

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD IN THE
BISHOP PARTRIDGE HALL, CHURCH HOUSE, GREAT SMITH STREET WESTMINSTER,
SW1 ON SATURDAY THE 6th JULY 1963, COMMENCING AT 2.30pm.

PRESENT:	Hon I G S Montagu (President) I C Eyles (in the Chair) G James (Deputy Chairman) T Blunn (Hon Treasurer)
Members of the National Executive Committee (NEC)	Mrs F Jarvis, Messrs Clemett, Cook, Senescall, Reay, Scott, Senescall, Thompson, Walker, Woollard
Hon Life Members:	G W Decker, E G White.
Representatives of: County Associations	Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Devonshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Yorkshire.
Leagues	Acton, Ashton-u-Lyne, Barking, Barrow, Beckenham, Blackpool, Bolton SS, Bracknell, Bromley, Brighton, Bristol, Burnley, Burton Senior, Central, Cheltenham, Dagenham, Didcot, East London, Folkestone, Hastings, Hastings Youth, Hemel Hempstead, Lancaster & Morecambe, Leeds & Dist, Leatherhead, Epsom & Dist, London Business Houses, London Civil Service, London Banks, Loughborough & Dist, Manchester, Mansfield, Norwich, North Acton, North East London, North Middlesex, Northmet, North-West Kert, Nottingham, Oldham, Plymouth, Preston, Reading, Salford Eccles & Dist, Scarborough, Sittingbourne, Slough, Staines, Stevenage, Stockport, Swindon, Sunderland, Walsall, Warrington, Wandsworth, Wembley & Harrow, West Wilts, Woolwich, Worcester, York.
Clubs	Crescent, St Luke's
Individuals	Mrs E Phillips, J Corser
Registered Members	L G Adams, V Barna, R J Crayden, A W C Simons
Other Organisations	Western Counties League
In Attendance:	D Peter Lowen (Secretary to Association), J H Carrington (Director of Coaching), D W Poupard (Scrutineer)
Apologies for absence:	Miss M Fry, L F Landry, C Jaschke, N K Reeve, Romford & Dist TTL

1 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS: Standing Orders, as circulated, were adopted by the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 30th JUNE 1962: These were confirmed.

3 PRESIDENTIAL REPORT: Mr Montagu thanked all those present for the opportunity given him to say a few words to the members. He appreciated that what he had to say should be delicately stated for he did not wish to be controversial but helpful in laying emphasis on certain matters. He had four points about which he would like to speak at this time:

(i) The General Position: He wished to point out that for now the ETTA had faced many difficulties with regard to spectator interest in the game. This was not only a concern of the Association but of many of the Sports bodies in this country. It was true to say that there was not any lack of interest on the playing side of the game for figures showed this to be quite the opposite, but from the spectator point of view it was obvious that the habits of the people had changed and this had resulted in their being more selective in the events which they attended. In the past we had been able to publicise our big events and get an attendance which would help to pay Association expenses but we now had to realise that this spectator interest had fallen away and the finances of the various events was a problem which we now to face. He appreciated the Association had been through difficult times and he thought that these difficulties were likely to continue. However, the financial results this year were an improvement on last year but in view of the fact that, as they would hear from the Treasure, problems were clearly ahead, great care would still have to be taken. However, it was quite true to say that the ETTA had earned the respect of the many sports people in this country and it might be hoped from the recently held House of Lords Debate on Sport that some further monetary assistance might be forthcoming. He was hopeful that the new powers given to the appropriate Ministry by Lord Hailsham would not altogether pass us

by. He stated that the main aim of the NEC now had to be keeping heads above water and he felt that they had done this very well during the past few years.

(ii) Development Commission: Mr Montagu said that it was impossible for him to thank the members of the Development Commission for their work in connection with the report because he, in fact, had been a member of that body. However, he would like to thank everyone who had assisted both inside and outside the Commission's work and to say that the enterprise shown by the NEC in such an investigation was most praiseworthy. After all, it was a great risk to have an outside body criticising the work of the administration and he felt sure that the ETTA were the first body ever to undertake such an investigation, although he understood that other sports had now done this. He did not wish at this stage to defend or pursue any detail of the report for this was now a matter for consideration by the whole body of the Association at a Special General meeting but he appreciated that some might think that in general the report was not sensational. It would be wrong to underestimate it for this reason for the report could be most useful in that it set out very clearly a basic number of facts and commonsense measures that would be helpful locally as well as nationally to the furtherance of the game in country.

There were, furthermore, two major new points in the report. One dealt with the question of a better structure for the Association. The Development Commission had applied its mind to many of the problems, had tried to be realistic about organisation of the game this country, had appreciated that the basis of the Association remained, as in the past, the League, but had realised that there was a new County development in the country which could not be reversed, must be taken account of, and would have an increasing part to play. One important factor is that the aid that sport is to receive from the authorities is likely to be in great part locally administered on a County basis. Another is the importance of County rivalry and County keenness. Present-day needs possibly require a new type of organisation. A second point is the question of a direct relationship between the governing body and the players. This was a matter which had caused difficulties, perhaps greater than those of the ETTA, already in some other sports. It might well be that the regulations of some sports bodies in this respect dated back to their grandfather's time and expressed a paternalism which was now outdated. It was increasingly a problem for all sports to bridge any gulf that might tend to form between player and Association. The Development Commission had appreciated this point and were now suggesting means of providing a direct voice to the players who were keen to help in the organisation. This innovation might eventually become as much of credit to the ETTA as its innovation some many years ago when it paved the way for other sports in bringing about the Registered Members' Regulations and taking the worthwhile decision regarding professional/ amateur status of the performers of table tennis, an example that others were beginning to follow.

