr Carrington mentioned that he had written an article in the official Magazine asking for players to attend hard training as an experiment to see whether their game improved because of same.

Item 15 - Wilmott Cup & J M Rose Bowl Competitions Mr Rushton (Leeds) stated that he had arranged the play-off for his zone during the past season but had found difficulty in finding a suitable date to arrange this matter. He, therefore, wondered whether it would be possible for the Association to arrange in its fixture list a date when the zone play-offs could be arranged.

Item 17 - Open, Approved Open and Invitation Tournaments Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that under this heading he was pleased with that Mr Eyles had stated regarding tournaments and the top players. Mr White wondered whether the idea of asking the top players to take part in open tournaments all over the country might work better if the players were asked to play in more regional events and whether, by this method, our younger players would progress more quickly. He felt that other countries did rather more than England on a regional basis and in this way the inexperienced youngsters were not always exposed to the top players in tournaments and, therefore, their enthusiasm was not dampened by being beaten by good players in early rounds. He felt that the question regarding the youngsters in open tournaments was a matter which the

Selection Committee should look at very closely. In reply, Mr Eyles stated that the Selection Committee would have to look at this matter and also the point of whether our players travel too far and play too little. He instanced the case of the Brazilian boy "wonder player" who, at 14 years of age, had been barred from taking part in junior events because he was far too strong for the other junior players. This was, of course, contrary to what Mr White had stated but it showed that the Brazilian Association were watching very closely the point that Mr White had raised. Mr Eyles also thought that progress in this field was again dependent upon the financial resources which the Association held. Mr Carrington, replying to Mr White, stated that he had for some years now expressed the views that our top senior players should compete in a top-level play type of invitation tournament. In this way the players would play a higher standard of match and he felt that schemes for this type of tournament for the top class players were most desirable. However, with the congested calendar which we have at the present time it might be difficult to arrange such tournaments in view of the fact that most of our top class players had open tournaments, Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl Matches or County matches to play in practically every weekend. In Mr Carrington's view, another very important point was the priority we should give for training to our top class players. He posed the question to the meeting, are we, as an Association, prepared to allot priority for training all top class players to the detriment of open tournaments, County matches etc. Mr Watts (Sussex) asked if the 1/- levy scheme had been well received by the Organisers and also if there was any evidence as to how the players had received same. Mr Watts felt that by increasing the entry fees by the 1/- per player ETTA levy, this might have had the effect of decreasing the number of entries. The Secretary replied that, to his knowledge, no one had written to the office about this matter at all but from what he had heard verbally, it appeared that the Organisers were quite satisfied with the new proposal. With regard to the players, the Secretary stated that he had heard some objections to the idea but whether the 1/- per player levy had decreased the number of entries was not at all obvious.

Item 22 - ITTF Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that he did not notice from either the annual report or the supplementary report any mention of any changes in the code for umpires. In reply, Mr Eyles stated that all the recommendations put forward by the NUC had been agreed at Dortmund and that, in due course, a notice would be circulated to the country giving the final details.

Item 25 - Official Handbook Mr Reeves (Derby) stated that he had not received any Handbooks for the season for his Association and the Secretary agreed to forward the Handbooks to Mr Reeves straightaway if these had not already been dispatched. Mr White (London Civil Service) asked if there had been a limited circulation of the Handbook Supplement this year and the Secretary stated that this was so. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) asked if any decision had been made as to the way in which the handbook would be published for the 1959/60 season and the Secretary replied that no decision had been made.

Item 26 - Official Magazine Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that at the last AGM he had been critical of the treatment given to official topics in the magazine and in view of the fact that, in his opinion, these matters had been admirably handled during the past year, he felt it his duty to state that he was now well satisfied with the way in which these articles had been dealt with. He hoped that despite all the difficulties which he understood the magazine was now experiencing, the official magazine of the Association would not have to be terminated. Mr Eyles stated that the position of the magazine was causing great concern mainly because of the drop in the advertising revenue. He pointed out that, at the present time, the Association had to guarantee a sum of £110 per month in advertising, and at present this figure was not being attained. Together with this Mr Harrower, as Circulation Manager, had made great efforts to increase the circulation of the magazine but all his efforts had not increased the circulation of the magazine above 1,750 at any time during the year. Mr Eyles thought that the time might well come when the magazine would have to cost 1/- and he wondered whether the members would support the magazine if it cost 1/- per issue. He also wondered whether it was possible that sales could be increased and whether the members present had any idea or advice to give regarding the attainment of advertising revenue. Finally, he posed the question, do the members of the ETTA want a magazine or not? Mr Reeves(Derby) stated that he would be quite prepared to pay the extra money for the magazine and he stated that they in Derby gave magazines away in the hope that it would boost the sales of the magazine in their area. Mr Offer (South London), stated that it was essential, for the proper function of the Association, to have an official magazine. Mr Watts (Sussex) thought that we had to be realistic. In Sussex the sales had dropped there was no doubt, but he felt that to increase the cost of the magazine to 1/- would have a further adverse affect. Mr Jaschke, in his capacity of Associate Editor of the magazine, stated that he would do all that he possibly could to see that the magazine continued. However, he agreed with Mr Eyles that the decrease in advertising revenue made it almost impossible to continue the magazine in its present form and it might well be that the magazine would have to be continued in a different form. He pointed out that a different form of magazine might not have the same prestige value and he also thought that many more people read the magazine than those who bought it. Mr Watts (Sussex) asked if it would make a difference in price if it was published on a newsprint type of paper instead of imitation art paper. In conclusion, Mr Eyles stated that all

points of view would be considered by the Magazine Committee in due course and they would do everything in their power to see that the magazine continued in some form or another.

Item 28 - Press and Publicity Mr Jaschke stated that the meeting would note that in the second paragraph of this item, comment was made as to the unsatisfactory publicity in the North of England. He pointed out that in the South this past season the support to the game given by the Press had been encouraging and for the first time we had received a regular column in the Daily Express and other items of interest in many other papers. However, he understood that in the North the position had been poor and in view of this, on the previous day a luncheon had been arranged for the Northern Sports Editors, attended by the Deputy Chairman and himself and he felt that from the discussions they had discovered the reasons why publicity had been lacking in the North. The Northern Sports Editors stated that they had not received the news handouts which had been sent to their colleagues in Fleet Street and Mr Jaschke stated that, in future, the Northern Sports Editors would be added to the ETTA's Press Mailing list and they would, therefore, get the handouts direct. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that in his view, there was an implied inaccuracy in the first paragraph of this item. In his view, Mr Harrower and Mr Woollard had been giving weekly columns of table tennis interest for several years. He agreed, however, that during the last season there had been better coverage regarding the notification of matches but in many cases the commencement time of the match was not given. He felt that if the commencement time could be stated in future it would be very helpful to the membership. In reply to Mr Hoddy, Mr Jaschke stated that he must disagree. He said that the Daily Express had not carried a regular column for a number of years and that the 'Sydney Hulls' column this season was a new feature. Also, this season was the first in which Mr Woollard had been able to write a regular gossip column, but he did agree with Mr Hoddy that the commencement time of matches should be stated and he would try to see that this would be done in the forthcoming season. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr Woollard for his various contributions to the game in the News Chronicle which, he felt, had been extremely useful.

