

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the National Indoor Arena, Birmingham, on Saturday 25 June 1994, commencing at 2pm.

Present: 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), M.D. Watts (Marketing), G. McCulloch
(Coaching)

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: L.A. Chatwin, R.J. Stevens, H.J. Webb, P. Hillier, M.
Allsop, K.J. Marchant, M.D. Watts, I.R. Crickmer, L.J. Smith, E. Hill, B.
Webb

Accredited Representatives - County Associations:

Avon (Mr M. Baynton), Bedfordshire (Mr G.G. Hammond), Berkshire (Mr B.R. Halliday), Buckinghamshire (Mr A.C. Catchpole), Cheshire (Mr T. Vardon), Cleveland (Mrs J. Ransome), Derbyshire (Mr L. Allwood), Devonshire (Mr K.T.O. Ponting), Dorset (Mr P. Hillier), Durham (Mrs J. Ransome), Essex (Mrs D. Nightingale), Gloucestershire (Mr L.J. Smith), Hampshire (Mr D. Turner), Hertfordshire (Mr B.R. Freer), Kent (Mr B.J. Rowley), Lancashire (Mr A.E. Upton), Leicestershire (Mr M.G.R. Smith), Lincolnshire (Mr K. Eliot), Middlesex (Mr M. Close), Norfolk (Mr A.H. Pickard), Northamptonshire (Mr K.J. Marchant), Nottinghamshire (Mr M. Allsop), Shropshire (Mr G.M.G. Twiss), Staffordshire (Mr R. Habgood), Suffolk (Mr H.F.J. Newman), Surrey (Mr T. Vance), Sussex (Mrs D. Nightingale), Warwickshire (Mr S. Parr) Worcestershire (Mrs L. Reid), Yorkshire (Mr B. Walker)

Accredited Representatives - Non-County Local League:

None

Accredited Representatives - Local Leagues:

Barnets (Mr B.R. Freer), Bristol (Mr M. Baynton), Derby (Mr M.J. Payne), Eastbourne (Mr J. Woodford), North Herts. (Mr J. Jermyn), North Middlesex (Mr B.R. Freer), Slough (Mr G. Trimming)

Other Members:

Mr R Habgood and Mr E.K. Muhr (National Councillors) Mr D.A. Young (Chairman, County Championships), Mr B.P. Lamerton (Chairman, Southern Region), Mr R. Bayliss (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire), Mr R.J. Clark (Suffolk), Mr N. Heavyside and Mr A.C. Knowlson (Liverpool Business Houses), Mr & Mrs D. Palmer (Malvern), Mrs D Jermyn (North Herts), Mr M.J. Payne and Mrs F.P. Chatwin (Derby), Mrs C. Lewis (Bristol) Mr D. Lomas (Burnham-on-Crouch), Mr J Wood (Editor of Table Tennis News)

Organisations in Good Standing:

None

In Attendance:

Mr RH Sinclair (General Secretary), Mr RJ Stevens (Finance Officer), Mr DC Gray (National Development Manager), Mrs D Nightingale (Development Assistant), Mr S Joel (Regional Development Officer)

Mr AE Ransome (Chairman) welcomed all present and took the chair. He advised that there were two meetings scheduled - the AGM and the SGM. The Special General Meeting would convene at approximately 3pm at a convenient pause during AGM business.

1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 3188/1/AW)
On behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, Mr AJH Wickens reported that there was an addendum to the report which he hoped the meeting would accept. The Treasurer's Report would be taken after the Special General Meeting, as the result of any voting would affect the report. Agreed on a show of hands.
2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 3197/1/AW)
Standing Orders as circulated were accepted.
3. TELLERS
It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mrs C Palmer and Mr J Wood 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: Mr J Leach MBE (President) Messrs J Beckley, P Day and SJ Sneyd (Vice-Chairmen), Messrs CJ Clemett, L Landry and J Wright (Hon. Life Members), Messrs H Albery, CA Burden, H Flinton, WG Goldfinch and E Jones MBE (Vice-Presidents) Messrs A Drapkin, P Roden and G Taylor (National Councillors), Mrs K Tonge and Mr L Darnell (Regional Chairmen), Mrs P Steel (Womens Development Committee) Mrs AP Archdale (Avon) and Messrs J Arnold, J Blackband (ESTTA)

