

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held at the Bonnington Hotel, London on Saturday 4th March 1978 commencing at 2.00 p.m.

Present: M.Goldstein OBE (President)
T.Blunn (Treasurer)

Hon. Life Members

Messrs. C.J.Clemett, G.James, N.K.Reeve and E.G.White

Vice Presidents

Messrs. G.M.Daniels and W.G.Goldfinch

Members of National Council

Mrs. D.Henderson, Messrs. P.Brennan, C.A.Burden, K.Chamberlain, A.Drapkin, M.Goldstein, K.J.Marchant, D.J.Moss, K.Muhr, K.Ponting, A.M.Ross, B.J.Rowley, L.J.Smith, H.G.Stevens, B.R.J.Webb, and J.M.Wright.

Representatives from the following Counties and Leagues

Avon, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Cleveland, Devonshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Kent, Lancashire, Lincolnshire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Yorkshire.

Bristol, Cheltenham, Cheshunt, Gloucester, Hastings, Hull, Lincoln, London Civil Service, N.E.Summer, North Herts, North Middlesex, Stroud and Wembley/Harrow

Sub-Committee Members

Messrs. T.Blunn, R.Bridges, C.A.Burden, C.J.Clemett, G.M.Daniels, W.G.Goldfinch, M.Goldstein, M.S.Greatrex, G.James, J.Killmister, K.J.Marchant, J.McKim, D.J.Moss, K.Ponting, N.K.Reeve, A.M.Ross, L.J.Smith, M.D.Watts, E.G.White and J.M.Wright

In Attendance

A.W.Shipley (General Secretary), R.J.Stevens (Administrative Secretary), R.D.Tammadge (Development Officer).

Mrs. C.Wright.

The President, Mr. Maurice Goldstein, took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting, the purpose of which was well known and needed no introduction.

1. ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS - Document 817/31/AW

Mr. A.M.Ross (Yorks) moved the adoption of Standing Orders. This was seconded by Mr. M.D.Watts (Essex) and carried unanimously.

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2. APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mrs. A.E.Reeve and Mrs. C.Wright be appointed Tellers for the meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr. T. Blunn (Treasurer) apologied on behalf of Mr. C.M.Wyles, OBE (Chairman), who was still recovering from illness, and Mr. G.R.Yates (Deputy Chairman) who was fulfilling a long-standing table-tennis obligation. Apologies were received from Mr. P.Hyde (Life Member) Mr. H.Walker (Hon. Life Member), Mr. L.S.Woollard (Life Member), Mr. J.M.McDonnell (Vice President), Mr. E.J. Mitchell (English Schools T.T.A.), Mr. K.Taylor (Durham County T.T.A.), and Mr. A. Cavell (Shropshire County T.T.A.).

4. PROPOSITIONS FOR RULE CHANGES AS SET OUT IN DOCUMENT 91/31/AW

1. On behalf of the National Council, Mr. T.Blunn proposed the motion that "Any changes of Rule (except the change of dates in Rules 14.1. and 14.9.) passed by this meeting shall come into effect forthwith; for this season only, Rules 17.16. and 19A.1. shall have effect as if "May" were substituted for "April" therein. Mr. A.Ross seconded the motion and it was agreed and carried.

2. PROPOSITION NO.1 (Proposed on behalf of National Council)

Amend or delete existing Rules and create new Rules as follows:-

- Rule
- (a) 19.9. new rule "The activities of the Association shall be divided among six Departments one of which shall be "Finance". Any change in the areas of responsibility of each Department shall be decided by the National Council on the recommendation of the Chairman elect or the Chairman as appropriate"
- (b) 19.11 new rule "Each of the other five Departments shall be managed by a Vice-Chairman appointed under Rule 19A. One Vice-Chairman may be the Deputy Chairman as permitted by Rule 19A.3."
- (c) 19A new heading APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMEN
 - 19A.1 new rule "Appointment of the Vice-Chairmen other than Vice-Chairman (Finance) shall be dealt with by the National Council at a meeting during April"
- (d) 19A.2. "It shall be the prerogative of the Chairman elect before his year of office (and of the Chairman in the event of any casual vacancy being filled during his year of office) to nominate each of the five Vice-Chairmen referred to in Rule 19.11. He may nominate anyone except an employee of the Association, or an officer other than the Deputy Chairman."
- (e) 19.2. delete all after "Officers"
- (f) 5.1.1. after "elected" insert "and appointed"
- (g) 12.1. for "and Treasurer." substitute "Treasurer and Vice Chairmen appointed under Rule 19B."