Item 29 - ETTA Supporters Club Mr Eyles stated that it was common knowledge these days that 90% of the sports Associations in this country ran football pool schemes in order to survive. He stated that the Association had devised a scheme with the Supporters' Club where it had been hoped that a certain amount of finance would be available for the Association to carry on their special schemes. In the initial stages the support of the membership was not forthcoming and money had, in fact, been lost. At the end of January last a new idea had been put into operation and a small band of our members were now selling 1,500 tickets a week, which was producing a net profit of £16 18 0 per week. Mr Eyles felt that if we could double or treble this support then most of our financial problems would disappear. In conclusion he stated that the Club would continue to exist throughout the summer months, using the Australian Football Pool as a basis of operation. Mr Hare (Wakefield) stated that there was a difficulty in selling this type of ticket as there were so many tickets of this nature being circulated these days. In reply, Mr Eyles stated that in Bristol they considered that they had not reached the peak. They had many schemes going and he felt that our members should support our own game and drop support for the other Games so as to ensure that the Association was able to obtain adequate financial support. Mr Taylor (Leeds) asked if there was any financial recompense to the people selling the tickets. Mr Eyles replied that the agents were allowed to keep 10% of the total they sold.

Item 30 - Archives Library Mr Woollard reported that since the Annual Report had been circulated he had received a further donation of six books. He was very hopeful that he would receive, on behalf of the Association, more books during next season.

Item 32 - Television Mr Wickens (Buckingham) stated that he had been asked by many people in his locality the reason why the English Open Championships had not been televised this season. The Secretary reported that every endeavour had been made to get the television authorities to cover the event but all attempts had failed. Mr Offer (South London) asked if the reason for the lack of interest by the television authorities had been due to the fact that no play had taken place on the Saturday afternoon, and the Secretary stated that this was a contributory factor and also pointed out that BBC statistics these days showed table tennis did not have sufficient "viewing power" for Saturday evening transmission. Mr Scott stated that he had been asked the same question and he had told his local people that they should go to Wembley and see the Championships rather than be "armchair sportsmen". Mr Davis (Gloucester) asked if the Committee could ensure that there would be television at a County level next season and whether the profits therefrom would be shared equally amongst the counties concerned. Mr Blunn stated that the matter had already been tentatively considered by the Officers of the NCC and the ETTA Chairman and Secretary, and a further discussion would take place at the NCC AGM with a view to seeing if a method could be agreed upon regarding the distribution of facility fees. Mr Hoddy (Northmot) stated that as Chairman of the NCC he had put forward a scheme for consideration and this would be put to the NCC AGM for their agreement in June 1959.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the NEC Report and Mr Eyles stated he had much pleasure in seconding the report and thanked the members present for their questions and criticisms. The report was

adopted.

At this stage the Chairman stated that there were two items about which he had been asked to report verbally owing to the fact that they had not been mentioned in the report as circulated. These referred to the County Secretaries Conference which had been held in September 1958 and the England North v South match which had been held in Bradford in March, 1959. This verbal report was also adopted by the meeting.

REPORT OF THE HON TREASURER: The Treasurer submitted the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30th June 1958. It was proposed by Miss Ferguson and seconded by Mr Watts (Sussex) that the Accounts be adopted. Reporting on the 1958/59 season the Hon Treasurer stated his original budget had been for a £1,500 loss, less any profit which might be made from the English Open Championships, and therefore it was true to say that if one looked at his original budget and added a possible loss of \$500 on the English Open Championships, then the loss which he had envisaged at the commencement of the Season, would have been in the region of £2,000. Mr Blunn continued by stating that several efforts had been made regarding the administrative side of the Association and instanced the alternative office accommodation which had been taken up, telephone calls were down and the NEC had taken a decision that as many Sub-Committee meetings as possible would be convened at the same time as NEC meetings and so save further travelling expenses of the members attending the Sub-Committee meetings. From the Press point of view, the Press Secretary had agreed to dispense with Press Cutting Service and this had made a saving of approximately £50, and taking the whole picture of the Administration Account at today's date, Mr Blunn considered the various reductions had saved the Association approximately £500, which meant that his original loss of £400 had been turned into a profit of £100. He then turned to the Working Account, stating that the Association had many agreements and arrangements with foreign countries for the exchange of teams and players and he felt that the Association had been right in giving certain of our players the experience of play against sponge and in conditions varying to those of this country. However, it was true to say that, although these foreign trips were on a reciprocal basis, money was spent by the Association in getting our players to central venues such as London. With regard to the Selection Committee, Mr Blunn stated that they had been given a budget figure to spend and no more and they had, in fact, managed to keep within that budget. Regarding the international matches when staged in this country, there now appeared to be few venues where money could be made on this particular side of our activities and he felt that Leeds was possibly one of the best venues for this type of event at the present time. Mr Blunn then turned to the World Championships. He had estimated the cost would be in the region of £300-£400 but allowing for the surplus on the World Championships Travelling Fund and the sum received from the Supporters' Club the expenses on the World Championships would be a reasonable figure. Turning to the last English Open Championships, Mr Blunn stated we had to face a loss estimated by him, at this stage, between £300-£500. The Treasurer then turned to the ways and means as to how in future we would be able to balance our budget and stated that members would note that an alteration to rules regarding affiliation fees was tabled for this meeting and if this rule was passed it would bring the Association a further £400-£500. He continued by saying that the NEC had looked to other means of increasing their income; first the Registered Members' fee had been considered and it had been suggested that the fee should be increased and also, the Committee had looked into the possibility of the ball rebate, which, it appeared, had not been increased for approximately twenty years and the Secretary had spoken with representatives of the Manufacturers and enquired whether they would be prepared to double the rebate figure in due course. The Treasurer stated that, unofficially, he understood that this would be done and if this was confirmed, this would bring into the Association's kitty a further £500 in any one season. In closing, the Hon Treasurer stated that, in his opinion, the Association could not cut down on the administrative expenses as things were now running as economically as possible but he had to obviously balance the budget and he felt that events such as the English Open should not be expected to make a profit to balance the budget but that such profits should be used by the Association for the benefit of our members so that greater interest in the game was built up in England. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his remarks and then asked members present for any comment on the report. Mr Offer (South London) asked for information as to how the NEC proposed to deal with the English Open next season and wondered whether at this stage a profit or a loss could be expected. In reply, Mr Blunn stated that this matter had not yet been discussed but the NEC must plan for the English Open next season not to make a loss but, at best, to break evenly. Mr Forrest (Bradford) suggested that one way of increasing the income from the membership would be to levy 2½d per player throughout the country in an individual registration. He also suggested that 6d added to each player registered with their league would bring in approximately £3,400. He felt that the essential thing was that the Association and the membership should act together and be united and once this was accomplished together the Association and membership would be able to put forward new schemes for the betterment of the game in England. He appreciated that the Supporters' Club was set up with this object in mind but stated that there were a number of our members who disliked the idea of football pools and, therefore, the Association

could not expect the whole country's support for this point of view. He also felt that the officials of the ETTA should get around yearly and meet the membership and he hoped that the idea of holding the AGM at different venues each year would be continued. Without doubt, in Mr Forrest's view, table tennis played among the youth was a most desirable thing. Mr Forrest also felt that the Association could do a great deal regionally with the local CCPR representatives as the CCPR had people in each and every town in the country. Mr Mayne (Central) asked Mr Blunn why the NEC had proposed an increase of only 2/- per club in the affiliation fee as, in his view, this would only solve a part of the problem which now confronted us. In Mr Mayne's view the economical fee should be 15/- per Club as this would solve our financial problem to which Mr Blunn had referred. Finally it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Accounts be adopted and Mr Upton (Liverpool) thanked Mr Blunn for his extremely clear and detailed report.