The Chairman advised that the President was recovering from an operation and was unable to attend.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 1993,
(DOCUMENT 3057/1/RJS)
 - 5.1. Mr AE Upton (Hon. Life Member) proposed and Mr R Habgood (National Councillor) seconded acceptance of the minutes. Document 3057/1/RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.
6. MATTERS ARISING
None
7. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
At this point the Deputy Chairman assumed the Chair and intimated that he would go through the Report section by section. The following points arose during discussion:
 - 7.1. County Championships: The Vice-Chairman, Administration apologised for the regrettable omission from this section and referred to the insertion available to remedy this (paragraphs 5.2.3 and 5.2.4 omitted).
 - 7.2. Facilities Initiative: Mr B Walker (Yorkshire) referred to the 500,000 grant aid available and asked about the amount of money received and still available. The V-C Development advised that although there had been some delays, for various reasons, new schemes were in the pipeline to take up and currently there were four schemes ready to go to the Foundation for Sport and the Arts. Mr B Walker asked why the

ETTA were setting criteria as there were no restrictions on anybody applying direct and quoted a successful application in Yorkshire. The V-C Development said that some applications were more complex than others and the ETTA gave help and advice, if asked.

- 7.3. National Coaching Scheme: Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) paid tribute to a big increase in Coaching and Development, and felt confident that this was already bearing fruit.
- 7.4. Marketing: Mr B Walker (Yorkshire) congratulated everyone connected with Euro'94, which he felt had been an outstanding success. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) endorsed his remarks and paid tribute especially to Mr AE Ransome (Chairman) for his vision in seeking to bring the Championships to England, knowing that they would be such a success.
- 7.5. I.T.T.F.: Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) asked for clarification on the adhesive ban following the ITTF Council meeting in China. The Chairman reported that there had been a very long debate on adhesives and some Council Members expressed criticism at the ITTF delay in agreeing a ban. Their unanimous decision resulting from the meeting was that there would be a ban on the use of liquid solvents in the sticking of table tennis rubbers to blades from 1 August 1995. They had defined three acceptable types of adhesive methods:
 - 1) P.S.A sheets
 - 2) Any glue which was dry ie: no vapours would show up on a testing machine.
 - 3) Waterbased glues, these were still being developed as these contained a small proportion of harmful substances.
- 7.6. ETTU: Mr M Payne (Derby) referred to the age limit of sixty placed on umpires for world title events being removed by the ITTF and asked if the ETTU would follow suit. The Chairman reported that the ETTU has yet to meet formally to discuss the ITTF move. He was pleased to report that Mr MD Watts had been appointed to the new ETTU Veterans Committee.
- 7.7. Results: Mrs L Reid (Worcestershire) regretted the omission of Veterans British League Results on Page 31. The Chairman said that the Gateshead match had been omitted from the list of Junior International matches. Both points were noted.
- 7.8. Adoption of Report: Mr AE Upton (Hon. Life Member) moved acceptance of the Management Committee Report, seconded by Mr J Woodford (Eastbourne). Agreed. The V-C (Administration) acknowledged the valuable help from all contributors and staff with a special thanks to Mr K Watts (Hon. Life Member).
(At this point the Deputy Chairman handed the Chair back to the Chairman)

8. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR SEASON 1994/5 (DOCUMENT 3184/23/RHS)

8.1. The report was noted.

9. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR SEASON 1994/5 (DOCUMENT 3190/23/AW)

9.1. Document 3190/23/AW was noted.

/continued

10. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

(As agreed earlier this item was deferred until after the Special General Meeting).

11. PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO RULES (except where stated otherwise proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr K Watts)

11.1. PROPOSITION No.1

- 11.1.1. Amend Rules 4.1.9, 13.8 and 15.1: for "Election Season" Substitute "Election Year".

