

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Bonnington Hotel, London, on Saturday 6th July 1991 commencing at 2.00 pm

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

Vice Chairmen

M Allsop (Administration), S J Sneyd (Development/Coaching), J Beckley (Public Relations), G R Yates

Hon Life Members

Messrs R J Crayden, K T O Ponting, Mrs D M Stannard, A E Upton, K Watts, A J H Wickens, J M Wright, G R Yates

Vice Presidents

C A Burden, L A Chatwin, B G Fretwell, W G Goldfinch, D J Moss, L J Smith

Accredited Representatives - County Associations

Avon (Mrs J L Watts), Bedfordshire (Mr G G Hammond), Buckinghamshire (Mr A C Catchpole), Cambridgeshire (Mr P Day), Cheshire (Mr T Vardon), Cleveland (Mrs J Ransome), Cornwall (Mr P Hancock), Derbyshire (Mr T Gadsby), Devonshire (Mr K T O Ponting), Dorset (Mr D J Beverley), Essex (Mrs G Squier), Gloucestershire (Mr L J Smith), Hampshire (Mr H Albery), Hertfordshire (Mr H G Stevens), Isle of Wight (Mrs E Prean), Kent (Mr B J Rowley), Lancashire (Mr A E Upton), Leicestershire (Mr M R Holt), Lincolnshire (Mr K Eliot), Middlesex (Mr M Close), Northamptonshire (Mr K J Marchant), Shropshire (Mr G M G Twiss), Somerset (Mr A Carey), Staffordshire (Mr I Knights), Suffolk (Mr H F J Newman), Surrey (Mr J C T Cartwright), Sussex (Mr C T Hyland), Warwickshire (Mr S Parr), 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

Bristol (Mrs J L Watts), Derby (Mr M Allsop), Eastbourne (Mr J Woodford), North Herts (Mr J Jermyn), Slough (Mr G Trimming), Wembley/Harrow (Mr G Walsh), Weston super Mare (Mrs A P Archdale)

Other Members

Mr B Lamerton and Mr C R Oakman (National Councillors), Mrs V Clack and Mrs K Tonge (Regional Chairmen), Mr B R J Webb (Appeals Board), Miss D L Moors (National Teams Committee), Mr J Wood and Mr M Loveder (Table Tennis News), Mrs M Darnell, Mrs V Roffe and Messrs L Darnell, P Dukes, P Roden and M Watts (Essex), Mr J Randall (Middlesex), Mr G Taylor (Warwickshire), Mr B D Turner (Bournemouth), Mrs C A Beames (Brighton), Mrs C Oakman (Burnham), Mr K Wilson (Darlington), Mr M Hanley (Derby), Messrs K Muhr, A Tebby, L Wooding (Milton Keynes), Mrs D Jermyn (North Herts), Mr P Avenell (Slough), Mr R Clack (Swindon), Mr J Fairweather (Thames Valley), Mr K Lyons (Vetts), Messrs R Habgood, D Lomas and C J Warren.

In Attendance

Miss E Shaw (Chief Executive), Mr R H Sinclair (General Secretary), Mr R J Stevens (Finance Officer), Mr J Tee (Events Manager),

Mr J Leach (President) welcomed all present and took the chair.

1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 2630/1/AW)

On a motion by Mr K Watts, seconded by Mr J L Watts, the report was adopted.

2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 2631/1/AW)

Standing Orders as circulated were accepted.

3. TELLERS

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Miss E Shaw and Mr C A Burden be appointed Tellers for the meeting. They were reminded that Tellers could not take part in debate.

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4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All apologies for absence were noted.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 14TH JULY 1990 (DOCUMENT 2507/1/RJS)

- 5.1. The meeting noted that Mr K T O Ponting (Life Member) should be added to the attendance list.
- 5.2. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) regretted that certain comments by him had not been recorded but accepted that it would be impractical to record every spoken word and the need for brevity.
- 5.3. Mr H Albery (Hants) proposed and Mrs J L Watts (Avon) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Document 2507/1/RJS, as amended, was agreed and signed as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

None.

7. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Mr J Prean (Chairman) said that he would go through the report section by section. The following points arose during discussion.