(iii) Standard of Play: Mr Montagu said that he was not in any way going to be critical of selectors or players. In fact he would like to say that there was little or no criticism of the way in which the selectors had worked over the past few seasons but it must be appreciated that the selectors had worked with very little money to provide the training facilities, and players had often delighted us with results many would have thought beyond their reach. All in all they had done the Association proud in getting the results they had. He felt, however, that the standard of the game in the country must be brought to a higher level. This was of great concern to everyone in the ETTA although only a very few players reached the great heights of being 'stars'. He stated there was no cleavage between the interests of general players' play and the importance of developing a high standard. If the general standard of play was good then the international stars would be better and it was always a fact that the youngsters taking up any game did so because they were inspired by the examples of the star players. He instanced what he meant by saying that all youngsters who picked up a cricket bat tried to emulate Ted Dexter and all the kids who kick a ball on the playing field think of Stanley Matthews as their idol. We must ever be watchful that the sport did not fade away if we could not interest the youngsters by showing them something to admire. The general standard, in Mr Montagu's opinion, was not as good as it was, we seem to have fallen behind in some matters and these difficulties would have to be overcome if it was at all possible. Table tennis was not really like athletics where performers ran against the clock and, therefore, one had to bring to this country the present top stars of the game in order to show how the best players played. He felt that the visit of the Chinese was a good thing for the game in this country and he hoped that some way might be found to bring the top stars to this country to tour in the way that Bergmann and Barna did in days gone by. Youngsters copy the star players and that they have not seen they cannot emulate. In order for the game to flourish the high standard of play must be seen which was a point he knew the current NEC were appreciative of.

(iv) European Championships 1964: Here Mr Montagu stated the Association was facing a great disappointment. We had all hoped that the European Championships of 1964 would be held in the Crystal Palace National Recreation Centre which would have been a great stimulus for the game, for our event would have been the first international event to be held there. This would have been a great thing for the Association

but this now appeared not to be possible. The reason why it was not possible was that a decision had been taken by all the NATO countries not to issue visas to East German sports competitors and because of this fact it might well be that the European Union would not be able to allow the 1964 European Championships to be staged in London. He stated he must be very careful not to criticise the decisions of the government here as President of a sports body. They had their own motives for their actions. However, he felt that we had a duty to express our own experience of such matters in the domain of sport, so far as the publicity recently of such decisions are concerned. In times gone by there had been many troubles which had been successfully terminated and here again one was faced with troubles which we would do our best to smooth over. We had always urged within the International Federation that political discriminations should not interfere with sport, we had believed that in doing so we were maintaining the principles which English people had held over the past many years and of which they were proud, and this attitude had helped to take the International Federation to the point now where it included nearly one hundred member countries.

Mr Montagu felt that the members should know that a new factor had recently come about where the government had stated it would allow the East Germans into the country so long as Germany played as one team, since it did not recognise East Germany as a separate state. But this principle could cause great difficulties in all International Sports Federations, introducing these political arguments about which members did or did not represent a state, and in particular would it cause difficulties for the United Kingdom since in many sports UK had four different Associations in membership - England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. It was not possible for the ITTF to allow England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, to say nothing of Jersey and Guernsey, to play as separate teams and then not allow the two German Associations to do likewise on the grounds that one or other might not properly be a State. Such a principle would bring political arguments into every international sports body in relation to every region of the globe. The International Olympic Committee had recommended to all its members, federations and others that no World or European Championships would be allowed unless all those qualified to enter could in fact do so. The European TT Union had given the ETTA until 1st August for the option for the Championships and by that time the Association would have to let the European Union know whether free entry to England would be accorded to all members of the Union or not. He hoped that a solution might be found, for it would be a great shame if the Championships could not be played here and so give our players a chance of seeing the best players in Europe.

Finally, Mr Montagu expressed his deep thanks to the Officers and members of the national body and in fact all the members of the ETTA for their great spirit in carrying the sport through what had been a difficult and trying period in the life of all sports bodies. He also thanked the members for listening to him and wished the meeting well after he had left. Mr Montagu's speech was received with acclamation.

4 TELLERS: Mr Bill Lewis and Mr Phillip Reid were appointed.

5 REPORT OF THE NEC FOR THE PERIOD 31st-MAY 1963: The report was submitted paragraph by paragraph and the following points were noted:

Paragraph 2 - Obituary: It was noted with regret that Mr Oliver W Tarrant had passed away during the period of the Report. The meeting stood for a few moments in respect of this great enthusiast for the game.

Paragraph 6 - Meetings: The Chairman stated that owing to printer's errors Mr L Thompson had been omitted from the details of NEC members' attendances. He had in fact attended all five meetings during the season. The Junior Selection Committee had met on three occasions during the season when it was stated in the Report that they had met only once. He apologised for the errors made.

At this stage Mr Watts (Sussex) asked whether there would be a statement made regarding the irregularities of the elections for the 1963/64 season. Mr Eyles replied that a statement would be made by him when the Report of the Electoral Reform Society was presented to the meeting.

Paragraph 13 - Tournaments: Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that he wished yet again to impress on the NEC the desirability of their looking very carefully into the question of the current Invitation Tournaments. He appreciated that the NEC might be doing this in view of the discussions held at the County Secretaries' Conference, but he was still of the opinion that some of the Invitation Tournaments being organised were in fact on the same lines as Open Tournaments. This he considered quite wrong and he urged the NEC to look into this matter without delay. Mr James, in reply, stated that the Tournaments Committee had already considered this matter and were actively engaged in putting forward proposals to the NEC. These suggestions would be considered at the next meeting of the NEC and, therefore, the point which Mr Watts was raising was in fact receiving attention at this time.