In all other places where it appears in the Rules, for "Season" substitute "Administrative Year".

Carried on a show of hands

11.2. PROPOSITION No.2

- 11.2.1. Amend Rule 4.1.14: between "others" and "members" insert "individual", for "5.1" substitute "5.1.2"

Carried on a show of hands

11.3. PROPOSITION No.3

- 11.3.1. Insert new "Rule 31.4a Not later than 15th August in each Administrative Year every County Association shall send to the ETTA written notification of the names and addresses of its Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer".

Carried on a show of hands

11.4. PROPOSITION No.4

- 11.4.1. Insert new "Rule 31.11. A National Councillor shall notify the ETTA General Secretary if at any time the County Association which he represents has neither a General Secretary nor an acting General Secretary".

Carried on a show of hands

11.5. PROPOSITION No.5

- 11.5.1. Amend Rule 33.5: for " to make up a total of three available persons" substitute "to ensure that a minimum of three persons is available"

Carried on a show of hands

11.6. PROPOSITION No.7

- 11.6.1. Insert new "Rule 34.4.3: Selection or non-selection by a County Association, or inclusion in or exclusion or removal from any team or squad, training or coaching or trials whether as a player or otherwise by a County Association".

Carried on a show of hands

- 11.7. PROPOSITION No.6 (proposed on behalf of Yorkshire County TTA by Mr B Walker).

- 11.7.1. Delete Rules 33.14 and 34.3.4. (This would make decisions of the Disciplinary Committee subject to appeal). Mr B Walker said that most people believed in both discipline and justice, but he questioned if they always go together. There was no right of appeal against the decision and punishment of the Disciplinary Committee, to the extent that a person could be banned for life with no right of appeal. Surely this was against natural justice. Mr AJH Wickens (Hon. Life Member) said that whilst nobody was against the idea of appeals in certain circumstances, it was necessary to examine the necessary factors involved, and not be swayed by emotions. The Members of the Disciplinary Committee were elected as being wise and appropriate, and he posed the question whether Appeal Board Members would be more wise, more honest etc. Mr K Watts (Hon. Life Member) reported that Rules Committee had been invited ten

years ago to review the question of appeals against Disciplinary Committee decisions and on reporting to National Council their findings, the vote had been overwhelmingly for no change. Mr AE Upton (Hon, Life Member/Chairman Disciplinary Committee) advised that any appeal could delay imposition of penalty, and this suspension of penalty could alter the effect. The V-C Admin, Mr MR Holt advised that the Management Committee were concerned that there was a denial of basic Human Rights and were urging support. Following further discussion, Mr B Walker summed up the debate, and concluded by referring to the Disciplinary Section of the Management Committee Report (para 4.1) saying that the General Secretary of the appropriate County Association had not been asked for permission. He felt that the sentence handed down had been outrageous, and urged support. On being put to the vote the motion was carried on a show of hands.

(At this point, the time being 3.10pm the meeting was adjourned for a Special General Meeting to be held).

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 4pm and said that they would now take Item 10 on the Agenda:- The Treasurer's Report.

10. REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1994

10.1. The Treasurer said that despite most costs being up, he was pleased to report a break even situation. The forecast however was very tight and he felt that there needed to be an overall increase of 15% in league membership to help offset increases. The Sports Council needed to see expansion in return for their investment. Committee costs had continued to increase and the Treasurer highlighted the yearly cost of National Council which was now close to 8,000. He stated that, in his opinion, the Association's administration was top-heavy and we had to look at ways of streamlining the organisation. Mr K Muhr (Milton Keynes) felt that it was important to invest more money in coaching, development and publicity, even if initially it meant the Association going into debt. Euro'94 accounts were yet to be finalised, but with some accounts still outstanding, he could not give a date for completion. However, he would provide a paper for the July National Council meeting. Mr A Catchpole (Bucks) proposed and Mr R Habgood (Staffs) 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

12. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE LAWS OF TABLE TENNIS (DOCUMENT 3193/1/AW)

12.1. MOTION "V" (Proposed on behalf of Bristol and District TTA by Mr MB Baynton and on behalf of Yorkshire County TTA)

THAT in exercise of its power under ETTA Rule (93/94) 42.6 this Annual General meeting resolves THAT the ETTA Approved Laws of Table Tennis shall diverge from the ITTF Laws so that ETTA Approved Law 4.6 shall read "The surface of the

covering material on a side of the blade, or of the side of a blade if it is left uncovered, shall be uniformly dark-coloured and matt; any trimming round the edge of the blade shall be matt and no part of it shall be white".