- 7.1. Foreword Paragraph 3 last line "previous" should read "previously". Mr D Lomas felt that some comments were regrettable and hoped that there was no intent to lose free expression.
- 7.2. Administration Mr J Wright (Life Member) regretted that in reporting the departure of three senior staff members there was no reference to regrets or thanks. The Chairman replied that they were thanked at the time. In reply to a question from Mr D Lomas regarding the recently formed Trade Committee, Mr K Watts (Chairman, Rules Committee) confirmed that it was not a sub committee of Management Committee, but would report to National Council.
- 7.3. Competitions Mr M Watts (Essex) referred to the Essex 5 Star tournament that season and the embarrassment to the sponsor that a top woman player had been allowed to enter an unauthorised tournament abroad instead of participating. He asked if action had been taken against the player and steps taken to prevent reoccurrence. Mr A E Ransome (Chairman Elect) said the Director of Coaching had reprimanded the player and reported that hers was a private entry. Mr D J Moss (Vice President) regretted that there was no mention of umpiring at the Commonwealth Championships. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) asked for full statistics to be given as in the past.
- 7.4. Development/Coaching Mr S J Sneyd (Vice Chairman) referred to paragraph 6.1. and asked for the deletion of "quality rather than quantity" in the last line. Agreed. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) felt strongly that there was a need for baseline data on coaches and coaching at grass root levels in Leagues so that a complete picture could be formed and monitored to ascertain activities and direction.
- 7.5. Marketing Mr D Lomas asked for a progress report on the search for sponsorship by CSS Promotions. Mr A E Ransome replied that they were working hard on our behalf, but at this time there were no positive indications. BBC Television would not accept new tobacco sponsorships.
- 7.6. Selection Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) felt that the parents/mentors seminar had been a good initiative and hoped it would be repeated.
- 7.7. Obituary Mr D Lomas regretted the lack of any obituary.
- 7.8. Adoption of Report Mr H Albery (Hampshire) and Mrs J L Watts (Avon) moved and seconded the acceptance of the Management Committee Report - agreed.

The Chairman thanked Mr M Allsop for his editorship of the Report, and handed the chair back to the President.

8. REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASON 1991/92 (DOCUMENT 2593/23/AW)

- 8.1. The report was noted.

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9. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1991/92 (DOCUMENT 2611/23/AW)

9.1. The report was noted.

10. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1991/92 (DOCUMENT 2627/23/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 1991

11.1. The Treasurer was again delighted to report a good financial year, with an excellent surplus of 190,000. He paid tribute to excellent secretarial and administrative work by the office, the administrators of British League and County Championships and to the Management team led by Mr J Preat. He was pessimistic about the future, stressed the need for sponsorship and invited questions. He explained about Regional accounts, the Development Fund, Bank Interest, Centres of Excellence Funding and Sports Council grants. The Development Fund balance as at 30th June was about 71,000 and all leagues had been told to make application by 15th November 1991, when any remaining balance would be transferred to cumulative fund. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) said that his definition of a healthy sport did not necessarily mean a wealthy sport and he felt money must be spent to expand, be it at the expense of a comfortable balance. Mr B Rowley (Kent) felt that the incoming Chairman was elected on his policies and he hoped that the meeting would not try to persuade him to diverge from his elected policies. The Treasurer said that we must run a tight ship nevertheless. The Sports Council Grant had no provision for inflation and would drop by 20,000 each year until the end of the period. Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) proposed and Mr M Watts (Essex) seconded that the Report of the Treasurer, the Report of the Auditors and Statement of Accounts be accepted. Carried on a show of hands.

At this point the AGM was adjourned for a Special General Meeting to be held.

12. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (PROPOSITIONS No's 1 TO 5, 7 AND 8) (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL BY MR K WATTS, RULES COMMITTEE; No. 6 PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF SLOUGH AND DISTRICT TTL BY MR G TRIMMING AND No 6a PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE TTA BY MR A CATCHPOLE

12.1. PROPOSITION No. 1

12.1.1. Amend rule 18.4. for "15" substitute "30". The proposition was carried on a show of hands.

12.2. PROPOSITION No. 2

12.2.1. Amend Rule 24.1: for "Officer or National Councillor" substitute "Officer, National Councillor, committee member or other official duly authorised to act on behalf of the Association"

12.2.2. Amend Rule 24.2: after "so that any" for "Officer and/or National Councillor" substitute "person mentioned in Rule 24.1"; after "then such" for "Officer and/or National Councillor" substitute "person".

12.2.3. Amend Rule 24.4: after "indemnify the" for "Officers and National Councillors" substitute "persons mentioned in Rule 24.1"; after "borne by all the Officers and National Councillors" insert "and any other persons mentioned in Rule 24.1 whose actions resulted in or contributed to the debt of liability arising".

Mr K Watts explained that this would extend the indemnity, which at present covers only Officers and National Councillors, to cover members of committees and authorised officials. Members of certain committees were particularly at risk and they needed indemnity. Mrs J L Watts (Avon) thought it unfair and unjust to ask a non-Councillor, serving alongside a Councillor, not to expect the same cover. Mrs E Preat (Isle of Wight) felt that likely costs should first be ascertained. The motion was put to the vote. Carried on a show of hands.

12.3. PROPOSITION No. 3

12.3.1. Amend Rule 28.1: for "in the first or second week in July" substitute "during the period 24th June to 14th July inclusive"

12.3.2. Amend Rule 19.2: for "22nd June" substitute "20th June".

The motion was put to the vote. Carried on a show of hands.

12.4. PROPOSITION No. 4

12.4.1. Amend Rule 28.5: add at end "Motions must be sent to reach the General Secretary not later than the last day of April."

The motion was put to the vote. Carried on a show of hands.

12.5. PROPOSITION No. 5

12.5.1. Delete Rule 28.9.1

12.5.2. Amend Rule 42.5: for "28.9.1" substitute "28.5".

The motion was put to the vote. Carried on a show of hands.