REPORT OF THE NEC ON THE STANDARDISATION OF THE RACKET: Mr James stated that the NEC recommended that the meeting should agree to follow the new Law 4 which had been proposed and agreed by the ITTF Congress in Dortmund. In seconding the motion Mr Carrington recalled that the ETTA had taken a stand regarding standardisation and we had experimented on this matter for the past two years. He felt it was true to say that a number of countries felt equally, if not more, strongly than we did on this particular question but he pointed out that in the international field one cannot change the opinions of other countries so easily as one can do in one's own country. Mr Carrington reported that other countries reported their experiments at Dortmund and it was generally felt that some standardisation was necessary. However, Japan opposed this very strongly, as had one or two other countries. Mr Carrington pointed out that political attitude at times governed the thoughts of certain countries and, therefore, it was not easy for all people to agree the best form of standardisation. However, Mr Carrington felt that it was a tremendous triumph of diplomacy that the racket had been standardised at all for it became clear at the first meeting dealing with this matter that no one side had a hope of getting their ideas agreed and it was apparent that no one side wished to fight to the bitter end for their particular view. A vote was, therefore, first taken to ascertain if there was a majority of opinion in favour of the idea of standardisation and after a vote was taken it became clear that this was generally required. Between the first and second meeting called to discuss this matter, a great deal of talk and persuasion took place and certain of the countries which did not feel that standardisation was necessary quite voluntarily came over to the side that standardisation was necessary. At the second meeting, therefore, a compromise was the essential thing and finally China put forward a new proposal for standardisation of the racket which standardised the racket both by thickness and material. Mr Carrington pointed out that now that this compromise had been agreed by the ITTF, if the ETTA accepted same the players in this country would be able to play with the same racket as all other players in the World. He appreciated that certain of our members felt that the sandwich racket spoilt the game but Mr Carrington felt that a great step forward had been obtained in Dortmund on this matter and genuinely felt that the ETTA should now come into line with the ITTF rule. Mr Carrington then turned to the type of racket which would be permissible for use under the new ITTF rule. He stated that the pimped rubber racket as had been used over the last two years with a 2mm thickness would still be available and, together with this, "sandwich" rackets of up to 4mm thickness would also be available. Mr Carrington also pointed out that the "sandwich" racket could be used with the pimples of the pimped rubber turning inwards and outwards but stated that it would not be permissible for a purely sponge bat to be used or a "sandwich" racket which had sponge placed on the top of pimped rubber. He further stated that 4mm depth gauges would be manufactured for checking the thickness but he felt that it was true to say that the manufacturers would comply with this ruling and, therefore, the only necessity for checking bats would possibly arise from the players who made their own rackets. Mr Carrington said he felt we should accept the new Law without making any exception, subject to the fact that we should allow our experimental period to run out and, therefore, the new Law would become operative as from the 1st July 1959. Mr Davis (Gloucester) said, so far as he knew, there was nothing to stop people using pimped rubber on one side of the racket and sandwich on the other and Mr Carrington agreed that this was so. Mr Offer (South London) said he felt it was a great pity that England had not taken the first step in this compromise but, he congratulated the members who had attended the Congress in agreeing to this form of standardisation. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) asked Mr Carrington whether supplies of measuring instruments would be available and Mr Carrington stated that the ITTF had ordered the first batch and would send a prototype of the same to each country. Mr White (London Civil Service) suggested that for a long time we had had a rebate on approved balls and shirts and he wondered whether, now that the racket had been standardised, we could not officially approve certain bats and obtain a "racket rebate". The Chairman, in reply, stated that the NEC would look into this matter. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) felt that in view of the fact that the players of this country had lost the last two years in not being able to play with rackets used by other players in the worlds and also as it takes a certain amount of time to get used to the new surfaces, practice with "sandwich" bats should be approved to begin straight away. Mr James,

in reply, thought it would be unfair to suddenly allow people to change the equipment while certain events might still be being played and he felt that the rule should not be altered until 1st July 1959. Mr Watts agreed with Mr James and stated that we could not make the alteration until 1st July 1959, unless we rescinded last year's AGM motion as the experimental period at that meeting had been agreed to continue as from the 1st July 1958 for one year. The following new Law 4 was then agreed by the meeting:

The racket may be of any size, shape or weight. Its surface shall be dark-coloured and non-reflecting. The blade shall be of wood, continuous, of even thickness, flat and rigid. If the blade is covered on either side, this covering may be either of (a) plain, ordinary pimples rubber, with pimples outward, of a total thickness of not more than 2mm or (b) of "sandwich", consisting of a layer of cellular rubber surfaced by plain, ordinary pimples rubber - turned inwards or outwards - in which case the total thickness of covering on either side shall not be more than 4mm.

Definition: For the purpose of Law 4, plain ordinary pimples rubber shall be defined as follows: A single covering with pimples evenly distributed not fewer than 10 nor more than 50 to the square centimetre (60-330 to the square inch) of rubber which, whether natural or synthetic, is non-cellular, and of which the total thickness includes the height of the pimples and adhesion.

RESOLUTIONS:

1 Proposed by Stockport & District TTA

"The Laws of Table Tennis as adopted by the ITTF to be adhered to without alteration until such time as any alterations to the Laws are finally approved and passed by the ITTF."

