

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Village Hotel, Hyde, Cheshire on Saturday 28th June 1997 commencing at 2.00pm.

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**PRESENT:** JA Leach MBE (President), AE Ransome (Chairman),  
LA Chatwin (Deputy Chairman), PHM Hillier (Treasurer)

**VICE-CHAIRMEN:** MR Holt (Marketing), MWJ Lewis (Development),  
LA Chatwin (Competitions), D Parker (Selection),  
BR Granger (Administration)

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS:** KTO Ponting, AE Ransome, AE Upton, AJH Wickens

**VICE-PRESIDENTS:** M Allsop, LA Chatwin, E Hill, PHM Hillier, MR Holt,  
MWJ Lewis, S Parr, RH Sinclair, RJ Stevens, BRJ Webb,  
HJ Webb, DA Young

**ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES - COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS:**

Avon (JA Harris), Berkshire (S Joel), Buckinghamshire (BRJ Webb), Cheshire (TR Vardon), Cleveland (K Eliot), Cumbria (P Rushton), Derbyshire (L Allwood), Devonshire (KTO Ponting), Dorset (HJ Webb), Durham (K Eliot), Essex (S Kerns), Hampshire (DB Turner), Herefordshire (N Merchant), Hertfordshire (JFA Wood), Isle of Wight (M Allsop), Kent (RR Thompson), Lancashire (AE Upton), Leicestershire (MR Holt), Lincolnshire (K Eliot), Nottinghamshire (M Allsop), Suffolk (P Avenell), Surrey (BJ Rowley), Sussex (AK Beames), Warwickshire (S Parr), Wiltshire (K Satchell), Worcestershire (DA Young), Yorkshire (BW Walker)

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

None.

**ACCREDITED REPRESENTATIVES - LOCAL LEAGUES:**

Bath (D Hockney), Bristol (IJ Mead), Hull (RB Hudson), Kendal (C Usher), Leicester (MGR Smith), Liverpool Business Houses (AC Knowlson), Slough (K Phillips)

**OTHERS:**

Miss CE Rose (National Councillor, Cumbria), Mrs CA Beames (National Councillor, Sussex), MGR Smith (Regional Chairman - East Midlands), Mrs KM Tonge (Regional Chairman- North West), Mrs C Lewis (Women's Development Committee), Mrs J Parker MBE (National Coaching Manager), Mrs P Chatwin (Derbyshire), K Shepherd (Yorkshire TTA), DA Lomas (Burnham), C Pratt and C Usher (Kendal TTL), N Heavyside (Liverpool Business Houses TTL), G and J Rushton (Salford & Farnworth TTL), A Johnson (Wilmslow TTL), J Beckley (Public Relations Committee)

**ORGANISATIONS IN GOOD STANDING:**

None

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

R Yule (Chief Executive), RH Sinclair (General Secretary), RJ Stevens (Finance Officer), DC Gray (Director of Development), Mrs DM Nightingale (Ranking Co-ordinator), R Burch, M Ireland and K Muhr (Regional Development Officers).

AE Ransome (Chairman) welcomed all present and took the chair. He then advised that the President wished to say a few words.

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The President said that it gave him great pleasure to announce to the meeting that the Chairman had been nominated for the OBE. As everyone was aware the Chairman had devoted his life to Table Tennis and no one had worked harder to develop the sport. He was now in his seventh year in the Chair, and prior to this he had served four years as Deputy Chairman. He asked the meeting to join him in congratulating AE Ransome for his well merited award. In reply the Chairman thanked everyone for their congratulations, and said how happy he was to accept the Honour on behalf of the sport he loved.

**1. REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE (DOCUMENT 3881/1/AW):**

- 1.1. On behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, AJH Wickens introduced the report. He apologised for its lateness due to work pressures, and assured the meeting that there was nothing contentious.
- 1.2. He said that there was a new edition of Standing Orders, due to a need for some clarification, but there was no substantive change.
- 1.3. He pointed out that the Management Committee Report for 1996/7 should have a document number of 3884/22/BRG.
- 1.4. He drew attention to the fact that new members would be required soon for the Standing Orders Committee.
- 1.5. The report was accepted.

**2. STANDING ORDERS (DOCUMENT 3882/1/AW):**

- 2.1. Standing Orders as circulated were adopted.

