

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Ivanhoe Hotel, London on Saturday 7th July 1984, commencing at 2.00 pm.

 Present: M Goldstein OBE (President), T Blunn (Chairman),
 G R Yates (Deputy Chairman), A Drapkin (Treasurer)

Vice Chairmen

E G White (Administration), C J Clemett (Competitions),
 A E Ransome (Development), P A Charters (Selection/Coaching)

Hon Life Members

Messrs L F Landry, K T O Ponting, A E Upton, K Watts

Vice Presidents

Mrs L Carrington, Messrs A D Brook, J H Carrington, H T Edwards,
 B G Fretwell, W G Goldfinch, L W Jones, J M McDonnell, J McKim,
 D J Moss, J P Mulcahy, A G Steggall

Accredited Representatives - Counties

Avon (Mrs J L Watts), Bedfordshire (Mr G G Hammond), Berkshire
 (Mr J Freeman), Buckinghamshire (Mr B R J Webb), Cambridgeshire
 (Mr E S Day), Cheshire (Mr D Schofield), Cleveland (Mr A E Ransome),
 Cornwall (Mrs A P Archdale), Devonshire (Mr K T O Ponting),
 Essex (Mr A Shepherd), Gloucestershire (Mr L J Smith), Hampshire
 (Mr H Albery), Huntingdonshire (Mr K Willett), Kent (Mr T Openshaw),
 Lancashire (Mr A E Upton), Leicestershire (Mr D R Green), Lincolnshire
 (Mrs C Moran), Middlesex (Mrs D M Stannard), Norfolk (Mr A H Pickard),
 Northamptonshire (Mr K J Marchant), Northumberland (Mr T A Morpeth),
 Nottinghamshire (Mr J Collen), Oxfordshire (Mr B J Osborne),
 Shropshire (Mr T G Felton), Staffordshire (Mr G C Williamson),
 Suffolk (Mrs J D Love), Surrey (Mr J Dawson), Sussex (Mr B G Fretwell),
 Warwickshire (Mr S Parr), Wiltshire (Mr D H Parsons),
 Worcestershire (Mr D J Moss), Yorkshire (Mr E Hill)

Accredited Representatives - (Non-County Leagues)

London Business Houses (Mr M J Loveder)

Accredited Representatives - Leagues

Aldershot (Mr B J Rowley), Braintree (Mr D I Whiteside), Bristol
 (Mrs J L Watts), Bromsgrove (Mr D J Moss), Chelmsford (Mr C S Trundle),
 Coventry (Mr S Parr), Hastings (Mr C T Hyland), London Civil Service
 (Miss T J McAllister), North Herts (Mr J Jermyn), Nuneaton (Mr S Parr),
 Reading (Mr J Freeman), Sheffield (Mr S Wainwright), Sittingbourne
 (Mr G L Lee), Stockton (Mr C Davison), Watford (Mr P J Snoxell),
 Wembley/Harrow (Mr G Walsh), Weston-super-Mare (Mrs A P Archdale),
 York (Mr D J Bond)

Other Members

Mr J Collen (National Councillor), Mr A M Ross (RDAP Chairman),
 Mr P Dukes (Disciplinary Committee), Mr J Freeman, Mr D A Young
 (Tournaments Committee), Mr P Avenell (Ducks), Mr B P Lamerton
 (Hampshire), Miss D L Moors (Civil Service TTA), Miss J Seabrook
 (Dulwich), Mr D G Smy, Mr F Mitchell (Dunstable), Mr J W R Groves
 (N W Kent), Mr A Shepherd (Maccabi Union)

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In Attendance

A w Shipley (General Secretary), M D Watts (Deputy General Secretary), R J Stevens (Administrative Secretary), Miss F Brown (Development Officer), R H Sinclair (Administrative Assistant)

Mr M Goldstein OBE (President) assumed the Chair, in accordance with Standing Order 1.1. and welcomed all present.

1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

On the motion of Mr A Drapkin (Treasurer) the report (document 1368/1/AW) was adopted.

2. STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders as circulated (document 987/1/AW) with addendum were adopted.

