

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION  
HELD AT THE BONNINGTON HOTEL, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, WC1,  
ON SATURDAY 25th JUNE 1960, COMMENCING AT 3.40pm

PRESENT	A K Vint OBE (in the chair) Hon Ivor Montagu (President) I C Eyles (Deputy Chairman) T Blunn (Hon Treasurer)
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)	J Carrington, C J Clemett, N Cook, L E Forrest, M Goldstein, G James, C Jaschke, L W Jones, F G Mannooch, E Reay, M E Scott, J Senescall, H Walker and L S Woollard
Representatives of: County Associations	Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Northumberland, Oxfordshire, Leicestershire, Staffordshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire
Leagues	Ashton-u-Lyne, Barrow, Billericay, Birmingham, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Bromley, Buckingham, Central, Cheltenham Youth, Croydon, Dagenham, Darwen, East London, Farnworth, Film Renters, Gloucester, Hastings, Hemel Hempstead, Hertford, Heywood, Hull & East Riding, Insurance Offices, Kent Schools, Leatherhead, Leicester, Liverpool, Liverpool Business Houses, London, London Business Houses, London Civil Service, Manchester, Murton, North Middlesex, Northmet, North-West Kent, Northwich Methodists, Philadelphia, Plymouth, Printing, Publishing & Allied Trades, Romford, Rugby, Salford, Sittingbourne, Slough, Stanley, South London, Southwark, Stockport, Stockport YOC, Sunderland, Sutton, Todmorden, Urmston, Uxbridge, Wandsworth, Warrington, West Essex, Willesden, Wolverhampton, Worcester, York
Directly Affiliated Club	Crescent
Registered Members	V Barna, N Nicholson
Other organisation	"Table Tennis" (G R Harrower)
In attendance	D Peter Lowen (Secretary to the Association)
Apologies for absence	Miss L Ferguson, Mrs F Jarvis, Mrs F Merryweather, Bath & Dist. TTA, Bristol Methodist TTA, Devizes TTA, EDWASCA TTL, Huddersfield & Dist. TTA, Ipswich & Dist. TTA, West Bromwich TTA

MINUTES OF THE AGM 25TH APRIL 1959: The Chairman signed the Minutes as a true record.

The Chairman then invited the President to address the members.

The President thanked the members for their invitation to attend. He had considered what was the best way that he could deal with the time which had been kindly allowed him and he felt that he should continue verbally what he had written recently in the official Magazine of the Association. By this he meant that he ought to try to amplify why there is an English Table Tennis Association and what purpose it has. He knew that the members present had given very careful thought to many of the ideas already expressed and he knew that in these trying times for sport that much more thought would need to be given. He felt that last season had been a proud one for the ETTA because times had been extremely difficult and yet both the administration and the playing strength of the Association had been very good. Our players had done well and, of course, this reflected on the Association in a very sound way. He mentioned that some other sport organisations were in very deep water both from the playing and financial aspect but he was sure that the members would agree that the ETTA's flag was flying very high because of the high standard of sportsmanship which our captain and teams had shown both in this country and abroad.

The President then asked what are the difficulties. Are they our own fault? He felt that all the difficulties which faced the Association also faced all sport Associations at the present moment. It was a sign of the times

and he felt that all sport organisations were experiencing a declining paying public to public events. He felt that it was true to say that some sports were not so attractive as they were and yet he instanced the fact of the good performances in athletics these days but still attendance figures were on the decline. He wondered, therefore, what the cause of this could be. He felt it could be the fact that the population these days lived a fuller life and that television now had a tremendous influence on the public. It was not a question of one sport competing against another via the television but the fact that there were now some other things which the public had learned to like through television, that there were now other alternatives to sport which competed against the public events which were staged. All sport organisations were experiencing falling audiences and the question to be decided now was, do we carry on, and, if so, how?

There appeared to be no big revenue to be received these days from television so far as Table Tennis was concerned. Television was not unfriendly, indeed it had tried to be helpful, but the main difficulty was the time of the matches and results to suit the television authorities and he instanced the fact that swimming was able to do this with short and quick races but with table tennis this was not possible. We cannot say that at any particular time any particular match will start or finish. It was a question of stating that we would try to bring a certain match on at a certain time but even then we did not know what time that particular match would, in fact, end. It appeared, therefore, that the financial difficulties we are experiencing at the moment cannot be solved by television. The President, therefore, asked what funds can we get. He felt we must let the public and membership know what the Association is for, we must let them know what service is given and why it is worth being members of a national body. He felt that if there were no Association then things would go backwards, and instanced a number of points which he felt were only possible because of the efforts of the ETTA. These were as follows:

- (1) The ETTA have helped to maintain the quality of the table tennis sports goods and there was no doubt that these goods were of a very high quality in England.
- (2) The ETTA act as the liaison between local bodies and local Leagues.
- (3) The ETTA promote and run competitions and events on a wider level than the local persons could possibly do and this created enthusiasm.
- (4) The ETTA represent the sport both nationally and internationally. The President felt that this was very important and asked members to give careful consideration to this fact. He knew members would appreciate that the sport being played on a national and inter-national scale, the public and sportsmen recognised that table tennis was competing on the same level as most other sports and there was no doubt that this gave the game great prestige and advantages in the world of sport and with the Press, etc.
- (5) The ETTA organised events and took part in events on an international level. He knew that some people would say that competing in international events just meant a free trip to a few players. He did not feel that this was correct as the people who represented the Association abroad were, in fact, representatives of this country and, through our sport, the projection of life in this country was made plain to all other sportsmen of the world and certainly let them know that this country had something to give in the way of fair playing, skill and sportsmanship in sport. It must be remembered that the players, when they toured abroad, bore a great responsibility on their shoulders when playing for England. The President continued that Table Tennis had done extremely well throughout the world and that in England both players and officials had earned as high a respect in our game as in any other sport which was played internationally. He asked the members, therefore, to try and encourage pride, etc in table tennis as other officials and members did in other fields of sporting activity.
- (6) The ETTA had started to bring in the youth of the country and he felt that possibly this item was the one least solved up to the present time. He knew all members would agree that the solving of the youth problem was an extremely difficult one but he stated that work was being done in this sphere and he knew the members present realised that we must encourage the youth in every possible way if the game was to continue successfully in England.

The President felt that the above were fields in which the national body could work. We should, therefore, have to try to manage to do the many various tasks which had to be done and it could well be that the time might come when the Association would have to have more funds from less people knowing that the fewer people would be the more enthusiastic. He felt that there must be a closer collaboration between the persons running and organising the Association and the rank and file and the people who work so hard at local level. He felt that explanations must always be given in any and every way so as to enthuse mutual confidence between everyone concerned. The President hoped that the Agenda which was to be considered at the AGM

would be considered in these ways and that the members present would give extremely careful consideration to the various matters which would arise. The President hoped that he had given the meeting some little background of what was in his mind.

The Chairman thanked the President for the words that he had spoken and stated that he knew the members present would feel that it had been an address of wisdom with some very informative ideas from somebody with great knowledge and experience who could be said to be looking in from the outside. He knew those present would know that Mr Montagu was always full of enthusiasm and energy for the causes he believed in and, because of this fact, the value of Mr Montagu as President was a real and vital one. Mr Montagu, who had to attend another meeting, then left with acclamation.

