

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Cranfield University,  
Bedford, on Saturday 29th June 1996, commencing at 2 p.m.

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**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), R. Habgood  
(Selection)

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:** Mrs D.M. Stannard, K.T.O. Ponting,  
A.E. Ransome, A.E. Upton, A.J.H. Wickens

**VICE-PRESIDENTS:** H. Albery, M. Allsop, L.A. Chatwin,  
P.H.M. Hillier, M.R. Holt, M.W.J. Lewis, R.H.  
Sinclair, R.J. Stevens, H.J. Webb, J. Woodford

**ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES - COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS:**

Avon (I.J. Mead), Bedfordshire (G.G. Hammond), Berkshire  
(S. Joel), Buckinghamshire (A.C. Catchpole), Cheshire  
(T.R. Vardon), Cleveland (M.W.J. Lewis), Cornwall (P.J. Hancock) Derbyshire  
(L. Allwood), Devonshire (K.T.O. Ponting), Dorset  
(H.J. Webb), Essex (B.R. Granger), Hampshire (H. Albery), Herefordshire (N.  
Merchant), Hertfordshire (B.R. Freer), Isle of Wight (Mrs E. Prean),  
Lancashire (A.E. Upton), Leicestershire (M.R. Holt), Lincolnshire (K. Eliot),  
Middlesex (M. Close), Norfolk (A.H. Pickard), Nottinghamshire (M. Allsop),  
Shropshire (T. Felton), Somerset (A. Seward), Staffordshire (R. Habgood),  
Sussex (A.K. Beames), Warwickshire (J.M. Whitehead), Wiltshire (K. Satchell),  
Worcestershire (D.A. Young), Yorkshire (B.W. Walker)

**ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES - NON-COUNTY LOCAL LEAGUE:**

None.

**ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES - LOCAL LEAGUES:**

Barnsley (A.T. Dawson), Bath (D. Hockney), Birmingham (J.M. Whitehead),  
Bristol (I.J. Mead), Crawley/Horsham (Mrs C.A. Beames), Eastbourne (Mrs D.M.  
Nightingale), Hastings  
(C.T. Hyland), Hull (R.B. Hudson), Liverpool Business Houses (A.C. Knowlson),  
North Herts. (Mrs D. Jermyn), Rotherham (J. Hatfield), Sheffield (R. Loxley),  
Sheffield Works (S. Wainwright), Weston-Super-Mare (Mrs A.P. Archdale),  
Slough (P. Avenell), Wembley/Harrow (C. Walsh)

**OTHERS:**

J. Prean (National Councillor, Isle of Wight), L.S. Fox (Sheffield), T.  
Purcell (Liverpool Business Houses), R.E. Gunnion (Birmingham), L. Ward  
(Harrogate), R.M. Hullah (Leeds), S. Gibson, J. Holland (Peniel), D.B. Turner  
(Hants) Mrs C Hammond (Beds), J. Melnick (Middlesex), J.F.A. Wood (Editor of  
Table Tennis News)

**ORGANISATIONS IN GOOD STANDING:**

None.

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**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

R. Yule (Chief Executive), R.H. Sinclair (General Secretary), R.J. Stevens (Finance Officer), Mrs D.M. Nightingale (Development Assistant), E.K. Muhr (Regional Development Officer, North)

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

**1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 3668/1/AW):**

- 1.1. On behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, Mr A.J.H. Wickens introduced the report. He firstly apologised for two defects in the Notice convening the meeting, which had helpfully been brought to his notice - in paragraph 4 "Rule 28.9.3.1" should have been "Rule 28.10.3.1" and in paragraph 5 the wording would benefit from being expanded to show that under Rule 30.1.2 a Voting Card could be sent to someone other than a General Secretary. Mr Wickens thanked Mr Upton for drawing attention to these two points which would be taken account of next time. He reminded the meeting that the Standing Orders Committee existed for the benefit of members in General Meeting.
- 1.2. He drew attention to Proposition No.4 which was to be proposed on behalf of Yorkshire County TTA. By Rule all propositions for the June AGM had to be received by the end of February annually, but Proposition No.4 had not been received until April. The Committee recommended that the proposition should be removed from the Order Paper. They had left it on to enable the meeting to be aware of it.
- 1.3. He drew attention to the long length of service of existing members of the Committee and stressed that new members were needed.
- 1.4. The Chairman referred to the recommendation that Proposition No.4 should not be on the Order Paper; acceptance of the report by the meeting would include acceptance of the recommendation. He invited Yorkshire TTA to comment but this was declined. The report was accepted.