Mr Thomas (Stockport), speaking for this resolution, stated that it, of course, tied up with the last item which had been discussed by the meeting. He stated that his Association had put forward this resolution chiefly as a matter of principle. They felt that to indulge in experiments had a serious effect on the play and players in this country. They further felt that similar ideas might, in the future, be in the minds of the NEC and although these ideas might be good in themselves, they felt that the players in the country should not be made to suffer as guinea pigs until the new law was passed by the ITTF. Mr Robinson (Oldham) seconded this resolution. Speaking for the NEC, Mr Eyles stated that the Committee opposed this proposal and read to the members the objects of the Association from the Handbook. Mr Eyles stated that the Stockport Association had not proposed any deletions of those objects and if this resolution was carried and the ITTF consequently submitted experiments to the ETTA the question would be, would the AGM allow those experiments to be carried on or not. Mr Eyles stated that in the history of the ETTA all Leagues and Counties had been allowed complete autonomy and, therefore, if there was a majority of opinion expressed throughout the country in a constitutional manner, Mr Eyles felt that the AGM should be allowed to still control the game, as played in England. Mr Caddy (Stone) stated that in the rules it mentioned that the ETTA shall be affiliated to the ITTF which suggested, in his mind, that we do, in some measure anyway, agree with the objects of the ITTF. In his view the ETTA should not be bound by the ITTF and if this meeting were to adopt this resolution, Mr Caddy felt that we should be sacrificing some part of the objects of the Association as laid down in Rule No 2. Mr Caddy suggested that the ETTA had certain objects which laid down that they adopted uniform Laws of the Game in England but if it was true from what Mr Eyles had had to say that Leagues and Counties themselves could make their own rules he suggested that this was not carrying out one of the objects of the ETTA, which was to make uniform Laws for the Game in England. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) thought that the resolution was unnecessary for the reason that the ETTA do not depart from the ITTF regulations without first getting the authority of the SGM. This meant that any resolution passed at an AGM was normally allowed to be in operation for one year only. From time to time the ITTF asked the ETTA to make experiments if they thought it would benefit the game and Mr Hoddy felt that the ETTA could not be in the position of being a member of the ITTF and yet at the same time not able to make experiments. Mr Davis (Gloucester) pointed out that if this information was accepted at this AGM it would be for one year only and, in which case, it could be rescinded at the next AGM. Mr Thomas (Stockport) stated that his Association agreed that experiments should be carried out but felt that it was wrong for players of the ETTA to be at a disadvantage to players from other countries and this is what had happened during the past two years with the experimental rule regarding the racket in this country. On being put to the vote the resolution was defeated.

2 Proposed by Sussex County TTA

"No affiliated player shall take part in more than one Closed County Championships in any one season".

In moving this resolution Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that all his County wished to point out was that as regulations in the Handbook now stood (Page 46, No 3, section 2), one player could become champion of every Closed Championships held and their view was that if open championships were held for this type of affair then the regulations regarding closed tournaments should be tightened up. In Mr Watts' view, a County Closed Tournament was an event run by the County in an attempt to find good players in that area, and if players from

other Counties were allowed to come into another County to play in this type of event then the whole object of the staging of this event was lost. Sussex thought that a rule should be made limiting the number of appearances of any one player in Closed Tournaments to one. Mr Scott seconded this resolution. Mr Bateman (Romford) suggested that to make a rule regarding Closed Championships would be difficult as every League and County had its own rules regarding Closed Tournaments and he felt that it was up to the County Closed Championships Committee to make a suitable rule on this particular point and not expect the rule to be made by the ETTA. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) thought that the matter was a domestic one for each individual County and stated that the rule in Middlesex said that any player competing in their Closed Championships must be eligible to play for that County. Mr Senescall (Yorks) stated that he felt this suggested new rule by Sussex was directed at the top players and, although he was in some measure in agreement with the proposal, he felt that the meeting should not forget that there were many young players who wanted to play as much table tennis as they possibly could and welcomed the chance to play in as many Closed Tournaments as possible. In replying to the discussion, Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that his County were not only concerned with the top players because, in their view, in some of the minor Counties, comparatively lesser players made the final stages. Although he quite appreciated the view that each County should make their own arrangements he felt that there was a weakness in this suggestion from the point of view that the adjacent County could arrive at different conclusions and one player situated on the border of both Counties could be debarred from playing in either of the Closed Tournaments because the Counties had arrived at difference conclusions. On being put to the vote the resolution was DEFEATED.

AMENDMENTS TO RULES

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 2(a) After the words "Uniform Laws", add "of the Game of Table Tennis".

Mr Blunn proposed and Mr Rushton (Leeds) seconded this alteration. Mr Offer (South London) asked whether it was true that although the Association laid down the Laws of the Game as it should be played in this Country, was it correct that any League could make its own rules and operate on this basis. In reply, Mr Blunn stated that the point raised by Mr Offer would be dealt with under rule 4 which was amended at the last AGM and, therefore, it was time to say that at the present time all Leagues and Associations affiliated to the ETTA must agree to play under the Laws of the Game as approved by the Association before they could be accepted as members. It was noted that when the Handbook was published for the 1959/60 season, on page 141 the words "as approved by the ETTA" should be added to the heading.

This amendment to rule was CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 3 Delete the whole Rule and substitute: "The Association shall consist of President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Life Members and duly elected Officers, Local Associations, Local Leagues, Directly Affiliated Clubs and Individual Members (the latter in membership prior to 1st July 1957) all being duly affiliated."

NOTE: In subsequent Rules "Local Associations and Local Leagues" shall be referred to as "Local Leagues".

Mr Blunn proposed this alteration which was seconded by Mr Mannooch (Kent Schools).

On being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

With regard to the NOTE beneath this alteration, Mr Blunn explained that this would eliminate unnecessary repetition of the words "Local Association" and "Local Leagues" and, therefore, was proposed in order to tidy up the Rules. This alteration was seconded by Mr Mannooch (Kent Schools) and, on being put to the vote, was CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 6(a) Delete 9/- and insert 11/-.

NOTE: This alteration to take effect from the commencement of the 1960/61 season.

In moving this alteration to the Rule, Mr Blunn stated that it should be made clear that if this alteration was agreed it would not come into operation until the 1960/61 season. He explained that this increase would bring a further £500 in affiliation fees to the Association but he felt it was true to say that in certain instances it might result in a slight fall in membership. He suggested that there probably were other methods of raising this sum and one suggestion about which he was very interested was that a direct levy should be made on all affiliated members. Looking at this question quite impartially, the Treasurer thought that there were those members who felt that the Affiliation fee was an imposition and yet there were others who would be quite content if they had to pay more. Mr Blunn felt that the present affiliation fee worked out at approximately 1/- per year per member registered in the various Leagues, which really basically worked out at approximately 1d per week. He had also looked into the question of the average affiliation fee per Club to the ETTA for the current season and this