**REPORT OF THE NEC FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30th APRIL 1960:** The Chairman submitted the Annual Report paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraph 19 - Coaching The Chairman expressed to Mr Carrington the best wishes of those present in his new task of full time Director of Coaching for the ETTA.

Paragraph 25 - Magazine The Chairman asked permission to alter the word "several" to "many" and this was agreed.

Paragraph 27 - Press & Publicity The Chairman stated that he had been asked to inform the meeting that Mr Jaschke had advised the NEC at the meeting prior to the AGM that he did not wish to continue as the Association's Hon Press Officer. Mr Vint stated that Mr Jaschke had said that he would be available for any other work and he knew that the Deputy Chairman would like to pay tribute to Mr Jaschke for the work he had carried out regarding press and publicity. Mr Eyles stated that he had worked in close cooperation with Mr Jaschke over the past few seasons and he felt that the name "Press Officer" had not been extensive enough in view of the work that Mr Jaschke had carried out for the Association. He knew that Mr Jaschke had attended receptions and other events on behalf of the Association and he knew that the members present would like to thank Mr Jaschke for all he had done and there was no doubt that Mr Jaschke would carry out other tasks with his usual 100% efficiency. The tribute was accepted by the meeting with acclamation. Mr Woollard then, speaking as a press man, stated that Mr Jaschke had done an extremely valuable job with the Press in building an "M.1" for the ETTA. and he felt that Mr Jaschke would be missed as the Press Officer of the Association.

Paragraph 29 - Archives Mr Crane (Insurance Offices) wondered why funds were not available for the purchase of books required and why private individuals had to subscribe the books to the Library. In reply, Mr Woollard stated that he felt the Library of the ETTA should be as good as any other in the world and mentioned that he did nothing more than just keep all the books together in one central place. No funds had been asked for from the NEC for new titles and over the past three years he felt that the Library had not extended to any great extent. He would, therefore, ask the new NEC to consider whether a small fund should be set up to buy additional titles.

Paragraph 30 - Sunday Freedom Association Mr Watts (Sussex) asked for details of the activities of this Association stating that in Hastings they seemed to be one of the owns which had had most trouble with the Lord's Day Observance Society. He was rather disturbed at the fact that there was little activity from the point of the Sunday Freedom Association and yet the opponents were most active. In reply, Mr James stated that the Sunday Freedom Association were not apparently operating at the moment because they had no Secretary. There also appeared to be a shortage of funds and it must be remembered that this body was made up of various individuals and organisations and although there was support by the membership, there did not appear to be enough financial support to enable the Association to do very much. It was quite true to say that there was little or no activity at the moment. Mr Crane (Insurance Offices) noted that the Association had not affiliated during the past season and he was unaware of the objects of the Sunday Freedom Association. The Chairman, replying, stated that the ETTA were only a constituent member but he thought that the new NEC would perhaps wish to make enquiries as to the future intentions of this body and it was agreed that this matter should be left to the incoming NEC.

Paragraph 32 - Office Administration The Chairman expressed the meeting's warm thanks to the Secretary and the staff at the Office in appreciation of the work they had. carried out during the past season.

The Chairman then moved the adoption of the report and this was seconded by Mr Bateman (Romford). Agreed.

**REPORT OF THE HON TREASURER ON THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MAY 1960:** The Hon Treasurer stated that he had had at this time last year to report a loss but he was happy to say that this year there was a profit to record. He explained the position that owing to the change in the Association's financial year the present accounts covered only eleven months as the accounts commenced on

the 1st July and, by a change of rule last AGM, the accounts now closed on the 31st May each year. The Treasurer read to the meeting a letter received from the Auditors giving their report on the accounts submitted. Mr Blunn stated that one alteration had been pointed out by the Auditors and that was that the details as shown on the duplicated sheet regarding the Slough and Oxford China B Matches had the wrong profits shown and these should be reversed. Mr Blunn went on to explain the reason for the affiliation fees showing only eleven months' income and stated that he had adjusted both the affiliation fees and the registered membership fees by one-twelfth, equalling £327 on the balance sheet. He explained that from the point of view of expenditure, June is a particularly big month and, therefore, the reserve of income of £327 would, he felt, be used up in the normal running expenses as there were salaries, overheads and other large sums of expenses to be paid.

Mr Blunn stated that the travelling of the NEC members had been reduced by the holding of only five meetings during the year and as these cost approximately £80 a meeting the expenses had been reduced from this particular aspect. Other items of expenditure had been cut down, in particular, general administration. The Secretary had made savings regarding stationery and other normal overheads. The hire of rooms, office rent, telephone costs and press expenses were down. From the income point of view, there was an increase in the registered members' fees as this fee had been increased during the last season. The open tournament levy had been reduced owing to the Metropolitan Open not being organised. The ball rebate figure had been increased owing to the Manufacturers allowing the Association double rebate and he was pleased to say that he understood that the double ball rebate would be renewed for a further twelve months. However, this item was a fluid one and he had noted that the ball sales of the best grade balls were down and it appeared that the second and third grade balls were now being used more.

With regard to the Supporters' Club, he felt that only owing to the great effort of Messrs Eyles and Ashley had this been kept going but he knew that it was a disappointment to the organisers that not more people took an interest in this particular aspect. This season the organisers had not continued with the Australian Pools but had run a Derby Draw which was a disappointment, only yielding a profit of £60. The Club had requested that the profit from the Supporters' Club should pay for the cost of participating in the European Championships and that the remaining balance of £150 should open the World Championships Fund for the travelling expenses to Peking. The NEC had agreed to a tour of the USSR players during the 1960/61 season and should we be able to obtain the 'gates', he felt that there might be a reasonable profit from these matches. One could say that the position was not unsatisfactory but he felt that from an organisational point of view it was not so good, as the Association had only been ticking over during the past season and had not made any great strides forward.

Mr Vint thanked the Treasurer for his report which was seconded by Mr Jones (Manchester) and the Chairman then asked for questions on the same. Mr Buchan (Croydon) asked if the Association received interest on the Current Account. Mr Blunn explained that interest was received on the Deposit Account but although we did not receive interest on the Current Account it should be noted that no Bank charges were in fact paid. Mr Hartley (Bromley) stated that some explanation should be given as to the increase in the expenses of the Selection Committee. Mr Blunn explained that normally the "Top Ten" Tournaments were arranged in conjunction with television but on one occasion this year this had not been possible and, therefore, had increased the expenses. Together with this, the Junior Selection Committee had, this past season, operated as a separate Committee and this had caused additional travelling expenses through bringing the various members together.