**2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 3197/1/AW):**

- 2.1. Standing Orders as circulated were accepted.

**3. TELLERS:**

- 3.1. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr R. Gunnion and Mr T. Purcell be appointed Tellers for the meeting. They were reminded before appointment that Tellers could not take part in debate.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

- 4.1. Apologies for absence had been received from the following: C.J. Clemett, R.J. Crayden, K. Watts and J.M. Wright (Honorary Life Members), J. Arnold, I.R. Crickmer, H. Flinton, W.G. Goldfinch, K. Marchant, A.I. Marshall, S. Parr, L.J. Smith, D.R. Treymayne, B.R.J. Webb, (Vice-Presidents) B.R. Halliday, Miss G. McCulloch, (Vice-Chairmen D. Carney, T. O'Flynn, (National Councillors) L. Darnell, B.P. Lamerton, M. Smith, K. Tonge, (Regional Chairmen) Mrs C. Lewis, (Development) S.E. Sherlock (Ranking Policy Committee), E. Herrity (Oxon), B. Pettit (Brighton), S. Brown (Romford), N. Heavyside (Liverpool Business Houses)

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5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 24TH JUNE 1995,  
(DOCUMENT 3421/1/RJS):
  - 5.1. Document 3421/1RJS was agreed and signed as a true record.
  
6. MATTERS ARISING:
  - 6.1. Minute 9.4.

Mr T. Vardon (Cheshire) referred to the assurance given that publication of new Tournament Regulations would be given urgent attention and asked what was the current situation. In reply, Mr L.A. Chatwin (Deputy Chairman) said that the Tournament Committee had examined the problems and had produced Data Sheets for Tournament Organisers.
  
7. 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. Mr M.R. Holt (Vice-Chairman (Administration)) apologised for the omission of Mr R.H. Sinclair from the published list of Vice-Presidents and for some misnumbering. The following points arose during discussion:

  - 7.1. Introduction

Mr J. Prean (Isle of Wight) referred to the paragraph reporting the meeting between representatives of the Sports Council, Mr D. Taber of Cornilleau (UK) Ltd, himself and members of Management Committee. He pointed out that the meeting with Sports Council was requested by Mr Taber with Mr J. Prean as a witness. The Chairman said that he was very concerned at the possible damage done to our sport, especially as there was no need for it, with the allegations found to be without foundation. The Chief Executive said that up to 24 hours prior to the meeting he had no knowledge of Mr Taber's attendance. Mr R. Habgood (Chairman, Trade Committee) referred to the request of National Council that the matter be dropped and asked Mr Prean whether or not he accepted this. In reply Mr Prean said until he received honest answers he could not. There was to be a further meeting with the Sports Council in the future, possibly to discuss trade matters.
  - 7.2. Woolwich Junior League
    - 7.2.1. Discussion took place on the merits of changing the existing eleven point system to the twenty-one point system. Mr M.W.J. Lewis (Vice-Chairman (Development)) said that a circular to all clubs had been sent requesting their views on any changes and results would be discussed.
  - 7.3. FEFC Funding
    - 7.3.1. Mr B. Walker (Yorkshire) said that it was his understanding that FEFC Funding money should be recycled back to counties and asked when such money would be received by them. The Chairman said that he had not read this in the guidelines, but he would examine further and report back.
  - 7.4. Television
    - 7.4.1. Mr J. Prean (Isle of Wight) regretted the lack of television coverage which he felt led to an increasing loss of young players to the sports which were better covered. In reply the Chief Executive said that he had met several television companies and better coverage was promised if a better package was offered.
  - 7.5. International Events