12.6. PROPOSITION No. 6

12.6.1. Amend Rule 32.11: add at end "The licensing period for a ball shall be for one year commencing 1st July. By 30th June all affiliated County Associations, Local Leagues, Directly Affiliated Clubs and Organisations in Good Standing shall be provided with a list of balls licensed for the year commencing 1st July."

Mr A E Ransome (Chairman Elect) declared an interest. Mr G Trimming (Slough) spoke in favour of the motion, instancing the notification last October of a withdrawal of license, long after supplies had been purchased. Mr J Prean (Chairman) explained the background to negotiations and the circumstances of that withdrawal. He urged members to vote against. Mr A Wickens (Bucks) said that his County strongly supported the principle of the proposition but not the way it was being done. Their proposition would achieve the same result and protect the players, but would not restrict the ETTA negotiations. Mrs A P Archdale (Weston Super Mare) seconded the motion and it was put to the vote. Defeated on a show of hands.

12.6A. ALTERNATIVE PROPOSITION No. 6A

12.6A.1. Number existing Rule 32.11 as 32.11.1 and add new rules -

"32.11.2. For the purposes of Rule 32.11.1 a ball in respect of which a licence is in force on July 1st shall be deemed to remain licensed until June 30th following.

32.11.3. A list of all balls in respect of which licences are in force at July 1st shall be circulated to all County Associations, Local Leagues, Directly Affiliated Clubs and Organisations in Good Standing not later than July 8th."

Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) spoke in favour of the motion. Mr D Parsons (Wilts) seconded the motion and it was put to the vote. A card vote was called for by the Chairman and the proposition was carried by 36,426 votes for, 3,828 against.

12.7. PROPOSITION No. 7:

12.7.1. Amend Rule 34.6: for "5 in the case of an individual or 15 in case of an organisation, which" substitute "an amount set by National Council. The fee".

The motion was put to the vote. Carried on a show of hands.

12.8. PROPOSITION No. 8:

12.8.1. Insert new rule: "45.1.1a. Rule Change Propositions may be submitted only by the National Council or by a County Association or by a Local League. One submitted by the National Council shall be signed by the General Secretary; one submitted by a County Association or Local League shall be signed by its General Secretary and by one of the following - Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer."

The motion was put to the vote. Carried on a show of hands.

13. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (DOCUMENT 2638/1/AW)
(PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL BY MR L A CHATWIN, NURC)

13.1. MOTION A (to be proposed on behalf of the National Council)

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 1991/92. Carried on a show of hands.

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- 13.2. MOTION B (to be proposed on behalf of the National Council)
 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 1991/92 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 on a show of hands.
- 13.3. MOTION C (to be proposed on behalf of the National Council)
 THAT this AGM directs the National Council to authorise any County Association or Local League which wishes to do so to adopt for season 1991/92 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 on a show of hands.
- 13.4. MOTION D (to be proposed on behalf of the National Council)
 THAT this AGM notes the changes in the Laws of table tennis as approved by the ETTA to take effect on 1st September 1991 as contained in the Notice under ETTA Rule (1990/91) 42.3 dated 30.5.91 (Document 2638/1/AW). Carried on a show of hands.
14. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT
- 14.1. The meeting agreed on the proposal of the Chairman on behalf of National Council, the election of Mr J A Leach MBE as President for a further period of three years. Applause.
15. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS
- 15.1. 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:
 Mrs E Carrington Mrs A Jones MBE L J Smith
 L A Chatwin K J Marchant P Smith
 I R Crickmer P Marks D N Tyler
 C Jaques M D Shaffner OBE Mrs N Vint
- 15.2. The meeting agreed, on the proposal of the Chairman on behalf of the National Council, to the election for a term of three years of the following additional Vice Presidents:
 M Allsop, P Dukes, K Edwards, R H Sinclair and R Yates
 Messrs Allsop, Dukes, Sinclair and Yates were present to accept their badges to applause.
16. AWARDS
- 16.1. Ivor Montagu Award This was awarded to Mr Richard Scruton who was ETTA Vice Chairman (Competitions) and Referee for the English Junior Open.
- 16.2. Leslie Forest Memorial Award This was awarded to B Walker from Yorkshire TTA.
- 16.3. Malcolm Scott Award The President presented the award to Mr Peter Hillier the ETTA Treasurer.
- 16.4. Victor Barna Award This was awarded to Matthew Syed for his performance in winning the Czech Open.
- 16.5. Special Award The President presented the award to John Prean for his outstanding service as Chairman for four years.
17. ELECTION OF AUDITORS
 It was agreed nem con that Messrs Spain Bros be re-elected.
18. 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 A J H Wickens, retiring member, be re-elected.
19. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS
- 19.1. Mr J M Wright (Life Member) understood that the retiring Chairman, Mr J Prean, was in favour of bi-annual elections for officers instead of annual. The meeting agreed that the idea had merit and should be investigated.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting closed at 5.08 pm.