Paragraph 21 - Development Commission: Mr Eyles stated that he knew all members present would want him to speak on their behalf in thanking the Development Commission members and especially George White, the Chairman, on producing such a first class document. The Development Commission had met every month over

the past two years and the NEC would now give the Report every consideration. In the light of the publication of the Report at this time, the NEC had decided not to put to this meeting any major alteration to Rules. The NEC would go into the Report, any principles for attention to the Rules would be circulated to the country and the NEC wished all members to read the Report thoroughly and put up their own ideas in due course. The ETTA Rules Committee would be asked to draft the principles of the NEC into Rule alterations for circulation to the country and he would arrange to call a Special General Meeting of the association in December or January next, to consider all such alterations. He again thanked George White for the Commission's great service to the Association which was received by the meeting with acclamation.

Mr Hartley (Kent) stated that he would like to endorse the views of the Chairman; he thought that the Report was a brilliant piece of work. He was sure that all over the country members would be accepting or rejecting certain principles laid down in the Report and asked if the NEC were at this stage prepared to give any idea of their thoughts on same for general guidance. Was there any general agreement by the NEC in broad outline of any particular aspect? Mr Eyles, in reply, stated that the NEC had not yet had the opportunity of considering the Report but a meeting arranged, for the 20th July next would have but one item on its Agenda - consideration of the Report and any changes in the Rules based on the various recommendations made by the Development Commission. Mr Harris (Gloucestershire) asked for details of the circulation of the Report and the Secretary gave the details.

Paragraph 22 - National County Championships: Mr Kilmister (London Civil Service) stated that from the printing of the paragraph something would appear to be incorrect regarding the play-offs. Mr James, in reply, explained the position to Mr Kilmister's satisfaction. Mr Eyles also pointed out that the Leslie Forrest Award had gone this year to Mr E Reay (Durham) and this was noted. He also informed the meeting that the entries for the 1963/64 season were an increase on last season.

Addendum to the Report: Mr White stated that he would like to add to the Addendum the fact that the Secretary of the Association together with his normal duties undertook the task of acting as Secretary to the Development Commission. He wished to thank Mr Lowen on behalf of the Development Commission members. Mr Eyles also thanked Mr Lowen for his efforts during the past season, which had been so much appreciated by the Association. The adoption of the report was agreed.

6 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 1963.

Mr Blunn commenced his survey of the past season by stating that he had one or two apologies to make. Firstly, he apologised for the lateness of the circulation of the details, secondly, he stated that he was not satisfied with the way the accounts had been printed; the Balance Sheet and Administration Account should be followed by the Working Account and not by the Supplementary information, and thirdly, there were errors in spelling on the printed accounts and certain items were not in the correct type face. Apart from these items he thought the accounts showed the true figures and there was nothing wrong from this side of the details. He also wished to say at this stage that he had given an assurance at the last meeting with regard to the amount of money the counties would receive under the new County Rebate Rule passed at the last AGM. When the new Rule was implemented it was discovered that the figures he had used quickly at the last AGM were not correct and, therefore, certain counties would have received less this past season than previous seasons, under the new rule. In view of this fact, he raised the matter at the NEC and after receiving their approval went back to the old basis of calculation in order that the Counties received the proper figures.

Mr Blunn stated that in his Report he had covered the items which in his opinion, were the main items about which the members would be interested but he felt he should state that with regard to the Chinese tour of this country, the ETTA had told them at the outset that we would not make any profit on their tour and, in the end, this had not turned out to be true. In view of this fact a letter had been sent to the appropriate authority stating that the next time the Chinese players were near to England and they wished to come to this country, the ETTA would endeavour to assist them with the expenses of their fares to this country to the tune of something like £150. Also in his Report, Mr Blunn had stated that it was said that the Chinese players and officials had asked to come to this country. This was not strictly correct. They had received a number of invitations to go to many European Countries after the World Championships and they had agreed to come to England which was most pleasing from our point of view.

Mr Hoddy (Northmet) pointed out that there was an error on the Balance Sheet relating to the King George V Jubilee Trust figures. Mr Blunn stated that this was yet another printer's error. The figures should read £139. less £133. leaving a balance of £6. Mr Hartley (Kent) asked for information regarding the Cash-at-Bank figure regarding the European Championships Fund Account. Mr Blunn explained that this figure had arisen from Mrs Phillips' efforts regarding the Fund Raising Scheme she had run in connection with the 1964 Championships. Nothing more was planned at the moment over the difficulties which the President of the Association had mentioned in his opening remarks.

Mr Hartley (Kent) also mentioned the Accumulated Fund of the Association. He congratulated the Hon. Treasurer on almost doubling this figure over the past few years and stated that this had been brought about without increasing the fees payable by the members. This, as the meeting knew, Kent had always opposed and he wished to make it known that he now congratulated the Treasurer on a fine effort. In reply to this remark, Mr Blunn stated that "unknowns" at the commencement of the season had been the items which had brought about this position. He stated that through the efforts of the Secretary during the past season the Fees from television had brought in £1,380. However, at the beginning of last season the ETTA did not know how much this item would produce and he likened this position to the present time when the ETTA just did not know what television fees would be received during the 1963/64 season. He could activities of the Association had to be cut to the bare bone in order to keep the Association on an even keel. Once the television fees were received then of course, a surplus was made which had moved the Accumulated Fund into the region of £4,000. Mr Hartley (Kent) asked if the Treasurer was now satisfied with the figure in the Accumulated Fund or did he require more money.

Mr Blunn stated that he was quite satisfied at the moment but that this matter had to be kept in mind at all times when the Association has contracts with the Director of Coaching and the Secretary. Mr Corser (Individual member) stated that in the Development Commission Report it was stated that it was vitally necessary that the Association should have additional income and he thought that the Kent representatives would have noted this fact for their own information. Mr Eyles replied to Mr Corser giving the NEC's views on this matter. Mr Harris (Gloucestershire) asked for details of the loss of £204 on the Quadrangular Home International events. Mr Blunn acquainted Mr Harris and the members present with the appropriate details. Mr Hoffman (North Middlesex) stated that he knew that Mr A D Brook had ideas and thought that he could raise money for the ETTA. Mr Eyles stated that this matter was under discussion by the NEC, the machinery was in operation but at the moment nothing concrete could be reported.