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- 7.5.1. Mr R. Habgood (Vice-Chairman (Selection)) pointed out the omission in paragraph 10.5.3 of Carl Prean, winner of the Brazilian Open. Mr M.R. Holt (Vice-Chairman (Administration)) apologised for this and promised to include it in the minutes for the present meeting. Mr R. Habgood further suggested that the retirement of Mrs A Broe deserved suitable recognition.
- 7.5.2. Mr J. Prean (Isle of Wight) felt that generally results were disastrous.
- 7.6. Junior Programme
- 7.6.1. The Chief Executive reported that other countries put far more money into their Junior Programme towards Funding and Resources. Mr J. Prean (Isle of Wight) felt that in the past very good results had been achieved despite little money, and a hard look must be taken at how we currently spend the money. Following further discussion, the Chairman said that other countries did fund their Juniors better, and their results showed this, but with existing budgets the Association was spending wisely and doing the best.
- 7.7. Results
- 7.7.1. Mr M. Allsop (Nottinghamshire) regretted the omission of the recent European Championships Results. Mr M.R. Holt (Vice-Chairman (Administration)) apologised for this.
- 7.8. Adoption of Report
- 7.8.1 Mr A.E. Upton (Honorary Life Member) moved acceptance of the Management Committee Report, seconded by Mr H. Albery (Hampshire). Carried on a show of hands.

(At this point, the President handed the chair back to the Chairman.)

8. REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMEN FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 1996/97 (DOCUMENT 3656/23/RHS)
- 8.1. The report was noted.
9. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 1996/97 (DOCUMENT 3673/23/AW)
- 9.1. Document 3673/23/AW was noted.
10. REPORT OF THE TREASURER. REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1996 (DOCUMENT 3664/825/PHMH):
- 10.1. The Treasurer referred to the deficit of about £37,000 for the current year, and gave reasons:- no television income; no overseas tours at home; Sports Council grants down; Table Tennis News magazine losses up; international costs up; membership continued to fall and this meant affiliation fees received were down. He then invited questions.
- 10.2. Mr M. Allsop (Nottinghamshire) referred to a report that some contracts for the 1994 European Championships had not been honoured by the ETTA, resulting in damages and asked how much had been paid out. The Treasurer replied that no actual cash had been paid out, but compensatory deals had been negotiated involving adverts in Table Tennis News and gave details. Mr R. Habgood (Chairman Trade Committee) questioned whether details just given by the Treasurer were part of private and confidential minutes of National Council. The Treasurer replied that he had been asked valid questions and was obliged to reply with true answers.

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- 10.3. Mr G. Walsh (Wembley/Harrow) said that members asked from time to time where their affiliation fees went to and how spent. He referred to the County Championships, their entry fees and a seemingly huge increase in costs apparently little to do with inflation. His members would not expect their fees to subsidise County Championships. He contrasted British League fees and losses, being based on a commercial concept. In reply the Treasurer gave details of income and costs for the two, and advised that sponsorship for British League was shown separately in the accounts. Mr K.T.O. Ponting (Chairman, British League) drew attention to the bank interest earned by the British League deposits.
- 10.4. Mr J. Prean (Isle of Wight) asked what steps were being taken to stop losses and ensure a return to profit. The Treasurer said that due to increased Development costs, current and planned, he could not foresee any return to profit imminent unless there was a change of policy. Mr M.W.J. Lewis (Vice-Chairman (Development)) drew attention to the fact that over two million pounds from the Foundation for the Arts and Sports had gone direct to our members, although not shown on ETTA accounts. Mr K. Muhr (Northern Development Officer) felt it vital to invest in the future by way of development, or the decline in membership would not be arrested. The Chairman stressed that this was the first year of a loss occurring and it was very important to keep the activities going. After next year, the future prospects looked extremely good and as a result of being chosen as a core sport the future looked very promising.
- 10.5. Mr A.C. Catchpole (Buckinghamshire) proposed and Mr K.T.O. Ponting (Devonshire) 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 with Mr J. Prean (Isle of Wight) voting against.

11. **RULE CHANGE PROPOSITIONS:**

11.1. Proposition No.1 (Proposed on behalf of the Isle of Wight TTA by Mr J. Prean).

11.1.1. Insert new Rule 13.2a "A person connected in any way with the manufacture, sale or endorsement of table tennis equipment shall not be eligible as an Officer"

The Chairman invited the President to assume the Chair. He advised that Standing Orders would be strictly adhered to, and asked Mr J. Prean to introduce the proposition. Mr Prean said that the interests of Traders and Members were not the same, and were in fact in conflict. Traders were concerned with maximising their profit, whilst Members were on the other side of the fence and did not want to pay more than they had to. He urged the meeting to resist any thoughts of personality clashes, past and present, and concentrate on the facts. He instanced that the Chairman of the Sports Council had resigned from all business interests on his appointment, as had the late President of the ITTF. Indeed the principle was in the ITTF Rule Book. It was not possible to do both and vote dispassionately. He urged that Members vote accordingly on those facts.

