

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Charing Cross Hotel, London, on Saturday 11th July 1987, commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:

M Goldstein OBE (President), J Prean (Chairman), A E Ransome (Deputy Chairman), P H M Hillier (Treasurer)

Vice Chairmen

D I Whiteside (Administration), C J Clemett (Competitions), A E Ransome (Development), B E Spicer (Public Relations).

Hon Life Members

Messrs R J Crayden, G James, L F Lanury, K T O Ponting, N K Reeve, A E Upton, K Watts, A J H Wickens, J M Wright, G R Yates

Vice Presidents

C A Lurden, H T Edwards, E G Fretwell, W G Goldfinch, L W Jones, K J Marchant, D J Moss, H E Pearce, Mrs D M Stannard, H J Webb

Accredited Representatives - County Associations

Avon (Mrs J L Watts), Bedfordshire (Mr G G Hammond), Berkshire (Mr J Freeman), Buckinghamshire (Mr A Catchpole), Cambridgeshire (Mr P Day), Cheshire (Mr J R Moss), Cleveland (Mr A E Ransome), Cornwall (Mrs A P Archdale), Derbyshire (Mr H Allsop), Devonshire (Mr K T O Ponting), Dorset (Mr D J Beverley), Essex (Mr C Oakman), Hampshire (Mr H Albery), Hertfordshire (Mr N Hurford), Isle of Wight (Mr B P Lamerton), Kent (Mr C Wright), Lancashire (Mr A E Upton), Lincolnshire (Mr P Taylor), Middlesex (Mr M Close), Norfolk (Mr A R Pickard), Northamptonshire (Mr K J Marchant), Northumberland (Mr A Drapkin), Nottinghamshire (Mr M Tuntingley), Staffordshire (Mr J M Blackband), Shropshire (Mr T Felton), Suffolk (Mr H F J Newman), Surrey (Mr J A J Dawson), Sussex (Mr C T Hyland), Wiltshire (Mr D M Parsons), Worcestershire (Mr D J Moss), Yorkshire (Mr E Hill)

Accredited Representatives - Non-County Local League

None

Accredited Representatives - Local Leagues

Aldershot (Mr P McCabe), Bath (Mr E Wynn), Bristol (Mrs J L Watts), Brighton (Mr B J Fretwell), Bromsgrove (Mr J Barber), Eastbourne (Mr J Woodford), Hastings (Mr C T Hyland), London Civil Service (Mr K Hackett), North Herts (Mr J Jermyn), Nuneaton (Mr S Parr), Poole (Mr D J Beverley), Wembley/Harrow (Mr G Walsh), Weston-super-Mare (Mrs A P Archdale), Worthing (Mr W G Goldfinch)

Other Members

S J Sneyd (Vice Chairman, Selection/Coaching, elect), Messrs P Avenall, B R Halliday, H G Stevens (National Councillors), Mr B R J Webb (Appeals Board), Mr R C Scruton (NURC), Mr P J Roden (Tournaments Committee), Mr D A Young (County Championships Committee), Mr M J Williams (Beds), Mr M Prior (Bucks), Mrs V Roffe, Mrs G Squier, Mr L Darnell (Essex), Mrs D Winmill (Hants), Mr N Hurford (Herts), Ms J Barella, Ms G McCulloch (Surrey), Mr J E Barber (Worcs), Mr D E Turner (Bournemouth), Mr P J Sandford (Bristol), Messrs P Cheung, P Gilles (Central), Mr J Somerville (Croydon), Messrs K Muhr, L A Wooding (Milton Keynes), Mr P A Charters (Reading), Mr and Mrs V Clack (Swindon), Mrs P Lauder (Romford), Mr G Trimming (Slough), Mr N Davison (Worksop), Mr and Mrs M Wilson (Swindon), Mrs A Reeve, Mr A Lindsay.

Organisations in Good Standing

Mr D A Lomas (English Schools TTA)

In Attendance

Messrs E J Wallbutton (Chief Executive), A W Shipley (General Secretary),
M D Watts (Deputy General Secretary), R J Stevens (Administrative Secretary),
R H Sinclair (Administrative Assistant)

Mr Goldstein (President) welcomed all present and said how pleased he was to see so many old friends. He referred to the sad passing of Tom Blunn since the last AGM and paid tribute to his many years of hard work for table tennis. He thanked people for their past services, appealed to all members to work hard for the benefit of the Association and accept that there must be changes. The President took the Chair.

