

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Bonnington Hotel, London, on Saturday 27th June 1992 commencing at 2.00 pm

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

Vice Chairmen

M D Watts (Administration), M W J Lewis (Development), M R Holt (Public Relations), L A Chatwin (Competitions), P Day (Selection)

Hon Life Members

Messrs C J Clemett, R J Crayden, K T O Ponting, Mrs D M Stannard, A E Upton, K Watts, A J H Wickens

Vice Presidents

C A Burden, L A Chatwin, B G Fretwell, D N Tyler, H E Pearce, H J Webb

Accredited Representatives - County Associations

Avon (Mrs J L Watts), Bedfordshire (Mr G G Hammond), Berkshire (Mr B Halliday), Buckinghamshire (Mr B Webb), Cambridgeshire (Mr P Day), Cheshire (Mr T Vardon), Cleveland (Mrs J Ransome), Cornwall (Mrs A P Archdale), Derbyshire (Mr L Allwood), Devonshire (Mr K T O Ponting), Hampshire (Mr H Albery), Hertfordshire (Mr H G Stevens), Isle of Wight (Mr J Prean), Lancashire (Mr A E Upton), Leicestershire (Mr M R Holt), Middlesex (Mr M Close), Northamptonshire (Mr K J Marchant), Northumberland (Mr A Drapkin), Nottinghamshire (Mr M Allsop), Shropshire (Mr G M G Twiss), Somerset (Mr A L Seward), Staffordshire (Mr M Egan), Suffolk (Mr H F J Newman), Surrey (Mrs G McCulloch), Sussex (Mr C T Hyland), Warwickshire (Mr S Parr), Wiltshire (Mr D M Parsons), Worcestershire (Mr D Young), Yorkshire (Mr E Hill)

Accredited Representatives - Non-County Local League

None

Accredited Representatives - Local Leagues

Birmingham (Mrs V Jackson), Bristol (Mrs J L Watts), Derby (Mr M Allsop), North Herts (Mr J Jermyn), Slough (Mr G Trimming), Wembley/Harrow (Mr G Walsh), York (Mr R C Scruton)

Other Members

Mr K Eliot, Mr T Gadsby, Mr G Taylor and Mr P Roden (National Councillors), Mrs K Tonge (Regional Chairman), Mr M Hanley (Tournaments Committee), Mr R Habgood (Public Relations Committee), Mr J Wood (Editor, Table Tennis News), Mr and Mrs D Schofield (Cheshire), Messrs M Bawden, B Granger (Essex), Mrs E Prean (Isle of Wight), Mr J Randall (Middlesex), Ms D Macfarlane (Warwickshire), Mr R Clark (Suffolk), Mrs F Chatwin (Derby), Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes), Mrs D Jermyn (North Herts), Ms P Lauder (Romford), Mr J Fairweather (Thames Valley), Mr D B Turner (Bournemouth), Mrs C Lewis (Bristol), Mr J Woodford (Eastbourne), Mr D Newton (Civil Service), Mr T Inge (Paraplegic TTA)

In Attendance

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

Mr A E Ransome (Chairman) welcomed all present and took the chair.

## 1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 2803/1/AW)

On a motion by Mr M D Watts, seconded by Mr A E Upton, the report was adopted.

## 2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 2804/1/AW)

Standing Orders as circulated were accepted.

## 3. TELLERS

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

/continued

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from the following: Mr A K Vint OBE (Hon Life Vice President), Mr E G White (Hon Life Member), Mr G R Yates (Hon Life Member and Vice Chairman), Messrs I R Crickmer, H Flinton, E Jones MBE, L W Jones, D J Moss, A W Shipley, D R Tremayne (Vice Presidents), Messrs C Villiers and M Wolman (Vice Presidents - elect), Mr S J Sneyd (Deputy Chairman), Messrs T O'Flynn (Oxon), L J Smith (Glos), B E Spicer (Sussex) (National Councillors), Mr A Catchpole (Buckinghamshire), Mr and Mrs L Darnell, Mrs G Squier (Essex), Mr J Blackband (English Schools TTA), Durham TTA, British Sports Association for Disabled, Women's Royal Navy TTA.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 6TH JULY 1991 (DOCUMENT 2667/1/RJS)

5.1. Mr C A Burden (Vice President) proposed and Mrs J L Watts (Avon) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Document 2667/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

None.

7. MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 6TH JULY 1991 (DOCUMENT 2668/1/RJS)

7.1. Mr A E Upton (Life Member) proposed and Mr C A Burden (Vice President) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Document 2668/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.

8. MATTERS ARISING

None.

9. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At this point the President assumed the chair and intimated that he would go through the report section by section. The following points arose during discussion:

9.1. Introduction Mr J Preat (Isle of Wight) expressed fears that the Association was heading for substantial losses. He further commented that although expressions of deep gratitude had been expressed to the staff etc he felt that this was inadequately expressed by pay rises of 2% which was not even in line with inflation. The Chairman disputed the figures and said that 10% had been paid over 18 months, an average of 6% per annum, Mr Preat said that only 4% had been paid in the last year.

9.2. Finance Mr D Young (County Championships) drew attention to the much appreciated assistance given by Halex to the County Championships. In reply to questions the Chief Executive confirmed that the Dunlop/Jaques table contract was in dispute, but negotiations were progressing.

9.3. Administration Mr J Preat asked if Mr C R Oakman had been engaged at a salary higher than that advertised. He was told he had not. He further asked if it was true that Mr Oakman's business interests had been taken over by the Chairman's business interest. The President ruled the question out of order. The President said that full assurances had been received from Mr Oakman about his business interests. Mrs J L Watts (Avon) referred to Standing Orders 5.2 and 5.3 and asked that the Standing Orders governing the number of times and length of time a person was entitled to speak be observed. Mr M Allsop (Derby) regretted the non-publication of the address book 1991/92. In reply Mr M D Watts (VC Administration) reported that despite five requests for the necessary information to compile the address book, much was still outstanding at the end of November, and then the office became extremely busy due to many events taking place. Mr M Holt (VC Administration-elect) said that a new address list would be published as early as possible, hopefully in early September, but stressed that 14 counties and 123 leagues had not yet replied with the requisite information. Mr M D Watts reported that there had been only a slight delay in circulating the Management Committee Report owing to a wish to avoid two expensive mailings, otherwise the timetable was as in previous years. Mrs J L Watts (Avon) proposed and Mr T Gadsby (Derby) seconded moving to next business. Carried.

