

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION
HELD IN THE CONVOCATION HALL, CHURCH HOUSE, GREAT SMITH STREET,
LONDON, SW1, ON SATURDAY 8th JULY 1967, COMMENCING AT 2.30pm

PRESENT	I C Eyles (Chairman) C Jaschke (Deputy Chairman) T Blunn (Hon Treasurer)
Hon Life Members	G W Decker, N K Reeve, E G White
Vice-Presidents	Austin Harrison, J A Leach
Members of National Council	Messrs Barrett, Clemett, Crickmer, Davis, Fairhead, Game, Goldstein, Greatrex, Harmer, Hobday, Hoffman, Lijinsky, Marchant, Mitton, Reay, Robson, Scott, Taylor, Walker, Watts, Wyles and Yates
Representatives of County Associations	Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Cumberland, Devon, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Norfolk Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire
Leagues	Acton, Birmingham, Bolton SSS, Bracknell, Brighton, Bristol, Bromley, Central, East London, Hertford, Hull, Leeds, Leighton Buzzard, Liverpool, London Banks, London Business Houses, London Civil Service, NALGO, Newbury, Northumberland, North Acton, North East Summer, North Herts, North Middlesex, North-West Kent, Norwich, Plymouth, Reading, Scarborough, Southend, South London, Slough, Stroud, Sutherland, Wembley & Harrow, Willesden, Wolverhampton, Worcester and Worthing
Other Organisations	Western Counties TTL
Directly Affiliated Clubs	Kingston Grammar School Club
Directly Affiliated Individuals	Mrs E Phillips,
Other Member:	R J Crayden
In attendance	D R Tremayne (Organising Secretary) J H Carrington (Director of Coaching) A W Shipley (Hon Minutes Secretary) W Evans (Dunlop Sports Co Ltd)
Apologies for absence	Mrs F Jarvis, Messrs Fackrell, Mannooch, Thompson and Vint

1 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Mr Eyles welcomed all delegates present and apologised for the fact that this meeting had been called one day outside of the period stipulated by the Rules. Mr White (Hon Life Member) proposed that, notwithstanding the breach of Rule, this meeting be deemed the Annual General Meeting of the English Table Tennis Association. This was seconded by Mr Scott (Staffs) and agreed.

2 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Standing Orders as circulated were adopted. The Chairman proposed the adoption of the Report of the Standing Orders Committee with a vote of thanks to the Committee. Agreed.

3 APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr G Motlow (Western Counties) and Mr J Ford (Bristol) act as Tellers for this meeting.

4 MINUTES. OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 2nd JULY, 1966

These were confirmed.

5 REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MAY 1967

The Chairman stated that he would take the Report, which had been circulated, paragraph by paragraph, and if any member wished to raise a point about the work of the Association over the past twelve months he would like them to do so under the appropriate headings.

Paragraph 5 - English Open Championships Mr Landry (Willesden) pointed out that Miss Resler was from

Yugoslavia and not Roumania as shown. Noted.

Paragraph 8 - National Team Competitions. Mr Hartley (Berkshire) stated that, prior to the circulation of the Report, the Newbury League had asked him to raise this matter and he now presumed that the sentence beginning "Consideration was given also to the possible misinterpretation of the Regulation . . ." referred, in part, to the Newbury case. He felt that as the National Team Competitions were the only events that the ETTA organised directly at local League player level, it was essential to the reputation of the ETTA that the conduct of these competitions be proper and disputes should be avoided as far as possible. Mr Hartley continued by saying that Newbury reached the quarter-final of the Carter Cup and were then excluded on an interpretation of Competition Rule No 10 but, since reading the Report, Newbury were disturbed, for it now seems that they were not excluded for breaking a rule but because they possibly broke one. Mr Davis (speaking as Hon Secretary to the National Team Competitions sub-committee) stated that Newbury had offered their opponents, East London, a Friday, a Saturday and a Sunday (three consecutive days) and the sub-committee had decided that this did not conform to the Rule and should have been one Saturday or Sunday and two mid-week dates. The Chairman stated that the Committee's decision on such matters was final. Mr Hartley (Berkshire) replied, saying Newbury had accepted the decision but the words "possible misinterpretation" in the Report meant that there was room for doubt. The rule states that of the three dates to be offered, one of which shall be a Saturday or a Sunday, not only one of which, etc. The Chairman moved that the point be referred to the Rules Sub-committee for clarification. Agreed. Mr Killmister (London Civil Service) asked that when the periods for playing these matches were allocated, due regard be given to the other events in the table tennis calendar, leaving at least one-week-end which was clear of major open tournaments. Noted.

