

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, on Saturday 26th June 1993 commencing at 2.00 pm

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

Vice Chairmen

M R Holt (Administration), M W J Lewis (Development), L A Chatwin (Competitions), J Beckley (Public Relations), M D Watts (Marketing)

Hon Life Members

Mrs D M Stannard, Messrs K T O Ponting, A E Ransome, A E Upton, K Watts, A J H Wickens

Vice Presidents

C A Burden, L A Chatwin, R H Sinclair, R J Stevens, H J Webb, P Hillier, H Albery, M Allsop, K J Marchant

Accredited Representatives - County Associations

Avon (Mr P J Sandford), Bedfordshire (Mr G G Hammond), Berkshire (Mr B R Halliday), Buckinghamshire (Mr A C Catchpole), Cheshire (Mr T Vardon), Cleveland (Mrs J Ransome), Cornwall (Mr P J Hancock), Derbyshire (Mr L Allwood), Devonshire (Mr K T O Ponting), Dorset (Mr P Hillier), Durham (Mrs J Ransome), Essex (Mr P Roden), Hampshire (Mr H Albery), Herefordshire (Mr S Goulding), Hertfordshire (Mr H G Stevens), Isle of Wight (Mr J Prean), Kent (Mr A Woollven), Lancashire (Mr A E Upton), Leicestershire (Mr M G R Smith), Lincolnshire (Mr K Eliot), Middlesex (Mr M Close), Northamptonshire (Mr K J Marchant), Northumberland (Mr A Drapkin), Nottinghamshire (Mr M Allsop), Oxfordshire (Mr R O'Flynn), Shropshire (Mr G M G Twiss), Somerset (Mr A L Seward), Staffordshire (Mr R Habgood), Suffolk (Mr H F J Newman), Surrey (Mr T Vance), Sussex (Mr J Woodford), Warwickshire (Mr S Parr), Wiltshire (Mrs V Clack), Worcestershire (Ms L Reid), Yorkshire (Mr R C Scruton)

Accredited Representatives - Non-County Local League

None

Accredited Representatives - Local Leagues

Andover (Mr J Prean), Barnets (Mr B R Freer), Birmingham (Mrs V Jackson), Bristol (Mr P J Sanford), Derby (Mr P B Smith), Didcot (Mr T O'Flynn), Eastbourne (Mr J Woodford), North Herts (Mr J Jermyn), Portsmouth (Mr H Albery), Sheffield (Mr M Allsop), Silvertown (Mr M Allsop), Slough (Mr G Trimming), Stafford (Mr A Waters), Warrington (Mr M Allsop), Weston Super Mare (Mrs A P Archdale).

Other Members

Ms G McCulloch (Regional Coaching Chairman), Mr E K Muhr, Mr M G Taylor (National Councillors), Mr B R J Webb (ETTA Board of Appeal), Mr B Granger (Essex), Mrs K Fisher (Lincs), I and L Pilditch (Middlesex), Mr R J Clark (Suffolk), Mr M Macfarlane (Warwicks), Mrs T Whitehead (Warwicks), Mr J M Whitehead (Birmingham), Mrs C Lewis, Mr I J Mead, Dr D B Turner (Bristol), Mrs P F Chatwin (Derby), Mrs D Nightingale (Eastbourne), Mr J Wood (Hemel Hempstead), Mr M A Stubbs (Hereford), Mr A E Upton (Liverpool), Mr N Heavyside, Mr A C Knowlson (Liverpool Business Houses), Mr G Woolmore (Milton Keynes), Mrs D Jermyn (North Herts), Mr D Palmer (Nuneaton), Mr M J Hanley (Selby), Mrs V Clack (Swindon), Mr M Bawden, Mr R Rockall, Mr D Douglas MBE, Mr D Goode

Good Standing

Mr J Blackband (ESTTA)

In Attendance

Miss E Shaw (Chief Executive), Mr R H Sinclair (General Secretary), Mr R J Stevens (Finance Officer), Mr D C Gray (National Development Manager), Mrs D Nightingale (Development Assistant)

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

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1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 3007/1/AW)

On behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, Mr A J H Wickens reported that he had two important points to bring to the attention of the meeting.

