

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION HELD AT THE BONNINGTON HOTEL, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, LONDON, WC1, ON SATURDAY 6th JULY 1968, COMMENCING AT 2.30pm

PRESENT: T A Harrison (President)
I C Eyles (Chairman)
C Jaschke (Deputy Chairman)
T Blunn (Hon Treasurer)

Hon. Life Members: P Hyde, F Milligan, E Reay, N K Reeve, A K Vint, OBE, E G White

Vice Presidents: R J Crayden, J A Leach, MBE

Members of
National Council: Messrs. Barrett, Clemett, Crickmer, Game, Greatrex, Hartley, Hobday, Hoffman, Marchant, Mitton, Pope, Ransome, Scott, Taylor, Thompson, Upton, Watts and Wyles

Representatives from
County Associations: Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Cheshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Lancashire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Somerset, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire and Yorkshire

Leagues: Banbury, Barking, Blackpool, Bolton, Bradford, Brighton, Bristol, Bromley, Burnham, Doncaster, East London, Hastings, Hertford, Leighton Buzzard, Liverpool, London Business Houses., Middlesbrough, Newham Youth, Northumberland, NE Summer, Northern Premier, N Middx, N Yorks, Nottingham, Potteries, Reading, Scarborough, Silvertown, Stroud, Sunderland, Thurrock, Wembley & Harrow, Willesden and Worcester.

Directly Affiliated
Club: Kingston Grammar School Club

Directly Affiliated
Individual: Mrs E Phillips

Other Organisations: Essex Schools TTA

In attendance: D R Tremayne (Organising Secretary)
J H Carrington (Director of Coaching)
A W Shipley (Administrative Secretary)
W Evans (Dunlop Sports Co Ltd)

1 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

Mr Eyles moved the adoption of the Report and proposed the re-election of Mr K Watts to the Standing Orders Committee. Agreed.

2 ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS,

Mr Eagle (Essex) questioned why Vice-Presidents were not offered the Chair after the President. Mr Eyles replied that custom had never placed the Vice-Presidents in line for the Chair, and moved the adoption of Standing Orders. Agreed. Mr Eyles then offered the Chair to the President, Mr Austin Harrison, who declined and requested Mr Eyles to continue as Chairman for the meeting.

3 APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

It was agreed that Mr Campbell (Lancs) and Mr Wolstencroft (Lancs) be appointed Tellers for the meeting.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

These were received from the following National Councillors: J Cornwell (Cambridge), L Davies (Glos), M. Goldstein (Warwicks), J Kennerley (Cheshire), D Robson (Northumberland) G R Yates (Cumberland) and the following members: Mrs. Cornwell (Cambridge), Mr & Mrs Crevald (Individual Members), M Darley (Castleford), Miss Keen (Southport), Mrs Kent (Heathfield), G Motlow (Western), M Smythe (Bracknell) and J Woodford (Sussex).

5 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 8th JULY 1967

These were confirmed.

6 MATTERS ARISING FROM ITEM 5

Mr Mitchell (Bromley) asked if we had repaid the sum of £152 to the Government as mentioned in the Treasurer's Report. Mr Blunn (Hon. Treasurer) replied that we repaid the sum of £66, explaining that all grants were on an individual basis and any under-spending always had to be repaid.

7 REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31st MAY 1968

The Chairman stated that he would go through the Report, which had been circulated, paragraph by paragraph, and asked members to raise any points under the appropriate headings.

Paragraph 5(b) - English Junior Open Mr White (Life Member) proposed that, in the cause of accuracy, the words "for the first time" be deleted. Agreed.

Paragraph 6 - Fund Raising Mr Landry (Willesden) expressed concern about the Master Points Scheme, as he felt that there had been a lack of publicity, and wished to hear any plans for the future of the scheme. Mr Blunn replied that there was no intention to allow the scheme to lapse and agreed that there may have been a certain lack of publicity to those already in but ideas were already in hand. He showed the meeting a small wallet which would be issued as a holder for the certificates, and expressed the hope that Leagues would give local publicity to the Scheme. Mr Wyles (Kent) also expressed concern about the Master Points Scheme, for as an open tournament organiser, he had seen players tear up the certificates, and he felt that there was a strong feeling throughout the game that it was not worthwhile continuing.