**3. TELLERS:**

- 3.1. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mrs DM Nightingale and Mrs KM Tonge 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:  
Mrs DM Stannard, CJ Clemett, RJ Crayden and K Watts (Honorary Life Members), IR Crickmer, H Flinton, WG Goldfinch, G Gurney, GG Hammond, E Jones MBE, JM McDonnell, LJ Smith, D Tremayne, DN Tyler, MD Watts and J Woodford (Vice-Presidents), Miss G McCulloch and BR Halliday (Vice-Chairmen), Mrs E Prean, H Albery, D Carney, T Felton, R Loxley, T O'Flynn, A Seward, G Taylor and L Ward (National Councillors), M Close and BP Lamerton (Regional Chairmen), J Freeman and GT Scruton (Board of Appeal), L Darnell (Disciplinary Committee), C Hyland (Trade Committee), Mr and Mrs Whitehead (Warwickshire), J Arnold and J Blackband (ESTTA) and P Bradley (VETTS).

**5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 29TH JUNE 1996 (DOCUMENT 3883/1/RJS):**

- 5.1. Minute 17.2. The meeting noted that the name of Mr J Whiting should read Mr J Whitehead.
- 5.2. Document 3883/1/RJS, as amended, was agreed and signed as a true record.

**6. MATTERS ARISING:**

- 6.1. Minute 13.2. AE Upton (Honorary Life Member) referred to the election of Miss J Adams (Advertising Services Controller, Woolwich Building Society) as a Vice-President, and that this was also mentioned in the Management Committee Report 96/7. Paragraph 9.8.2.

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Regrettably she had been omitted from the list of Vice-Presidents on page 1 of the said Report. The Chairman apologised for the error.

7. **REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

At this point the President took the Chair and intimated that he would go through the Report section by section.

7.1. Introduction

D Lomas (Burnham) referred to the submission to the National Lottery (page 8), and asked for news of progress. The Chairman said that receipt of National Lottery monies was subject to many conditions being met. A very detailed 8 year plan must be strictly followed and targets have to be achieved to the English Sports Council's satisfaction.

7.2. D Lomas sought clarification of the establishment of a National Training Centre. The Chairman explained that the intention was for it to be a part of the National Academy. Three venues were being considered at the moment:- 1) Oxfordshire 2) Midlands and 3) Sheffield. He stressed the importance of employing more specialist full time coaches to train our National Squad to higher standards.

7.3. Finance

D Lomas referred to English Sports Council grant for the new four year plan (1998-2002) and asked if it would be for the same amount as previously. The Chairman replied that this was not yet clear due to the workload of certain Government Departments and approval was still awaited.

7.4. Staff

AE Upton (Honorary Life Member) fully endorsed the tributes made to staff.

7.5. Development Officers - East Midlands

MGR Smith (Regional Chairman - East Midlands) asked the meeting to note that there were now five County Development Officers (paragraph 6.3.3).

7.6. Coaching Figures

D Lomas referred to the alarming drop in coaching figures (page 32), showing registrations down from 1405 to 459, and coaching awards down from 312 to 27 - both over a period of two seasons and sought explanation. In reply DC Gray (Director of Development) said that Regional Development Officers had different priorities now, and were concentrating more on Development than Coaching. Additionally, Teachers were changing their emphasis to Sports Award Schemes.

7.7. Adoption of Report

AE Upton (Honorary Life Member) moved acceptance of the Management Committee Report, seconded by KTO Ponting (Devonshire). Carried on a show of hands.

(At this point, the Chairman resumed the Chair).

8. **REPORT OF APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 1997/8 (DOCUMENT 3857/23/RHS):**

8.1. The General Secretary reported that subsequent to the list being published BR Granger was now the Treasurer elect. On being elected, he had resigned his appointment as Vice-Chairman (Administration); his successor would be appointed later.