Mr White (London Civil Service) stated he had two points on which he would like clarification and these were (1) he thought the Auditors' fees looked high, and (2) Could the meeting be told if the Association owned any equipment such as typewriters and a duplicator. In reply, Mr Blunn stated that the Auditors' fees had not been changed for the past five or six years and he thought that any accountant present would agree that the fee was a low one. With regard to the Office equipment, the practice had always been that the cost of equipment should be charged to the income and expenditure account. However, it was true to say that the Association did own a number of typewriters and a duplicator which were in reasonable shape. Mr Killmister (London Civil Service) asked the Treasurer to give the meeting an idea of what he felt the profit would, have been before the various adjustments. Mr Blunn, in reply, stated that he thought the figure of profit shown would have been a little less had the one-twelfth income and the expenses for June 1960 been charged in the income and expenditure account. Mr Hartley (Bromley) asked the Treasurer to explain the position in the accounts to May 1961 regarding the adjustments on the affiliation fees and various other reserves. The Treasurer explained that the one-twelfth affiliation fees reserve would be transferred direct on the Balance Sheet to the Accumulated Fund in the next accounts and twelve months' expenses would be included in the next accounts as they would run

from the 1st June to the 31st May. Mr Hartley made the observation that the profit, therefore, for the season was really nearer £900 than the figure actually shown by Mr Blunn. The Treasurer formally moved the adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by Mr Bateman of Romford and agreed. The Chairman thought that the meeting would like to express to Mr Blunn their warmest thanks for a very clear and concise report and this was received with acclamation.

**REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY ON THE POSTAL BALLOT FOR THE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE NEC ON A REGIONAL AND NATIONAL BASIS AND OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND HON TREASURER:** The Chairman stated that the election results had been circulated.

<u>Officers</u>	Chairman:	VINT A K	Unopposed
	Deputy Chairman:	EYLES I C	Unopposed
	Hon Treasurer	BLUNN T	Unopposed

Executive Committee

Nationally elected members

Two National Members	JASCHKE C	111	Elected (1)
	SENECALL J	78	Elected (2)
	Bateman F H	69	
	Landry L F	66	
	Howcroft A	39	
	Constable L R J	28	
	Hoddy S R	23	
Woman Member	FRY, Miss M	138	Elected
	Benson, Miss K M	53	
	Jarvis, Mrs F M	11	

Regionally elected Members

Region No 1	REAY E		Unopposed
Region No 2	FORREST L E		Unopposed
Region No 3	COOK N		Unopposed
Region No 4	JONES L W	19	Elected
	Taylor E	5	
Region No 5	SCOTT M E	13	Elected
	Wall A A	5	
Region No 6	GOLDSTEIN M		Unopposed
Region No 7	WALKER H	12	Elected
	Fairhead E J	9	
Region No 8	WOOLLARD L S		Unopposed
Region No 9	No effective nomination received for this Region		
Region No 10	No effective nomination received for this Region		
Region No 11	NICHOLLS R J		Unopposed
Region No 12	MANNOCH F G		Unopposed

The Chairman stated that members would note that no effective nomination had been received for regions 9 and 10 and, therefore, no election had been possible. The position regarding Region 9 was that two persons had received one nomination each but that two nominations were necessary to be effective. In region 10, one member had received one nomination and two were necessary to be effective. The NEC had, therefore, considered the position and proposed filling these two Regions on the basis of casual vacancies. The report of the Electoral Reform Society was accepted and it was agreed to express to Mr Poupard and Mr Decker the Association's thanks for their acting as scrutineers. The Chairman welcomed Miss Fry and Mr R J Nicholls as the new members to the Committee and stated that Miss Ferguson and Mr Northcott had not sought re-election this season and that he was sure that the meeting would wish the Secretary to convey their thanks to them for their services to the Association during the past seasons. Agreed.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES:** It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr E G White and Mr A H Lewis should act as Tellers. The Chairman asked for the meeting's permission to test by a show of hands on each vote so as to limit the number of times which block voting would have to be applied and this was agreed.

Proposed by the Buckingham & District TTL

Rule 6(a) Delete present Rule and insert "Local Leagues: 1/6 per player registered, except that for players registered for a school or for a club certified by a Local Education Authority Youth Committee, to be a bona fide Youth Club the amount shall be 6d per player."

Proposed by the Buckingham & District TTL

Rule 6(a) As amended, add at end "Where a League has no system of individual registration, the number of players for whom fees shall be paid shall be calculated by multiplying the number of teams competing by the number of players in a team plus two. (eg a League running on a 4-a-side system with 40 teams competing would pay 1/6 x 40 x (4+2), which is £18 0 0."

Proposed by the Buckingham & District TTL

Rule (a) As amended, add at end "For the first season membership, fees shall be paid according to the number of players registered in that season, for every subsequent season fees shall be based on the preceding season's figures.

In moving the Buckingham & District League's amendments, Mr Wickens stated that this alteration contained the points discussed at the last meeting of the County Secretaries. It had been appreciated that the Association must have an increased income and it was with great regret that the Buckingham League had received the circular on the 9th March last when they read that the NEC had suggested a 6d per member levy rather than a complete alteration to the fees structures. His League felt that the NEC were not dealing with this matter in the correct way and that a fee based on every individual player of the game would increase the link between the Association and the members of the Association up and down the country. He felt that other sports Associations dealt with affiliation fees via the individual members and he felt that it was clearer for an individual to know exactly what he paid to affiliate with the national body rather than to hide it up in the League and Club affiliation. At the moment the individual just did not know what he paid to the ETTA whereas, under the new proposal, each individual would appreciate that he paid 1/6 per year. Mr Wickens felt that his League would wish that the individual affiliation fee idea should be discussed at this meeting as, in their view, the NEC had purposely left things as they were and with this new suggested alteration, the NEC would now have to express an opinion.

He then turned to the question as to the numbers of affiliated members playing the game in this country and thought that the figure stated by the Hon Treasurer of 80,000 might be a little high. He suggested that some Leagues might in fact, have 85 players registered with their League but that on the form returned to the ETTA they gave a round figure of 100. This point, he felt, needed looking into carefully. Turning to the way in which the amendment had been stated on the order paper, Mr Wickens stated that the first proposal was a matter of principle, the second proposal, one of guidance and the third administrative. He pointed out that the Welsh Association already had an individual membership scheme in operation and he had been led to understand that this scheme was most successful. Finally he stated that his League thought that the individual basis was a good thing and, therefore, he formally moved the alteration to rule 6(a). This was seconded by Mr Davies (Gloucester).

Mr Hickman (Hemel Hempstead) asked for guidance as to how such money the proposed levy would bring in. He stated that the small Leagues were most interested in this matter as any increase in fees might mean less registrations in the various Leagues. The Chairman pointed out that the levy was not being dealt with at the present time but the motion by Buckingham. Mr Killmister (London Civil Service) thought that the proposal now before the meeting would mean that, in his League, the number of registrations would decrease. He explained that at the present moment a great number of people were registered and played only one or two matches during the season but if these members had to pay 1/6 affiliation fee to the ETTA he felt that this would discourage them. Miss Waines (Oxford) stated that she could not see why 1/6 payable by any individual should make any difference. Mr Hickman (Hemel Hempstead) stated that 1/6 meant a lot to some people. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated that he felt that the whole rule was fundamentally wrong as it would still not be the players affiliating as, in fact, the Leagues would do this for them. He gave the meeting details of the various types of increases which this would mean to Clubs affiliated to the various Leagues and stated that this alteration to Rule was a drastic alteration and, he felt, should be taken back to the ETTA Rules Committee to look into the far-reaching effects it would have on many of the Clubs. He felt that small clubs were struggling to keep alive and they might not feel it worth their while to affiliate if the fees were increased to such a great

extent. He felt that it was not a matter that could be settled without a great deal of thought.