1.1. He referred to paragraph 2.3 of the report which stated that whilst it was accepted that to limit a speaker to one question on the whole of the Accounts may be undesirable, it had been found difficult to find a method of dividing the Accounts in a manner parallel with the division of the Management Committee Report, as there could be no numbered paragraphs. However, it was recommended that the meeting should confirm that it would be in order for the Chairman to allow a speaker to ask more than one question if the subjects were not closely connected or the questions related to different sections of the Accounts. Agreed on a show of hands.

1.2. Referring next to paragraph 5.2 Mr Wickens asked the meeting to note two corrections of clerical errors, at the beginning of the seventh line "constitutional" should be "unconstitutional" and in the middle of the eighth line "effect" should be "affect". Mr Wickens said that he wished to emphasise that the Standing Orders Committee recognised that their duty was solely to the General Meeting as a whole, to ensure that the business on the Agenda could be properly transacted, and that any decisions taken by the meeting could be put into effect. Some motions had been received relating to matters covered by the Rules but which were not Rule Change Propositions in the accepted sense. They had been placed in a separate section, as it was the view of the Committee that, having regard to the detailed procedure for changing Rules prescribed in the Rules, and the principle that a Rule Change Proposition must contain detailed wording so that its passage had the effect of producing a re-worded rule and did not leave it necessary for further drafting to be done afterwards, it would be unconstitutional for a General Meeting to pass a resolution which did not change any rule but which purported to affect the application of an existing rule. It had not been possible to include Motion A in the Rule Change Proposition because it did not specify by number or numbers any rule or rules intended to be changed, nor give details of any actual change to the wording of any rule. The details provided in the Motion would not enable any reworded rule to be produced. Accordingly it was the view of the Committee that Motion A was not proper, and they recommended it should not be taken by the meeting. Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) protested that he had corresponded with the Chairman of the Rules Committee on the topic and was astounded to now learn that Motion A might not be considered. Mr K Watts (Chairman, Rules Committee) said that he had suggested an appropriate draft as a result of correspondence but regretted this had not been used by the Isle of Wight TTA when drafting their motion. Mr J Prean felt that the text was additional, not a change. The Chairman referred to the wording of Motion B and asked if the wording was not near enough the same, which would allow discussion on the subject. Mr K Watts replied affirmatively. Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Mr A Drapkin (Northumberland). Carried on a show of hands, with Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) voting against.

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 B R J Webb be appointed Tellers for the meeting. They were reminded that Tellers could not take part in debate.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from the following: Messrs C J Clemett, R J Crayden, G James and J Wright (Hon Life Members), Mrs N Vint, Messrs I R Crickmer, B G Fretwell, W G Goldfinch, E Jones MBE, H E Pearce and D N Tyler (Vice Presidents), Mrs K Tonge, Mr L Darnell (Regional Chairmen), Mr D Young (Chairman, County Championships), Mr C Hyland (Trade Committee), Mr D Goulden (Warrington), Mr C Robson (Silvertown).

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 27TH JUNE 1992 (DOCUMENT 2869/1/RJS)

- 5.1. Ms G McCulloch (Surrey) regretted that the discussions on Dunlop Skills Awards and a proportion of the fee due to the ESTTA, but not received, had not been minuted. The Treasurer confirmed that payment had been made.
- 5.2. Mr M D Watts (Vice Chairman) proposed and Mr K T O Ponting (Hon Life Member) seconded acceptance of the minutes, as amended, document 2869/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

None.

