

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Charing Cross Hotel, London, on Saturday 14th July 1990 commencing at 2.00 pm

Present: J A Leach MBE (President), J Prean (Chairman), A E Ransome (Deputy Chairman & VC Marketing and Promotions), P H M Hillier (Treasurer)

Vice Chairmen

M Allsop (Administration), S J Sneyd (Selection/Coaching), G R Yates

Hon Life Members

Messrs C J Clemett, R J Crayden, G James, N K Reeve, Mrs D M Stannard, A E Upton, K Watts, E G White, A J H Wickens J M Wright

Vice Presidents

C A Burden, F E Clay, B G Fretwell, D J Moss, H J Webb

Accredited Representatives - County Associations

Avon (Miss J L Watts), Bedfordshire (Mr G G Hammond), Berkshire (Mr B R Halliday), Buckinghamshire (Mr A C Catchpole), Cheshire (Mr T Vardon), Cleveland (Mrs J Ransome), Cornwall (Mrs A P Archdale), Derbyshire (Mr M Allsop), Devonshire (Mr K T O Ponting), Essex (Mrs G Squier), 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), Middlesex (Mr M Close), Northamptonshire (Mr G R Evans), Somerset (Mr A Carey), Staffordshire (Mr J M Blackband), Surrey (Mr J A J Dawson), Sussex (Mr C T Hyland), Warwickshire (Mr G Taylor), 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

Brighton (Mr B N Pettitt), Bristol (Mrs J L Watts), Derby (Mr M Allsop), Eastbourne (Mr J Woodford), North Herts (Mr J Jermyn), Stafford (Mr A Wates), Wembley/Harrow (Mr G Walsh), Weston super Mare (Mrs A P Archdale), Nuneaton (Mr S Parr)

Other Members

Mr J Randall (NURC), Mr R S Scruton and Mr P Roden (Tournaments Committee), Mr B R J Webb (Appeals Board), Mrs E Prean (Isle of Wight), Mr L Darnell, Mrs M Darnell (Essex), Mr B E Spicer (Sussex), Mr D Bayne-Turner (Bournemouth), Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes), Mrs D Jermyn (North Herts), Mrs P Lauder (Romford), Mr D Howes (Staines), Mr and Mrs R Clack (Swindon), Mr J Jablon (Linda Farrow TTC), Mr P Linnear and Mr M Reid (Team Peniel), Mrs V Roffe (Barclays Bank plc)

Organisations in Good Standing

Mr R Hunt (British Sports Association for the Disabled)

In Attendance

Mr E J Wallbutton (Chief Executive), Mr A W Shipley (General Secretary), Mr R J Stevens (Finance Officer), Mr R H Sinclair (Deputy Events Manager), Mr D C Gray (Development Officer)

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

1. **REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 2488/1/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 Clack and Mr D Howes 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.

5. **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 8TH JULY 1989 (DOCUMENT 2362/1/RJS)**

Mr H Albery Hants) proposed and Mrs A P Archdale (Cornwall) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Document 2362/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

6.1. Minute 9.1.7.

Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) reported that donations should be made to the Meningitis Trust.

6.2. Minute 9.1.3.

Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) asked what feedback had been obtained from the questionnaire sent to all leagues seeking information on coaches, as he felt this report on basic coaching was most important to record. Mr S J Sneyd (VC Selection/Coaching) said that the number and standard of replies was disappointing. The Chairman referred to previous attempts to establish a coaching register which had never materialised. Mr D Gray (Development Officer) reported that Mr B J Rowley (Coaching Committee) had recently volunteered to continue the setting up of a coaching register.