11. (RULE CHANGE PROPOSITIONS: continued)

- 11.1.2. The Chair invited other speakers to comment. Mr M.W.J. Lewis (Vice-Chairman (Development)) felt that the proposal was solely personal, as it was only directed to Management and not to County or League Officials as well. He pointed out that Members interests were protected by a Trade Committee, whose Members were voted on the Committee by National Council, not Management, and that they were gaining in expertise. Mr K.T.O. Ponting (Honorary Life Member (Devonshire)) stated that serving National Councillors had noted an ongoing campaign against the ETTA Chairman, and felt that this proposition was merely a continuation. This proposition, if carried, would deny the ETTA the benefits of good, expert people. Mr A.E. Upton (Honorary Life Member (Lancashire)) felt that although normally he would have some sympathy with the proposition, he was also of the opinion that it was personal, and reminded the meeting that Mr Ransome had been Deputy Chairman under the Chairmanship of Mr J. Preat and that Mr Ransome has been in post now for five years as Chairman. Mr B. Walker (Yorkshire) supported the views of the last two speakers. He felt that the sniping must stop, and reminded that the Chairman had been put there by a democratic vote. Mr B. Rowley (Kent) reported that when Mr Ransome had first been appointed to Management Committee, he had then drawn attention to future possible clashes of interests. Subsequently he had been won over to the value and need for Mr Ransome on Management Committee, and as Chairman. In his contact with members of the Trade, they acknowledged the existence of problems, but nevertheless they felt that Mr Ransome was the best candidate for ETTA Chairman. Additionally he had also felt that the Trade Committee was getting better and stronger. Mr R. Habgood (Chairman Trade Committee) invited Members to note that not one new contract or agreement had been entered into with the Chairman since Mr Habgood had been on the Committee. M.R. Holt (outgoing Vice-Chairman (Administration)) speaking on behalf of Leicestershire, supported the previous speakers and expressed the view that Mr Ransome was the best Chairman ETTA had ever elected. The Chair invited Mr J. Preat to sum up. He said that although he had asked for personalities to be put aside, he was disappointed at some speakers failure to do so. Additionally he was perfectly aware of how democracy worked in the ETTA. In his time as ETTA Chairman he ensured that his Deputy had no dealings with the Trade. He reminded Members about the ITTF Rule, and that it was the practice for Chairmen to resign their business interests on their election. He questioned if the Traders were apparently happy with current arrangements, why they were not therefore supporting us now. He urged accredited representatives to think about the merits of the proposition, and vote accordingly. On being put to the vote the proposition was lost on a show of hands, with three voting for and the vast majority voting against.

Mr A. E. Ransome thanked Members for their continued support.

- 11.2. Proposition NO.2 (Proposed on behalf of Avon County TTA by Mr I.J. Mead).  
11.2.1. Insert new "Rule 31.1.2a Before taking any decision relating to a

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boundary on the Official Map the National Council shall take account of the views of the County Association(s) whose boundary is under consideration for alteration, and any Local League operating in the area affected by the proposed boundary change, and other Local Leagues affiliated to the County Associations to which affected Local Leagues are affiliated."

The Proposition was carried nemcon.

