

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Charing Cross Hotel, London, on Saturday 8th July 1989 commencing at 2.00 pm

 Present: J A Leach MBE (President), J Prean (Chairman), A E Ransome (Deputy Chairman & VC Marketing/Promotions), P H M Hillier (Treasurer)
Vice Chairmen: M A Allsop (Administration), C Wright (Competitions), S J Sneyd (Selection/Coaching)
Hon Life Members: Messrs C J Clemett, G James, Mrs D M Stannard, A E Upton, K Watts, E G White, A J H Wickens
Vice Presidents: C A Burden, Mrs E Carrington, W G Goldfinch, K J Marchant, D J Moss, L J Smith, H J Webb
Accredited Representatives - County Associations: Buckinghamshire (Mr A C Catchpole), Cheshire (Mr D Hale), Cleveland (Mr A E Ransome), Cornwall (Mrs A P Archdale), Derbyshire (Mr M Allsop), Dorset (Mr D J Beverley), Essex (Mrs G Squier), Gloucestershire (Mr L J Smith), Hampshire (Mr H Albery), Hertfordshire (Mr H Stevens), Isle of Wight (Mr B P Lamerton), Kent (Mr C A Burden), Lancashire (Mr A E Upton), Lincolnshire (Mr K Eliot), Middlesex (Mr M Close), Northamptonshire (Mr K J Marchant), Somerset (Mr A Carey), 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), Warwickshire (Mr B D Lloyd), 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: Wembley/Harrow (Mr G Walsh)
Other Members: Mr S Parr (County Championships Committee), Mr R C Scruton (Tournaments Committee), Mr B R J Webb (Appeals Board), Mrs J Ransome (Women's Committee), Mrs E Prean (Isle of Wight), Miss G McCulloch (Surrey), Mr M Prior (Buckinghamshire), Mr P Roden (Brentwood), Mr A J Longbottom (Humberside), Mr M Sheader (Grimsby), Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes), Mr D Sargeant (Hull), Mr and Mrs R Clack (Swindon), Mr D J Moss (Worcester), Mrs P Lauder (Romford), Messrs R J Darnell, P C Linnecar (Team Peniel)
Organisations in Good Standing: Mr D A Lomas (English Schools TTA)
In Attendance: Mr E J Wallbuton (Chief Executive), Mr A W Shipley (General Secretary), Ms J Hughes (Events Manager), Mr R J Stevens (Finance Officer), Mr R H Sinclair (Events Assistant), Mr D C Gray (Development Officer)

Mr J Prean (Chairman) welcomed all present and took the chair.

1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 2436/1/AW)
 On a motion by Mr K Watts, seconded by Mr A E Upton, the report was adopted.
2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 2432/1/AW)
 Standing Orders as circulated were accepted.
3. TELLERS
 It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr R J Darnell and Mr D Sargeant be appointed Tellers for the meeting. They were reminded that Tellers could not take part in debate.
4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
 All apologies for absence were noted.

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5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 9TH JULY 1988 (DOCUMENT 2235/1/RJS)
 - 5.1. Minute 4 - Apologies
The Chairman apologised for the misspelling of some of the names.
 - 5.2. Minute 9.1.5
The meeting noted the deletion of "word" in the third line.
 - 5.3. Minute 14.4
The meeting noted that Mr P Smith was a Vice President.
 - 5.4. Mr H Albery (Hants) proposed and Mrs A P Archdale (Cornwall) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Carried on a show of hands.. Document 2235/1/RJS, as amended, was agreed and signed as a true record.
6. MATTERS ARISING
 - 6.1. Minute 23.2
Mr S Parr (Nuneaton) asked if Management Committee had examined the dates of future AGM's in light of cheaper off-peak fares. The Chairman replied that as conflicting views had been expressed they had not carried out a review. The General Secretary reminded the meeting of the rule relating to the date of the AGM.
7. MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 9TH JULY 1988 (DOCUMENT 2236/1/RJS)
 - 7.1. Mrs A P Archdale (Cornwall) proposed and Mr H Albery (Hants) seconded, acceptance of the minutes. Carried on a show of hands. Document 2236/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.
8. MATTERS ARISING
None.
9. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
The Chairman thanked Mr M Allsop (Vice Chairman, Administration) for his editorship and said he would go through the report section by section.
 - 9.1. The meeting considered the report circulated. The following points arose during discussion:
 - 9.1.1. Development: Mr A Carey (Somerset) asked what was the Development Programme for England and players. He felt that a broader look should be taken at the country as a whole, with development of skills paramount amongst grass roots rather than technical short cuts.
 - 9.1.2. Magazine: The Chairman confirmed that free copies of the magazine would continue to be distributed in line with current policy. The present situation with editorship was that the magazine would be produced in the office, but this was subject to discussions being held shortly with a late volunteer.
 - 9.1.3. Coaching: Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) referred to the apparent drop in the numbers of registrations and awards compared to previous seasons and asked what conclusions should be drawn. Mr S Sneyd (VC Selection/Coaching) replied that although there had been a fee increase not too much notice should be taken of individual figures, and instanced an increase in Senior Coach Awards. The restructure of Coaching was a five year plan and should be examined in detail on conclusion. The Chairman felt that coaching courses had improved compared to ten years ago and it was important to turn out coaches who coached and look at quality rather than quantity. Mr S Sneyd referred to the Coaching Overview and said that the response from grass roots had generally been disappointing and appealed for more help. A questionnaire seeking information on local coaches had been sent to all leagues.
 - 9.1.4. Centres of Excellence: Mr M Close (Middlesex) said that although he welcomed the tightening up of procedures for all Centres of Excellence, he was most disturbed to learn of the sudden closure of one in his area, Harrow, and sought explanation. Mr S J Sneyd referred to the bad administration problems from this Centre over a long period, despite numerous warnings, which could not be allowed to continue.