7. MINUTES OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING HELD 27TH JUNE 1992 (DOCUMENT 2870/1/RJS)

- 7.1. Mr M D Watts (Vice Chairman) proposed and Mr M R Holt (Vice Chairman) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Document 2870/1/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 Woodford (Sussex) referred to paragraph 10 and said that it was not certain about qualifying for the World Team Cup in 1994. The Chairman said that Mr D Parker (England Team Manager) had so advised.
- 9.2. Finance Mr S Parr (Warwickshire) referred to paragraph 1.2.5 and regretted that the Halex valuable contribution to the County Championships had once again been omitted.
- 9.3. Administration Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) paid tribute to those who had worked hard and long on the gluing problems. The meeting endorsed his thanks.
- 9.4. Competitions Mr T R Vardon (Cheshire) referred to paragraph 5.2.4 and said that the winners of the Veterans Premier Division were Cheshire and not Yorkshire as reported.
- 9.5. Tournaments Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) invited comments regarding the loss of a number of tournaments. In reply the Vice Chairman (Competitions) said that several likely causes were being voiced and he was pleased to report that on the 10th July 1993 there was to be a seminar for Tournament Organisers to discuss the failures, reasons behind and attempt to reverse the decline. Mr J Blackband (ESTTA) reported a 14% increase across the board in Schools events.
- 9.6. Ranking Scheme Mr D Goode (player) reported that some players felt the existing ranking scheme system should be scrapped. The Vice Chairman (Competition) said that National Council had charged the Ranking Committee to urgently examine the existing system and a meeting had taken place with all views taken into account.

Their conclusion was that the existing system was the most accurate scheme in the world, although not popular. As a pilot scheme, to run in conjunction, there would be a 'record only wins' system as soon as software was received. Additionally other propositions were being considered, including earlier 'fading'. Following further discussion the Chairman said that the Ranking Committee would take all feelings into account, that Europe was also facing the same problems, and he was confident a better deal, offering greater value, would emerge.

- 9.7. Television Mr E K Muhr (Milton Keynes) asked about television coverage for Euro '94. The Chairman said good coverage was envisaged and gave details.
- 9.8. Table Tennis News Mr E K Muhr felt that there was a lack of discussion, with several contributions omitted due to too few pages. In reply Mr J Beckley (Vice Chairman) said that financial restraints prohibited more pages, but he would try to include more articles. The Chairman said that the magazine was already heavily subsidised, in the region of £11,000 and there was no more room for further support.
- 9.9. Selection/Performance Mr J Preat requested a report on the 'slow' glue situation subsequent to the 1993 World Championships. The Deputy Chairman said that firstly Management Committee and National Council congratulated all players in England for their cooperation in adopting the ban. When National Council voted to include players at the World Championships, despite the handicaps, it was hoped that other countries would appreciate the stand made and would follow. However, there had proved to be a vigorous behind the scenes campaign and regrettably a decision was taken to delay the commencement date of the ban to June 1994. This meant that another whole season had to be faced in courageous isolation, unless National Council decided otherwise. Additionally the 1994 European Championships to be staged by England in March 1994 would be held on behalf of the ETTU. So ITTF Regulations would apply. This posed grave problems to current thinking by the ETTA. A compromise could be to prohibit all liquid glue in the hall, and to set aside special well ventilated rooms and supply special clothing. The ITTF decision must now be lived with, and important discussions must now take place. Following further discussion, the Chairman said that although the ITTF/ETTU officials accepted the change was needed, they felt that more time was needed for change over. However, new propositions could still come forward.
- 9.10. Adoption of Report Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) moved acceptance of the Management Committee Report, seconded by Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member). Agreed. Mrs D M Stannard (Hon Life Member) congratulated the office on their production of the report.

At this point the President handed the chair back to the Chairman.

10. REPORT OF ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER FOR SEASONS 1993/94 and 1994/5 (DOCUMENT 2968/23/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 seasons 1993/4 and 1994/5.
11. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1993/94 (DOCUMENT 3001/23/AW)
 - 11.1. The report was noted.
12. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1993/94 (DOCUMENT 3009/23/AW)
 - 12.1. The report was noted. The meeting noted the addition of Mr T Gadsby (Derbyshire).

13. REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1993
- 13.1. The Treasurer was pleased to report a surplus of about £13,000 which was very good. He then went through the year end accounts, detailing increases or decreases in income and expenditure. Table sales were well down due to a dispute and price increases, but he expected Focus Sport to generate sales. Some sponsorship had been achieved but with the future uncertain new sponsors were needed. Sports Council grants had been increased subject to HM Treasury approval. However, this in turn placed a greater burden on Management to show results. He then invited and answered questions. Mr G Twiss (Shropshire) asked that the Friendly Hotels British League accounts be shown on separate balance sheets and urged greater publicity. The Treasurer gave the figures and referred to the large increase in the Prize Fund. Mr D Goode (player) reported that the BL Conference had requested a breakdown of BL accounts. The Chairman said that Management Committee would discuss separation of events accounts. Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) asked what payments should be made against Sports Council grant increases. The Chairman said that with table tennis being chosen as the first Focus Sport it was recognised both workload and costs would increase considerably. A Juniors Coach was to be appointed to redress disappointing results and also a Facilities Officer. Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) proposed and Mr M D Watts (Vice Chairman) 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.
14. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr K Watts)
- 14.1. PROPOSITION No. 1
- 14.1.1. Insert new "Rule 6.4.1a. A Club affiliated to or registered with a local league shall be deemed to remain so affiliated until two weeks after the first playing date of the next season's league competition." Carried on a show of hands.
- 14.2. PROPOSITION No. 2 (proposed on behalf of Bristol and District TTA by Mr P Sandford)
- 14.2.1. Amend Rule 7.5: delete "one more than". Mr P Sandford detailed team figures in Bristol and said that with the majority of teams only having the same three players, why pay for four. Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) spoke against as he felt this would have a serious effect on County Association finances. The Treasurer disputed the figures quoted. Mr G Twiss (Shropshire) regretted that there was a proposal to reduce ETTA membership by 25%. The Deputy Chairman said individual membership was being studied. On being put to the vote, the proposition was lost on a show of hands by a large majority.
- 14.3. PROPOSITION No. 3 (proposed on behalf of Nottinghamshire County TTA by Mr M Allsop)
- 14.3.1. Amend Rule 7.8: to read "THE FEE UNIT for 1993/4 shall be £1.88" - this change to come into effect from the first day of season 1993/4. Mr Allsop spoke of the financial difficulties some leagues were experiencing and a reduction in the Fee Unit would be of immediate help. Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) said that his association was running at a deficit and the most expensive overhead was ETTA fees. His members were resentful. Mr G Trimming (Slough) spoke against saying that something that costs achieves something whilst nothing achieved nothing. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) urged an increase in the fee unit so that the sport could take off.

Mr M W J Lewis (Vice Chairman) reported that recent visits to about 70 leagues had found a big majority of members were satisfied with current fees and value. Mr S Parr (Warwicks) proposed and Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) seconded that the question now be put. Agreed on a show of hands. Mr M Allsop summed up. On being put to the vote the motion was lost on a show of hands by a large majority.

14.4. PROPOSITION No. 4 (proposed on behalf of Nottinghamshire County TTA by Mr M Allsop)

14.4.1. Amend Rule 7.8 to read: " THE FEE UNIT for 1994/5 shall be £1.25". This change to come into effect from the first day of season 1994/5.

14.4.2. This proposition was withdrawn following the defeat of the previous proposition.

14.5. PROPOSITION No. 5 (proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr A J H Wickens)

14.5.1. Amend Rule 15.2.2. for "a person" substitute "the same person".

Mr Wickens explained there was no change of principle, but the removal of possible ambiguity; seconded by Mr G Trimming (Slough). Carried on a show of hands.

14.6. PROPOSITION No. 6 (proposed on behalf of Somerset County TTA by Mr A Seward)

14.6.1. Amend Rule 18.3: for "holding paid appointments" substitute "who are full time employees of the Association"

Amend Rule 22.3: for "holding a paid appointment with" substitute "who is a full time employee of"

Mr A Seward referred to the recent National Council decision and the effect. Articulate and worthy people were needed on Management and National Council, but regrettably they were now restricted. Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) felt that when originally the rule was framed it was because of an important principle. Mr A J H Wickens (Hon Life Member) felt that this was a basic principle of an amateur governing body, and if the principle was abandoned, then long serving officials might resign. Mr J Prean (Isle of Wight) felt that the best people might be lost, merely because they might earn a pittance coaching, which they were asked to do. He advocated clear demarcation lines. Mr A Seward moved the proposition, seconded by Mr K Eliot (Lincs). A card vote was called for. The proposition was defeated by 14,978 votes for, 24,352 against.