Mr Forrest (Wandsworth) thought that one point had not been mentioned and that was that small Leagues had already held their AGM and if this Rule was now passed they would not have the chance to put the increase to their Clubs in membership. Mr Mitchell (Bromley) stated that he agreed with the previous speaker and he felt that to add 1/6 to the individual's registration fee would tend to result in the number of members registered in the Leagues reducing. This would, of course, have the effect of reducing the League's finances as well as the ETTA's. He felt that people had become used to the old system and that any new introductions are often criticised. He did not suggest that it was bad to alter out-of-date systems but posed the question that headaches would arise if a new system was introduced.

Mr Hawley (Printing, Publishing and Allied Trades) stated that his League had already held their AGM and the fees for next season had already been fixed. He stated that only a Special General Meeting could alter these fees and it would mean an additional 50% in affiliation fees if the proposal were to be passed. He felt that it was difficult to get money from individuals and he thought that a smaller number of registrations would be made if the Rule was passed. He felt that a League got very little benefit for the money they paid in affiliation fees and if this was passed he felt his members might feel it beneficial not to affiliate to the ETTA. Mr Hickman (Hemel Hempstead) endorsed the remarks made by the last speaker, stating that the additional fees would wipe out various Leagues working balances.

Mr Crickmer (Worcester) thought there were difficulties in the administration of the new Rule, especially regarding additional registrations. This would be an additional burden to the local Treasurer as well as the ETTA. Mr White (London Civil Service) wondered why no NEC member had spoken on the subject and the Chairman replied that the NEC had asked that a free debate be allowed on this particular subject. He reminded the members present that in the ETTA's circular letter of the 9th March last they had asked for the thoughts of the membership regarding a new structure and the NEC had, from the replies received, taken the view that the Association were not ready to put forward such an alteration at this particular time. The NEC had preferred to wait for a further twelve months. He stated that the Treasurer would give the views of the NEC if the meeting so desired and asked Mr Blunn to speak on this particular point.

Mr Blunn then stated that he had looked carefully into the question of the number of members actually in membership with the ETTA. He stated that from the supplement the number was 81,000 odd, forming 14,000 teams and, therefore, he had worked on the assumption that 80,000 players was more correct. He also reminded members that in the above totals were a number of Youth Clubs and youth members and he considered that the number of youth members would be in the region of 10,000. The Committee had considered the question of the young player and felt that the youth player in the various Youth Leagues should be given some lower fee to pay. However, youth players in senior Leagues, the Committee felt, should be treated on the same basis as the senior players. He, therefore, felt that from the senior point of view the figure should be based on 70,000 members and with the affiliation fees this year being £3,500 this meant 1/- per player. If, therefore, one added the 6d per player levy as suggested by the NEC this would come to the same as the proposal put forward by the Buckingham League, but Buckingham wanted 6d from each youth member and, therefore, their proposal would bring in a little more cash than the NEC proposal. However, Buckingham wished to increase the County rebate which the ETTA were not proposing to do and, therefore, under the Buckingham scheme of things, the ETTA would be £400 worse off. It was true to say that the NEC had in mind a new structure in affiliation and had, in fact, asked for comments from members.

Mr White (Southwark) stated that he favoured the view put forward by Mr Hoddy and that this whole matter should not be too lightly considered. He felt that there were two difficulties apparent, one being the difficulty of imposing now the Buckingham proposal as it would not give Leagues the chance to accommodate the new Rule and two, there was no provision as to how Leagues collected the individual fee from the 70,000 individuals. He felt the meeting should be greatly indebted to Buckingham for making this discussion possible but he felt that it would be diplomatic for Buckingham to now withdraw the motion in view of the discussions which had been heard. Mr Hawley (Printing, Publishing & Allied Trades) stated that there were a number of Leagues in London which did not affiliate to a County Association and, therefore, the County Rebate really did not affect them and the Chairman stated that the NEC were looking into this question very closely at the present time and that new proposals might be made regarding this matter within the next few weeks.

In reply to the discussion Mr Wickens wished to cover a number of points which had been raised and stated

that Buckingham was a small League with 51 teams with a registration strength of 102. He knew of a number of people in his League who in fact only played once or twice during a season. The League registration fees were paid by the players and, therefore, any change would be reflected straight to them whether it be by his League's proposal or by the 6d per member levy. He felt that the collection of the fees would be quite well covered by the current wording of the Rules and, after all, the actual money to be received by the ETTA was more or less the same under his proposal as under the NEC proposal. Finally, he felt that it was better for a player to be registered direct with the Association rather than via a Club and League and he felt that the Association must come to this conclusion at some later date. He was most grateful to Mr White for his suggestion to withdraw the proposal but before doing so he asked whether the Chairman would be kind enough to take a vote on the principle laid down.

The Chairman stated that he felt that it would be better to ask the NEC to examine the whole matter and give the members some factual information before they were asked to express an opinion. The Chairman then asked for a show of hands regarding this matter and those in favour were 1, the rest of the meeting being against the proposal. Buckingham, therefore, agreed to withdraw the other two paragraphs of their proposed Rule alteration.

Tea interval was taken at this point.

The Chairman introduced Mr G R Harrower, the Circulation Manager of the Magazine. Mr Harrower stated that at the beginning of the 1959/60 season there had been a change in the basis regarding the financial aspect of the Magazine and now the ETTA paid no advertising guarantee to the Publishers and the Publishers ran the Magazine entirely and completely from the financial point of view. The Publishers had decided that the charge for the Magazine should be increased per issue from 9d to 1/- and he had hoped to peg the circulation as it was before the increase in price. He felt that the publication of the Magazine was only possible by Walthamstow Press because Mr Atkins was a Table Tennis enthusiast and they had hoped that by the end of the season that no loss would be shown. Subscriptions were cancelled by the less keen members when the charge was increased and also the sales by newsagents were reduced by over 20% at that particular time. However, 6,000 extra copies had been sold last season and these had been sold by members of the Association.

Mr Harrower stated that schemes had been put forward via the Counties during the past season but it must be remembered that some Counties did not commence in the scheme until January or February or even April 1960. However, Mr Harrower hoped that the new sales impetus would really start in October 1960 and stated that Mr Atkins had offered to extend the prizes which had been commenced during the past season. For the 1960/61 season Mr Atkins had agreed that the percentage table be split into two with the large counties in one table and the small counties in another. Five guineas would then be paid to the County heading the first percentage table and another five guineas would be paid to the County heading the supplementary percentage table. Mr Atkins had agreed to three guineas being paid to the County making the best additional effort during the season. Turning to the publishing date, Mr Harrower thought that the 10th of each month was not possibly the best date and he had agreed with the publishers that as from October 1960, the Magazine would be published on the first Saturday of every month. He stated that if the Magazine was really vitally necessary to the members it must have the support of the membership and suggested that if 20 extra copies each month could be sold by the large Counties and ten extra copies each month by the small Counties this would amount to 500 copies per month and he felt that this was not asking too much. He felt that the biggest disappointment last season was the infinitesimal sales of the Magazine at the Closed Championships and he asked for the meeting's help in the sale of the Magazine at their own Leagues' Closed Championships as he felt that at these Championships a number of people attended who were not regular table tennis supporters.