There being no further discussion it was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Treasurer's Report be adopted.

7 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES.

Mr Eyles stated that he had already mentioned the fact that the NEC had agreed not to put forward at this meeting any major alterations to rules. This had been done because it was known that the Development Commission Report would suggest alterations in the working of the Association and he would call a Special General Meeting during the 1963/64 season when the NEC and the country had had the time to consider the various recommendations made. He had hoped that all other alterations would have been withdrawn but in view of the fact that Kent had not seen their way clear to do this the NEC had taken a decision not to oppose the Kent alterations but NEC members individually would speak on behalf of their various Leagues or Counties on the motions before the meeting.

Mr Hartley (Kent) stated that those present would appreciate only too well the history of Kent's proposals. The County Secretaries Conference held in December last gave the Kent proposals overwhelming support and, therefore, Kent had considered that they could not withdraw the alterations before they had seen the Development Commission Report. The proposals now before the meeting were the proposals of many people, not only Kent, and Kent had felt that they could not withdraw their proposals when others were involved on the same issues. Mr Hartley continued by stating that Kent were quite happy to proceed with these resolutions because if the implementation of the Development Commission Report took as long as the Kent resolutions had to date in suggesting a change, then it might be a further two or three years before anything was done. The Kent proposals were, in Mr Hartley's view, the wind of change, and a wind of change now seemed likely, for the Development Commission were in fact suggesting something along the same lines. Mr Hartley then asked if it was possible to ascertain from a show of hands whether the meeting would agree to Kent withdrawing their resolutions. Mr Eyles pointed out that he could not accept a resolution worded in this way but if Mr Hartley liked to word his resolution stating that Kent wished to withdraw their resolutions and was this agreeable to the meeting he would be willing to put this to the meeting. Mr Hartley agreed to this and on a show of hands of those present it was agreed that Kent withdraw the various motions as they were taken. The Chairman then proceeded to the Agenda regarding this item.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 4 After "Any", add "County Association"

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 6 Delete paragraphs (a), (f), (g) and (h) and insert

(a) County Associations - 13/- for each club in membership with each Local League affiliated to

the County Association.

(b) Local Leagues not affiliated to a County Association - 13/- for each club in membership with the Local League; in addition such Leagues shall pay an additional subscription as laid down by Rule 22 (a) (vi).

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by London Business Houses TTA

Rule 6 Amend Rule 6 (b) as proposed by Kent County TTA:
Delete "13/- for each Club", and insert "9/- for each Club".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 6 (consequential) Re-letter paragraphs (b) (c) (d) and (e).

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Sussex TTA

Rule 6 (a) (iii) After "Local Education Authority Youth Committee" add "and which play exclusively in competitions limited to players under 21 years of age".
(b) After "LEAYC" add as above.
(f) (ii) Add to end of rule as above.

Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that this proposal was the same old thing about which his County had been speaking over a great number of years. His County was of the opinion that certain Youth Clubs were obtaining the monetary concession as stated in the Handbook and yet some of the members of these Clubs were over 21 years of age. They were, therefore, suggesting that the concession should only apply to Youth Clubs whose members were 21 years and under. Mr Blunn stated that he wished to second this proposal. The NEC had stated that they supported this item and although they appreciated that it might well be difficult to calculate the affiliation fees due in due course, they were sympathetic to the point raised by Mr Watts. At this stage Mr Crickmer (Worcestershire) stated that the word "play" should read "plays" and the meeting accepted this alteration. On being put to the vote this proposal was carried with two votes against.

Proposed by NEC

Rule 6 In line 1, for "Organisations - Special" substitute "other", and in lines 1-2, delete "including Youth Organisations".

Mr Blunn stated that this alteration was one of tidying up. This was seconded and agreed.

Proposed by NEC

That Rule 6(f) shall be applicable for the 1963/64 season. Mr Blunn stated that this resolution dealt with the members' Levy. He proposed that the Levy be effective for the 1963/64 season and this was seconded by Mr Hartley (Kent). On being put to the vote the resolution was agreed.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 13 In (b)(i) delete "or Local League".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by London Civil Service TTL

Rule 13 Amend Kent proposal: After 'Delete "or Local League"' insert and substitute "for the purposes of this Rule the term "County" shall include a "special organisation representative of 5 or more Local Leagues exempted from County affiliation under Rule 22 (a) (vi)."

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 13 In (ii) delete "and Leagues" and in (iii) delete "or League".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 14 Delete "and League" in line 5 and "or League" in lines 7 and 11.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 14 In lines 6 delete "or League" and after "1 vote", add "for each local league affiliated to the County Association" and delete "Each League Secretary 3 votes".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn,

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 14 Insert new 14(c): "For the purposes of the election of the Officers of the Association, and the two members of the Association and the one woman member of the Association to be elected on a national basis the secretary of any special organisation representative of 5 or more Local Leagues exempted from County affiliation under Rule 22(a)(vi) shall, on behalf of those leagues only, have the power to make nominations and to vote as if such special organisation were a County Association."

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 14 Re-letter Rule 14 (c) accordingly.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 14 (old numbering) Delete "or League" in line 1 of (c) (ii).

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by NEC

Rule 14 In 14(a), lines 5, 7 and 11, in 14(b), lines 6 and 9 and in 14(c)(ii), insert "Local" before "League" Mr Blunn proposed this alteration because it was felt that there should be stability of expression throughout the Constitution. The insertion of the word "Local" tidied up this rule.