Mr MB Baynton introduced the Motion and advised that his league had foreseen a lot of difficulties and had requested Clubs to conduct a survey on the issue and report back on possible loss of membership. The results were felt to be disastrous, both to the league and to the Association, with a possible 150 members dropping out from a total of about 650. He urged that leagues be allowed to run domestic affairs as they wished. Mr E Hill (Yorkshire) endorsed his remarks, adding that a similar survey in Yorkshire had concluded that a lot of players and administrators would leave the sport. He seconded the Motion. Following a long discussion, in which the need to follow the rules of any game were stressed, the Motion was put to the vote.

Lost on a show of hands

12.2. MOTIONS W & X

These were not proceeded with as Motion V was not carried.

12.3. MOTION Y

This Motion was withdrawn due to the ITTF agreeing no change to current laws on scoring.

12.4. MOTION Z (Proposed on behalf of National Council by Mr AJH Wickens) THAT this Annual General Meeting directs the National Council to authorise until further resolution of National Council, 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 knock-out basis, wherein the normal provisions of the Approved 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

(NOTE: This is a waiver of ETTA Rule 41.2 (which requires all competitive play to be under the ETTA Approved Laws of Table Tennis) to allow the staging of handicap competitions, hard bat tournaments etc. The waiver is not intended to cover the normal league competition, only an "additional competition").

Mr AJH Wickens (Rules Committee) explained that this was merely a clarification, and proposed the Motion, seconded by Mr AE Upton (Hon. Life Member). On being put to the vote the Motion was carried on a show of hands.

13. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Chairman advised that the President was due to retire, by rule, at the end of the current meeting, and on behalf

of the Honours Committee he proposed his re-election in view of the most admirable way he carried out his duties, seconded by Mr K Eliot (Lincolnshire), carried unanimously.

14. ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENTS

- 14.1. 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.
- 14.2. 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: Mr MR Holt and Mr DA Young. They were both present to receive their badges and made suitable responses.

15. AWARDS

- 15.1. Ivor Montagu Award: This was awarded to Ms G McCulloch for her achievements in promoting the Coaching Scheme so successfully.
- 15.2. Malcolm Scott Award: This was awarded to Mr AE Ransome for his achievements and vision as Chairman of the Association, and especially for bringing the 94 European Championships to England.
- 15.3. Victor Barna Award: This was awarded to the England Women's Team for reaching the final of the Women's European League.
- 15.4. Leslie Forrest Award: This was awarded to Mr H Albery for his valuable work over many years as General Secretary for Hampshire.
- 15.5. Pat Archdale Trophy: This was awarded to Mrs JH Parker as the Captain of the successful England Women's Team in her retirement season.
- 15.6. Staff Award: This was awarded to Mr RH Sinclair for his hard work and dedication as General Secretary.

16. ELECTION OF AUDITORS

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

17. 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 AJH Wickens retiring member be re-elected.

18. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

- 18.1. Mr G Twiss (Shropshire) referred to the setting up of Membership Services Panel last November, and to the fact that nothing appeared to have emanated from them since, although new initiatives were urgently needed. Mr M.R. Holt V-C Administration apologised for lack of action due to the European Championships, and promised attention shortly.
- 18.2. Mr J Jermyn (North Hertfordshire) sought clarification of the apparent late distribution of the 1993/4 Rules Book. The General Secretary advised that the 1994/5 edition would be available soon.
- 18.3. In reply to a question from Mr K Eliot (Lincolnshire) the V-C (Administration) advised that interviews for the position of Chief Executive were to take place on 1 July 1994.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 5.05pm.

/concluded