The Chairman then asked if any of the members present would like to ask Mr Harrower for any additional information and the question of the percentage relating to the number of copies sold in the Counties as discussed. The main objection was that at the present time 50 copies equalled 100%. Mr Crane (Insurance Offices) asked why 100 copies should not equal 100% and 50 copies 50%. Mr Harrower stated that he would give consideration to the thought which had been expressed. Finally, Mr Harrower paid a tribute to Mr Landry for his work in connection with the sale of the Magazine and stated that a great deal of the increase which had been effected was due to the efforts made by Mr Landry. Mr Harrower also stated that he would give consideration to the Leagues within the London Federation so that they could come into the scheme as this might help to increase the sales in those particular Leagues. The Chairman then thanked Mr Harrower for his attendance at the meeting and also the people who had assisted him during the year so ably.

Proposed by the NEC

- Rule 6(e) Member's Levy: A levy of 6d per member for all members registered with or in membership with a League shall be paid in accordance with Rule 7, but the levy due from members registering with or becoming members of a League after 31st October shall be paid to the Secretary of the Association by the following 31st March. The following conditions to apply:
- (i) The levy shall be collected from each League regardless of a member being in membership with more than one League.
  - (ii) The levy not to apply to members playing only for Youth Clubs or School Clubs in Youth or Schools Leagues.
  - (iii) For the purpose of definition of the word "member", this to mean any member taking part in any League or tournament competition under the auspices of a League.
  - (iv) In the event of a League not registering individual members, the calculation for the levy shall be based on the number of teams competing in the League multiplied by the normal number of players in a team plus two players for each Club.

In proposing the new Rule 6(e), Mr Blunn said from the replies which the ETTA had received and from Mr Blunn's personal knowledge, several Leagues had anticipated that this Rule would be passed and had in fact altered their League rules to accommodate the levy. The comments contained in the letters received had been most helpful and he felt sure that no rule alteration before had been so widely discussed as this one. Mr Blunn felt that the levy was divided into three parts: (1) What does the levy mean? (2) Why does the Association require it? (3) What will the Association do with the extra income? Mr Blunn stated that this was a "once-for-all" levy because the NEC hoped next season to have worked out a new basis of affiliation and at this time next year the new affiliation basis would be discussed in greater detail.

With regard to the question as to why the Association needed further finances, Mr Blunn stated that he had previously been through the actual accounts with the meeting and they would appreciate that money had been received from television, the Supporters' Club and that reductions had been made in the administration expenses to the extent of there being a profit of £600. However, he pointed out that the members would understand that this profit would soon be whittled away if we received no television fees, no support from the Supporters' Club and if the administration expenses were and had to be increased. He stated that the Association's finances must be based on hard facts and not on items which might and possibly would fluctuate from one season to another. He reminded the members that in the old days of the Association a lot of voluntary labour was given and that the general administration was kept to a very low figure. Tours of foreign players in this country in the old days were 'money spinners' but it was true to say that nowadays they were not, and he instanced the fact that the Chinese Tour of six matches last season only produced £110 profit. He also reminded members that the English Open Championships used to make the Association money and he referred the members to the details he had included on the back of the accounts which showed that in the past three years a loss had been sustained in this particular activity.

The administration costs still represented 60 per cent of our total expenditure and in spite of the fact that the Secretary had now a very rigid control over the Office expenditure he felt that matters beyond the Association's control could increase the expenditure as time went by. Again, in the old days the affiliation fees increased steadily. He knew there was always a gap between what we received and what we paid out but it was true to say that our affiliation fees, these days, brought in only 75% of what it was costing for the administration of the game in this country. He wished to state at this stage, that the manufacturers had played a very vital part in keeping things stable by giving the Association a ball rebate and this rebate had, of course, in the last year or so, been doubled. He felt it true to say that in the old days this rebate was not vital as we had other ways of dealing with the income of the Association but these days this was no longer possible and we relied very much on the generosity of the Manufacturers and also on television and the Supporters' Club for extra money. He instanced the fact that the income from outsiders used to represent, some five years ago, 18% of our income whereas, nowadays, it was 35%.

He felt that the members might think that we now spent too much money on the working account but he felt that this was not so, especially during the past season where various activities in the working account had been cut to almost a minimum. Mr Blunn stated that we had been able to take advantage of the Ministry of Education's grant for a full-time National Coach and in this connection he wished to point out that, although we would receive £1,000 from the Ministry, we would, during the next season, have to pay out approximately £1,600 in order to carry-out these activities as the Association would wish. It was true to say, therefore, that the

Association, with the new appointment of the National Coach would, in the coming season, have to pay out somewhere in the region of £2,700 in fees and salaries and in view of the fact that the Association were now employing people, these people must see some reasonable security when they looked at the item in the Balance Sheet called the "Accumulated Fund".

Turning now to the point that if the levy was passed what would the Association do with the extra money, Mr Blunn stated that the first thing would be to build up the Accumulated Fund to £3,000 or £4,000, and then maintain it. The Treasurer then explained the risks which the Association took at venues such as Wembley or the Royal Albert Hall when, with little money in the "kitty", the Association had to rely on a good gate to, in fact, pay back the money which had been outlaid on the hire of the venue and the hospitality charges. He knew that members of the NEC had ideas as to the way in which the activities of the Association could be extended; these ideas were always on the table but had to remain so owing to the shortage of income. The Committee always wanted to make the English Open truly representative and to be the premier tournament but, without doubt, to do so these days ran a very great financial risk.

With regard to International matches, the Association, of course, wanted to run them all over the country so that all our members had the chance of seeing good-class players in action, but at the moment we had to try and make big profits from certain centres in order to make the tours financially successful because we could not afford to make a loss. If there was more money in the kitty Mr Blunn suggested that the remoter areas of the country, where we know could not make a profit, would be able to put on matches which, he felt sure, would increase interest in these areas. The NEC appreciated that County Secretaries' conferences were most useful but lack of finance had precluded a conference this year. With regard to the County Rebate, Mr Blunn felt that the amount returned to the Counties at this stage was the maximum which could be returned to them with present resources.

Mr Blunn stated that Mr Carrington had done a lot in his capacity as Hon Director of Coaching on an extremely limited budget and during the past season had made strides to look after the Junior players after they passed from the junior scene to the senior. Mr Blunn stated that Mr Carrington had called these members 'Intermediates'. Mr Carrington wished to do more for them but, again, money had been limited as to what he could do. Mr Blunn then stated that he felt that he had given the members present a very genuine picture of the reasons why he hoped they would vote for and approve the "once and for all" levy and he formally moved the NEC's alteration to rule. This was duly seconded.

The Chairman then asked for discussion on the matter. Mr Upton (Liverpool) stated that he had been asked to attend the meeting on behalf of his League to speak against this particular alteration. His League appreciated that the levy was only very small but that if it was passed it would mean that his League would have to pay another £20 a year and his League wanted to know what they were getting for the money that they already paid to the ETTA. If the levy was passed he felt that his League might feel that they would have to disaffiliate from the ETTA. Mr Forrest (Wandsworth) thought that the "once and for all" levy was a tactical move by the NEC to cover the coming season and that next season the ETTA would bring forward a new financial basis regarding the affiliation. He stated, therefore, that his League were in favour of the levy being passed. Mr Tyler (Hastings) stated that he felt that the levy could be justified for one season. He also felt that the idea of the "players' affiliation" must come in due course as the present system was a cumbersome one owing to the fact that the members could not see just how much they were paying for affiliation. He also asked the Treasurer to give a fuller explanation of the details regarding the Chinese match played in Hastings during the past season.

Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that he had noted again that the youth had received favourable consideration and pointed out that some of the youth playing in Youth Leagues were between the ages of seventeen and twenty-one and, therefore, were quite able to pay the fee which referred to the senior members of the Association. He felt that the position regarding the youth members of the Association and the reduction they received should be cleared up next season and Mr Scott (Staffordshire) supported these remarks. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) stated he was glad that the levy was a "once for all" proposition. He appreciated that the money was wanted but he felt that the NEC should look at the various activities to see which activity merited extra expenditure. He felt that expenditure could be cut in various ways and suggested that the NEC should look at the following ideas:

- 1 He felt that the composition of the NEC could be reduced to 6 Regions which would return 6 members which, with the 4 Officers, would mean an NEC of 10 persons. This would reduce the expenses for NEC meetings by approximately 50 per cent.

- 2 With regard to the Sub-Committees, he had noted during the season that a great deal of the work of the same

had come back on the Secretary of the Association and paid staff. He, therefore, felt that the regionalisation of some of the Sub-Committees could, in fact, save money.

3 He stated that the rent of the office was, at the moment, costing the Association approximately £350 a year and wondered if the NEC had considered buying one of the older/bigger type of houses near London. If the Association were to purchase, say, a three-storey house for approximately £3,500, in ten years this would be paid for under the Association's present conditions and, on top of this, the ground floor could be used as offices and the upstairs let, which would bring money back to the Association. After a period of time, of course, the upstairs could be turned into the Coaching Headquarters for the Association if this was required.

Mr Hickman (Hemel Hempstead) stated that his League would oppose the levy and he stated that his members wanted to know what benefit they obtained by affiliating to the ETTA. It seemed to him that the Leagues paid a lot for administration and very little for anything else. He felt that if extra money was to be given to the Association then this money should be used to benefit the game throughout the country and at the moment there was no indication as to actual facts as to how the money would be used in this connection. He, therefore, opposed the suggested levy. Mr Robson (Northumberland) stated that he agreed with the previous speaker. Mr Salway (Bristol) stated that he did not like the views of the previous two speakers for he felt that their speeches had sounded like the "death knell" of the Association. He stated that we must go on and if, in going on, the Association had to have more money it was better for this to be paid as, without a national body, the game would never survive. He stated that his League supported the levy and, in his view, the meeting must do likewise as, he reminded all the members present, they were in fact the ETTA.

Mr Hawley (Printing, Publishing & Allied Trades) stated his League must oppose the levy. The fees of his League had already been fixed and if any change was made he would have to refer this back to his members and he knew that their reaction would be to ask what benefit do they derive by being associated with the ETTA. He felt that the levy was not justified and that, should it be passed, they would have to withdraw from the ETTA as they could not pay more in the circumstances. Mr Fretwell (Brighton) stated that his League was in favour and that he was amazed at the objections being put forward when the amount being asked for was only 6d per player. He stated that it was obvious that the activities had been curtailed because of rising costs and that we must see that the activities were reinstated because the game was the all-important factor.

Mr Watts (Sussex) thought the meeting should appreciate the amount of work the Officers of the Association did and he instanced the fact of how much the Chairman carried out without any payment whatsoever. He felt that it was stupid to say that the administration overspent the Association's money and he felt that all the Officers gave much in the way of time and money which they never recovered. Mr Watts also thought that the NEC should look at the question of youth affiliation as, in his view, the youngster of today could well afford to pay an economic fee for affiliation as was expected from the senior members. Mr Killmistor (London Civil Service) stated his League would vote for the "once and for all" levy as it was obvious that the Association needed a cushion for the coming season. He felt that the whole trouble was that the membership did not support as they should the various activities of the Association and that they were now being asked for more money because they, in fact, did not support the various activities.

Mr White (London Civil Service) supported Mr Killmister and stated that at the last AGM of the London Civil Service League an initial speech explained the position to their membership so that support for the levy was almost automatic. He felt also that the Liverpool League, being one of the very old Leagues of the Association, would appreciate that things at the present time were vastly different now as to what they were in 1927 and 1939. He was sure that they would never disaffiliate as they had been one of the Founder Members of the ETTA some thirty years ago. He then referred to the speech made by the representative of the Printing, Publishing & Allied Trades League, stating that he recalled that when members of this particular trade had not been satisfied with their remuneration there had been strikes for more money and these strikes had had to be suffered by the whole of the population. He felt that the representative of this League would appreciate only too well how necessary it was these days to receive adequate payment and he thought that, in view of this, this League would not disaffiliate. If, however, the Association were to lose one or two Leagues because of this new proposal he felt it would be better to have a smaller enthusiastic membership and, therefore, asked the meeting to support the NEC proposal.

Mr Mitchell (Bromley) stated that his League would vote in favour of the levy but it was obvious from the Treasurer's remarks that the financial position of the Association was better now than in March when the original circular had been sent round. He appreciated, however, that the Association must have money behind

it but he was worried about the permanent increase in the affiliation fees. Therefore, his League were prepared to support a temporary measure but were not happy about having to pay affiliation fees each season at a level of 50 per cent above what they were now paying. He wondered whether the increase in fees and the money available to the Association would make the NEC spend more and he asked for an assurance from the Chairman or Treasurer that the increased income would be spent wisely. Mr Abrahams (Liverpool Business Houses) spoke of the difficulties regarding money at local level and stated that it was a great struggle to keep going financially. He wondered-whether the shortage of money was more acute in the northern part of England than in the south but it was a fact in his area that money was exceedingly short. Mr Reay (Sunderland) replying to the previous speaker, stated that Sunderland was at this moment a depressed area and possibly the worst depressed area in the country at the present time. However., he was pleased to say that his League had stated that they were prepared to pay the levy and that, therefore, the position in Liverpool was not a general one in the north of England.

Mr Taylor (Nottingham) stated that in his area there were difficulties in keeping things going. Some of his Leagues had stated that they could not afford to affiliate and with regard to the County Association, that was spending more money these days on long distance matches. They felt, however, that they must enter and compete in these matches in order to give their players the necessary experience and, owing to the fact that their domestic arrangements were difficult relating to finance, he must record his vote against the levy. He suggested that the NEC should look to other places and get the money from some other source. Mr Forrest (Bradford) stated that they in Yorkshire had asked Mr Blunn to go to their AGM. Mr Blunn gave the views to the Yorkshire members that he had now given to this meeting and the Yorkshire members had gone back to their Leagues stating the Treasurer's views. The Yorkshire members had also shown great concern about some of the officers and members of the NEC leaving home so early on Saturday morning and getting back home on Sunday so late in attending meetings of the NEC and committees and he felt that it was true to say that these members were acting in the best interest of the members and the Association and, therefore, anything that could be done to relieve this burden for its members should be supported. Mr Senescall (Yorkshire) stated that the members must certainly face up to the problem that faced the Association at the present time and they must ask themselves – do we want an Association? If we do want an Association we must pay for it and, therefore, they supported the idea of the levy whole-heartedly.