Paragraph 10 - Selection Mr Wyles (Kent) expressed concern at the performances of our senior teams and the need for discipline and asked that consideration be given to the appointment of a person with sole responsibility, similar to the position of Sir Alfred Ramsay of the Football Association. Mr White (Life Member) asked if the National Council were aware that some players under the age of 21 were being invited into contracts for commercial gain and were our Rules sufficient to protect these players. Mr Blunn replied to Mr Wyles, stating that the National Council lay down the policy each season but the Selection Committee were thinking along the lines of giving Captains a stronger hand and the recent appointment of a Team Manager showed a step in the direction indicated by Mr Wyles. In reply to Mr White, he stated that no evidence of any harm to these players had arisen yet but the point would be noted. Mr Carrington (Director of Coaching) pointed out the difficulty of applying sanctions to amateur players and that discipline affected the players' programme and, in his opinion, any Team Manager would also have to control the players' programme.

Paragraph 12 - International Matches Mr Crickmer (Worcs) pointed out that the men's match shown as "Australia" should read "Austria". Mr Landry (Willesden) pointed out that "G Keates" should read "B Keates" and that a "+" sign should appear after the name of Miss K Smith. Noted.

Paragraph 18 - Press & Publicity Mr Wyles (Kent) expressed the view that our Press coverage was poor and that it should be extended as much as possible and attempt to obtain greater coverage on the Regional TV programmes. Mr Tremayne (Organising Secretary) replied that after consultation with the Press we now issued a weekly bulletin and asked all Counties and Leagues to supply him with information. He had met officials from the Regional TV stations and they were also being informed. Mr Reeve (Wembley & Harrow) asked if "Table Tennis News" was to continue. The Chairman replied in the affirmative, stating that a sub-committee was studying ways and means to make improvements. Mr White (Life Member) stated that now we had had one complete season of the magazine in newspaper format, it would be interesting to see, by a show of hands, which style is preferred. This was done and the magazine-style format was much preferred. Mr Yates (TT News Editor) explained that the format was dictated by finance, the magazine style costing three times as much as the newspaper style. He also stated that the lateness of issue was due to delays in receipt of printers' blocks for advertisements; his own "copy" was always in the hands of the printer by the 3rd of each month.

Paragraph 21 - ITTF Mr Wright (Middlesex) asked for clarification of the service Law on the point that could the ball go below the level of the table provided it was still visible to the umpire. After several speakers had, expressed the opinion that the intention was for the ball to remain above the table surface level throughout the service, the Chairman moved that the point be put to the Umpires & Referees Committee to redraft for submission to the ITTF. Agreed.

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Report be adopted.

6 STATEMENT OF RESULT OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS
AND NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR 1967/68

The Organising Secretary read the documents which had been sent to local Leagues and which gave the following information:

<u>Officers</u>	Chairman	I C EYLES	125	elected
		G James	66	
	Deputy Chairman	C JASCHKE	107	elected
		K Watts	71	
		A E Upton	19	
	Hon Treasurer	T BLUNN	153	elected
		D P Lowen	43	

Members elected to National Council

Berkshire	B Hartley	Middlesex	L Hoffman
Buckinghamshire	L Thompson	Norfolk	E JFairhead
Cambridgeshire	J D Cornwell	Northamptonshire	K A Marchant
Cheshire	J K Kennerley	Northumberland	D Robson
Cumberland	G R Yates	Nottinghamshire	E Taylor
Derbyshire	M Allsop	Oxfordshire	A J Hobday
Devon	Mrs F Jarvis	Somerset	A R E Richens
Durham	A E Ransome	Staffordshire	M E Scott
Essex	H A Spraggs	Suffolk	D J Barrett
Gloucestershire	L C T Davis	Surrey	C J Clemett
Hampshire	M S Greatrex	Sussex	K Watts
Hertfordshire	D Game	Warwickshire	M Goldstein
Kent	C M Wyles	Wiltshire	Miss K Waters
Lancashire	A E Upton	Worcestershire	I R Crickmer
Leicestershire	P Reid	Yorkshire	W Mitton
Lincolnshire	K W Dewar		