- 9.4. Special Presentation The President reported that Mr G R Yates (Life Member) had requested that a table tennis table, bearing his name, should be presented to a club in Bolton. Mr A E Upton (Life Member) and Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) paid tribute to Mr G R Yates.
  - 9.5. Obituary Mr M D Watts (V/C Administration) apologised for the omission of Mrs G Watts, late wife of Mr K Watts (Life Member).
  - 9.6. Tournaments The meeting noted the omission of Middlesex being granted 3 star status.
  - 9.7. Calendar Working Party The Chairman paid tribute to Mr C A Burden (Life Member) who was retiring as Chairman of the CWP after long and meritorious service. Mr J Prean endorsed his remarks. Mr C A Burden suitably replied.
  - 9.8. Ranking Scheme Mr J Prean felt that some players were not happy with the system, especially regarding losses, and found it demoralising. He attributed the decline in junior tournament entries, stated to be 15%, to changes in the ranking system against which he had warned earlier. In reply Mr L A Chatwin (VC Competitions) said the Management Committee had agreed the system and that they should be looking for quality play rather than quantity. He agreed some decline in entries, but could not define the cause due to the recession etc. Mr M D Watts (VETTS) felt that VETTS results should only apply when the opponent was also a veteran, rather than a junior. The Chairman took the opportunity to congratulate the English VETTS on winning seven gold medals in the World Vets Championships in Dublin recently.
  - 9.9. National Coaching Scheme Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) said how pleased he was to see the improvement in the number of registrations and awards. He urged encouragement for ethnic minorities in all areas of the sport.
  - 9.10. Marketing Mr R Scruton (NURC) felt that more mention should have been made of the contribution made by East Yorkshire Borough Council. The Chairman considered that the wording was sufficient but reiterated his appreciation for this support.
  - 9.11. European Championships Mr J Prean asked how the 19th European Championships in Birmingham in 1994 would be funded. The Chairman gave details of the three major sources of support. The President paid tribute to the Chairman and his team in negotiating the finance at such short notice.
  - 9.12. Table Tennis News Mr J Prean expressed himself very unhappy with the magazine, citing spelling mistakes, poor coverage of events etc and censorship. He felt that when Mr G R Yates was editor the magazine was infinitely better. Mr M Holt refuted any suggestion of censorship. A magazine could always be improved but unpaid officials were human and mistakes would occur. In a recession advertising was always the first to go. He felt things were improving. Mrs E Prean (Isle of Wight) and Mr M Allsop (Derby) gave instances of alleged censorship. Mr G Twiss (Shropshire) and Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) said that they had articles rejected in the past, but accepted this was an editor's right and did not constitute censorship.
  - 9.13. Statistics Mr J Prean regretted that some of the results shown were inaccurate and others left out. Mrs E Prean regretted that the names of players appearing for England for the first time had been omitted. The Chairman apologised for the omissions. Mr K Muhr was disturbed at the fall in membership figures but felt that the Focus Sport programme would help to address this, although results would not be immediate.
  - 9.14. Adoption of Report Mr H E Pearce (Vice President) congratulated the Management Committee on the report and moved the acceptance of the Management Committee Report, with Mr M Close (Middlesex) seconding. Agreed. The President handed the chair back to the Chairman. At this point the AGM was adjourned for a Special General Meeting to be held.
10. REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASON 1992/93 (DOCUMENT 2764/23/AW)
  - 10.1. The report was noted recording the election of Mr A E Ransome as Chairman, Mr L A Chatwin as Deputy Chairman and Mr P Hillier as Treasurer for season 1992/3.

11. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1992/93 (DOCUMENT 2793/23/AW)

11.1. The report was noted.

12. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1992/93 (DOCUMENT 2813/23/AW)

12.1. The report was noted. The meeting noted the addition of Mr H Stevens (Hertfordshire).

13. REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1992

13.1. The Treasurer said that he was of the opinion that regrettably the financial outlook did not look good. He then went through the year end accounts, pointing out that sponsorship, TV income and Sports Council grants were all down. Focus Sport programme minimum cost over the next 3 years would be £150,000 and to achieve a breakeven figure in return it must generate increased membership of 20%. It was now even more imperative to obtain sponsorship. He then invited and answered questions on the accounts. Travel costs and Committee costs were up due to increased activity in coaching and development. He regretted that the £6,000 spent on sponsorship consultants had produced nothing. The Chairman said that without a Chief Executive there was a saving on salary, which had been invested in sponsorship search. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) congratulated the Treasurer on achieving a surplus, but felt that in a push for increased membership, it might prove necessary to go into deficit. Mr R Scruton (NURC) commented that without bank interest the Association would be in deficit on the annual accounts now. The Chairman said that he was certain that the Association would not go heavily into debt. Mrs J L Watts (Avon) proposed and Mrs A P Archdale (Cornwall) seconded that the Report of the Treasurer, the Report of the Auditors and the Statement of Accounts be accepted. Carried on a show of hands.

baun 31005

14. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF LONDON CIVIL SERVICE TTL BY MR B CLARK)

14.1. PROPOSITION No. 1

14.1.1. Amend rule 31.3.1: Add at end "Once a local league is affiliated to a County Association, disaffiliation from that County Association may only be allowed in special circumstances at the discretion of the National Council."