3. TELLERS

It was proposed, seconded and agreed, that Mr J McKim and Mr A M Ross be appointed TELLERS for the meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

4.1. Apologies for absence were received from Mr N K Reeve (Vice Chairman, Public Relations), Messrs R J Crayden, A K Vint OBE, L S Woolliard, A J H Wickens, J M Wright (Hon Life members), Messrs F Briggs, L J Constable, I R Crickmer, H Flinton, E Jones MBE, G A Owen, D R Tremayne, D W Tyler and Mrs N Vint (Vice Presidents), Mr P J Roden (Tournaments Committee), Mr J Blackband, Mr B E Spicer (RDAP Chairmen), Mr D A Lomas, Mr E J Mitchell (English Schools TTA), Mr D Carney (Durham TTA), Mr D Waite (Brighton), Mr J Barber (Bromsgrove), Methodist Association YC, Southwark Catholic YC.

4.2. The Chairman asked the meeting to join him in sending good wishes to members unable to attend, particularly to Mr F Briggs who was seriously ill, and Mr A J H Wickens, who was convalescing.

4.3. The Chairman was pleased to report that two cups had been obtained for the Veterans Individual Championships, in the names of the Hon. Ivor Montagu and Mr A K Vint OBE. The meeting joined in sending best wishes to Mr A K Vint OBE and congratulations to The Hon. Ivor Montagu on reaching his 80th birthday in April.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 9TH JULY 1983 (DOCUMENT 1225/1/RJS)

Mrs J L Watts (Avon) proposed that the minutes be signed as a true record. Agreed.

Mr M Goldstein OBE (President) at this point handed over the Chair to Mr T Blunn (Chairman).

6. MATTERS ARISING

6.1. The Chairman reminded the meeting that motions B and D which were passed at the 1983 AGM had directed the National Council to authorise any Local League wishing to do so to allow the use of uncovered rackets in domestic play (despite their prohibition in the adopted Laws); and to

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6.1. Cont.

authorise any County Association or Local League so wishing to adopt the regulation requiring players to use bats with different colours of rubber on the two sides for its own competitions. The Chairman reported that the National Council gave such directions, and invited comments. Mr G Williamson (Staffordshire) reported that in Staffordshire support was growing for two colours, and the County TTA was strongly in favour. Mrs J L Watts (Avon) and Mr A E Upton (Lancashire) felt that a period of time was needed for a change to two colours, and that a number of players would cease participating if such a change was made compulsorily now.

6.2. The Chairman further reminded the meeting that Motion E which was passed at the 1983 AGM had "agreed that measures are required to bring about an increase in affiliation income beyond the inflationary adjustment provided for in Rule 7.4." (votes: for, 9994; against 5826). Motion F established that the proposal should be for an increase in the amount of the fee unit in Rule 7.8., whilst Motion G directed that a motion be brought to the 1984 AGM proposing that the changes in fees should take effect from the first day of season 1984/85. The National Council had brought forward proposals as directed by these resolutions. The amount proposed by the National Council, £1.50, had been the subject of three amendments which sought to reduce the amount. The Management Committee was anxious that the number of options before the meeting should not generate confusion, and that the meeting should have the best opportunity to express its wishes on this subject, which was of such vital importance. Management Committee felt it would help the meeting if, when it came to the fee debate, the meeting could be given a preliminary indication of the mandates held by delegates. Forms had been prepared and would be distributed to accredited representatives to gauge the likely support for each possible fee unit increase. If the meeting agreed, accredited representatives would be asked to complete the form, giving a preliminary and non-committing indication of how they would vote. These forms would then be collected at the completion of discussion on the Management Committee report and the totals under each option reported to the meeting during the Treasurer's Report. Following discussion on the need for and propriety of an indication of the way delegates intended to vote, Mr B J Osborne (Oxfordshire) proposed and Mrs J L Watts (Avon) seconded, that the procedure be followed. Carried on a show of hands of accredited representatives with 21 votes for, 14 against. Mr L G White (Vice Chairman) explained the form and its completion, quoting the statement on the form - "If, without hearing any discussion at this meeting, I had to choose between the various alternatives offered in Proposition No. 3 and the amendments to it which have been tabled, I would:"

The Chairman assured the meeting that individual voting indications would not be disclosed, only the totals.

Subsequently, the voting was reported as follows:

6.2.1.	Increase of fee unit to £1.50	8,300 votes
6.2.2.	Increase of fee unit to £1.30	1,633 votes
6.2.3.	Increase of fee unit to £1.20	940 votes
6.2.4.	Increase of fee unit to £1.00	678 votes
6.2.5.	no change of fee unit	1,111 votes
6.2.6.	Abstentions	424 votes

7. REPORT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7.1. The meeting considered the printed report circulated. The following points arose in the course of discussion.