7. **REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Chairman referred to the new streamline version of the report, which had been produced in house to save costs, and said he would go through the report section by section. The following points arose during discussion:

7.1. Foreword Mr K Muhr sought clarification from the Chairman as to what other suggestions had been received in respect of the £100,000 Development Fund. The Chairman listed a number, all of which would only benefit minorities. The funds would go to member leagues (associations) in order to promote the sport in their areas. The Chairman confirmed that no sponsorship enquiries had been received as result of the recent adoption of Mr Chen Xinhua as an England player. Mr Muhr suggested that the chairman might make it a self-fulfilling prophecy by not marketing the player. The Chairman pointed out that he did not have the specific responsibility for Marketing, neither was it part of his brief to obtain sponsorship. That was handled by the Marketing Committee and the Chief Executive. He assisted when asked to do so or in the case of the Leeds Building Society before a Chief Executive had been signed, where he assisted in the presentation and ultimately met the Board at their request in order to state the case for sponsorship of the sport. Mr A E Ransome confirmed the above and stated that the whole England team would be vigorously marketed.

7.2. Administration In reply to a question from Mr J Jermyn (North Herts), the Chief Executive confirmed that the terms of reference for individual staff members were freely available on request. The meeting fully endorsed the tribute made to the General Secretary.

7.3. Board of Appeal Mr J Wright (Life Member) greatly regretted the long delays in bringing appeals to a conclusion. The Chairman agreed with his remarks but pointed out that Appeals were the responsibility of National Council. Proposals to speed up appeals would again be made to Council on 28th July. Management Committee had not been given powers to deal with such matters. If it had, they would have been dealt with more swiftly.

7.4. Competitions Mr A Carey (Somerset) regretted there was no mention of the two very successful women's competitions. The Chairman said that these would be referred to later in Development Section. Mr E G White (Life Member) commented on the misuse of the word "I" as the report was of the Management Committee who were a body. Noted. Mr J Wright (Life Member) said as an ex long serving member of the English Championships Committee he had been disappointed to learn that all serving members had resigned. He invited the meeting to record their appreciation for valuable service.

- 7.4. cont.
Mr A E Ransome (Chairman, Marketing Committee) explained that they had not resigned but retired as a Committee and Marketing Committee would be making use of their expertise. Mr M Close (Middlesex) regretted that County Championships Conference had not been given the opportunity to comment on the CC paragraph, as was the custom, and felt the brevity did an injustice.
- 7.5. Marketing and Promotion Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) asked if Marketing Committee agreed with the views of the Chairman that there had been a lack of interest in Chen Xinhua and consequently there was little marketing potential. Mr A E Ransome (Chairman, Marketing Committee) replied that he had no wish to comment further, and accepted the Chairman's previous replies. Mr P Linnecar (Peniel) referred to a fall in membership of 15% over the last five years and 13% in clubs, and asked for the Marketing Committee's views. Mr A E Ransome agreed the figures but said that there were encouraging signs. Open tournament, British League, County Championships, Veterans entries were all increasing and £100,000 was being spent to reverse the decline. Mr M Reid (Peniel) felt that in fact less and less youngsters were playing and a major factor was that they were being priced out of the game. Commercial interests were taking too much prominence in product marketing strategy. The Chairman said that the fall in membership was due to various factors and instanced birth patterns. Falls of as high as 8% had been recorded in previous years. At least the figure was now down to a little over 3%. Leagues with active development schemes had increased their membership. Following a long discussion on the strategy and concentration needed to combat declining membership, Mr A E Ransome said that his Committee would take note of suggestions made. He always meticulously declared any commercial interest and had never found any personal problems of conflict. Indeed his professional marketing experience had often proved invaluable. All trade matters were handled by the Chairman and Chief Executive solely.
- 7.6. Centres of Excellence Mr G Walsh (Wembley/Harrow) felt that it was bad policy to reduce grants to centres of excellence by £200 and that due to inflation they should realistically be increased by that sum. Mr S J Sneyd (VC Selection/Coaching) pointed out that larger funds had in fact been allocated to the Centre of Excellence scheme. There would be a number of weekends in Lilleshall in addition to the regional centres. This meant lower allocations to regional centres, including a further reduction next season. The opportunity existed for regional Sports Council grants. He had found no difficulty running a regional centre on the funds available. The Chairman said he had visited one of the National Excellence Camps the previous weekend and was impressed. He confirmed that larger funds overall had been made available in respect of Centres of Excellence over the years even during a time of financial crisis which he found after being elected to his office.
- 7.7. Computer Ranking Scheme Mr G Evans (Northants) referred to his successful ranking scheme for Northamptonshire, details of which he had sent to HQ. He had received neither an acknowledgement nor an explanation as to why his scheme had been rejected in favour of the system now used. The Chief Executive said that he had written in reply, although not received, and the experts on the Ranking Committee had chosen the system of Mr Wooding for reasons unpublished. The Chairman regretted the lack of notice of the question. He recalled Mr Evans' letter and had delegated the matter to Mr Donald Parker with whom Mr Evans, he understood, had discussed the matter. The ranking panel had decided on the current scheme. He pointed out also that this involved over 20,000 entries pa and warned that mistakes were inevitable.
- 7.8. Development The Chairman invited Mr D Gray (Development Officer) to give a brief resume of his activities. Mr D Gray said that the highlight of the season was the creation of a £100,000 league development fund. He had visited many leagues and local authorities all over the country and