4. 2. (h) 12.2. add at end "or re-appointment"
- (i) 12.3. delete and insert "Unless Rule 19.8. be applied, any casual vacancy in an office shall be filled, the procedure appropriate for that office (either Rule 14 or Rule 19A) being followed as far as practicable. Where Rule 14 applies, nomination forms shall be sent out not later than 21 days after the vacancy occurs".
- (j) 12.4. for "any Office" substitute "the Office of Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer or General Secretary"
- (k) 12.6. for "no" substitute "Except as provided by Rule 19A.3 no"
- (l) 14 for "OFFICERS" substitute "CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, TREASURER AND GENERAL SECRETARY"
- (m) 14.1. for "15th March" and "2nd March" substitute "15th February" and "1st February" respectively
- (n) 14.2. add at end "by election"
- (o) 14.5. delete and substitute "If there be more than one effective nomination for any of these offices voting shall be by postal ballot conducted in such manner as the National Council shall from time to time decide"
- (p) 14.9. Add "s" to "result" add "s" to "election" and delete "of Officers"
- (q) 14.9. for "1st May" and "23rd April" substitute "31st March" and "23rd March" respectively
- (r) 16.2. delete "the" before "Officers"
- (s) 17.3. for "no E.T.T.A. Officer may" substitute "The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Treasurer or General Secretary may not"
- (t) 17.14.2. delete
- (u) 17.16 new rule "The National Council shall hold a meeting during the month of April"
- (v) 19 delete "COMMITTEE" from heading
- (w) 19.3. delete
- (x) 19.4. for "Rule 20" substitute "Rule 19A"
- (y) 19.5. delete, and insert "Four members present including at least one from the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Treasurer, shall consistute a quorum for the transaction of business
- (z) 19.6. for last sentance substitute "The President shall not be entitled to vote unless a member under the provisions of Rule 19.2"

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- 4. 2. (aa) 19.10 new rule: "The Finance Department shall be managed by the Treasurer who shall be entitled to the style "Vice-Chairman (Finance)" "
- (bb) 19A.3 new rule: "The Deputy Chairman may concurrently hold office as a Vice Chairman"
- (cc) 19A.4 new rule: "Not later than 14 days before that meeting each National Councillor shall be informed in writing of the person whom the Chairman elect intends to nominate to manage each Department (except Finance) for the following season. This list shall be accompanied by such explanatory statement as the Chairman elect may provide: if the Deputy Chairman is nominated to manage a Department, the list shall contain a sixth nomination for appointment as a Vice-Chairman without departmental responsibility"
- (dd) 19A.5 new rule: "Each of the nominations under Rule 19A. shall be considered separately. An appointment shall remain unfilled until the Chairman-elect shall have secured the Council's approval to a nomination"
- (ee) 19A.6. new rule:"A Chairman elect shall be entitled to attend any meeting of the National Council at which any person is to be appointed to manage a Department during that Chairman elect's term of office as Chairman"
- (ff) 20. - 20.8. delete
- (gg) 25.5.14. add "s" to "report" and after "Election" insert "and appointment"

4. 2. 1. Mr. T. Blunn moved the Proposition and it was seconded by Mr. C. Burden. Mr. Blunn proposed that the Chairman of the Development Committee, Mr. N.K. Reeve, speak on the Proposition and this was agreed. Mr. Reeve explained that his Committee had been looking at the Constitution for a long time, and what they were suggesting was evolution not revolution. To enable the Association to expand its activities and get stronger and larger then something on these lines must take place, as Table Tennis was now classified as a major sport by the Sports Council.

2. The Chairman invited general discussion and following detailed debate on a show of hands there were 24 accredited representatives for the motion and 8 against. A Block Vote was requested and taken, and there were 12,118 votes for to 2,885 against the proposition which the Chairman accordingly declared carried.

4. 3. PROPOSITION No. 2 (Proposed on behalf of National Council)

Amend or delete existing Rules and create new Rules as follows:-

- (a) new rule 19B SUB-COMMITTEES
 - 19B.1. Each Vice-Chairman in charge of a Department shall have power to appoint sub-committees as he may consider necessary, provided that -
 - 19B.1.1. the Terms of Reference, Chairman and members of each sub-committee are approved and recorded by the Management Committee

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- 4. 3. (a) 19B.1.2. no sub-committee shall be appointed to serve for a period extending more than one month after the date of the next Annual General Meeting without prior approval of the National Council.
- (b) 17.10 delete
- (c) 29.7. for "appointed by the National Council" substitute "approved by the Management Committee"
- (d) 29.11.1. for "of its sub-committees" substitute "authorised sub-committee"
- (e) 30.1. Delete "a standing sub-committee of the National Council called"
- (f) 36.3. for "by a Committee" substitute "by a sub-committee" and delete "appointed by the National Council"

4. 3. 1. Mr. T. Blunn moved the Proposition and it was seconded by Mr. A.M. Ro , The Chairman then proposed that Mr. N.K.Reeve speak on the Proposition and this was agreed. Mr. Reeve said that common sense and trust were needed, and that once the country had elected the Chairman then he should be free to elect the people of his choice. In the past Committee Chairmen sometimes had to accept people with whom they could not work compatibly or who did not contribute to the team spirit and group effort required. He concluded by saying that there were enough checks and balances in the system to form a safeguard and that National Council will continue to formulate the policy of the Association.

4. 3. 2. Discussion was then thrown open and following detailed debate, on a show of hands there were 20 accredited representatives for the motion and 12 against. The Chairman proceeded to take a Block Vote, which resulted in 10,002 votes for and 5,001 votes being cast against the proposition. At the request of the Chairman, the Rules Committee Chairman (Mr. E.G.White) explained to the meeting the effect of this vote; under Rule 25.8. a proposition of this kind required a majority in excess of opposition of one third of the votes cast. The total votes cast were 15,003 and one third of this therefore was 5,001. The excess of the majority over opposition was 10,002 less 5,001, that is, precisely 5,001, the minimum required for the proposition to be carried. The Chairman accordingly declared the motion carried.

There being no other business the Chairman thanked everybody for attending and the meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.