Paragraph 7 - Handbooks Mr Wright (Kingston GS) queried the statement that the Handbook Supplements were issued in November as he received his copies in December. Mr Blunn replied that despatch was started in November from the printers. Mr Scott (Staffs) asked for the reason why certain information had been omitted from the Supplement. Mr Blunn replied that as criticism had been received in previous seasons for printing out-of-date information, it was a policy decision to only include information from Leagues and Counties who had returned the appropriate form. Mr Wyles (Kent) felt that this policy was wrong, and that every effort should be made to include as much information as possible. Mr Lijinsky (Reading) asked when the next official Handbook (Part I) would be published. Mr Blunn replied that, although the 1964 edition was intended to last for only three years, the financial position delayed publication for 1967, but stated that Part I would be published for the start of the coming season. The Chairman ascertained that it was the unanimous wish of the meeting that the Supplement should contain all possible League information, indicating by asterisk any unconfirmed information.

Paragraph 9 - Rules Mr Hartley (Berks), commenting on the Report's statement that this Committee had not been very active, felt that in a season where a major dispute had arisen, insufficient use was made of the Rules Committee, and consultation came too late to rectify matters. Mr Reay (Durham) asked how many County Rules were approved, and were these submitted to the Rules Committee or individuals? He also asked if the Rules of Kent and Yorks were submitted to the Rules Committee and, if not, why were Durham's Rules so submitted. The Chairman replied that the Rules of Kent and Yorkshire were approved by the National Council under the power given them by the Rules of the Association and that other County Rules, including Durham, were submitted to a small sub-committee whose report was not yet available.

Paragraph 11 - European Championships Mr Clay (LBH) remarked on the fact that of the ten places allocated to us only seven players were selected, causing disappointment to those individuals who would have paid to play. Mr Blunn replied that whenever finance allowed a full complement would be sent, provided always that the Association retained the right to select all the players. Miss Moss (Middx) asked how many non-players accompanied the team? Mr Blunn replied that two Captains were sent, and one delegate whose hospitality expenses were borne by the host Association.

Paragraph 15 - Umpires and Referees Mr White (Life Member) proposed that, in the cause of accuracy, the word "for" in line 20 be deleted. Agreed.

Paragraph 20 - Table Tennis News The Chairman asked for the meeting's guidance on the future of the magazine and several members put forward views, all agreeing that a magazine was essential and many believing that compulsory purchase through the affiliation fees should be introduced. Mr Eyles summed up the feelings of the meeting, in that greater efforts should be made to increase and extend the circulation. Appreciation with acclaim was given to Mr George Yates for all his work as Editor.

Paragraph 21 - Archives Mr Scott (Staffs) wished to record appreciation of the increased activity in this sphere by Mr Ian Crickmer, and expressed the Association's thanks to Mr A K Vint for his generous contribution. Mr White (Life Member) pointed out that the bombing occurred at the Holborn office, not Victoria Street as printed.

Paragraph 22 - County Championships The Chairman expressed thanks to Mr John Wright for his extensive work as Secretary of the Championships. Mr Wickens (Slough) felt that the fact that the County Championships were a separate body to the ETTA should be recorded. Noted.

Paragraph 23 - ETTU The European League was now well established and Mr Jaschke stated that, from 7 entries in its first year, 24 countries may be competing next year. It was agreed that future Reports should include a European League table, if available in time.

Paragraph 24 - Presidency Mr Eyles expressed the hope that the vigorous support given by Mr Harrison would continue for many years to come.

Paragraph 25 - ETTA Office The Chairman wished a tribute to be recorded to the assistance given by Mr Harry Walker in the office and to the sterling work of Mrs Martin. Mr White (Life Member) requested that the membership should be informed of the general division of duties between the Organising and Administrative Secretaries. Mr Jaschke replied that the position was under review and members would be informed as soon as possible.

On a proposition by Mr Vint, seconded by Mr White, the Report was adopted.

8 STATEMENT OF RESULT OF ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR 1968/69

The Organising Secretary read the documents which had been distributed nationally and which gave the following information:

Election of Officers:

Chairman	C. JASCHKE	145 votes	elected
	N K Reeve	108 votes	
Deputy Chairman	W MITTON	136 votes	elected
	A E Upton	68 votes	
	M E Scott	42 votes	
Hon Treasurer	T BLUNN	193 votes	elected
	B Hartley	41 votes	

Members elected to National Council

Bedfordshire	P E Harmer	Middlesex	L Hoffman
Berkshire	B Hartley	Norfolk	E J Fairhead
Buckinghamshire	L Thompson	Northamptonshire	K J Marchant
Cambridgeshire	J. D Cornwell	Northumberland	D Robson
Cheshire	J K Kennerley	Nottinghamshire	E Taylor
Cumberland	G R Yates	Oxfordshire	A J Hobday
Derbyshire	P Norman	Rutland	No County Association
Devon	Mrs F Jarvis	Somerset	D Pope
Durham	A E Ransome	Staffordshire	M E Scott
Essex	H Walker	Suffolk	D J Barrett
Gloucestershire	L C T Davis	Surrey	C J Clemett
Hampshire	M S Greatrex	Sussex	K Watts
Herefordshire	No County Association	Warwickshire	M Goldstein
Hertfordshire	H G Stevens	Westmorland	No County Association
Kent	C M Wyles	Wiltshire	Miss K Waters
Lancashire	A E Upton	Worcestershire	I R Crickmer
Leicestershire	P Reid	Yorkshire	F Briggs
Lincolnshire	K W Dewar		

No nomination received from Cornwall, Dorset, Huntingdonshire, Shropshire.