fee was 8/6d. From the records Mr Blunn had, in 1949 the fee was approximately 8/-, and he stated that the administrative costs for the same period had risen to £3,800 in 1959 from £2,300 in 1949. Mr Blunn continued by saying that the English Open had been the backbone of our financial structure ever since the war. In the past 10 years it had brought into the Association £9,700 clear profit and during that time our capital had increased by £2,500, therefore, it was true to say that £7,200 had been put back into the game by the profit made on the English Open Championships. He felt that the members should appreciate that these large profits would probably not happen again and that it was his view that the Association must get the finance needed from some other source. Mr Eyles seconded the alteration to rule. Mr Mayne (Central) stated that he wholeheartedly supported this resolution. However, he could not understand why the proposed fee should be 11/- as the Treasurer had already informed the AGM that this was not enough. He felt that the Treasurer should balance his budget with the increase in the Affiliation fee and that the figure of 11/- should be made 15/-, which would bring into the kitty the deficiency about which the Treasurer had spoken. He appreciated that it would be impossible at this meeting to bring forward his suggestion of 15/- but thought that the NEC should do this at the AGM held in 1960. Mr Rushton (Leeds) stated that he noted that the NEC had not suggested any increase regarding the additional teams. He felt that an additional 6d for these teams would bring in further revenue required and thought that from Yorkshire's point of view this would bring into the ETTA's kitty an amount in the region of £51 10s 0. Mr Thompson (Slough) felt that a levy on the players would be a better idea. The additional affiliation fee would be a wrong move in his opinion in the smaller areas, and it was his experience that in the more remote areas of his County that when he tried to get local people to affiliate to the ETTA their usual remark was "What does the ETTA do for us". He felt that if the affiliation fee was increased we would lose more than we would gain from it. Mr Taylor (Nottingham) stated that they had experienced great difficulty in Nottingham in getting support for the ETTA. They had been trying for some time to get the local League to affiliate to the ETTA and the County and it was his experience at their last AGM that they had the utmost difficulty in getting them to affiliate. He hesitated to think what would happen if the fee was increased. He suggested that the Committee should look at other ways and means of getting further revenue and thought that the idea of a levy on the player was much better. Mr Goldstein (Birmingham) thought that it would be disastrous if there was any increase. In the opinion of his League, membership would go down alarmingly if the fee was increased. He instanced the fact that they had been trying for some time to get certain of their local Leagues to affiliate and they had always found that the stumbling block had been the affiliation fee and to increase this would, in Mr Goldstein's opinion, cause a loss of revenue rather than an increase. Birmingham appreciated that the ETTA must balance its budget but would prefer to support the suggestion that there should be a 6d registration fee on all players in the country rather than an increase in the affiliation fee to Leagues. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) stated that at the last AGM he had explained to the meeting the position of difficulty which he found in his local area when asking new people to affiliate. He felt that if the fee was increased, Leagues would drop out for many of them thought that whether they affiliated or not they could still offer their players the same facilities as they do now. Mr Jaschke (North-West Kent) stated that he opposed the increase in fee for he was of the opinion that many of the rank and file members of the Association did not attend the AGM and, therefore, the AGM did not get the feeling of the country on these particular points of great importance. He suggested that the manufacturers should be approached to obtain greater ball rebate and suggested that all members present should try to sell the tickets issued by the Supporters' Club. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that his League would be quite prepared to pay the extra 2/- because it was subsidised by his Corporation. However, he appreciated the fact that many Leagues had to balance their own budget and he was of the opinion that the extra 2/- might be the straw to break the camel's back. At this stage Mr Caddy (Stone) stated that his League was a small one; he constantly found the problem of various Associations affiliating and, in his experience, many clubs played for local Leagues which were affiliated and also took part in League competitions which were unaffiliated. Mr Caddy asked whether, according to the Rules, if Leagues were affiliated to the ETTA it was correct that their players should play in Leagues which were not affiliated to the ETTA, and he felt that from the top level of the NEC it should be suggested to Education Authorities that they should be affiliated to the ETTA. Mr Carrington (Insurance Offices) stated that he agreed with Mr Hoddy but wondered if some compromise could be arranged. He stated that it was obvious that our international matches these days were costing money and wondered if the membership wanted international matches to continue or whether we could set up a type of International Club for people genuinely interested in the international side of the game. Members could then affiliate to the International Club and pay a small fee for membership. He stated this type of thing happened in West Germany and thought this might be an opportunity to commence such a scheme in England. Mr Senescall (York) suggested that the individual levy of 6d per player would financially be a much better proposition as the NEC were now asking for 2/- per club and with most clubs having ten or more members the 6d per player levy would, in fact, realise at least 5/- per club. In reply to Mr Caddy, Mr Scott (Staffs) stated that the difficulty regarding Education Authorities Affiliation was the approach

at the top level and he felt regional approach was the better method. He further stated that his local Education Authority were affiliated to his County. Mr Taylor (Leeds) stated that he spoke from experience and felt that there would be no difficulty in collecting the levy of 6d per player from the players via the various Leagues. Mr Motlow (Western Counties) endorsed Mr Goldstein's remarks. He stated that he was a person with a double personality in view of the fact that he was affiliated to both the English and Welsh Associations. In Wales, he stated, the Secretary sent out registration forms to the League Secretaries stating that 1/- per player was required for registration purposes by the Welsh Association. The League Secretaries then collected this 1/- per player and, in turn, forwarded the requisite number of shillings to her for the registration of the players in those Leagues. There was no difficulty in his view in this type of collection. The Chairman thanked the meeting for their various comments on this question and, in replying to the debate, Mr Blunn said that he wished to withdraw the resolution and take it back to the NEC for further discussion. It was agreed to give permission for the resolution to be withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 6(a)(iii) Delete "13/- for each Club or School" and insert "13/- for each School or each Club"

Mr Blunn proposed this alteration stating that it was purely a question of making the rule read correctly, and this was seconded and agreed.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 9 In line 2, after the word "Treasurer", insert "and Press Officer"; in line 2, delete "and" after the word 'Secretary'; in line 4, delete "Press Officers"

In moving the alteration to this rule, Mr Blunn stated that this amendment was the outcome of the resolution which was withdrawn at the last AGM. A further fact had arisen during the past season that the Association had lost the services of an Honorary Officer and in the NEC's opinion the Association needed a further Officer so as to make the necessary decisions. This amendment was seconded by Mr Eyles. Mr Offer (South London) stated he opposed this proposal as he felt it might lead to unsatisfactory results. He stated that at the present, time the NEC could elect a Press Officer on his press ability alone but under the new proposal the Press Officer would automatically become a member of the NEC and it was possible that he could have no administrative ability whatsoever. Mr Noddy (Northmet) stated that he opposed this amendment this year as he had done last year. He stated that he still felt that any person who the NEC considered worth being an Officer of the Association should be entitled to a vote and, in his view, the rule should be altered to allow a vote for co-opted persons if the Press Officer was going to be entitled to a vote. Mr Blunn, in reply, said that last year's resolution was worded to allow the Press Officer to be an Officer but to be nominated by the NEC. This year's resolution was to allow the Press Officer to become an Officer but to be voted upon by the, whole country. The Chairman then asked for a show of hands and from the voting the amendment was lost. At this stage, Mr Bateman (Romford) moved that a block vote be taken and it was agreed that Messrs White and James should act as the Tellers. The result of the voting was 352 for and 496 against.

The amendment was declared LOST.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 10 On line 2, delete the words "Hon General"

This alteration was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 12 Delete the whole Rule and substitute

For the purpose of election of the Officers of the Association (other than Hon General Secretary) and the members of the National Executive Committee, and for the election of the Hon General Secretary if required by postal ballot, each league shall be entitled to one vote for every complete £10 paid in affiliation fees by 31st March in the year in which the election takes place, with each League having a minimum of 1 vote. All correspondence relating to the nominations and elections of Officers and members of the NEC shall be forwarded to the League Secretary whose name appears on the current application for affiliation.