9.1.4. Centres of Excellence (Continued)

All regional coaching chairmen had been informed of possible action if administration was not tightened up. The Chairman said that there must always be strict controls where public and Association monies were involved and, as mentioned, there had been repeated warnings. Miss G McCulloch (Surrey) felt that many people would be willing to be the administrator but the appointment was national, not regional. Several speakers spoke in favour of a possible reprieve under a new administrator, which the Chairman noted. Mr S J Sneyd reported the proposal for three National Centres of Excellence and explained the policy. New input and emphasis were needed for the various awards.

9.1.5. Tournaments: Mr R C Scruton (Tournaments Committee) referred to paragraph 39.1 and felt that the clashes between County Championships and Open tournaments gave the most problems to participants.

9.1.6. Appeals: Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) said from personal knowledge there had in fact been one appeal lodged.

9.1.7. Obituary: Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) reported that a trust had been set up for Mark Sayer and donations would be welcomed.

9.1.8. Table 4: The General Secretary reported that the number of Tournament Committee meetings should read 3.

9.2. Adoption of Report: Mr C A Burden (Vice President) and Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) moved and seconded the adoption of the Management Committee report. Agreed

10. REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASON 1989/90 (Document 2299/23/AW)

10.1. The report was noted.

11. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1989/90 (Document 2312/23/AWS)

11.1. The report was noted.

12. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1989/90 (Document 2434/23/AWS)

12.1. The report was noted.

13. REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1989

13.1. The Treasurer was delighted to report a surplus of about £103,000. This had been achieved by good sponsorship, economies and general all round efficiency. He hoped that everyone had had ample time to examine the accounts and invited questions. Mr D A Lomas (ESTTA) asked whether regional accounts could be incorporated in the same year as the ETTA accounts. The Treasurer said that due to the time factor and the difficulty in getting regional information in time, it would not be possible. A financial statement on regions would be produced as soon as possible. The Deputy Chairman said that regions were not permitted to overspend and the Treasurer closely monitored everything. The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for doing a first class job, saying that the past year had proved to be the greatest financial year in the Association's history. The Chairman said that the great improvement which had taken place over two years from a loss of nearly £50,000 to a profit of over £100,000 was due to both wealth creation, particularly numerous excellent promotions and an examination of all costs followed by cost-cutting. Good though the turnaround was, it did no more than was necessary. It had wiped out the previous loss and would enable the Association to get through the summer without the £50,000 overdraft of the past. Continued vigilance and efficiency was necessary but at the same time more funds were now available to promote the sport and to assist our members in good local development schemes. Mr H Albery (Hants) proposed and Mr A C 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.

14. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (Proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr K Watts, Rules Committee)

14.1. Proposition No.1

Amend Rule 13.1: Before "Officers" insert "Except as provided by Rule 13.10,"

Insert new rule:

"13.10. Removal of Officer

13.10.1. Any Officer may be removed from Office by a resolution of the National Council.

13.10.2. At least seven days' written notice of intention to propose such a resolution must be given to all members of the National Council.

13.10.3. Such a resolution shall be carried only if at least two thirds of the votes cast are in favour."

Mr A C Catchpole (Bucks) spoke against the motion as he felt it was dangerous to give too much power to National Council and pointed out that Officers were elected by the membership. Mr E G White (Hon Life Member) advised the meeting that Rules Committee had acted on National Council's instructions in compiling suitable wording.

The proposition was defeated on a show of hands. A card vote was not called for.

14.2. Proposition No.2

For Rule 27.4 substitute the following:

"27.4.1. The trustees shall be indemnified by the Association against risk and expense.

27.4.2. If the assets under the direct control of the Association are insufficient to meet the obligations of the Association under Rule 27.4.1 the trustees shall be indemnified out of the funds of the County Associations affiliated to the Association.

27.4.3. If the aggregate funds of all the County Associations exceed the sum required, County Associations shall contribute in proportions corresponding to the totals of Affiliation Fees payable to the ETTA by the Local Leagues affiliated to each County Association.