This was duly seconded and agreed.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 20 In (a), delete "clubs" in line 3 (after "Local Leagues").

Mr Hartley (Kent) stated so far as he was aware this meeting had not been properly convened as the Agenda and other information had not been sent to Clubs. He thought that this rule had not been dealt with properly over a number of seasons and in Kent's opinion, the word "Clubs" should be deleted from the Rule.

On being put to the vote this proposal was duly proposed, seconded and agreed.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 16 Delete first sentence and insert: "Each County Association shall be entitled to send 4 and each Local League exempted from county affiliation under Rule 22(a)(vi) 2 accredited representatives to be present at the AGM."

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 20 Delete "one vote . . . with the League" and insert "2 votes for each club in membership with each Local League affiliated to the County Association and each Local League exempted from County affiliation shall be entitled to 2 votes for each Club in membership with the Local League".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by NEC

Rule 20 In (e), line 4, for "affiliated" substitute "Local".

Mr Blunn stated that this was again a tidying up of the Rules. It was designed to keep the word 'Local' in front of the word "League" all the way through the constitution and he mentioned at this stage that the same alteration should be made to Rule 20 (b) and asked that the meeting duly agree to this addition. It was proposed., seconded and agreed that these alterations be made.

Proposed by NEC

Rule 20 In (e), lines 6 - 7, for "Special Organisation including Youth Organisation" substitute "Other Organisation (as mentioned in Rule 6 (e))".

Mr Blunn, in proposing the alteration, stated that this was yet again a tidying up.

The proposal was duly seconded and agreed.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 20 In (f), delete "Directly Affiliated Club" and, after "County Association", insert "or"
It was proposed, seconded and accepted that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 20 In (h), after "A", insert "County Association"; after "Local League", insert "exempted from County affiliation".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn,

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 21 Delete "authorised representatives" and insert "secretaries"; delete "Leagues" and insert "County Associations".

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 22 Delete (h).

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be withdrawn.

Proposed by NEC

Rule 22 In (i), delete "17½%" and insert "a rebate as under"; after "them" in line 3, add "Rebate: 1/6d in respect of each fee paid at the rate of 9/-, 5/6d or 2/6d and 6d in respect of each fee paid at the rate of 3/- or 1/6d"

Mr Blunn stated that this alteration dealt with the matter about which he had spoken in his Hon Treasurer's Report. He suggested, therefore, that the old wording of the Rule should be re-introduced for the coming season and await the outcome of the Development Commission Report before any further alteration was made. Mr Hartley (Kent) asked whether it was correct that under this suggested alteration the Counties would receive 1/6d out of the 2/6d affiliation fee received by the ETTA. Mr Blunn answered in the affirmative stating that this was a good thing for the Counties for there appeared to be an increasing number of additional teams just at this present time.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this proposal be accepted.

Proposed by Kent TTA

Rule 23 Delete "March or April" and insert "December or January".

Mr Hartley (Kent) stated that this was a question of tidying up the rule with current practice. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that this alteration be accepted.

Proposed by NEC

Rule 26 In line 5, for "specially affiliated body" substitute "organisation accepted into Good Standing".

Mr Blunn stated that the NEC wished to withdraw this alteration. Mr Wickens (Slough.) asked for the reason why. Mr Blunn stated that it had been considered that this was a tidying up of the rules but on closer inspection it was found in this instance that the wording suggested did not apply in this case. Mr Kilmister (London Civil Service) stated that he could not understand why the NEC wished to withdraw the alteration for at the last AGM his wording, although passed, was thought to be not too good and he was under the impression that the present suggested wordinn was better than his original wording. Mr White (Hon Life Member) stated that in his opinion the wording was sound and he proposed that the NEC should not withdraw the alteration. Mr Wickens, in seconding that motion, stated that he was in complete agreement with what Mr White had said. The meeting agreed not to allow the withdrawal of this alteration.

Mr Blunn stated that in view of the decision of the meeting he would appreciate it if Mr Kilmister would state what the London Federation people had in mind. Mr Kilmister (London Civil Service) stated that he did not think that the present suggested wording was necessarily the best but he had taken it that the suggested wording was better than that which he had proposed last year. Mr Blunn stated that he accepted this but suggested that it might be better to get some further suggested wording from both sides and discuss the matter at a future date. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) suggested that the matter now under discussion ran across the same ground as in the old days when the subject of a London County was discussed and not proceeded with. He asked whether the London Federation were now able to send a representative to the County Secretaries Conference and the answer he received was "Yes". Mr Hoddy suggested that the London Federation people now appeared to want things both ways; they did not wish to join a County Association and yet they wished to receive the same benefits as a County Association. If a London County was wanted by the London Federation why did they not say so. Mr

Lewis (LBH) stated that the London Federation had no intention at all of trying to form a London County. It was obvious to all that certain Leagues in London could not join one County body as their members came from a number of areas covered by various County Associations. However, the member Leagues of the London Federation felt that they should be represented at a County Conference so that their views could be aired at that meeting.

The alteration was duly proposed, seconded and agreed with two votes against.

Proposed by Wembley & Harrow TTL

Rule 27 In line 5, after "event", delete "." and insert ", except in certain circumstances for specially staged television events subject to the approval of an authorised officer of the Association".

Mr Close (Wembley & Harrow) stated that they had been asked to withdraw this alteration. They had considered the position carefully and had not felt able to do this. Their object in proposing this alteration was to ensure that-when a table tennis event was specially staged and at which the ETTA made a profit, normally only in a televised event, then it was quite unjust for the players who took part in this event, to suffer unjustly financially. Mr Close continued by stating that when youngsters took up the game they naturally looked at the rewards and what money they might make out of playing the game. He appreciated the fact that the officials at such a match were also out of pocket by attending but in his opinion there was not so much skill required by the officials as the players and without the participation of the players the television fee could not be obtained. This proposal was then duly seconded.