Mr Eyles then placed the Chairman's Medal of Office upon Mr Jaschke and offered him the Chair. This he declined and requested that Mr Eyles continue in the Chair for the rest of the meeting. Mr Eyles then spoke of the elections for the posts of Chairman and Deputy Chairman, expressing the hope that members would give all their support to the elected officers, in order to maintain the proud position of England in the world of table tennis. Mr Jaschke thanked the membership for electing him and Mr Reeve for the gentlemanly way in which he had fought the election. He continued by paying tribute to Mr Eyles on his 40 years service to table tennis, during which time he had held many posts. As a man his outstanding quality was his courage, which coupled with his forthright manner in speaking his mind and encouraging others to do the same, had transformed the management of the Association since the old NEC days and made proceedings more democratic. Mr Jaschke hoped to be able to follow the course set, and promised to do his best to try and become a worthy successor to Mr Eyles. A collection had been made amongst the membership with excellent response, enabling our President, Mr Austin Harrison, to present Mr Eyles with a cheque with which to purchase a television set. Mr Eyles thanked the members and paid tribute to his wife for all her loyalty during his years in office, saying how much she would appreciate the gift. He would always retain a great affection for the Association and hoped

to continue to serve in some small way but in the meantime wished the Association all the best for the future. Mr Blunn told the meeting that unsuccessful efforts had been made to persuade Mrs Eyles to come to the meeting and called upon Mr Mitton (Deputy Chairman) to present a string of pearls and pearl necklace for Mrs. Eyles. These were received by Mr Eyles and the presentations ended with a standing ovation.

9 REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MAY 1968

Copies of the Hon Treasurer's Report had been circulated and were available at the meeting. Mr Blunn (Hon Treasurer) gave details of the accounts making the following points: £120 out of the £195 expenditure shown against "Table Tennis News" was the honorarium to the Editor, which he used to travel to the European Championships in order to report on the event for the magazine. On the item "Press and draw" under the English Closed A/C, a printer's error should be corrected - £1 4 0, not £1 4 1. Behind the figures on the international activities were several reciprocal arrangements; for example, Manchester made a profit on the night but assistance given to Hungary in extra fares turned it into a loss but this would be offset when we made the return visit. The profit on internationals was due mainly to TV fees and the success of the European League but there was room for improvement in the finances of staging matches. No indication had yet been received from the Department of Education and Science on the amount of the grant for the coming year. On overseas travel, 75% of the claim had been granted. Although we faced two trips to Russia, with TV fees the Hon Treasurer hoped to break even.

Mr Wyles (Kent) drew attention to the item showing Folkestone as the venue for the Netherlands Junior Match; this should read St Lukes, London. Noted.

Mr Scott (Staffs) asked if Saturday afternoon finals were still part of the TV negotiations. Mr Jaschke replied that TV preferred Saturday afternoon and felt we should continue to co-operate. We also had obtained an increase of £150 in the sponsorship by Brighton. Mr Wyles (Kent) asked if the profit of £94 from the English Junior Open could be set to the credit of this event next year. Mr Blunn promised that it would be borne in mind and tolerance shown to expenditure on the next occasion. Mr Reeve (Wembley) queried the increased cost of telephones and cables and asked if the acceptance of sponsorship from foreign manufacturers would continue. Mr Blunn explained that the advent of the European League and the more extensive international programme had called for increased use of the telephone and cables. Mr Eyles replied that no negotiations with foreign manufacturers were taking place at this stage, and informed Mr Reeve that the newly-elected officers had agreed to give full consideration to home manufacturers. Mr White (Life Member) asked if it were possible to arrange television of away international matches. Mr Jaschke replied that this question had been discussed by the ETTU and matters were in the hands of the European TV authorities. Mr Harmer (Beds) asked how many tables were valued at £300. Mr Blunn replied twelve.