7.1.1. Competitions (para 25.4.) Mr C J Clemett (Vice Chairman) drew attention to an error in the last line and asked that "1984/85" be amended to read "1985/86". He further advised that there was some doubt as to whether the actual statement made in this paragraph was correct, and the matter was to be raised at the National Council meeting on 14th July 1984.

7.1.2. Administration (para 40.1.) Mr A Shepherd (Essex) said that although he was pleased to see some alterations to Disciplinary procedures, due to good sense, he was disturbed to read what he considered to be infelicitous wording in the report of a particular hearing. He felt that the words contained in brackets should be removed, and asked that the matter be referred back to the management Committee. Mr E G White (Vice Chairman), felt that there was no error in what was stated and opposed the referral back. The Chairman referring to Rule 32.7, reminded Mr A Shepherd that if he had a financial interest he must declare it; Mr Shepherd did not consider he was in breach of Rule 32.7 in raising the matter. On being put to the vote a motion to refer paragraph 40.1. back to Management Committee was carried on a show of hands by accredited representatives by 21 votes for, 19 against. Mr A E Upton (Chairman, Disciplinary Committee) abstained.

7.1.3. Headquarters Staff (para 42) Mr E G White (Vice Chairman) reported that a word processor had recently been installed at the Hastings office. This was expected to provide benefits in improving some services to members and in saving printing costs by producing more items 'in house'.

7.1.4. Appendix 5 - Championship Results The meeting noted the omission of the winner of the Womens Veteran's Singles in para 2, and agreed to refer the paragraph back to management Committee. It was reported that Omega (Reading) had won both the mens and womens events in the National Club Championships.

7.2. Adoption of Report Mr S Parr (Warwickshire) moved and Mr A E Upton (Lancashire) seconded the adoption of the Management Committee Report. Agreed. Thanks were recorded to Mr E G White for producing such an excellent report, upon which the meeting had needed to make so few comments.

8. REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASON 1984/85

8.1. Mr I Blunn (Chairman), thanked members for their confidence in re-electing him and his fellow officers.

8.2. Document 1328/25/AW was noted.

9. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1984/85

9.1. The Chairman was pleased to report that he now had a nominee to fill the vacancy for Vice Chairman, Administration, subject to approval by National Council at their meeting on 14th July 1984.

9.2. The Chairman paid tribute to Mr E G White who was retiring from the position of Vice Chairman, Administration, after six years loyal service. Mr E G White suitably replied.

9.3. Document 1369/23/RJS was noted.

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10. REPORT OF ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1984/85

- 10.1. The Chairman thanked those Councillors who had retired for all their hard work:
Mr R Gale (Cumbria), Mr A G Morgan (Derbyshire), Mr A Shepherd (Essex), Mr K Chamberlain (Huntingdonshire), Mr R Mussett (Norfolk), Mr J Collen (Nottinghamshire)
- 10.2. The General Secretary reported official documentation had now been received from Norfolk TFA and Oxfordshire TFA, with Mr A A Pickard elected Councillor for Norfolk and Mr B T Osborne re-elected for Oxfordshire. Official documentation was still awaited from Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. Noted.

11. REPORT OF THE TREASURER; REPORT OF THE AUDITORS; AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1984

- 11.1. Mr A Drapkin (Treasurer) reported that the Auditors had completed their audit of the accounts and their signed certificate had been received. The Balance Sheet and the accounts had been circulated and he proposed giving a brief explanation to help members. He then drew attention to some minor typing errors and gave an itemised explanation, referring to the different format as requested at the 1983 AGA.
- 11.2. Mr C Davison (Stockton) sought explanation for the apparent large percentage increases of various items. Mr A Drapkin regretted that lack of notice of this question prevented him from giving a detailed reply, but he was able to provide general explanations; in most cases, high percentage increases in the membership share of costs was the outcome of fixed limits to Sports Council grants for the items in question. Furthermore, increases in items of only a few hundred pounds inevitably produced high percentage changes.
- 11.3. Mr J Jernyn (W. Herts) drew attention to the loss made on the friendly match v Sweden in Bury. Mr A Drapkin explained that a lesser fee was asked for in staging a friendly match and in this case the BFA costs were more than receipts.
- 11.4. One member felt that it would be helpful for sponsorship income to be shown against the individual events which attracted it but Mr E G White (Vice chairman) explained that there were commercial disadvantages in so doing.
- 11.5. Mrs D M Stannard (Middlesex) proposed and Mr B J Osborne (Oxfordshire) seconded that the accounts for 1983/84 be adopted. Carried nem con.

12. PROPOSED ALTERATION TO RULES (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the numbering and text for Rules for which amendments were proposed were as in the booklet "Rules 1983/84".