Mr Blunn stated that the NEC opposed this alteration. He gave the members present details of what the top-class players of the Association received by way of souvenirs at International Matches, stating that the players received pocket money when they were abroad playing for the ETTA and also stated that as practically all these players were Registered Members they were able to capitalise out of their skill with the ETTA accepting this position. He mentioned that the Association were still almost alone in the field of the Professional/Amateur status of players and mentioned in conclusion the fact that many of the officials were equally out of pocket as the players when they attended these matches. Without the officials it would impossible to stage a match properly for television. Mr Clemett (Surrey) asked that should a loss be made on these particular matches, would the players be willing to contribute towards that loss.

Mr White (Wembley & Harrow) thought that Mr Blunn had put an unfortunate interpretation on what Mr Close had said. He considered that only about twenty players at the moment were up to the standard to appear on television and the suggested alteration only related to television because it appeared at the moment that this item was unfair to the players and in fact caused bad labour relations between the ETTA and the players. Surely the Association must appreciate that they must keep up-to-date in their thinking, they must keep in touch with the players' thoughts on these matters. He was quite sure that the players were not wishing to make anything out of the Association on these matches but this mean attitude of the ETTA could only do harm to the current position.

Mr Kilmister (London Civil Service) asked why only the events which are televised. The Secretary of the Association explained why in his view the Wembley & Harrow League had put forward this proposal. Their main theme was that of televised matches in the afternoons of week days. Mr Forrest (Wandsworth) felt that as the wording stood it would be difficult to apply this alteration. It would be difficult because one would have to watch very closely as to which players were in fact on the television screens. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) thought that if broken time was to be paid to the players then the same should apply to the umpires. The umpires were always disregarded in these matters. He felt that Wembley & Harrow should withdraw their present proposition and try again next season. Mr Close (Wembley & Harrow) stated that he was quite happy to leave the wording to the ETTA; the objection which his League had at the present time was that the player who puts himself out for the Association should not suffer financially by so doing.

On being put to the vote this proposal was defeated.

Mr Eyles stated that he wished to thank Kent for the most generous way in which they had withdrawn their proposed alterations to rules. He was sure that a beneficial to all basis of the Constitution could be arrived at in the near future and looked forward to the Special General Meeting which would be arranged in due course. Mr Harris (Gloucestershire) asked that greater notice be given for the Special General Meeting than was noted in the constitution for this type of meeting. As there were going to be vital issues at stake it was most important that Counties and Leagues all had the opportunity of greater discussion on the proposals made with the Counties being able to arrange a meeting with their member Leagues to discuss finer points. Mr Eyles assured Mr Harris that the ETTA would give as much notice as possible. He wished to see as much interchange of view as possible prior to the meeting. Mr Hartley (Kent) thought that the County Secretaries Conference next season would be of very great importance and asked that this be arranged before and not after the Special

General Meeting of the ETTA. Mr Corser (Individual Member) asked whether it would be helpful to have a referendum regarding the Development Commission Report. In reply, Mr Eyles stated that at the NEC meeting on the 20th July next, principles would be agreed by the NEC and these would be circulated all round the Country. Once this was done, the Rules Committee would be asked to draft and once this had been carried out, then these suggested alterations to rules would be circulated to all members. This was duly noted by all present.

8 REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL REFORM SOCIETY.

The Secretary stated that copies of the Report of the Electoral Reform Society had been circulated to the meeting. Details were as follows

:			
OFFICERS	Chairman	Mr I C EYLES	(elected unopposed)
	Deputy Chairman	Mr G JAMES	(elected unopposed)
	Hon Treasurer	Mr T BLUNN	(elected unopposed)
NEC MEMBERS			
Nationally elected:	2 National members	LANDRY, L F	167 (elected)
		WOOLLARD, L S	81 (elected)
		Bateman, F H	70
		Yates, G R	63
		Watts, K	26
		Mannooch, F G	22
		Dane, S R	21
		Robinson, T G	<u>16</u>
			466 Total valid vote.
	1 Woman member	FRY, Miss M	172 (elected)
		Benson, Miss K M	<u>54</u>
			266 Total valid vote
Regionally elected:	Region 1 (North)	REAY, E	(unopposed)
	Region 2 (Yorkshire)	MITTON, W	22 (elected)
		Senesceall, J	10
			32 Total valid vote
	Region 3 (Lancashire)	COOK, N	(unopposed)
	Region 4 (North Midlands)	JONES, L W	(unopposed)
	Region 5 (West)	SCOTT, M E	(unopposed)
	Region 6 (Midlands)	GOLDSTEIN, M	(unopposed)
	Region 7 (Eastern)	WALKER, H	(unopposed)
	Region 8 (North Thames)	THOMPSON, L	18
		Stanley, K	<u>6</u>
			24 Total valid vote
	Region 9 (London 1.)	REEVE, N K	(unopposed)
	Region 10 (London 2)	CLEMETT, C J	(unopposed)
	Region 11 (South-West)	JARVIS, Mrs F	(unopposed)
	Region 12 (South)	JASCHKE, C	(unopposed)

Mr Eyles reported that the elections for the 1962/63 Officers and Members of the NEC had not been conducted in the proper way. The Electoral Reform Society had received a copy of the Association's Handbook but had not dealt with the votes in the way they should have done under the Constitution. They did in fact deal with the matter on the basis of one vote to each League and had written to the Association stating that an error had been made. With regard to the 1963/64 season elections, certain nomination forms had been mislaid in their office which had caused the Association to issue two lots of nomination details. Again this error had occurred in the office of the Electoral Reform Society and had nothing to do with the Association's office. Mr Eyles continued by stating that the new NEC would look into this matter with a view to appointing different people next year. This was noted by the meeting. Mr Eyles stated that the meeting would appreciate that Jack Senesceall had now lost his seat on the Committee and would be replaced by Mr Walter Mitton. He wished to thank Mr Senesceall for all his work for the Association and he knew he spoke on behalf of all present in saying "Thank you" to Mr Senesceall. He would also like to take this opportunity of welcoming Mr Mitton to the NEC. Mr Hoddy (Northmet) asked the elections had been conducted properly this year. Mr Eyles replied that this was so.