The Hon. Treasurer read out the Report of the Auditors and expressed his thanks for their continued co-operation. Mr Upton (Lanes) moved the adoption of the Report with thanks to Mr Blunn for the arduous task of maintaining the Accounts of the Association. Agreed unanimously.

10 PROPOSED ALTERATIONS OF RULES

Proposition No 1 (Proposed by National Council)

Delete existing Rules 32(a)(iv) and (v) and substitute:

- 32(a) (iv) Unless otherwise authorised by the National Council under Rule 32(a)(v), or exercising its right (if any) under Rule 32(a)(vi), a Local League shall affiliate to the County Association (if any) in whose geographical area the largest number of its member clubs is situated at the time of its first application for affiliation or, if an equal number of member clubs are situated in the geographical areas of two or more County Associations, to such one of those County Associations as the National Council shall decide
- (v) A Local League operating near or across the boundaries of two or more Counties may apply to the National Council for permission to affiliate to one of those County Associations other than the one laid down by Rule 32(a)(iv). The National Council shall only give permission if the application is approved by all the County Associations concerned.

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

Proposition No 2 (Proposed by National Council)

Add to the end of Rule 32(c):

Such approval shall be retrospective to the date on which application for approval was made.

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

Motion No 3 under Rule 59(e) relating to Proposition No 4 (Proposed by National Council)

THAT this meeting resolves that the amendment to Rule proposed by Kent County Table Tennis

Association (comprising Proposition No.4 in Item No 10 of the Agenda) shall, if carried, not take effect unless and until there is no longer any conflict between the Rule as amended and the ITTF Rules and Regulations binding on this Association.

This motion was carried without debate.

Proposition No 4 (Proposed by Kent County Table Tennis Association)

Amend Rule 38(c) by deleting "£5" and inserting "£100" in both first and second sentences.

Mr Wyles (Kent) formally put the proposition, believing that if accepted it could have important and far-reaching benefits. He felt that the present limit was out of date and it was annoying when we received offers of prizes and had to refuse them. We should follow the trend in other sports and in his opinion a higher standard of play would result from higher incentives. Mr Reeve (Wembley) seconded the proposition and the meeting entered into a full debate on the subject, hearing widely different views on what constituted a prize, together with the opinions of the organiser of the Sussex Open (against) and Johnny Leach, England's Senior Captain, who spoke in support of the proposition. Mr Jaschke spoke in support of the proposition and pointed out that, if agreed, the next step must be to get an amendment to ITTF Rules. He gave an undertaking that, if passed, the Tournament Sub-Committee would seek the views of tournament organisers and study the situation most thoroughly. In summing up, Mr Wyles (Kent) said that he was pleased with the enthusiasm on this subject shown by members present and asked the meeting to allow it to go forward to the ITTF.

On being put to the vote, the proposition was carried, there being only 1 vote against it.

11 MOTIONS

(a) (Proposed by Kent County Table Tennis Association)

THAT this Meeting directs the National Council to amend both the Permit Players' Regulations under Appendix 'A' to the Rules of the Association and the Tournament Regulations under Appendix A to the Rules of the Association so as to allow prizes of £100 or less in value to be awarded and accepted in lieu of the present maximum limit of £5.

Carried unanimously.

(b) (Proposed by North Yorkshire Table Tennis League)

THAT this Meeting directs the National Council to take such steps as may be necessary to have placed on the Agenda for the next meeting of ITTF Congress a proposal in the name of the ETTA to amend ITTF Rule 7.16.1 in such a way as to remove the ITTF restriction on the value of prizes awarded in competitions authorised by the ETTA.

Mr Ransome (North Yorks) asked the permission of the meeting to withdraw this motion. Agreed.

(c) (Proposed by Kent County Table Tennis Association)

THAT this Meeting directs the National Council to amend the Permit Players' Regulations under Appendix A to the Rules of the Association so as to delete all reference to the payment of a registration fee.

Mr Mitchell (Bromley) put this motion on behalf of Kent, explaining that they felt that the payment of a fee was, at present, unfair owing to the many difficulties of enforcing collection. As the motion received no seconder, it could not be proceeded with. Mr Blunn stated that the officers would ask the National Council to examine the Regulations governing Permit Members.

(d) (Proposed by Kent County Table Tennis Association)

THAT this Meeting directs the National Council to negotiate with the Executive Committee of the County Table Tennis Championships with a view to dissolving the present constitution of the County Table Tennis Championships and to the Association's organising a national competition at County level on basically the same lines as the present competition.