- 12.1. Proposition No. 1
Amend rule 28.2. - delete "not later than 1st June;" after "shall be given" insert "not later than 1st June to the President, Vice-Presidents and Officers,"
Mr E G White (Vice Chairman) moved on behalf of the National Council and the proposition was carried nem con.

12.2. Proposition No. 2

Amend Rule 32.7. - add at end: "This sub-rule shall not apply when National Council discusses the reimbursement of expenses incurred in attending National Council or Committee meetings"

Mr E G White (Vice Chairman) moved on behalf of the National Council and the proposition was carried nem con.

12.3. Proposition No. 3

Amend Rule 7.8.: For "86p" substitute "£1.50"

Mr A Drapkin referred to the 1983 AGM and the warnings he had given about the financial danger and the Sports Council's concern over the low contribution from members. Nothing had changed and page 4 of the accounts for 1983/84 illustrated the facts with a surplus of income over expenditure of no more than £25. The estimates for 1984/85 showed that costs would rise due to inflation and with a possible continuation of a fall in membership then inevitably income would fall - resulting in a cutback in activities. He highlighted the comparison between the contribution from outside sources (trade, sponsorship, Sports Council etc.), and members. Even after the proposed increase the affiliation fee would be no more than 3p per week per member. Although leagues sometimes felt that ETTA fees were a drain on their funds, the money came from the individuals, with the leagues acting as collecting agents. There was a strong desire to make worthwhile improvements in services to the membership, but this would only be possible if the proposal for the £1.50 was adopted. Mr A Drapkin urged support and moved the proposition.

The Chairman reminded the meeting of the preliminary vote that had been taken, and invited debate on the general question of an increase, leaving discussion of the merits of the different levels covered by the proposition and the three amendments to be taken when the amendments were proposed. Mr C Davison (Stockton) referred to the high unemployment figures in some areas and felt that this was the wrong time to be proposing any increase. He thought the proper course was to make savings and stay within budgets. Mr J Jermyn (N. Herts) referred to the document on benefits of affiliation and would have liked to have seen the word "would" rather than "could" regarding implementation of benefits. Mr B Rowley (Aldershot) referred to the sponsorship of Charles Church and indicated the sponsor would only back those prepared to help themselves. Mr P A Charters (Vice Chairman), said that he had seen no hard evidence that the decline in membership was due to increased membership fees. Assurance was given that the Sports Council was aware of the variance between their contribution and membership subscriptions and of declining membership figures. Mr A G Steggall (Coaching Committee) deplored the shoestring expenditure on coaching, and reported on the dilapidated appearance of the Hastings office. The Chairman proposed that the meeting consider the first amendment.

12.3.1. Amendment No. 1 to Proposition No. 3 (proposed on behalf of Northumberland County TTA)

For "£1.50" substitute "£1.30"

Mr T A Morpeth said that although his County fully accepted the need for an increase they felt that £1.50 was too high, and that £1.30 was more realistic as they doubted that all the benefits would be operative speedily. Mr A Drapkin (Treasurer) replied that if the £1.30 proposition was carried then it would be impossible to carry out all the benefit proposals. On being put to the vote the amendment was defeated on a show of hands by accredited representatives, with 17 votes for, 28 against.

12.3.2. Amendment No. 2 to Proposition No. 3 (proposed on behalf of Bristol and District TTA)

For "£1.50" substitute "£1.20"

In proposing the amendment, Mrs J L Watts (Bristol) reminded the accredited representatives that they were present to represent their leagues and players, and it was this viewpoint they should be expressing, not their own; in her view, few members were in support of such a substantial increase as the £1.50 proposed. Mr J Freeman (Reading) said this was not the case in his league; he was speaking and voting for the original proposal on behalf of his league members, as instructed. Several other speakers reported on the viewpoints expressed by their leagues. Mr P J Snoxell (Watford) was unhappy at the Treasurer's statement that leagues only acted as an agent for collecting affiliation fees, and asked for greater efficiency from the ETFA. Mr E G White (Life Member) emphasised that the tightness of ETFA funds in relation to the work the Association undertook meant that the Association suffered from a mean attitude to staff pay and conditions and to reimbursement of expenses incurred by volunteer workers. Mr K I O Ponting (Devon) said that he also came from an area of high unemployment but his members were willing to pay the £1.50 fee, and urged support. Following the discussion the amendment was put to the vote and was defeated on a show of hands of accredited representatives, 16 votes for, 27 against.