9 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS AND AUDITORS.

The following appointments were made:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|
| (a) President | Hon I G S Montagu. | | | |
| (b) Vice-Presidents | F A Amies | E F Christopher | K Mackenzie | J Siddron |
| | H M Bunbury | R C Hurford | D W Poupard | Miss A Stevens |
| | Mrs D L Bunbury | C Kichenside | D S Purr | J Thompson |
| (c) Auditors | Spain Brothers. | | | |

10 NOMINATION OF HON.LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Woollard stated that the Hon Life Members Committee recommended that the following become Hon.Life Members of the Association: Mr T Blunn, Mr N Cook and Mr G James. These nominations were agreed by the meeting and Mr Eyles presented the three members with their badges.

11 MASTER POINTS SCHEME.

Mr Eyles invited Mr L G Adams to speak on this matter on behalf of the Acton & District TTL. Mr Adams thanked Mr Eyles for this opportunity of speaking to the members present and stated that the idea had been thought of by himself, helped to a very great extent by Mr G R Harrower. Pamphlets on the scheme had been printed and circulated to some of the members present and, therefore, they would have some knowledge of the idea in mind. If the scheme was brought into operation he was sure that it would increase the playing of the game in all areas of the country and in all grades of players. The revenue raised would be put to the financing of international teams of the ETTA and at the same time the scheme would bring about many strata of players in this country which would stimulate interest. Players would always be wishing to improve their position. The scheme was not like any other money raising schemes. He stated that the football pool scheme already tried by the Association took a great deal more time than the Master Points scheme; tickets had to be sold weekly and the same applied to raffles and the like. With this Master Points Scheme the idea had only to be sold once which had its attractions to those being asked to carry out the work involved.

Some people had likened the scheme to the Club Competitions run for the 1954 World Championships. This was not so, for the Club competitions were additional events which had to be run, whereas the MPS related to existing table tennis. People had also stated that the suggested fee of 3d was like the players' levy and instead of 6d being collected as at present, this made that sum 9d. Mr Adams pointed out that a levy just extracted money and gave nothing in return; the Master Points Scheme did in fact give something in return. He felt that the operation of this scheme would bring players more into touch with the ETTA - they would feel a greater link with the Association, for their "Club Master" card would state the words ETTA on them and this in itself was a link with the national body. Mr Adams continued by stating that he had got the idea from the English Bridge Union who operated a similar type of scheme. He acquainted the meeting of how this EBU idea germinated and stated that in America, where a similar scheme operated, thousands of dollars a year were collected. The Bridge people had realised that their 'sport' was not a spectator sport, and that money to run the organisation must come from the players of the game. The EBU started the idea in 1955 or 1956 and they now made several thousands pounds each year, putting a certain amount of the income to this expense and that expense and also giving a rebate to their County organisations. Further amounts were put into reserve regarding international matches and foreign travel to overseas Championships.

Mr Adams then stated that this was the idea now being put to the meeting. He hoped that the meeting would allow the scheme to proceed for the coming season, as he was sure that it would be a success. He explained how the points system would be worked and how the cards would be distributed; how also the player would move up from one grade to another and how little work would have to be done to ensure that all this was possible. He had made a point of contacting many of the leading players in the country on this matter, he had written to all players on the two ranking list and had received over 50% replies, all replies stating that they were in favour of such an idea and it must be remembered that a number of these replies had come from Junior players. They all felt the scheme would succeed, even the World Champions of this country had thought it a good idea and the ETTA President had touched upon this matter in his opening remarks. Mr Adams was sure that the scheme would improve the general level of play, for the players would be after obtaining as many points as possible, and this would automatically increase the amount of competitive play. Mr Adams then suggested that he might answer questions from the members present.

Mr Mitchell (Beckenham) asked who would be responsible for the organisation of the scheme. Mr Adams replied that Mr Harrower had stated that he would be willing to be the organiser. Mr Harrower had his own printing machinery which made the costs of organising the scheme less than would be necessary if an outside printer was asked to carry out the printing. Mr Harrower also attended most Open Tournaments in his press capacity and he felt sure that Mr Harrower would be able to get good press coverage for the scheme if in fact it was commenced and continued throughout the coming season. Mr Adams stated that he had not touched on the

question of Open Tournaments being obliged to take part in the scheme. This, he explained, was the only activity which he considered should be obliged to take part, for this would give the scheme a firm basis upon which to build. He explained that the tournament organisers would have to spare about a further five minutes of their time on the scheme by sending to the MPS Organiser a note of the number of entries into the Men's and Women's Singles in the Tournament. All the rest of the work would be carried out by the MPS Organiser. There would not be any further activities which he suggested should be obliged to take part in the scheme; it would be purely voluntary whether a League, for instance, wished to take part or not.

Mr Mitchell (Beckenham) asked why no other levels of table tennis would be made obligatory. If in fact these were so made, would there be any delegation of duties? Mr Adams stated that the participation of a League would be purely voluntary. Awards would be made in League play at the end of the season. He hoped that Leagues would take part and if they did he thought that as most Leagues compiled averages for the end of the season and if this was so then not much further effort would be required on behalf of the League Secretary. Mr Hoffman (North Middlesex) stated that presumably the more events a player entered the more points he or she would collect. This was all very well but this scheme gave nothing back to the players in the way of finance. All they would get would be points. Really, Mr Hoffman queried, would the players be interested in just points? Mr Hoffman asked whether players would be able to enter Open Tournaments without obligation. Mr Adams stated that this was entirely up to the members present at this meeting; it would be they who decided whether open tournaments would be obliged to take part.