1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 2053/1/AW)

Mr A J H Wickens apologised for the omission from the Agenda of the minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 12th July 1986 (document 1879/1/RJS) and obtained the meeting's approval to include the item as 6A on the Agenda. On a motion of Mr A E Upton, the report was accepted.

2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 2054/1/AW)

Standing Orders as circulated were adopted.

3. TELLERS

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mrs J L watts and Mr J M Wright be appointed Tellers for the meeting.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A k Vint OBE (Hon Life President), Messrs P Hyde, E G White, L S Woollard (Hon Life Members), Mrs N Vint, messrs L R J Constable, I R Crickmer, J McDonnell, L J Smith, P W Smith, D R Tremayne, D N Tyler (Vice Presidents), Mr M R Holt (National Councillor), Mr J A Hayward (RCC Chairman), Gloucestershire TTA, The Boys Brigade (Good Standing), National Federation of Women's Institutes (Good Standing).

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 12TH JULY 1986 (DOCUMENT 1878/1/RJS)

5.1. Accredited Representatives Mr S Parr advised that he had not represented Warwickshire TTA and asked that his name be deleted. Agreed.

5.2. Document 1878/1/RJS, as amended, was agreed and signed as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

None.

6a. Minutes of Special General Meeting held 12th July 1986 (document 1879/1/RJS).

6a.1. Document 1879/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.

7. REPORT OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The President said he proposed to go through the report section by section, and asked that any speaker give his/her name and affiliation.

- 7.1. The meeting considered the report circulated. The following points arose during discussion.
- 7.1.1. Mr D I Whiteside (Vice Chairman, Administration) said that he had edited the report of Management Committee for the past three years, mainly a case of ensuring all contributions broadly followed the same pattern. In editing the current report he had been instructed by the Chairman to omit two items, neither of which he felt were contentious, and he regretted this retrograde step. He paid tribute to the assistance given to him as Editor by Mrs C Wilkes and Mr A W Shipley. The Chairman confirmed that he had requested two items to be left out of the Report, neither of which he could recall. He was quite agreeable to have them included in the magazine. There was no question of censorship.
- 7.1.2. Foreword Mr D I Whiteside (Vice Chairman, Administration) referred to the recent election for the position of Deputy Chairman and felt that a limit should be imposed by rule on the amount of money spent by candidates in their publicity material, to avoid unfair competition. The Chairman said that the sums were not large, considerably smaller than keeping one junior on the circuit for instance and he failed to see how else candidates could keep in touch with members.
- 7.1.3. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) referred to coaching and asked what were the specific criticisms of coaching by the Sports Council. The Chairman regretted the lack of notice of the question and advised that the information was contained in a paper he had written explaining it all and he would ensure a copy was sent to Mr K Muhr. Mr P A Charters (Reading) felt the time-scale of criticism had been misrepresented as the criticisms had been made pre-May 1986 - before the appointment of a Director of Coaching with brief to tackle the problems. The Chairman replied that he had met with Mr D Carpenter of the Sports Council in December 1986 and his facts were checked before his presentation to National Council in January 1987. Mr D Fairholm had subsequently taken his case of being replaced as Director of Coaching to the Industrial Tribunal and therefore further discussions were now sub-judice. Ms G McCulloch (Surrey) felt that if the subject was now sub-judice then it should also apply to Management Committee minuting. Mr D I Whiteside (Vice Chairman Administration) felt that members had a right to ask questions at an AGM. Mr K Watts (Standing Orders Committee) advised that the Chairman also had the right not to answer questions. The Chairman said that financial irregularities had been found during the period when Mr Charters was Vice Chairman of Coaching/Selection. Mr P A Charters (Reading) said that, when Vice Chairman Selection/Coaching he had not found the time for adequate supervision, but he had asked for a professional manager to control and monitor the professional coaching staff, and when this request was finally granted with the appointment of Mr D Fairholm as Director of Coaching, then effective control was quickly achieved. The Chairman advised that both Management Committee and National Council had agreed the Coaching Scheme reorganisation, the decision had been made, and as the matter was now sub-judice he would not discuss it further. Mr A Drapkin (Northumberland) commented that in his capacity as Treasurer he had met with Mr D Carpenter and a Sports Council Panel in November 1986 and no criticisms of coaching had been made. Mr D I Whiteside (Vice Chairman Administration) said that in March/April 1986 there had been nine Centres of Excellence as contained in the Forward Plan document for Sports Council but by November 1986 three Centres had folded. The President felt that there had been enough discussion on this section and moved on to the next.