11.3. Proposition No.3 (Proposed on behalf of Sheffield Table Tennis League by Mr R. Loxley).

11.3.1. Amend Rule 31.3.6.4: after "1st December in the Administrative Year" delete "before the Administrative Year". Mr R. Loxley referred to the July 1995 National Council decision regarding their request over County Affiliation. The wording of Rule 31.3.6.4. had given them many administrative problems and procedural advice had been sought from Hastings. Regrettably their application had been received eleven days after the deadline of 1st December. He had no wish to go into details of their application, unless pressed, but stressed the importance and effect. Mr B Walker (Yorkshire TTA) felt it correct that a full season's notice should be given, as an application or announcement received just before a new season made it impossible for that County to plan. Additionally all debts had to be settled in full. Mr B. Rowley (Kent) felt that all the principles enshrined in the Rule Book must be adhered to. Mr M. Close (Middlesex) said that having listened to the debate he felt that basically sound Rules should not be changed to suit an individual. Mr R.M. Hullah (Yorkshire) advised that Yorkshire TTA were not opposed to the request provided that all debts were settled prior to change. Mr J. Hatfield (Rotherham) asked the meeting to show care and compassion for the people of South Yorkshire. Mr B. Walker (Yorkshire) advised that the Yorkshire TTA had never objected to the move of creating a new county of South Yorkshire but had used gentle persuasion against. However if there was a strong wish to change then they had no objection. Mr R. Loxley (Sheffield) summed up the debate and thanked people who had spoken in support. He urged compassion to help the people of South Yorkshire get the decision they so badly needed. A card vote was called for. The Proposition was not carried as it did not achieve the required majority (18,320 votes for, 15,450 against).

11.4. Proposition No.4 was not proceeded with as agreed.

12. **MOTION RELATING TO VAT REFUND:**

12.1. THAT this Annual General Meeting directs that there be paid to each Local League which has paid its 1996/7 Affiliation Fees by the due date, 15th November 1996, a sum equal to 14.89% of the Affiliation Fees paid by that League for the Administrative year 1995/6 (such sum representing that League's share of \18,265.69, the portion of total 1995/6 Affiliation Fees which would have represented VAT if Affiliation Fees had been "inclusive of VAT", calculated in accordance with the ratio of that League's Affiliation Fees to the total of Affiliation Fees paid by all Local Leagues for the Administrative Year 1995/6). Mr A.J.H. Wickens proposed the Motion with a brief explanation.

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Mr A.E. Upton (Lancashire) seconded and it was carried on a show of hands.

13. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENTS:

13.1. 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.

13.2. The meeting agreed on the proposal of the Chairman on behalf of National Council to the election for a term of three years of the following additional Vice-Presidents: Miss Jane Adams (Advertising Services Controller, Woolwich Building Society) and Mr G.G. Hammond. Mr Hammond was present to accept his badge from the President, to great applause.

14. PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND HONOURS:

14.1. Malcolm Scott Award

This was awarded to the Deputy Chairman, Mr L.A. Chatwin for his invaluable work as a Deputy Referee of World Championships in 1977, Referee of Europe Top 12 in 1983, Commonwealth Championships in 1985, USA Open in 1992 and Euro Asia in 1988, Euro'94 Department Director, and four years as ETTA Deputy Chairman.

The Deputy Chairman proudly accepted to applause.

14.2. Ivor Montagu Award

This was awarded to Mr S.E. Sherlock for his valuable contribution to the work of the National Umpires and Referees and also the Ranking Policy Committee.

14.3. Leslie Forrest Award

This had been awarded to Mr H. Ward (Leicestershire) and presented at the County Championships Conference.

14.4. Victor Barna Award

The Chairman reported that National Council had approved the award to the England Women's Team.

14.5. A.K. Vint OBE Staff Award

Mr M.R. Holt (Vice-Chairman (Administration)) said it gave him great pleasure to thank a member of staff and presented the award to Mrs Doreen Nightingale who accepted to applause.

14.6. Roll of Honour

Mr M.R. Holt referred to the decision to institute an award system bearing the title of 'Hall of Fame'. Nominations had now been received and the 'Hall of Fame' would be implemented.

15. ELECTION OF AUDITORS:

15.1. It was agreed nemcon that Spains be re-elected.

16. ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:

16.1. 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.

17. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS:

17.1. Mr B.J. Rowley (Kent) felt it most important that the subject of ETTA membership be debated. There were many players who might want to belong to the Association but were prevented because they did not belong to a local league.

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Mr M.R. Holt (Membership Services Panel) endorsed his remarks, as did Mr M.W.J. Lewis (Vice-Chairman (Development)) who said that the Sports Council were of the opinion that the Association should look at all players, not just members.

Mrs C.A. Beames (Sussex) felt it necessary to give potential members something back for their money. Following further discussion it was recommended that the Membership Committee present their findings at the 1997 AGM.

- 17.2. Mr J. Whiting (Warwickshire) regretted the length of time taken to approve County Rules.
- 17.3. There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and declared the meeting closed at 5.30 p.m.

\concluded