No effective nomination received from Bedfordshire; no nomination received from Cornwall, Dorset, Huntingdonshire

7 REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 1967

Mr Blunn commenced his Report by asking members to note that the Auditors had requested a transfer of £200 from "Debtors" to "Cash in hand", this sum being held by various sub-committee members against expenses. This being done, they were prepared to sign the Accounts. Since the Accounts were prepared we had had disturbing news from the Government in that they were challenging the figures quoted as the cost of sending our teams abroad. He explained that normally the Government have paid 50% of certain fares but they now queried the inclusion of a non-playing Captain and were asking us to repay the sum of £152. Mr Blunn emphasized the importance of the fund-raising schemes, as we have come to rely on the income from such sources. The Lottery could also earn money for the Counties at no risk to themselves, the Master Points Scheme was bringing in a fairly steady sum of nearly £400 and the "100 Club" now had 60 members. In asking members to support these schemes he warned the meeting that the Association could no longer afford to make a loss - this was the end of the road. Mr Catherall (London Banks) expressed disapproval of the layout of the Accounts and raised several queries concerning the £2,000 grant set against the European Championships; the Trade Fund, why no details of the Reserve Fund and could not the high cost of printing be investigated. In reply, Mr Blunn stated that it was open to any member to see the full detailed Accounts. The £2,000 mentioned was entirely outside our annual grant as it was a separate negotiation for the European Championships. Regarding the Trade Fund, he pointed out that we do not hold the money and so can only record monies received. Details of the Reserve Fund appeared last year and the cost of printing-and stationery was currently under review. He concluded by giving details of various items of expenditure. Mr Reeve (Wembley & Harrow) felt that we should not have to rely on fund-raising schemes as stated by the Treasurer and asked for further explanation on the Chairman's ideas expressed in Stockholm on alternative methods of obtaining revenue from the Trade, what was the policy likely to be in future regarding Television and what honorariums were included in salaries. Mr Eyles explained that the arrangements which Sweden had made with their manufacturers had been discussed with the Trade Fund Committee, who had expressed surprise at the small amount of revenue that we obtained from affiliation fees and they felt that this should be adjusted before asking for more money from the Trade. Mr Blunn, also in reply, stated that whilst he agreed in

principle with Mr Reeve, the circumstances over the past few years had forced the way of thinking whereby we had come to rely on fund-raising. Regarding television, we had made great progress in recent months and had already signed a contract giving satisfactory fees for certain events and matches. The only honorarium included in salaries was one of £75 paid to the Fund-Raising Secretary. Mr Scott (Staffs) agreed that an increase in fees was necessary to avoid reliance on fund-raising. He also wished to know if any progress had been made towards the appointment of an Administrative Secretary. Mr Blunn replied that the Government grant had only been increased by £500 which was insufficient to consider extending the office staff at present but the Ministry had left the matter open for negotiation if necessary later in the season. Mr Killmister (London Civil Service) moved that Item 21 on the Treasurer's Report be withdrawn. Agreed. Mr Mitchell (Bromley) expressed concern at the loss on the English Open and asked if it was likely to be repeated, and could it not be held every other year. Mr Blunn gave details of the financial arrangements for the English Open, pointing out that the gate and TV fees were down and various items of expenditure had increased. Mr Hartley (Berkshire) pointed out that last year's European Championships also had a poor gate and he felt that if large sums of money were to be spent on a few players then it would be better spent on juniors so that, in time, the European stars would ask to come and not, as now, the reverse. Mr Blunn said that money was being spent on juniors but they did become seniors in time and still had to be accommodated. Mr Jaschke (Deputy Chairman) said that he was rather interested in the suggestion made by Mr Mitchell that the English Open be held every other year, as done by most European Associations, and it would be of interest to the new National Council to have an expression of opinion on the subject from the Annual General Meeting. On a show of hands there was overwhelming support for holding the English Open every year. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the Report be adopted.