14.7. PROPOSITION No. 7 (proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr A J H Wickens)

14.7.1. Insert new "Rule 39.2a: Closed Tournament: A Closed Tournament, that is a tournament entry to which is restricted to members of a single club, Local League or County Association, or of some other specified class or group of players approved by National Council, may be run without permission being obtained from the ETTA"

Insert new "Rule 39.2b: Tournament with Restricted Entry: A tournament not involving players outside the County (a) whose Association is organising it or (b) to whose Association the organising body is affiliated may be run without permission being obtained from the ETTA provided in the case of (b) that for a tournament involving players outside a single Local League permission has been obtained from the County Association"

Re-word Rule 39.3.1 to read: "No Open Tournament, Invitation Tournament or other tournament which is not either a Closed Tournament as defined by Rule 39.2a or a tournament with Restricted Entry as defined by Rule 39.2b, may be run without permission from the National Council"

Amend Rule 39.3.2: for "an Open or Invitation Tournament" substitute "a tournament requiring permission under Rule 39.3.1"

Mr Wickens explained that there was no change of principle. The intention was to record a movement of material into the Rules from Regulations. On being put to the vote the proposition was carried on a show of hands.

14.8. PROPOSITION No. 8 (proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr K Watts)

14.8.1. Amend Rule 41.5.2: after "current Season" insert "or which has entered a team for the coming Season"

Mr K Watts (Hon Life Member) explained that this would give a County which had not had a team in the County Championships for the season past but had entered one for the coming season voting rights at the Annual Conference. On being put to the vote the proposition was carried on a show of hands.

14.9. PROPOSITION No. 9 (proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr K Watts)

14.9.1. Amend Rule 41.5.3: after "Association" insert "which is not entitled to send a delegate under Rule 41.5.2"

Mr K Watts explained that this would provide that only a County not entitled to a voting delegate would be entitled to send a non-voting observer to Conference. Mr S Parr (Warwicks) said that the effect of the system of pooled expenses must be considered. On being put to the vote the proposition was carried on a show of hands.

15. MOTIONS RELATING TO MATTERS COVERED BY THE RULES

15.1. MOTION A (to be proposed on behalf of the Isle of Wight County Table Tennis Association)

"All affiliation fees shall be reduced by 25% in respect of the season 1993/4 and by 50% in respect of the Season 1994/5. Such revised figures shall apply in future season until changed by future AGMs. The basis of calculation via units and indexation will remain the same."

The meeting had previously agreed not to take this item.

15.2. MOTION B (submitted by Nottinghamshire County Table Tennis Association)

"That a fee unit in Rule 7.8 be reduced by 25% for season 1993/4"

The meeting was informed that indication had been received from Nottinghamshire TTA that they would not proceed.

15.3. MOTION C (submitted (to be proposed only if Motion 'B' had been carried) by Nottinghamshire County TTA)

"That the fee unit in Rule 7.8 (season 1992/3) be reduced by 50% for season 1994/5"

The meeting was informed that indication had been received from Nottinghamshire TTA that they would not proceed.

16. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (DOCUMENT 3012/1/AW)
(PROPOSED ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL COUNCIL BY MR L A CHATWIN)

16.1. MOTION W

THAT this AGM notes that the 1993 ITTF Biennial General Meeting decided that from 1st September 1993 the following, which was formerly ITTF Regulation 4.2.1.3, shall be part of the Laws of Table Tennis - "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"

and that consequently the ETTA Approved Laws of Table Tennis will be similarly changed from the same date.

Mr L A Chatwin (Deputy Chairman) and Mr A J H Wickens (Hon Life Member) explained the motion. Mr H Albery (Hants) said that some leagues were worried about losing members. Asked what the effect would be of the motion being defeated, Mr Wickens (Standing Orders Committee) said that that would indicate that the Meeting had reservations about the Law change, and no doubt National Council would then consider whether any action should be taken to defer its implementation.

Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) seconded the motion. A card vote was called for and the motion was not carried, there being 25,610 votes for, 18,070 against (NB under Rule 25.10.1 a two thirds majority is needed)

16.2. MOTION X

THAT this AGM notes that the 1993 ITTF Biennial General Meeting decided that from 1st September 1993 the "volley law" shall be merged in the "obstruction law", so that a volley will cause a point to be lost only if the ball is over the table at the time of the volley and that consequently the ETTA Approved Laws of Table Tennis will be similarly changed from the same date

Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) sought assurance that all umpires would be fully conversant, and Mrs A P Archdale (Weston super Mare) questioned the need for line judges. Mr G C Hammond (Beds) seconded the motion. On being put to the vote the motion was carried on a show of hands.

16.3. MOTION Y

THAT this AGM directs the National Council to authorise, in exercise of its power under Rule 42.7.1, any Local League which wishes to do so to allow the use of uncovered rackets in its domestic competitions during the Season 1993/4.

Mr L A Chatwin gave notice that National Council would not be putting this motion forward at the 1994 AGM. Mr G Trimming (Slough) urged voting against. Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) seconded the motion. A card vote was called for and the motion was defeated by 18,043 votes for, 21,123 against.

16.4. MOTION Z

THAT this AGM directs the National Council to authorise, in exercise of its power under Rule 42.7.1, any County Association, Local League or club, without specific permission, to organise and conduct an additional competition or competitions solely among its own members and players on a knockout basis, wherein the normal provisions of the Approval Laws are varied in one or more of the following ways:

(1) by reducing or increasing the number of points required to win a game, either for all players or differentially under a system of handicaps

(2) by restricting the type of racket or racket covering or by otherwise diverging from the normal requirements as to equipment

Mr L A Chatwin explained that this was a waiver of ETTA Rule 41.2 (which required all competition play to be under the Approved Laws of Table Tennis) to allow the staging of handicap competitions, hard bat tournaments etc. The waiver was not intended to cover the local league competition, only an 'additional competition'. Mr A E Upton seconded the motion and it was carried on a show of hands.

17. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS

17.1. 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:

17.2. 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:

A Drapkin, M W J Lewis, S Parr, L Pilditch, Mrs J Watts, M D Watts, B R J Webb and J Woodford. Messrs Drapkin, Lewis, Parr, Pilditch, Watts, Webb and Woodford were present to accept their badges to applause and suitably replied.

18. AWARDS

18.1. Ivor Montagu Award This was awarded to Mr L A Chatwin, chiefly for his work on gluing problems.

18.2. Malcolm Scott Award This was awarded to Mrs J Ransome for her achievements in advancing the participation of women in sport.

- 18.3. Victor Barna Award This was awarded to Chen Xinhua for his outstanding performance this season.
 - 18.4. Leslie Forrest Award
There were no nominations.
 - 18.5. Staff Award
The President announced that this was a new award in honour of the late Bill Vint OBE and was at the request of Mrs N Vint. Additionally she had donated his OBE award to the Association to his memory and this would be hung in the Head Office Reception. The General Secretary read out a letter from Mrs N Vint, who sent warm greetings.
 - 18.6. The Chairman announced that the first recipient was Mr D C Gray for his work in Development. Mr Gray received his award to applause and thanked all his colleagues for their help.
 - 18.7. ITTF Award
The President referred to a new Hall of Fame and the first recipient was the late Victor Barna. The plaque would be presented to Mrs S Barna on a suitable occasion.
19. **ELECTION OF AUDITORS**
It was agreed nem con that Messrs Spain Bros be re-elected.
20. **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 Wright, retiring member, be re-elected.
21. **ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS**
- 21.1. Mr S Parr (Warwickshire) spoke of his appreciation of the venue being Birmingham.
 - 21.2. Mr B Halliday (Berks) regretted the small number of players attending the European Youth Championships. The Chairman replied that Mr Halliday had been misinformed and that a full squad of 4 teams and reserves and four Captains had been selected. Mr M Bawden (Cadet Boys Team Captain) gave details of the large team attending.
 - 21.3. Mr A E Upton (Hon Life Member) asked the meeting to join in thanking the Tellers and the Chairman for his conduct of the meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 6.15 pm.