12.3.3. Amendment No. 3 to Proposition No. 3 (proposed on behalf of Sittingbourne TTA)

For "£1.50" (or "£1.30" or "~~£~~1.20" if appropriate) substitute "£1.00:."

This amendment was withdrawn at the request of the Sittingbourne representative and by consent of the meeting.

12.3.4. The Chairman explained that as the amendments had been defeated or withdrawn, the substantive proposition now remaining before the meeting was the proposition to amend Rule 7.8. by substituting £1.50 for 80p. He invited discussion. Mr J M McDonnell (Vice President) said that he had carefully observed the sport of table tennis during his 10 years as Sponsorship Manager for Norwich Union Insurance Group - he knew the current thinking of the Sports Council and unless table tennis helped itself then less money would be forthcoming. He was appalled to hear such long discussions on what amounted to only pennies, and urged support for the proposition so as not to remain a poor sport. Mr A E Ransome (Vice Chairman) said that the Development Department had many schemes and ideas for growth of the sport, but were being blocked all the way by lack of funds.

12.3.4. Cont.

Mr A Drapkin (Treasurer) reminded the meeting of the financial support from the Sports Council that was channelled through Regions as well as nationally, and that this might also be reduced. On being put to the vote the proposition was carried on a show of hands of accredited representatives. A block vote was requested, which resulted in 11,028 votes for and 3,198 against. Under Rule 28.8. the Chairman accordingly declared the motion carried.

13. MOTIONS (Document 1376/1/KW)

13.1. Motion No. 1

"That the amendment to Rule 7.8. in RULE CHANGE PROPOSITION No. 3 shall come into effect on the day following this ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING."

Mr A Drapkin (Treasurer) moved the proposition. Carried on a show of hands by accredited representatives, with 31 votes for, 6 against.

13.2. Motion No. 2

"THAT for the season 1984/85 the LTIA adopt the ITTF Laws of Table Tennis as printed in the current ITTF Handbook."

Mr C J Clemett (Vice Chairman) moved and the proposition was carried on a show of hands of accredited representatives. Following further discussion Mrs J L Watts (Bristol) proposed and Mr A E Upton (Lancashire) seconded that National Council be asked to continue until further notice the dispensations authorised in season 1983/84. Carried on a show of hands of accredited representatives. As regards the "two colour bat" regulation, Mr C J Clemett (Vice Chairman) advised that season 1984/85 might be the last one allowed for choice in this way as the Regulations in question might then be incorporated in the ITTF Laws of Table Tennis.

14. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

14.1. The meeting agreed, on the proposal of the Chairman, on behalf of the National Council, for a further three-year term of the retiring Vice-Presidents:

R Billson	B G Fretwell	J P Mulcahy	Mrs S Sander
F Briggs	W G Goldfinch	G A Owen	J Siddron
A D Brook	J A Leach MBE	H E Pearce	A W C Simons
C A Burden	Miss I Moss	D S Purr	A A Wall
			R Williams

14.2. The meeting agreed, on the proposal of the Chairman, on behalf of the National Council, the election for a term of three years of the following additional Vice-Presidents:

Mr A Hydes (Dunlop) Mr A E Ransome (Cleveland), Mr P Reid (Leicestershire)

Mr A E Ransome was present to accept his badge from the Chairman, and expressed his pleasure at the honour. Mr A Hydes and Mr P Reid had been unable to attend and would be presented with their badges on suitable occasions.

15. ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Chairman expressed the Association's thanks for the work of the Standing Orders Committee. It was agreed that Mr J M Wright, retiring member, be re-elected.

16. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

Mr A Drapkin (Treasurer) proposed that Messrs Spain Bros, Jukes and Company be re-elected. Agreed.

17. AWARDS

17.1. The Chairman referred to the recent retirement of Mrs Elsie Carrington as the Coaching Administrator and paid tribute to her tremendous contribution to coaching over very many years. On behalf of the Association he presented her with a gift. Mrs Carrington spoke of the many friends she had made and of the pleasure she had derived from being associated with table tennis.

17.2. Ivor Montagu Award

The Chairman presented this award for 1983/84 to Mr B J Rowley in recognition of his work in coaching and training, and for his contribution to the securing of important national sponsorship. In response Mr B J Rowley was particularly pleased that the award was in recognition of the important role played by Coaches.

17.3. Malcolm Scott Award

The President presented this award for 1983/84 to Mr E G White as a mark of appreciation for his hard work and expertise in administration. Mr E G White expressed his gratitude.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance. The meeting closed at 5.34 pm.