In moving this alteration, Mr. Blunn stated that the amendment would eliminate the ETTA representatives. The idea of the alteration was that the League affiliated should have the right to vote and not the ETTA representative of that League. Regarding the number of votes per League, it was suggested that these be worked out on the basis of one vote for every complete £10 paid to the Association in affiliation fees and this would bring the system of voting for the election of Officers and members of the NEC into line with the system which was used at the AGM. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) asked for clarification on a certain point before Mr Blunn moved the resolution and asked Mr Blunn to state how he had arrived at the £10 for one vote. Mr Blunn explained the position and moved the amendment, which was duly seconded. Mr Offer (South London) stated that he was of the opinion that it should be £5 for one vote instead of £10 for one vote. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that the discrepancy between small and large Leagues was fairly big and he instanced the position of the North Derbyshire League, which was six Clubs paying 9/- per Club, a total of £2 14 0 in affiliation fees and

one vote, and the position of Norwich, who would be paying £23 8s 0d and only be entitled to 2 votes. Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that he was quite happy with the proposal which would do away with ETTA representatives but he did not agree with voting in £10 notes. In his view it was not simple, easily understood or a good method. He thought it would be far better to work on numbers of clubs which everyone easily understood rather than a complicated system of money which the country would have to take the Treasurer's word for at an AGM. As he could agree with only one half of the amendment he felt that the NEC should be asked to look at the matter again. Mr White further asked if the affiliation fee was increased to 11/- or 15/- per Club in a year's time, would the proposed basis of £10 per vote be duly altered. In reply Mr Blunn stated that he could not answer Mr White's last point at the present time. Mr Blunn felt that if the basis of voting was on clubs it was difficult to get a correct figure but if it was based on money then it was a fairer way of dealing with the matter. The Chairman then ruled a block vote on this amendment and voting was 560 for and 417 against and, in view of the fact that there was no two-thirds majority, the amendment was LOST.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(b)(i) In line 3, delete "eight" and insert "twelve"; delete Lines 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and insert "North, Lancashire, Yorkshire, North Midlands, West, Midlands, East, North Thames, London (i), London (ii) South West, South"

In moving this amendment, Mr Blunn stated that this question had been dealt with in the last three successive years. He stated that the NEC had looked at at least six methods of regional representation but each in its turn had shown faults. In view of the fact that the matter had been discussed at the last AGM and also at the County Secretaries' Conference held in September 1958, the NEC had realised that some method must be found to deal with the re-regionalisation of the country so that only one representative represented a specific region. The NEC had had to increase the number of regions in order to get the requisite number of members for the NEC and the suggestion now before the meeting was the one on which the NEC felt the whole question could be considered. This was seconded by Mr Senescall (York) and the Chairman stated that a typographical error had been made in the Agenda and that a comma should appear after the word "West". Mr Renshaw (Cheshire) stated that it was absolutely vital in his area that they should be able to contact their NEC representative and in view of the suggested new region he noted that Cheshire would be included with Lincolnshire. He thought this was undesirable in view of the distance from Lincolnshire to Cheshire and stated that Cheshire were always regarded as a complete part of Lancashire and in view of this he considered that the new method for his area should be reconsidered. In reply to Mr Renshaw, Mr Blunn stated that what the NEC had tried to do was to bring forward a scheme to the AGM which was workable and which was fair in all its aspects and, in particular, to the figure of affiliation fees paid in the various parts of the country. He had used a common denominator for each region and as the regions were now suggested was the fairest way of the breakdown. Mr Blunn stated that the NEC had had to look impartially at the whole question, they had to ignore personalities and common interest of Associations in order to create Regions on a basis of equality. The NEC were only trying to put forward to the AGM what they had asked to be done in times past and although he appreciated that there might be difficulties arising during the coming season if the rule was passed, he felt that the idea put forward now was the fairest possible solution. On being put to the vote this amendment was CARRIED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(b)(ii) Delete the whole Rule and substitute

- (a) 3 members elected at the AGM on the nomination of the NEC for the positions of Hon Director of Coaching, Hon Secretary National Umpires Committee, Hon Secretary National Selection Committee.
- (b) Each League shall be entitled to submit for the consideration of the NEC nominations for the positions set out in Rule 13(b)(ii)(a).
- (c) In the event of an NEC nomination not being endorsed by an AGM, such nomination to be submitted to a postal ballot of Leagues, conducted in accordance with the procedure in Rule 13(h).

Mr Blunn, in moving this amendment, stated that Part "a" dealt with the matter of bringing the NEC up to strength as the NEC could only consist of twelve members and the further three members suggested would be the additional specialist members. The NEC felt that the question of Coaching and the work of the National Umpires Committee and National Selection Committee must have continuity and if the meeting agreed to this amendment then this continuity would be preserved. This was seconded by Mr Mannoch. Mr Offer (South London) stated that he felt that this suggestion was open to still more objection than was the previous proposal regarding the Press Officer. As the rule now stood the country had the opportunity of voting for those representatives nationally who were thought to be good administrators and who were unable to be elected regionally. He felt that by leaving the nomination of the three members to the NEC this could be abused and although the whole question appeared to be democratic he thought that in certain circumstances the NEC could

nominate members who they wished returned and this would be unfair to other good administrators in the country. It might be, suggested Mr Offer, that there was a very big controversial item going on in Table Tennis and also in the NEC and, under the proposed system, members of the NEC who wished to have a slight majority for their particular way of thinking might be tempted to nominate people of their own view to those particular posts. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that he did not like the idea of elections at AGMs. He stated that the NEC were trying to get the best of two worlds and in view of the fact that the rule 12 amendment had been defeated he thought that the NEC would now find themselves with ETTA representatives for national elections although the amendment now under discussion talked of Leagues. He further thought that it would be a very much better idea, should the rule be passed, for the membership to see names of all the members put forward for these specialist posts, a ballot paper sent out giving all names and, although the NEC might nominate certain individuals, the rest of the country would know the names of the other persons who had been nominated. Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that he wished to speak as a serving member of the NEC and as a previous Chairman of same. In these capacities he stated he knew very well indeed the absolute essential requirements of a Secretary who was capable of doing an immense amount of hard work and who also was capable with both table tennis and specialist knowledge in that particular field of administration. He felt that the whole thing was a very difficult problem, especially was it difficult from the NEC point of view as to how they could get the names of the right people in the certain specialist class. He felt that it was a problem at the moment without a solution for he agreed with the dangers connected with this which Messrs Offer and Hoddy had pointed out. However, he felt that the Rule should be passed and it could be that in the light of experience and future thought by the NEC the whole question could be improved by the next AGM. Regarding the procedural difficulty mentioned by Mr Hoddy that this amendment referred to "Leagues" and not "ETTA representatives", he suggested that this detail was adequately covered by item 8 of the Agenda and felt, therefore, that this should not be considered at the present time. Mr Wickens (Buckingham) stated that he appreciated only too well that the continuity was most important but he felt that there could be far greater continuity if the NEC were prepared to co-opt certain members rather than nominate their names to the AGM for election. Mr Blunn felt that Messrs Hoddy and Offer could have over-stressed the possibility of the NEC being biased and should there be a stalemate the NEC would have to come back to the membership to nominate some other person. With regard to Mr Wicken's statement, co-option was abolished because many people stated that the NEC abused it. He realised that Mr Wicken's point was covered under Rule 9 but he felt that the suggested amendment was a more correct way to deal with the whole matter.