Mr Hoddy (Northmet), stated that Bridge was not like table tennis. In his opinion Bridge players could still play first class Bridge when they got older, whereas table tennis players tended to "go off" once they had attained a certain age. He gave the meeting the details of how the bridge idea worked and of how once a player had become a Club master at Bridge, he was respected as such by all Bridge Clubs in any part of the country. In table tennis, Mr Hoddy thought that this would not apply for a player in one part of the country with the same card as a player in another part of the country would not necessarily be of the same standard. He also queried the amount of work which would be necessary in a League like North Middlesex where they had something between 1000 and 1200 players. He felt that this would be a mammoth task for the Secretary - too much work, in fact, for the League to be interested at all.

Mr Burvill (North West Kent) stated that he did not like the idea of a surplus on this scheme going to the expenses of international teams. He would prefer to see the money allocated to the general funds. Mr Palmer (Derbys) asked that the meeting should look at the idea clearly. He stated that Mr Adams had said that there was no obligation to Leagues on this matter. Can players, therefore, opt in and out of the scheme as they please, or if some players wished to take part in the scheme in a League, would the League have to take part as a whole? He personally was in favour of whole Leagues taking part, anyway.

At this stage Mr Simons (Registered Member) asked whether the meeting would be prepared to let Mr Harrower speak on this matter. The Chairman stated that he was quite happy to allow this but he wished to hear further points from speakers before allowing Mr Harrower that opportunity. Mr Forrest (Wandsworth) gave his opinions regarding the grading of players under this scheme and Mr Crayden (Registered Member) gave his views on the question of international teams and their training facilities in this country from the ETTA Senior Team Non-Playing Captain's point of view. Mr Crayden was sure that this was a good idea and should raise the standard of play throughout the country. Mr Eyles then asked Mr Harrower to speak to the meeting. Mr Harrower pointed out that he was not now a member of the Association and wondered if the meeting should agree to his speaking to them. This matter, on being put to the meeting, was agreed. Mr Harrower explained to the meeting his interest in this particular scheme. He mentioned he had held practically every office of the people present in Clubs, Leagues, County Associations and even the NEC and ETTA. He gave the meeting a brief history of the Bridge idea from a personal point of view, for he had been a Club Master and had qualified to a County Master over a period of time. He stated that the Club to which he belonged in North London had commenced the EBU scheme with some uncertainty. They were in the first instance prepared to run one match per month for the points but when he left the Club some few months ago the number of competitions now run for the points numbered something like 12 per week. This should show the members present the upward trend of play once the scheme was in progress. From the international players' point of view, there was nothing in it for them - they were already recognised as the best players in the country, yet they supported the scheme wholeheartedly which he felt augured well for the scheme. He stated that he had offered to administer the scheme because he was in fact very interested in same, but if the members wished to have someone else to run the scheme then he had no objections whatsoever and would give that person all the support he could. He now wanted to prove to all that the scheme was workable or learn to his sorrow that it was not. He was sure the scheme would work and he asked the meeting to allow it to "have a go". Mr Harrower then proceeded to answer the thoughts expressed by the members present and, finally, Mr Eyles thanked Mr Harrower for his remarks which had been most useful to the meeting.

Mr Adams at this stage also explained that he and Mr Harrower had an idea in mind of setting up an International Club. This matter had not been finally tied up in any shape or form but coming out of the MPS they had seen that such an idea might be helpful to the game. Mr Wickens (Slough) stated that in his view this 3d levy from all open tournaments must go into the ETTA Funds and not to an outside body. Mr Adams explained that an account would be opened for these amounts and only members of the NEC would be able to draw the money out. This surely was a reasonable safeguard. Mr Hartley (Kent) stated that he had listened with interest to what had been said and stated that the more he heard the more he was against the idea of a 3d per player levy being charged on this idea. He felt that if the NEC thought that the idea was so good they should put it into operation and at the same time do it for nothing - just as a service to the membership.

At this stage Mr Watts (Sussex) stated that the principle was the thing which was involved here and he was all in favour of the scheme having a chance. He, therefore, would propose that the Master Points Scheme be given that chance during the 1963/64 season. This was duly seconded. At this stage Mr Hartley (Kent) stated that he wished to propose an amendment to the proposition, stating that the scheme be put into operation but that no money should be involved. He, therefore, proposed the deletion of the 3d per player. This was duly seconded. Mr Harris (Gloucestershire) stated that many of the people present had come a long way to attend this meeting and were getting annoyed at the attitude taken by Mr Hartley on this matter. He personally thought that Mr Hartley was being facetious. Mr Eyles then took the amendment and this, on being put to the vote, was defeated. Mr Eyles then took the proposition and this was duly carried. Mr Eyles thanked Messrs Adams and Harrower for their attendance and enthusiasm for the scheme.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.,

Mr Eyles stated that he wished to thank on behalf of all present the two scrutineers of our 1963/64 elections, namely, Mr D WPoupard and Mr G W Decker. This was received with acclamation.

Mr Eyles also stated that he felt the meeting should agree that all the decisions taken during the 1962/63 season should be binding on the Association even although the elections had not been carried out in a proper way. This was agreed.

Mr Scott asked whether the members present would like to have arranged for them after Annual General Meetings a social function. On being put to the vote it seemed apparent that the members were not terribly keen on this idea and it was agreed to leave the matter in abeyance for the present.

Mr Blunn stated that under his report he had forgotten to mention that he had received from the Auditors a clear certificate for the Accounts to 31st May 1963. This was duly noted.

In conclusion Mr Eyles thanked all those present for their attendance and the meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.