- 7.1.4. Magazine Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) felt that both the magazine and publicity had shown improvement recently.
- 7.1.5. Newsletter Mr K T O Ponting (Devon) felt that the recent newsletter showed some bias and asked that both pro and contra views be published.
- 7.1.6. Selection/Coaching Mr P A Charters (Reading) referred to the withdrawal of Mr C Prean from the England team for the World Championships in India, due to knee injury, and subsequent debate. An article on the matter had been published in the Sunday Times, containing certain allegations which he invited the Chairman to confirm or deny after reading out the article. The Chairman pointed out that the allegations were substantially incorrect but that every player had the right to accept or refuse selection if he so wished. Mr P A Charters (Reading) in reply to a question, confirmed that he had written proof that the allegations in the article were true. Mr P Day (Cambs) felt that the truth must be ascertained as the allegations were substantial. Mr A J H Wickens (Hon Life Member) reminded members of the purpose of an AGM and urged discretion as to what business was discussed. Mr P A Charters (Reading) said he had no wish to damage the proper conduct of an AGM but sought assurance that discussion would continue at the July National Council meeting for which he would produce his written proof. Mr R J Crayden (Hon Life Member) expressed concern at the current state of coaching where a booking of three months was necessary to obtain a National Coach, due to non-replacement of a National Coach, leading to increased duties and expanded areas. The Chairman replied that due to the financial situation another National Coach could not be afforded and he was unable to give assurances that there would be no redundancies. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) asked if it could be made clear in the ETTA accounts that 75% of the coaches' salary was funded by the Sports Council. Mr A E Ransome (Deputy Chairman) advised that the system of grant aid had changed and this was no longer the case. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) asked what consultation was made with Senior Coaches or Coaching Administrators before the case of Mr D Fairholm was put to Management Committee? The Chairman replied that there had been no consultation as it was a staffing matter. Mr P A Charters (Reading) referred to the apparent acceptance by the Coaching Committee of the Coaching Restructure, and pointed out that Mr A E Ransome (Deputy Chairman) had wrongly directed that three people in attendance were not allowed to vote - in fact the professional staff had the right to vote since 1984 and had they been allowed to vote the result would have been different. Mr A E Ransome agreed that the staff had not voted. The Chairman regretted the continued discussion of a sub-judice matter. He was not present at the meeting but he understood that the matter had been discussed with each Regional Coaching Chairman. Of the nine, one had resigned, the rest he was told had approved.
- 7.1.7. ITTF Mr K Watts (Hon Life Member) referred to his scepticism at the last AGM (Minute 7.1.9.) that the Indian Government would prevent Israel from attending the World Championships in India, as had happened. He had heard of only two protests being received, one being by ETTA and he hoped that the ITTF would not grant the World Championships to India again.
- 7.1.8. ETTU Mr G R Yates (Hon Life Member) reported that Israel had asked to join the ETTU and their application had yet to be discussed.
- 7.1.9. Olympics Mr D I Whiteside (Vice Chairman, Administration) asked what were the financial arrangements for Olympic training between the Home Countries. Ireland, Scotland and Wales were each to receive £1,000 and England would receive £4,000 to stage the joint training camps etc. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman had negotiated terms more favourable to the ETTA than was previously the case.

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- 7.1.10. Obituary The meeting noted with regret that Mr D Penhaligan (President of Cornwall TTA) had died during the season and his name should be added to the Report.
- 7.1.11. Appeals In reply to a question from Mr E Hill (Yorkshire), Mr A J H Wickens confirmed that there was still one Appeal outstanding, but added it should shortly be finalised.
- 7.1.12. Headquarters Staff The Chief Executive, Mr E J Wallbutton, was introduced to the meeting. Mr D I Whiteside (Vice Chairman, Administration) paid tribute to the staff for their loyalty and hard work, and urged all members to support the staff.
- 7.1.13. Archives Mrs A P Archdale (Cornwall) asked if old equipment could be considered for the Archives. The General Secretary regretted that this was not practical at the moment.
- 7.1.14. Appendix 1 - Table 2 The meeting noted that Mr H Albert (Hampshire) had attended four National Council meetings.
- 7.1.15. Appendix 5 - Table 4 Mr K T O Ponting (Administrator) reported that Apollo (Willesden) had won the men's cup and Vagabonds (Wembley/Harrow) had won the women's cup.
- 7.2. Adoption of Report Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) paid tribute to Mr D I Whiteside for editing the Report, and regretted that the opportunity had not been taken in the Report to thank Messrs A Drapkin, G R Yates and K T O Ponting for their efforts over many years. Agreed that their acknowledgement should be added to the report. Mr A E Upton and Mr R J Crayden (hon Life Members) moved and seconded the adoption of the Management Committee report.