27.4.4. If the assets of the County Associations are insufficient any residual obligation to the trustees shall be borne by all the Officers and National Councillors in equal shares."

The proposition was carried nem con.

14.3. Proposition No.3

Insert new rule:

"34.6a. Notwithstanding Rule 34.6, an adjudicating body shall have discretion to hear an appeal made later than the end of the period of 21 days prescribed by that rule."

The proposition was carried nem con.

14.4. Proposition No.4

Amend Rule 37.3: After "adjudicated by" insert "a panel consisting of"

Amend Rule 37.4: For "Board" substitute "panel" in two places; after "decide the appeal" for ", except that, where" substitute ". However, if"; for "upheld on" substitute "successful because of"; after "technicality" delete "only"; after "technicality ... or" delete "due to"; for "irregularity" substitute "error" in two places; after "appealed against," (first time) delete "then".

Amend Rule 37.5: For "Board" substitute "panel"

Amend Rule 37.6: For "Board" substitute "panel"

(Note: Rule 37.4 as amended would read: "The panel shall decide the appeal. However, if the appeal would be successful only because of a technicality, or a procedural error by the body appealed against, the panel may remit the matter to be dealt with afresh by the body appealed against, with a direction regarding the technicality or procedural error")

The proposition was carried nem con.

14.5. Proposition No.5

Amend rule 37.2: Delete "being"; for "determined" substitute "governed by regulations made"; delete "a copy of the regulations ... Such regulations shall be"

(Note: Rule 37.2 as amended would read: "The procedure for matters dealt with by the Board of Appeal shall be governed by regulations made by the Board and included in Appendix 'O' to these Rules.")

The proposition was carried nem con.

15. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (Document 2438/AWS)(Proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr A Wickens, Rules Committee)

15.1. 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 1989/90.

Carried nem con.

15.2. 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 ETTA computer ranking scheme during the season 1989/90 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.

Carried nem con.

15.3. 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 1989/90 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.

Carried nem con.

16. MOTION RELATING TO WAIVING OF AFFILIATION FEES (Document 2439/1/AW) (Proposed on behalf of Hull & District TTA by Mr E Hill)

16.1. MOTION

THAT this Annual General Meeting directs the National Council to consider whether there should be discretion for Affiliation Fees due in respect of new or prospective teams/clubs to be waived for the first season on application by the Local League concerned and if so, to submit appropriate Rule Change Propositions to the 1989/90 Annual General Meeting@.

Mr E Hill (Yorkshire) said that Yorkshire TTA felt that this would be a good encouragement to attract new members. Mr A C Catchpole (Bucks) spoke against the motion as he felt that people should be prepared to pay for their sport. The motion was defeated on a show of hands.

17. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

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

H Flinton	H T Edwards	E Jones MBE	L W Jones
F E Clay	T M Honey	J C McKim	Mrs E Betts
G Daniels	D D Plowes	D J Moss	J M McDonnell
Dr D Ryde	Rev B J Rowley	D R Tremayne	H J Webb

17.2. 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:

Harold Albery - Secretary and Councillor for Hampshire
Mrs Wendy Cunningham - Public Relations Manager of the Leeds Permanent Building Society

17.2. (Continued)

Mrs Jill Hammersley-Parker - Former European Champion and three times winner of Europe Top 12.

Albert Shipley - ETTA staff member since 1967 and General Secretary since 1976.

Mr H Albery and Mr A W Shipley were pleased to receive their badges and expressed their pleasure at the honour. Letters had been received from Mrs W Cunningham and Mrs J Hammersley-Parker expressing their delight in accepting the honour.

18. 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 K Watts, retiring member, be re-elected.

19. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

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

20. AWARDS

20.1. Ivor Montagu Award: The President presented the award to Mr S J Sneyd in recognition of his outstanding work on re-vamping the National Coaching Scheme.

20.2. Victor Barna Award: The Chairman reported that National Council had approved the award to Alan Cooke for his consistency of performance and for retaining the national title under extreme pressure. A suitable opportunity would be found to make the formal presentation to him.

20.3. Leslie Forrest Memorial Award: The President presented the award to Mrs Phyllis Lauder (Essex) in recognition of her outstanding work in the area of County Championships.

20.4. Malcolm Scott Award: The President presented the award to Mr Peter Hillier for his work on the computerisation of the accounts.

21. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

21.1. Mr E Hill (Yorks) was pleased to report that David Hope (Bradford) had won the Gold Medal in the Handicapped Olympics in Seoul. The Chairman asked that full details be given for inclusion in Table Tennis News.

21.2. The meeting agreed that the Maurice Goldstein Memorial Trophy should be included in the Awards section of the Annual Management Report.

21.3. Mrs J Ransome (Women's Committee) extended an invitation to attend a forthcoming seminar on women in table tennis and urged support for a three match ladies international v West Germany series to be held in September.

21.4. In conclusion, the President paid tribute to the way the sport had progressed and to the high standards achieved by National Council and Management Committee under the leadership of the Chairman.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.30 pm.