- 7.8. cont.
good progress was being made in schools and sports centres. Mr M Close (Middlesex) expressed concern at the concentration at local league level which left a vacuum and he felt resources should be spent over a wider area. Mrs J Ransome referred to the successful development of women's activities over the past year with promotions and coaching activities. Following further discussion, Mr S Parr (Nuneaton) drew attention to standing orders and proposed next business. Seconded by Mrs J L Watts (Avon). Carried nem con.
- 7.9. Adoption of Report Mr B R Halliday (Berkshire) and Mrs A P Archdale (Cornwall) moved and seconded the acceptance of the Management Committee Report - agreed.
8. **REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASON 1990/91 (DOCUMENT 2449/23/AW)**
- 8.1. The report was noted.
9. **REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1990/91 (DOCUMENT 2479/23/AWS)**
- 9.1. The report was noted.
10. **REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1990/91 (DOCUMENT 2489/23/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 1990**
- 11.1. The Treasurer was delighted to report the most successful financial year in the Association's history, but he could not foresee this being repeated. He hoped that everyone had had ample time to examine the accounts and invited questions. Mr A Waters (Stafford) referred to the non-expenditure on seminars and questioned whether this money could be put to better use. Mr A E Ransome replied that some seminars were planned and Mr S Parr requested seminars for grass root administrators. Mr G R Yates (Vice Chairman) proposed and Mr C A Burden (Vice President) seconded that the Report of the Treasurer, the Report of Auditors and Statement of Accounts be accepted. Carried on a show of hands.
12. **PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (PROPOSITIONS No's 1 AND 2) (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF SLOUGH AND DISTRICT TTL, BY MR P HILLIER, AND PROPOSITION No.3 PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL BY MR K WATTS, RULES COMMITTEE**
- 12.1. PROPOSITION No. 1
- 12.1.1. Amend rule 28.9.1. after "National Council" insert ", Management Committee,". Mr P Hillier spoke in favour of the motion which was felt to be merely commonsense. Mr H Albery (Hants) seconded the motion and it was put to the vote. A card vote was called for and the motion was defeated by 16875 votes for, 18062 against.
- 12.2. PROPOSITION No. 2
- 12.2.1. Amend Rule 32.13.2. for "the authorised official until after completion of the whole event or events" substitute "an authorised official".
Mr P Hillier spoke in favour of the motion which was felt to be a need to tidy up the situation. Mr H Albery (Herts) seconded the motion and it was put to the vote. A card vote was called for and as the appointed Tellers were already carrying out their official duties it was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr A J H Wickens and Mr E J Wallbutton be appointed ad hoc Tellers for that particular vote. The motion was defeated by 18043 votes for, 13401 against, a two thirds majority being required.
- 12.3. PROPOSITION No. 3
- 12.3.1. Amend Rule 33.10. After "Any members" insert ", former Members".
Amend Rule 33.11. After "Members" insert ", former Members".
The proposition was carried on a show of hands.

13. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (DOCUMENT 2491/AWS) (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL BY MR A WICKENS, RULES COMMITTEE)

13.1. 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 1990/91.

Carried nem con.

13.2. 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 1990/91 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.

13.3. 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 1990/91 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.

14. MOTION "A" RELATING TO WAIVING OF AFFILIATION FEES (DOCUMENT 2492/1/AW) (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF HULL AND DISTRICT TTA BY MR E HILL)

14.1. THAT this Annual Meeting considers that the English Table Tennis Association should have discretion to waive affiliation fees in respect of prospective new teams in their first season of membership provided that:

- (a) Application is made on their behalf by the local affiliated table tennis association
- (b) the local association is satisfied that such teams have the potential to become full fee paying members in subsequent seasons

and directs the National Council to formulate and propose any necessary changes of rule. Mr E Hill (Yorkshire) said that it was felt that this would be a good encouragement to grass roots and improve membership. Mr J M Wright (Life Member) felt that this was a dangerous move, and Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) felt that everyone should pay this modest price for their sport. It was suggested that County Associations would be free to waive their affiliation fees if they wished. Mr G R Yates (Vice Chairman) seconded the motion. The motion was defeated on a show of hands.

15. MOTION "B" RELATING TO VENUE OF FUTURE AGMs (DOCUMENT 2492/1/AW) (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF HULL AND DISTRICT TTA BY MR E HILL)

15.1. THAT this Annual General Meeting instructs the English Table Tennis Association to hold the 1991 Annual General Meeting in the north of England, and that subsequent Annual General Meetings be held alternately in the south and the north of the country.

Mr E Hill (Yorkshire) spoke in favour of the motion and Mr S Parr (Nuneaton) asked what would be the dividing line to establish venue choice. A card vote was called and the motion was defeated by 11041 votes for, 18615 against.

16. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

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

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

- 16.2. 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:
Rea Balmford (Yorkshire), Chris Wright (Kent), Peter Hillier (Treasurer).

Mr P Hillier was present to receive his badge and expressed his pleasure at the honour.

17. AWARDS

- 17.1. Malcolm Scott Award The President presented the award to Mr Malcolm Allsop for his work at national level.
- 17.2. Ivor Montagu Award The President presented the award to Mr Gerald Hammond in recognition of his long service in administration.
- 17.3. Victor Barna Award The Chairman reported that National Council had approved the award to Carl Preat for his outstanding performances, particularly European. A suitable opportunity would be found to make the formal presentation to him.
- 17.4. Leslie Forest Memorial Award The Chairman reported that this award had been presented at the recent County Championship Conference to Mr K Jukes of Worcester.

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 J M Wright, retiring member, be re-elected.

19. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

It was agreed nem con that Messrs Spain Bros be re-elected.

20. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- 20.1. Mr J M Wright (Life Member) felt it a sad omission from the Management Committee Report of the statistics, results etc, and hoped that they would be included in future editions, as in the past. Whilst he applauded the cost effectiveness of house production, he deplored the non-glossy cover. Mr K Muhr also felt standards had dropped and asked that statistics reappear.
- 20.2. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) questioned a Management Committee decision not to take part in the Quadrangular Tournament in Ireland. He felt we had a moral duty to take part and it was a useful opportunity to blood young players. The Chairman stated that the decision had been made mainly on cost grounds and because the event was unpopular with our leading players. No moral duty existed. It would not assist our cause in obtaining increased Sports Council grants if we lost, since international success is now a major factor in determining grants. The decision was a sound one.
- 20.3. Mrs J Ransome (Women's Committee) asked that in future the Maurice Goldstein Award be included in the other award announcements.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.55 pm.