The meeting stood in tribute to the late Tom Blunn.

8. REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASON 1987/88 (Documents 1988/23/AW, 2057/23/AW and 2045/23/AW)

- 8.1. The reports were noted. Mr J M Wright (Hon Life Member) paid tribute to Mr A J H Wickens as Returning Officer.

9. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1987/88 (Document 2044/23/AWS)

- 9.1. The report was noted. Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) paid tribute to the retiring Vice Chairmen Messrs P A Charters, C J Clemett, B E Spicer and D I Whiteside.

10. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1987/88 (Document 2058/23/AW)

- 10.1. The report was noted.

11. REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1987

11.1. The Treasurer, Mr P H M Hillier, was introduced to the meeting. Mr A Drapkin (Northumberland) referred to the adjustments made to the unaudited draft accounts prepared by himself and questioned the wisdom of changing the accounting policy which had been established for many years. The Treasurer stated that it was essential that the accounts give a true and fair view of the loss for the year and the position as at the end of the year. Therefore the tables, which were shown at a value of £25,920 in the draft accounts, had been written off as the Association had not incurred any cost in acquiring the right to sell them. It was only correct to show income from the tables in the year in which an invoice for sale or hire was raised. A conservative policy had to be adopted from now on, which meant that income would only be shown in the accounts when it was properly earned. The premium bonds had been written off as they were being held on behalf of the '100 Club' and did not belong to the Association. An extra £5,000 had been set aside as a provision for part of the expected cost of repairs to 21 Claremont prior to the lease expiring in July 1988. The Auditors were in agreement with the change of accounting policy, and the Treasurer read out their report, just received. Following further discussion on accounting policies and presentation, Mr A E Ransome referred to the very serious financial situation and the urgent need to remedy it. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) felt that all ETTA members should be appealed to but the Chairman spoke against this. Mr K Muhr asked if the accounts could be presented in a more favourable way to make redundancies more unlikely. The Treasurer felt the ETTA must be realistic. Mr N Davison (Worksop) proposed and Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) seconded that the Report of the Treasurer, the Report of the Auditors and statement of Accounts be accepted. Carried on a show of hands.

12. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (NUMBERS 1 AND 3 TO 13 PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL

12.1. Proposition No. 1 (moved by Mr K Watts, Rules Committee)

Add new rule:

"3.3a. To support the International Table Tennis Federation by accepting the attachment of developing organisations located outside England in accordance with ITTF Rules"

The proposition was carried nem con.

12.2. Proposition No. 2: (to be proposed by Mr B P Lamerton on behalf of the Isle of Wight County TTA)

Amend Rule 11.1.1. After "Vice-Presidents," delete "who" and insert: "and may have a Deputy President, all of whom"

Amend Rule 11.1.2: After "President" insert ",Deputy President"

Amend Rule 11.1.3: After "President" insert ",Deputy President"

Amend Rule 11.1.4: After "President" insert ",Deputy President"

Amend Rule 11 Title: After "PRESIDENT" insert ",DEPUTY PRESIDENT"

Amend Rule 5.1.1: After "President," insert "Deputy President (if elected),"

Amend Rule 28.2: After "President" insert ", Deputy President"

Amend Rule 28.5.10: After "President" insert ", Deputy President"

On being put to the vote, the proposition was defeated on a show of hands.

Note: Motion under 45.5. was not proceeded with as proposition No. 2 was defeated.

- 12.3. Proposition No. 3 (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Amend Rule 13.3:
Delete "All"; for "retire annually at" substitute "serve from the end of the Annual General Meeting following their election or appointment until", before "Annual General Meeting" insert "next"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.4. Proposition No. 4 (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Add new rule:
"13.4a. A person elected or appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall take office immediately the result of the election is determined or the appointment is made"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.5. Proposition No. 5 (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Amend Rule 14.5:
After "League" delete "." and insert ", from the date of payment of Affiliation Fees"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.6. Proposition No. 6 (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Amend Rule 15.7:
For "it had in membership at the previous 1st January or at the beginng of the current season whichever is the later" substitute "shown in the Electoral Register"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.7. Proposition No. 7: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Amend rule 16.2:
For "Such" substitute "The"
Add new rule:
"16.11. Unless directed otherwise by the National Council the Management Committee may delegate any of its duties and powers to a sub-committee or to an individual"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.8. Proposition No. 8: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Amend Rule 16.8: For "six" substitute "seven"
Amend Rule 16.10: For "five" substitute "six"
Amend Rule 17.2: For "five" substitute "six"
Amend Rule 17.4: For "sixth" substitute "seventh"
On being put to the vote, the proposition was carried with 20 votes for, 7 against.
- 12.9. Proposition No. 9: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Delete Rule 32.3.
Delete Rule 4.1.14.
Amend Rule 10:
After "Club" for ",," substitute "and"; delete "and Permit Holder."
Delete Rule 22.4.
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.10. Proposition No. 10: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Add new rule:
"32.7a. Any person present at a General Meeting having a financial interest in a subject to be discussed shall declare that interest. A person with a financial interest in a subject may be debarred from participation in the discussion of that subject if a simple majority of the Accredited Representatives present so resolve. Whether or not such a resolution is carried, he shall not be debarred from being present during the discussion nor, if he is an Accredited Representative, from voting"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.