On being put to the vote this amendment was LOST.

In view of the fact that the proposed amendment to rule 13(b)(ii) had been lost the following consequential amendments were, with the permission of the meeting, withdrawn:

- Rule 13(a) In lines 4/5, delete "two members of the Association elected annually on national basis" and insert "three members of the Association elected annually in accordance with Rule 13(b)(ii)"
- Rule 13(g)(i) In line 2, delete "two" and insert "three"; in lines 5, 7 and 10, delete "ETTA representatives" and insert "Leagues"
- Rule 13(h) In line 2, after the word "Secretary" add "and 3 members elected at the AGM on the nomination of the NEC"
- Rule 19(1) "In the event of a postal ballot arising as a result of a decision at the AGM, each League shall be entitled to one vote for every complete £10 paid in affiliation fees at the date of the AGM, with each League having a minimum of one vote."

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(a) In line 4, after "(b)", insert "(i)" This was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(a) In Lines 7/8, delete "a woman may accept nomination in only one national ballot" and insert "no person may enter for more than one ballot for membership of the NEC"

Mr Blunn, in proposing this alteration, stated that the NEC were putting forward a suggestion that one person could only enter into one ballot for membership of the NEC because the last AGM had stated that they disliked the system where one person could stand in more than one ballot.

This amendment was seconded and, after discussion, AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(b)(iv) Delete the whole rule and substitute "Each League shall be entitled to nominate and vote for the vacancy in its Region."

Owing to the fact that Rule 12 amendment had been defeated, this alteration with permission was withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(g)(i) In line 2, delete "other than Hon General Secretary"; in lines 5 and 12, delete "Hon General Secretary"; in line 14, delete "seven" and insert "fourteen"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(g)(ii) Delete whole Rule.

Owing to the amendment to Rule 12 having been lost the above amendment with permission was withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13 h In lines 5/6, delete "ETTA Representative" and insert "League"

Owing to the fact that Rule 12 amendment had been lost, the above amendment with permission was withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 14 In line 1, delete "June 30th" and insert "31st May"

Mr Blum pointed out that the suggestion was made in rule 19 on the Agenda paper that the AGM should be held in the period June-July rather than as at present in the period April-May and he was, therefore, suggesting by this alteration to rule that the Accounts could be accepted by the AGM in their entirety rather than the system which had been adopted up until the present time. This amendment was seconded by Mr Hoddy and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 15 In line 3, delete the words "Hon General" and insert the word "paid"

This amendment to rule was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19 In line 2, delete "April" and "May" and insert "June" and "July"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

In lines 3/4, delete "and statement of accounts made up to March 31st" and insert "a financial statement made up to 31st May"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(c) In line 1, after the word "Rules" insert the words "of the Association"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(c) At the end of this Rule, insert "if so demanded by a simple majority of those present"

Mr Blunn, on behalf of the NEC, asked leave of the meeting for permission to withdraw this amendment. Agreed.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(d) In line 1, after the word "hands" insert "of accredited representatives"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19 e In lines 2,3 and 4, delete "a number of votes equal to one half of its affiliated club strength, or to the nearest higher whole number" and insert "one vote for every complete £10 paid in affiliation fees at the date of the AGM, with each League having a minimum of one vote".

Owing to the fact that the amendment to Rule 12 had been lost, this proposed amendment with permission was withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(e) In line 4, after "individual", insert "Special organisation including Youth organisation or other members present"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(e) In line 5, delete "Hon General"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(f) In line 2, after "proposed", insert and for which a block vote has been called for in accordance with Rule 19(e)"

This amendment with permission was withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(g) In line 4, delete the words "and Regulations"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(k)(ii) In line 1, delete "ETTA Representative" and insert "League"

Owing to the fact that rule 12 amendment had been lost, this amendment with permission was withdrawn.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19(k)(iii) In Lines 3 and 4 delete "ETTA Representatives" and insert 'Leagues'

Owing to the fact that the amendment to rule 12 had been lost, it was agreed with permission to withdraw this amendment.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 20 In line 3, delete the words "Hon General"

This was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 21(b) In line 4, delete the words "or individual"; in line 3, after the word "Association", insert the word "or'."

The NEC thought that the time had come when individual members should have an interest in their County Association as well as the national Association and, therefore, the suggested alteration was worded so as to stop the individual member contracting out of the County Association. The alteration was seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the Essex County TTA

Rule 21(b) Delete "except that any Leagues, Association, Club or Individual has the right to appeal to the NEC to contract out."

In moving this amendment, Mr Walker stated that this alteration tied up, to a certain extent, with the alteration which had just been agreed. However, the Essex County Association felt that all bodies affiliating to the ETTA should also affiliate to the County bodies. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) seconded this proposal and stated that he had spoken on this very same point as long ago as 1954. He felt that if the game in this country was going to be organised throughout the country on a County basis we should organise it in this way and not allow any bodies or persons to contract out of their County Association. If they had strong objections to affiliating to a County, then Mr Hoddy felt that they should pay a levy for contracting out and on this basis they would then be paying the same amount in fees as those persons and Leagues who were compelled to affiliate to the County bodies. He had, therefore, much pleasure in supporting the Essex amendment. Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that his League did not affiliate to a County body as, some many years ago, there had been a gentlemen's agreement that certain of the Leagues with "London" in their title would not be expected to affiliate to a County and he wished an undertaking from the meeting that, if this alteration to rule was carried, it would not interfere with this long-standing arrangement. The Chairman stated that the NEC wished to re-affirm the position regarding certain of the London Leagues and, should this alteration to rule be carried, he gave an assurance that it would not interfere with the procedure which had operated for some years past. On being put to the vote this amendment was CARRIED on the understanding that it did not apply to certain London Leagues.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 21(e) In line 1, delete "The" and insert "A"; in line 1, after "Open", insert "and Invitation"

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 22 In line 2, after "auspices", insert a comma

This amendment was proposed, seconded and AGREED..