Mr Blunn, in reply to the various objections, stated that in reply to Hastings and their organisation of the Chinese match, the figure in the Accounts appeared as an apparent donation and, although this figure was small, he must tell the members that the sole intention of playing the match in Hastings was to relieve the Association of expense for three days, owing to a long weekend whilst the Chinese were in this country. In this the Hastings Association had saved the ETTA a great deal of money and he was sure all the members would be grateful to Hastings for their efforts. With regard to Mr Watts' point on youth, he stated that he had noted this but would suggest that this matter would have to be dealt with carefully in conjunction with the various Local Education Authorities as this was a field in which we wished to increase interest rather than lose it. With regard to the views put forward by the Liverpool representatives, he was quite sure that they would never allow Liverpool to disaffiliate with the ETTA.

With reference to Mr Hoddy's thoughts on premises, etc, Mr Blunn assured Mr Hoddy that this idea was always in mind. Finally, Mr. Blunn stated that he had told the NEC that he was not prepared to budget any more for a loss. If the money was not forthcoming then we must cut down the activities and he assured the members that if the levy was received the money would not be spent unwisely. With regard to the views of the Printing, Publishing & Allied Trades, he suggested that the extra amount that they would have to find from their members would be £7 10 0 and he did not feel that this was too great a sum to ask for. The Chairman then asked if the meeting would be agreeable to a show of hands regarding this proposition to test the feeling of the meeting. If the votes for and against appeared to be close he would, of course, deem that block voting was necessary but if the show of hands was clear one way or another, he asked the representatives present to accept his ruling on the matter. On a show of hands it was obvious that owing to the fact that many of the larger Leagues were in favour, this alteration to rule was CARRIED.

#### Proposed by the NEC

Rule 6(f) The levy, as defined in Rule 6(e) shall be imposed in any year only when the preceding AGM, or a Special General Meeting called for the, purpose, shall have approved a resolution so directing. For the purposes of Rule 19(g), such a resolution shall be regarded as one affecting the Rules.

Mr Blunn, on behalf of the NEC explained the reason for this addition stating that the AGM would have the power in any season to consider a resolution regarding the levy. This was duly seconded and agreed.

Resolution: This AGM directs that a levy as provided by Rule 6(e) and Rule 6(f) be made for the year 1960/61. The Chairman stated that his resolution dealt with the levy for the 1960/61 season and this was duly agreed by the meeting.

#### Proposed by Northmet TTL

Rule 9 In line 4, delete the word "Officer" and insert the word "Secretary".

Mr Hoddy, in moving this alteration, stated that it was one of tidying up and that the Officers of the Association were quoted as the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer. He, therefore, thought that the word "Officer" in connection with the Press should be altered to "Secretary" so as to make things clearer in the Rules. The proposal was duly seconded.

Mr Eyles stated that the NEC were not happy about the name given to the person active with the Press and the NEC had discussed this question during the past season. He, therefore, thought it would be better if this alteration was defeated so that the Committee could be given a chance to look into this matter again. Mr Jaschke stated that he felt the term "Press Officer" was better understood in Fleet Street than "Press Secretary". Mr Hoddy, in reply, stated that any person who carried out administrative work for a Committee was known as the Secretary of that Committee and surely the Press Officer of the Association acted in the capacity of a Secretary in this specialised branch of the Association's work. On being put to the vote this amendment was defeated.

#### Proposed by Northmet TTL

Rule 13(a) In line 3, delete the words "Press Officer".

Mr Hoddy again explained that this alteration to rule was one of tidying up and drew the attention of the meeting to this particular rule together with Rule 9.

This was duly seconded and agreed.

#### Proposed by the NEC

Rule 13(b)(i) In line 3, after the word "follows", insert "one member being elected for each Region".

The Chairman stated that when the new regional basis for the NEC was dealt with and agreed last AGM, the Rule which was altered omitted to say, although it was intended, that only one person per region should be elected. The alteration was seconded and agreed.

#### Proposed by Northmet TTL

Rule 13(f) Add to the existing Rule "Any new Post or Office created by an alteration to Rules made at an AGM or at a Special General Meeting shall only be filled by postal vote, in accordance with Rule 13(h).".

Alternative: Add to existing Rule "Any new Post or Office created by an alteration to Rules made at an AGM or at a Special General Meeting shall remain vacant until the next AGMeet.

Mr Hoddy explained to the meeting his thoughts on the two alternatives put forward and this was duly seconded. The NEC, it was stated, agreed with the first alternative in principle but asked Mr Hoddy if he would be agreeable if this could be referred to the Rules Committee for redrafting. The Chairman gave Mr Hoddy an undertaking that no action would be taken in the coming year contrary to the intention of the proposal. Mr Hoddy was agreeable that the Rule should be redrafted so long as he saw the new wording before it was submitted to the next AGM. He would, therefore, withdraw this amendment in the light of the discussion. Agreed.

#### Proposed by Northmet TTL

Rule 13(g)(ii) Delete from the existing Rule "except that only those persons are eligible for nomination who are ETTA representatives"

Mr Hoddy explained that in his view there was a large number of persons who were not ETTA representatives who might be quite worthwhile having on the NEC. He felt by limiting the elections to persons only named as ETTA representatives the Association might be losing the ability of persons who were most able from a national point of view. This alteration was duly seconded.

Mr Jaschke, replying for the NEC, stated that the NEC were against this alteration on the basis that well-known people and well-known players could easily become elected to the NEC and they would not be in touch with the region that they represented. It was, therefore, much better for a region to elect someone from amongst them who was a ETTA representative than for a well-known person to stand-for a region and get elected just

because he was well-known. Mr Lewis (London Business Houses) stated that he was in support of the amendment for he could visualise a situation where a man could have had vast experience as a local League Secretary but was not now able to continue in that capacity from the point of view of time and yet could be a very useful member of the NEC. Replying to the debate, Mr Hoddy stated that he was disturbed to hear that persons elected to the NEC were there representing their regions. He thought the members of the NEC were National members who should have a national outlook. These people should, in fact, put forward the national view and should not express their own region's views in the NEC meetings. On being put to the vote this alteration was lost.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 19 Insert additional clause (L)

Rule 19(L) The quorum for the AGM shall be 25 accredited representatives (as defined in Rule 19(b). Should the Meeting not complete necessary business owing to lack of a quorum, then the Meeting shall stand adjourned until 28 days from the date originally fixed, and further notices of the adjourned date shall be sent in accordance with Rule 19(a).

In proposing this alteration on behalf of the NEC, Mr Senescall said the proposal was in accordance with the undertaking given at the last AGM. This was duly seconded.

Mr Hoddy (Northmet) felt that the NEC should look at the wording of this Rule again because as the wording now stood, 25 Directly Affiliated Club accredited representatives could do the work at an AGM of 25 League accredited representatives and this was not a good thing for the Association. Mr Senescall stated that the NEC would be prepared to look at the Rule again but felt that it was better to have this alteration for one year rather than no Rule on the subject at all. On being put to the vote the alteration was agreed.