Mr B Clark stressed that there was no quarrel with their County Association. His league was work-based in the county only and members nearly all lived outside the area. Membership and premises were dwindling, which in turn led to reduced income. They received no benefit from the county, and could ill afford to contribute to its funds. Mr M Close (Middlesex) said that he would oppose the motion on a matter of principle. The object of a County was to promote table tennis in general terms, and all leagues should give modest help to county funds. The motion was put to the vote. Lost on a show of hands.

15. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (DOCUMENT 2805/1/AW) (PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL BY MR L A CHATWIN, NURC)

15.1. MOTION A (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 1992/93.

Mr L A Chatwin referred to the last AGM where comments were made that National Council just rubber-stamped the directive and that it was unlikely that they would propose this motion again next year.

15.1. cont.

He reported that National Council had discussed the motions at length. Mr G Trimming (Slough) felt that the honeymoon period was over and that ITTF Rules should be adhered to. The motion was put to the vote after a show of hands which showed a majority in favour, a card vote was called for. Carried with 23,068 votes for, 7,200 votes against.

15.2. MOTION B (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 ETТА computer ranking scheme during the season 1992/93 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.

15.3. MOTION C (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 1992/93 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 G Trimming (Slough) sought clarification as to whether the authorisation enabled member clubs and ETТА Regional Committees to apply the regulation in competitions run by them. Mr A J H Wickens (Standing Orders Committee) felt that common sense required that a club should be able to apply the regulation for a domestic competition, just as a County Association or Local League could, and that a regional Committee which was part of the national governing body should be similarly empowered. He suggested that the position should be clarified by amplifying Motion C by a Supplementary Motion "THAT this AGM directs the National Council additionally to authorise any affiliated club or subordinate part of the ETТА such as a Regional Committee which wishes to do so to adopt for the Season 1992/3 the regulation contained in Motion B for its own domestic competitions". Carried on a show of hands.

15.4. MOTION D (Proposed on behalf of the National Council)

THAT this AGM notes that there are no changes in the Laws of Table Tennis as approved by the ETТА to take effect for season 1992/93.  
Noted.

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: H Flinton, L W Jones, F E Clay, Mrs E Betts, G M Daniels, J M McDonnell, H T Edwards, T M Honey, D D Plowes, D R Tremayne, E Jones MBE, J C McKim, D J Moss, Rev B J Rowley, H J Webb, H Albery, Mrs J Hammersley-Parker, Mrs W Cunningham, A W Shipley.

16.2. 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: J Arnold, G Gurney, E Hill, T Inge, D Schofield, R J Stevens, C Villiers and M Wolman. Messrs Gurney, Hill, Inge, Schofield and Stevens were present to accept their badges to applause.

17. **AWARDS**

17.1. Ivor Montagu Award This was awarded to Mr C R Oakman as Vice Chairman, Marketing, for his work on the China and Japanese tours and also as Organiser of the Cadbury's Chocolate Break English Open.

17.2. Malcolm Scott Award This was awarded to Mr M W J Lewis, as Vice Chairman Development, for his work in setting up the Regional development Committees and on the new Focus Sport programme.

17.3. Victor Barna Award This was awarded to Lisa Lomas for her excellent performance in winning the women's singles silver medal at the 1992 European Championships.  
The meeting wished every success to the England players competing in the Olympics in Barcelona soon.

18. **ELECTION OF AUDITORS**

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

19. **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.

20. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**

20.1. Mr S Parr (Warwickshire) asked that details of the Supplementary Motion to Motion C be circulated.

20.2. Mr G Twiss (Shropshire) asked the meeting to join him in thanking Management Committee for all their hard work. Applause.

20.3. Mr R Habgood (Public Relations) asked that consideration be given to holding the AGM in Birmingham. The Chairman said that National Council would consider this.

20.4. Mrs J Ransome (Women's Committee) felt that women should be given greater representation on committees and National Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.12 pm.