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 28(c) In line 1, after "events", insert "only"

Mr Blunn,, in moving this alteration, stated that the 1/- levy applied to Juniors who entered a tournament with the exception of Juniors who entered only Junior events. The word "only" had been omitted from the text when this alteration had been carried last year and, therefore, for the sake of clarity, the NEC were now proposing that the word 'only' should be inserted and so avoid the misunderstanding which had occurred in the past season. Mr White (London Civil Service) thought that the new proposal was just as misunderstanding as the wording which had applied during the last season and suggested that the omission of commas in the proposal was the reason for this. He would be prepared to support this alteration so long as there was a comma inserted after the word "competitors and another comma inserted after the word "only". This was seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 29 In line 1, delete "shall" and insert "may"

Mr Blunn, in moving this amendment, stated that the NEC were desiring to make this alteration so that it was not obligatory on their part that an English Open Championship had to be run each year. He suggested that the financial loss experienced this year on the English Open Championships was a very great pointer and if the rules insist that an English Open be run, the Association could find themselves in the position of having to run an English Open Championships when they could financially ill afford to do so. Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that it was obvious from the rule as it stood at present that an English Open Championships had to be run every year and he felt that this was extremely necessary. He suggested that one way out of the

financial problem would be to make the English Open an English Closed Championships, as this would save the expense of bringing foreign players to this country to take part. In view of this, Mr White felt that the alteration to rule was a dangerous one as it would give the NEC the right to not run the Championships if they, at any time, felt they did not wish to run same and, therefore, he raised the objection to the alteration as stated on the Agenda paper. In reply, Mr Blunn stated that the NEC felt that the prestige value of the English Open Championships at Wembley was very great as a showpiece for the game but he was also looking at the financial position because finance was playing an all-important part in affairs at the present time. Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that he would be prepared to withdraw his objections if the NEC would give an undertaking that the English Open Championships would not be run only as a last resort. The Chairman of the Association stated that this undertaking was given as naturally, of course, the NEC would run the Championships unless something very special caused it to consider that the Championships could not be run. The amendment was seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 29(b) In Line 1, delete "Nine" and insert "Twelve"

This was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

In line 3, after "Girls", insert "Junior Boys' Doubles, Junior Girls' Doubles and Junior Mixed Doubles"

This was proposed by Mr Blunn and seconded by Mr Mannooch. Mr Mannooch pointed out that the official titles of the Junior events were wrongly stated on the Agenda paper and should be altered to read "Junior Doubles Boys", "Junior Doubles Girls" and "Junior Mixed Doubles".

Subject to this alteration the amendment was AGREED.

In line 10, delete the rest of the sentence after "Championships"

This was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 31 In line 6, delete "Hon General"; in line 7. delete "March 31st" and insert "31st May"

This was proposed, seconded and AGREED.

Proposed by the NEC

Add new Rule

Rule 33 Should the NEC, under the provisions set out in Rule 9, appoint a paid National Secretary, then such appointment shall supersede the position of Hon General Secretary and may be for such time as the appointment made. Any agreement relating thereto, entered into by the Officers of the Association shall be binding on the Association.

Mr Blunn, in proposing, stated that it had been found necessary for the Association to appoint a professional Secretary almost twelve months ago and, in view of this, this new rule was suggested for the meeting's approval to cover the current position. Mr Northcott seconded this amendment which was CARRIED. Mr Hoddy thought that the wording of this new rule could be improved and he suggested that he would look into same and send a draft to the ETTA Office.

RESOLUTION

Proposed by the NEC

"That the NEC be authorised to make any automatic consequential amendments arising from the adoption of any alteration to the Rules by the AGM".

In proposing this resolution to the meeting, the Chairman stated that in the third line the word "the" should read "this" and on this basis asked the meeting for their agreement to the resolution. On the basis of the alteration proposed by the Chairman, this resolution was duly CARRIED.

The Chairman then thanked the Tellers for their assistance in counting the votes for the various ballots.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS, HON GENERAL SECRETARY AND AUDITORS

President The Chairman stated that he was most happy to inform the meeting that the Hon I Montagu was prepared to stand again as President of the Association for the ensuing year and he had much pleasure in proposing that Mr Montagu be the President of the Association for 1959-60. This was seconded and AGREED.

Vice-Presidents The Chairman stated that he would like the meeting to consider the names of the Vice-Presidents noted in the current Handbook and suggested that they be re-elected en bloc.

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

This was seconded and agreed. Mr Eyles then proposed that Mr Kichenside be elected a Vice-President in

view of the fact that had had recently retired as Managing Director of A G Spalding & Bros Ltd, and also for his services to the game whilst he had held that position at Spalding. It was seconded and agreed that M Kitchenside be asked to become a Vice-President of the Association.

General Secretary In view of the fact that the new Rule No 33 had been passed by the AGM, the office of Hon General Secretary and the appointment of a person to take this position was not necessary. Agreed.

Auditors The Treasurer proposed that Spain Brothers & Co, Chartered Accountants, be re-elected and this was seconded and agreed.

NOMINATION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS: The Chairman stated that the NEC had no nominations to put forward at this meeting.

ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS: Mr White.(London Civil Service) stated that the meeting had just passed a rule agreeing to the appointment of a paid Secretary. He felt that during the meeting there had been a little hesitancy on the part of the paid Secretary to enter into debate or discussion and, in his view, this had put an added burden on Mr Blunn. He suggested that if this hesitancy on the part of the Secretary was due to an NEC rule then he felt it would be beneficial to the AGM if the Secretary was allowed to take a greater part in the debate.

Mr Scott stated that the AGM had been arranged for Manchester this year and he considered that it had been difficult for many members to get there. He hoped that the NEC would consider other venues in the country which were more accessible to the membership and suggested, as the AGM next year would be hold in June/July, that a seaside resort might be a better proposition.

Mrs Archdale (Bristol) stated that it appeared-that very few ballot papers had been returned and wondered whether there would be more response if these papers were sent to the League Secretary rather than to the ETTA representatives. The Chairman pointed out that this matter had been considered and voted against by the AGM.

Mr Wickens (Buckingham) suggested that the AGM should have a tea-break during its meetings.

Mr Offer (South London) asked whether the Secretary had taken up the question of the increase in price and deterioration of the standard of table tennis balls. The Chairman stated that the Secretary had spoken to the manufacturers regarding this matter and the information obtained substantiated the increase in the price which the manufacturers had made. The Chairman, however, pointed out that if any member bought balls which were not up to standard then same should be sent to the ETTA office without delay so that the Secretary could make a further representation on behalf of the Association to the manufacturers.

Mr Caddy (Stone) stated that, so far as he could see from the Rules of the Association, no provision was made in same for a quorum for an AGM. He felt that there should be a Rule on this matter and the Chairman stated that he had spoken to the Secretary, whilst the meeting had been in progress, on this very point. The matter would be referred to the NEC for their consideration.

Mr Nicholls (Plymouth) stated that he felt that there should be some alteration to the activity of the ETTA Supporters' Club as it would appear obvious that this Club was not getting sufficient support from the table tennis membership of the country for their aims. He suggested that the NEC should look into this matter again to see if more support could be obtained.

Mr Upton (Liverpool) stated that only the Secretaries of the various Leagues received copies of the Minutes and Agenda of the AGM and asked whether it would be possible for other interested members of the various Leagues to also receive copies of these documents. In reply, the Secretary stated that spare copies of both the minutes and the Agenda were available from the platform at all meetings and that if Mr Upton required copies he could obtain them at the end of the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the members of the NEC and the Sub-Committees for their co-operation during the past year, especially the Press Officer and the Secretaries of the Selection, Umpires, and Coaching Committees, for the splendid work carried out by them on behalf of the Association. The Chairman also expressed thanks to those attending the meeting.

Mr Hoddy (Northmet) then proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr Vint for the way in which he had conducted the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.