- 12.11. Proposition No. 11: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Add new rule:
"32.9a. A Member entering an Open Tournament shall give an undertaking to observe the regulations of the tournament, to abide by the decisions of the Referee and to fulfil the schedule of play arranged for him unless prevented by circumstances beyond his control and accepted as such by the Referee and shall comply with that undertaking"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.12. Proposition No. 12: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Add new rule:
"34.1a. Any appeal under this rule against a decision of the chairman at a General Meeting or a meeting of the National Council or the Management Committee or a sub-committee may not be made until after the closure of the meeting."
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 12.13. Proposition No. 13: (moved by K Watts, Rules Committee)
Amend rule 37.2.
After "any such appeal." add "Such regulations shall be included in Appendix 'O' to these Rules"
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.
- 13. **REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS FOR 1987/88 (Document 2059/1/CJC)**
 - 13.1. Mr C J Clemett referred to his report and advised that the word "upwards" was likely to disappear and that the amendments would take effect from 1st July 1987. The amendments are as follows:
 - 3.6.4. The server shall then project the ball upwards, by hand only and without imparting spin, so that it rises at least 16cm after leaving the palm of the free hand.
(NOTE: The 16cm does not relate to the distance travelled by the ball but to the vertical measurement between the plane in which the ball was when projected by the free hand and the highest plane it reaches before being struck by the racket).
 - 3.13.2. Play shall be continuous throughout a match except that any player shall be entitled to claim an interval of not more than two minutes between successive games.
 - 13.2. Motions Relating to the Laws of Table Tennis (document 2056/1/CJC)
 - 13.2.1. Motion A THAT this AGM directs the National Council to exercise its power under Rule 42.7.1. and authorise any local league which wishes to do so to allow the use of uncovered rackets in its domestic competitions during the season 1987/88. Mr C J Clemett (Vice Chairman) moved the motion. Carried nem con.
 - 13.2.2. Motion B THAT this AGM directs the National Council to apply to Open Tournaments, County Championships, British League, National Team knock-out competitions and any other events covered by the ETA computer ranking scheme during the season 1987/88 the following ITTF regulation (4.2.1.1.3.): The surface of one side of the racket shall be bright red and the surface of the other side shall be black, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball.
Mr C J Clemett (Vice Chairman) moved the motion. Carried nem con.

- 13.2.3. Motion C THAT this AGM directs the National Council to authorise any County Association or Local League which wishes to do so to adopt for season 1987/88 the regulation contained in Motion B for its own competitions, but so that no County Association shall have power to direct a Local League to adopt it for that League's domestic competitions.
Mr C J Clemett (Vice Chairman) moved the motion. Carried nem con.

14. ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Note: Not proceeded with as Proposition No. 2 was defeated.

15. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

- 15.1. The meeting agreed, on the proposal of the President on behalf of the National Council, to a further three year term of the retiring Vice Presidents:

C Burden	J A Leach MBE	D S Purr	A W C Simons
B G Fretwell	Miss I Moss	A E Ransome	A A Wall
W G Goldfinch	C A Owen	Mrs S Sandor	R Williams
A Hydes	H E Pearce	J Siddron	

- 15.2. The meeting noted that there were no nominations for new Vice Presidents.

16. ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The President 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.

17. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

It was agreed nem con that Messrs Spain Bros., Jukes and Company be re-elected.

18. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- 18.1. Mr P A Charters (Reading) asked that the meeting offer congratulations to Desmond Douglas on his award of the MBE. Agreed.
- 18.2. Mr P A Charters (Reading) sought and obtained permission for his documentary evidence on the Sunday Times article to be presented at the July 1987 National Council meeting.

There being no further business, the President received the meeting's congratulations on his handling of a difficult meeting, and declared the meeting closed at 6.36 pm.