8 PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Propositions Nos 1-5

Mr Blunn proposed this alteration which was duly seconded and agreed

Proposition No 6 (Proposed by National Council)

Mr Blunn asked for permission to withdraw this proposition as it had been placed on the Agenda at the request of last year's AGM but it had recently become clear that an individual affiliation fee would not be practical to operate at present. This was agreed.

Proposition No 7 (Proposed by Bracknell & District TTL)

In taking the amendment to proposition No 7 (as proposed by Worcestershire TTA), the meeting recognised that it was simply a more detailed version of the Bracknell proposition and could be discussed as the substantive motion. Mr Hartley (Berkshire) explained the basis behind the proposal in that they recognised that every team had a reserve and, believing that the last increase failed because of 3-man teams paying less and the others more, his proposal redressed the balance in that 3-a-side teams would pay 33¹/₃% more and the 4-a-side 25% more. Mr Anson (Plymouth) felt that this was asking for money from non-existent people as the practice in his league was for players from the lower teams to reserve for the higher ones. Several other members refuted this suggestion as not being applicable to their Leagues. Mr Blunn said that it was almost impossible to find a scheme which was fair to all but this proposal had the merit of being unfair to the least. He gave several instances where the cost of administration had risen, for it was this side of our activities that must be paid for by Leagues. He reminded the meeting that Counties would receive 20% of any increase in fee. Mr Reeve (Wembley & Harrow) felt that the Association should think bigger in terms of finance if progress was to be made and, even if this proposal brought in an extra £1500, we were already showing a loss of £800 with cost expected to increase. He also felt that the National Council should have produced a more forward-looking plan for finance. Mr Jaschke (Deputy Chairman) stated that although the National Council had agreed on the principle of individual registration, Councillors had found strong opposition from their Counties and Leagues, many of them indicating the difficulties of control and causing anomalies between Leagues who fully declared their membership and those who gave an arbitrary figure. He said that he had always felt that individual registration could only work by the provision of membership cards to each player, as was done in several Continental countries where these cards had to be produced at tournaments, League matches etc. The administration of such a scheme would necessitate the employment of paid staff to look after registration of the numbers involved, and it was for this and other reactions that the individual registration proposal, as it now stood, had little chance of being accepted. Therefore, the Management Committee had this morning decided to ask permission to withdraw the proposal. Mr Jaschke concluded by saying that, as Hon International Secretary, in his view none of the extra money accruing from affiliation fee increase should be used for the international sector. He felt that extra money for this activity would become available through TV fees and sponsorship because of the new European League. The amendment was then carried by 29 votes to 7 and on becoming the substantive motion was carried by 30 votes to 13. A block vote

was then requested which resulted in 9301 votes for, 4581 against, and the proposition was declared carried.

Proposition Nos 8, 9 and 10)

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that these proposals be withdrawn.

Proposition No 11

Mr Wright (Middlesex) stated that this proposal was made simply to ensure discussion but as discussion had already taken place, he wished to withdraw the proposition. Mr Wickens (Bucks), as the proposer of an amendment, objected to the withdrawal on a point of order as he felt that there should be mention of a publication in the Rules of the Association. The amendment became the substantive motion by 24 votes to 17. Mr Blunn pointed out that, if passed, this proposition would mean an additional issue of a magazine in September which was impractical both from financial and news considerations. Mr Watts (Sussex) felt it wrong to place something in the Rules which could not be guaranteed. On being put to the vote the proposition was defeated.

Proposition No 12

Mr Blunn proposed the inclusion of this class of membership, first requesting that the term "Privilege Member" be used rather than "Patron Member" and explaining the type of privileges that could be given. After a short discussion the proposition was put to the vote but was defeated.

Propositions Nos 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18

Mr Blunn asked the meeting's permission to withdraw this alteration which was duly agreed.

Proposition No 19

Mr Blunn, in proposing this amendment, explained that it would allow much business to progress more smoothly. This was seconded and duly agreed.

Proposition Nos 20 and 21

This motion was proposed by Mr Blunn, duly seconded and agreed.