Proposed by the Buckingham & District TTL

Rule 21(h) Delete present Rule and insert ""County Associations shall be entitled to a rebate of 20% of all affiliation fees paid by local Leagues and Directly Affiliated Clubs composing the County Association.

Mr Wickens asked leave to withdraw this alteration. Agreed.

Proposed by the NEC

Rule 31 Delete existing Rule and insert "These Rules, and the Laws of the Game as approved by the Association, may be changed (whether by addition, alteration or deletion) only by decision of an AGM or of a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose.

(a) Proposals for such changes to be considered by the next AGM shall be submitted in writing to reach the Secretary not later than the last day in February. All proposals so-received shall be circulated to all County Associations and local Leagues during March and amendments or alternative proposals dealing with the same substance shall be accepted for consideration by the AGM if submitted in writing and received by the Secretary not later than the last day in April.

(b) Proposals for such changes to be considered by a Special General Meeting shall be submitted to the Secretary in writing together with the demand for that Special General Meeting.

On behalf of the NEC Mr Senescall explained the difficulties which arose regarding any amendments to Rules being given proper consideration by the NEC and the country as a whole. The NEC were, therefore, suggesting that a new series of dates should come into operation regarding the Rules of the Association and the Laws of the Game so that the country and the NEC could have more notice of any suggested alterations thereto. This alteration was duly seconded and, when put to the vote, agreed.

Proposed by the Northmet TTL

Rule 34 Insert new Rule as follows: "In the event of an Hon General Secretary being elected all reference (except in Rule 33) to the paid Secretary or the paid National Secretary shall be deemed to read "Hon General Secretary".

In moving this addition to the Rules, Mr Hoddy stated that if there became an Hon General Secretary in due course, this new Rule of his would save the NEC a lot of work amending all the various Rules where the word "Secretary" now appeared. This was duly seconded and, when put to the meeting, agreed.

Proposed by the Buckingham & District TTL

New Rule Insert the present "Regulations governing Tournaments and Competitions" (as per Handbook page 30.) in toto between the present Rules 27 and 28.

Mr Wickens, in moving this addition to the Rules, thought that it was most important that the classification of Tournaments should come under the eye of the AGM and not only the NEC. Mr Eyles stated that the NEC were against the proposal as it would make difficulties in any season should the Regulations need to be altered, and if the AGM was the only body which could do this it would mean calling a Special General Meeting and this would be costly in both money and time. At the present moment the NEC had the power to alter the Regulations which, he felt, was the correct method. Mr Lowe (West Essex) thought that if this matter of Tournaments had any bearing on the dress of the players then he was very much in favour of the Tournament Regulations being dealt with by the AGM. Mr White (London Civil Service) pointed out that because the Open Tournaments were a Regulation, this did not prevent debate at an AGM if anybody wished to raise the matter. He pointed out that if the AGM decided to give the NEC a directive regarding any matter then this would be binding on the NEC and they would have to carry out the AGM's wishes. Mr Wickens, in reply, stated that the suggested addition to the Rules was only proposed from a financial point of view and on being put to the vote, this was lost.

#### Proposed by the Buckingham & District TTL

Resolution That this Meeting regrets that no County Secretaries' Conference was held during the last season, considers that useful ground has been covered by such Conferences in the past, and urges the NEC to make arrangements for one to be held during the next twelve months".

Mr Wickens moved the resolution on behalf of his League. This was duly seconded. Mr Blunn agreed that these Conferences were most helpful but during this past season the financial obligations of the ETTA had not made it possible to hold a Conference but it was suggested that a Conference would be held during the coming season. Resolution agreed.

#### ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND AUDITORS

President The Chairman stated that he, had pleasure, on behalf of the NEC, in proposing Hon I G S Montagu as President of the Association for the next twelve months. This was seconded and agreed.

Vice-Presidents The Chairman moved, on behalf of the NEC that the Vice-Presidents named in the 1959/60 Handbook, with the exception of Mr F S B Lawes who had now died, should be re-elected en bloc, together with Mr A Donaldson of Sunderland. This was seconded and agreed.

Auditors Mr Senescall, on behalf of the NEC proposed the re-election of Messrs Spain Brothers as the Auditors of the Association. This was seconded and agreed. It was also agreed that the Auditors be given a vote of thanks for the speed with which they had carried out the work this season and that the Treasurer should convey this to the persons concerned.

#### NOMINATION OF HON LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Woollard, on behalf of the NEC proposed that the following members be made Hon Life Members of the Association:

Mr I C Eyles (Bristol)

Mr F G Mannooch (Sittingbourne)

Mr E Reay (Sunderland)

These names were seconded and agreed with acclamation. Mr Woollard stated that this was a small way in which the Association could show their appreciation to the people who have done so much for the game in England.

#### ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS..

Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that he felt that the AGM should have standing orders which would limit the amount of time any person would be allowed to speak on any, particular subject. He therefore suggested that before the next AGM a draft of the Standing Orders should be circulated for consideration. This was agreed.

Mr Crane (Insurance Offices) suggested that an earlier start might be made at the AGM and the Chairman said that the NEC would examine this suggestion but reminded Mr Crane of the fact that there are certain persons still who worked a non five-day week. Mr Crane also mentioned the fact that the period of time when the AGM under Rule should be held coincided exactly with the Wimbledon Championships. He therefore asked the NEC to look into the question of holding the AGM either a little before or a little after the last week of June or the first week of July. The Chairman said that this would be done.

Mr Mitchell (Bromley) stated that he would like to say something about the increased finances of the Association in regard to the County Rebate. His League felt very strongly that the Rebate to the Counties

should not go through the ETTA. His League, rather than see an increase in the County Rebate, would like to see it deleted altogether and then the County could make out its own case for the finances required for its various activities. The Chairman reminded Mr Mitchell of the constitutional way in which this matter could be dealt with and suggested the Bromley League could table a resolution for the next AGM.

Mr Crickmer (Worcester) asked that in the Official Handbook for this coming season, the names of the Counties incorporated in a region should be stated against the regional number. It was agreed to ask the NEC to consider the point.

Mr Robson (Northumberland) asked for any idea of what the proposed increase to the Counties would be if the basis of affiliation were changed in due course. The Chairman stated that any constitutional changes of this nature would be circulated to the representatives well before the matter was discussed at the AGM.

Mr Killmister (London Civil Service) stated that he was under the impression that the Laws of the Game (knotty point No 9) had been altered with regard to the umpires now having to see the ball before it was served in service. He understood that if the umpire could not see the ball then the service was a fault. The Chairman stated that he had realised that this matter should have been on the Agenda paper but he would look into the matter and see what could be accomplished.

Mr White (London Civil Service) stated that in his opinion a third member of the NEC was in fact leaving the NEC at this time and that was Mr Jack Carrington. To his knowledge Mr Carrington had given seven years' continued service and the meeting showed their appreciation of Mr Carrington's efforts on their behalf in the usual way. In reply, Mr Carrington stated that he would, in his new position in the ETTA be still carrying on coaching etc but as yet the whole scheme would have to take shape as it went along but he would obviously be dealing with all levels of Coaching and should any members wish to see or speak to him at any time when he was in their area he would welcome this as he wished to promote table tennis in all areas of the country.

Mr Eyles thanked the Chairman for the way in which he had handled the meeting.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked all the members present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 8.40pm.