Mr Wyles (Kent), in proposing this motion, pointed out that times had changed since the formation of the County Table Tennis Championships, in that the governing body of the ETTA consisted of County representatives, not Regions, and therefore the control would still remain with the Counties. It was not widely known that the CTTC was a separate body to the ETTA and this separation led to clashes in dates on the playing calendar, this being one of the main reasons for placing the motion on the Agenda. Mr Wright, Secretary of the CTTC, pointed out that at the AGM of the CTTC recently a similar motion was defeated by 15 votes to 8. Mr Eyles said that he was puzzled by the fact that National Councillors had expressed an overwhelming vote in favour of bringing the CTTC under the auspices of the ETTA and yet the AGM of the CTTC, with many members common to both bodies, had reversed that expression. Mr Reay (Durham) believed that the expression given by the Councillors was prior to them having discussed matters with their County Committees. Mr Reeve (Wembley) pointed out that the motion only called for discussion and in view of the conflict of opinions it may well be best to allow this discussion to take place.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried by 21 votes to 11.

12 ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

On behalf of the National Council, Mr Eyles moved the election of the following Vice Presidents: Mrs J F Reay (Durham), Mr E R A Connell (Middx), Mr H Flinton (Yorks), Mr H Walker (Essex). Agreed unanimously.

13 ELECTION OF HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Mr Eyles said that it was his pleasant duty to recommend the election of Mr M E Scott (Staffs) as an Honorary Life Member, mentioning his yeoman service to the National Coaching & Schools Committee. He presented Mr Scott with his Life Member's Badge amidst acclaim.

14 ELECTION OF SCRUTINEERS FOR THE 1968/69 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ELECTION

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr A J H Wickens and Mr E G White be elected.

15 ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Mr Jaschke proposed that the present Auditors, Messrs Spain Bros, Jukes & Co, be re-elected. Agreed.

16 ADOPTION OF LAWS FOR 1968/69 SEASON

Copies of these had been circulated nationally and had been prepared by Mr C Clemett under the auspices of the National Umpires and Referees Committee. Mr Wright (Kingston G.S.) felt that there were certain vital omissions but except for one item these concerned recommendations and not Laws. The one exception was that Law 14 required the addition of a new paragraph after line 18: "The player or pair who served first in a game shall receive first in the immediately subsequent game".

With this addition, the Laws were adopted for the 1968/69 season.

17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Reeve (Wembley) wished to record his thanks to Mr Jaschke for his remarks concerning the contest which led to his election for Chairman, and expressed the hope that the ETTA would go from strength to strength under his leadership. This was received with applause.

Mr Reay (Durham) stated that, in his opinion, there were anomalies in our Election Rules in that Leagues who had not paid their affiliation fees to their County were allowed to vote in ETTA elections. Also, he had requested a definition of "another responsible officer" but had received no reply from the Returning Officer to whom he was directed by the Officers of the Association. At the direction of the Chairman, Mr Wickens replied to the second part of Mr Reay's statement, saying that he had conferred with the Scrutineers and whilst he had not had time to give a written reply, the answer was that the validity of signatures on a nomination paper was entirely at the discretion of the Scrutineers and, as they had accepted the form in question, the matter was closed, and could only be re-opened if the League itself so requested. Mr Jaschke added that we must accept the ruling of the Nominations Officer on this point but he gave an undertaking to investigate the matter if the League itself wrote to complain. Mr Jaschke, referring to the first part of Mr Reay's statement, promised that this would be placed before the Rules Committee for a decision. This was the course of action agreed by the Management Committee and he hoped that all parties would accept whatever decision was given. Mr Reay (Durham) said that he was not satisfied and required a single answer at this meeting. Mr Eyles ruled from the Chair that the way in which the National Council had dealt with this in referring it to the Rules Committee was right and proper.

Mr Crayden (Vice-President) requested that, in view of the affinity between our sport and that of Lawn Tennis, could not the AGM date be moved so as not to clash with the Wimbledon Finals? Mr Eyles replied that this would be investigated.

Mr White (Life Member) moved that this meeting offer its congratulations to the LTA on achieving a realism in regard to payment of players, a realism achieved by the sister sport of table tennis over thirty years ago. Agreed. The Chairman had already done this.

Mr Harmer (Beds) wished to draw attention to the slowness of the Stiga tables used in the English Junior Open, feeling that we should attempt to encourage a standardisation of equipment. Mr Wyles (Kent) explained that the slowness was only apparent on the first day, and put forward the explanation that the tables became slightly damp on their journey from docks to venue, and as they dried out in the warmth of the hall, their speed increased considerably. Mr Landry (Willesden) felt there was no question of lower standards and that Continental tables gave good experience to our junior players, who had to play on them abroad eventually.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 6.05pm with a vote of thanks to Mr Eyles for his very able conduct of the meeting.