Proposition No 22

After Mr Blunn had proposed this amendment several members spoke against the proposal on the grounds that it would remove the need for the Hon Treasurer to sign all cheques and they felt that this was a fundamental requisite. On being put to the vote the proposition was defeated.

Proposition No 23

This motion was proposed by Mr Blunn, duly seconded and agreed.

Proposition No 24

Mr Blunn proposed that all three amendments to the proposition be accepted, explaining that Regulations for Permit Players would become Rules, applying to all members. The motion was duly seconded and agreed.

Propositions Nos 25 and 26

This motion was proposed by Mr Blunn, duly seconded and agreed.

Proposition No 27

The amendment to the proposition was seconded but, on being put to the vote, was defeated. The original proposition was then put to the vote and was carried with 1 vote against.

9 MOTIONS

- A: Mr Crickmer (Worcs) asked the meeting's permission to withdraw this motion and this was agreed.
- B: Mr Wickens (Bucks) asked the meeting's permission to withdraw this motion and this was agreed.

10 ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mr Wyles, on behalf of the National Council, proposed Mr Austin Harrison as President, giving details of his achievements in table tennis. This was agreed with acclamation. Mr Harrison thanked the meeting for the honour they had bestowed upon him and said he would do everything in his power to help the Association. Mr Eyles then presented Mr Harrison with the Presidential Chain of Office. Mr Blunn then told the meeting that an anonymous donor had provided funds for the purchase of a Chain of Office for the Chairman, which was duly presented to Mr Eyles by Mr Harrison, with acclamation. After Mr Eyles had offered the Chair to Mr Harrison, who declined, Mr Eyles then proposed the re-election of all Vice-Presidents with the exception of Mr W G Allen, who had resigned, and including Messrs J Carrington, R J Crayden, L Thompson and P M Yates. Carried unanimously.

1 ELECTION OF HON LIFE MEMBERS

Mr Eyles proposed from the Chair that Messrs P Hyde and F Milligan become Hon Life Members of the Association. These nominations were agreed by the meeting and Mr Eyles presented both members with their badges.

12 ELECTION OF SCRUTINEERS FOR 1967/68 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTION

The Chairman proposed that Messrs Shipley and White should be asked to carry out this task. Agreed.

13 ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Chairman proposed that Mr Wickens be re-elected to the Standing Orders Committee.

14 ELECTION OF AUDITORS.

Mr Blunn proposed the re-election of Messrs Spain Bros, Jukes & Company. This was duly seconded and agreed.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Mr Clemett (Surrey) said that it was customary to formally adopt at this meeting any changes in the Laws of the Game but as the ITTF have now incorporated into the Laws the Regulations concerning international competitions, the Umpires Committee had recommended that we only incorporate the new Service Law for League purposes but that full copies of the new Laws be sent to Open Tournament organisers. A simplified version could be drafted for next season. Agreed.

Mr Reeve (Wembley & Harrow) asked for the circumstances leading up to Mr Ivor Montagu returning his Life Member's badge. Mr Eyles explained that as Mr Montagu had held strong views that Mr Eldh should be the next President of the ITTF when he resigned, and knowing that the ETTA were going to support Mr R Evans, Mr Montagu thought that by resigning as a member of the ETTA this would give him greater freedom of movement. However, Mr Eyles had written to him saying that as he was no longer a member of the policy-making body of the ETTA he did not have to resign in order to have freedom of choice. Mr Eyles expressed the hope that time would heal the breach and that Mr Montagu would accept the return of his badge. Mr Eyles was requested to convey the meeting's wish in this direction to Mr Ivor Montagu.

Mr Catherall (London Banks) asked what action would be taken if a League did not affiliate to the ETTA. Mr Blunn replied stating that no member of the ETTA would be allowed to play with or against members of such a League.

Mr Killmister (London Civil Service) asked that in future proposed amendments to affiliation fees could give the percentage increase expected to be gained. Also, if both the basis and the fee were to be changed then they should form separate proposals. Noted.

Mr Wright (Middlesex) felt that we could change the recommendations to Leagues so as to allow for any future fee increases to become immediate. Noted.

Mr Crickmer (Worcs) proposed a vote of thanks to the Tellers and Mr Scott (Staffs) proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for conducting the meeting. Agreed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 6.45pm.