8.2. The report was noted.

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9. REPORT OF ELECTION OF NATIONAL COUNCILLORS FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE YEAR 1997/8 (DOCUMENT 3885/23/AW):
- 9.1. AJH Wickens (Returning Officer) commented on the 3 counties against opposite no Councillor's name was shown, Berkshire, Huntingdonshire and Kent. He understood that Berkshire Association had not been able to function during the election period, so would have been unable to appoint; Huntingdonshire had appointed but the notification had not been received in time for the list - the name of B R Freer should be inserted in the space; no communications had been received from Kent, so the situation was unknown.
- 9.2. Document 3885/23/AW was noted.
10. REPORT OF THE TREASURER, REPORT OF THE AUDITORS AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1997 (DOCUMENT 3886/825/PH):
- 10.1. The Treasurer said that this was his 11th and final report. Pessimistically the deficit for the current year would be about £103,000, but the forthcoming Lottery money should help to overcome this in future seasons. He then gave reasons for the drop in income:- no new sponsorship for 2 years: affiliation fees represented a 30% drop: table sales well down. In contrast development costs had increased a lot; competition costs were generally up, although the Yasaka events were proving very successful, Table Tennis News costs were down. He gave an explanation about forthcoming VAT liabilities and invited questions.
- 10.2. D Lomas referred to the fall in Affiliation Fees and a long period of declining membership. He contrasted a rise in development costs, yet a steady decline annually in membership, and sought explanation. In reply the Chairman said that although many more people were playing the game they were not in Local League membership. He said that without Regional Development Officers the membership figures would be lower.
- 10.3. D Lomas said that it was disappointing that no new sponsorship had been obtained over the past 2 years. MR Holt (Vice-Chairman Marketing) said that this was certainly not due to lack of effort. All sports were suffering from loss of sponsorship. The Chief Executive advised that the English Sports Council had agreed to help with a Consultancy for Sponsorship. The Chairman referred to the recent World Championships held in Manchester, and that a great deal of sponsorship money had been obtained however the monies had gone to Manchester City Council who had met all the costs, and did not appear on ETTA accounts.
- 10.4. D Lomas sought clarification as to why the Centres for Excellence costs were down from £6,163 to £987.00. In reply the Chairman said that the general feeling was that some Centres for Excellence were not giving value for money, and that Junior Training Programmes gave greater opportunities for training, improvement etc.
- 10.5. M Allsop (Nottinghamshire) sought clarification on the English Sports Councils grants received by individual counties. The Treasurer gave the figures requested, in particular the grant received by Yorkshire TTA shown as £11,000 but not spent.
- 10.6. BW Walker (Yorkshire) proposed and DA Young (Worcestershire) 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. AJH Wickens (Honorary Life Member), on behalf of the meeting, thanked the Treasurer for his hard work over the years. To applause, the Treasurer said that he had enjoyed his time.

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11. RULE CHANGE PROPOSITIONS: (as proposed on behalf of National Council by AJH Wickens)
- 11.1. Proposition No.1
- 11.1.1. Amend Rule 31.3.6.5: after "not later than 30 April" delete "in the Administrative Year".  
The proposition was carried nem.con.
- 11.2. Proposition No.2
- 11.2.1. Delete Rule 31.10.1.5  
The Proposition was carried on a show on hands, with three voting against.
- 11.3. Proposition No.3
- 11.3.1. Amend Rule 34.2.2: for "five" substitute "six".  
The Proposition was carried nem.con.  
Mr Wickens said that Rules Committee would bear in mind that this increase needed to be taken account of in Rule 34.2.3 as well.

12. MOTIONS

12.1. Motion A

THAT this GENERAL MEETING approves the principle of having two levels of Membership of the ETTA, one for persons taking part only in local league activities and County representative activities and a second one for players wishing to take part in British League, Open Tournaments, European and World Championships and other ETTU and ITTF events; it directs the National Council to consider setting up a procedure under which Members of the second category would be issued with an individual ETTA Membership Card and would be offered additional benefits and to bring forward any necessary Rule changes. The Chairman invited S Joel (Berkshire) to introduce the ETTA Proposals to reverse the Membership Decline contained in a paper compiled by the Membership Committee and dated 15th June 1997, copies of which had been circulated. S Joel went through the paper, giving explanations, and on conclusion urged that the meeting give National Council their support. He proposed the Motion. AE Upton (Honorary Life Member) said that a feedback from his County of Lancashire showed a growing resentment at rising costs, as many players were affiliated to more than one league and were already paying large fees. Additionally there was the possibility of creating additional problems for league officials. M Allsop (Nottinghamshire) felt that tournament entries would suffer. The Chief Executive said there was a need to know who and what the ETTA members were. There was no mechanism to know how many and who are playing, and this information was vital when speaking to possible sponsors. Following further discussion the Chairman reminded the meeting that if the motion was passed they were merely asking National Council to investigate. On being put to the vote a card vote was asked for. The Motion was carried by 16,545 votes for 11,231 against.

12.1. Motion B

THAT this GENERAL MEETING agrees that it may be desirable to have TWO levels of affiliation for Directly Affiliated Clubs, the higher level being required for clubs seeking to obtain specified additional benefits; that the affiliation fees for Directly Affiliated Clubs should relate more closely to the number of their members; it directs the National Council to investigate the matter and bring forward any necessary Rule changes.

S Joel introduced the Motion, giving explanations and proposed the Motion, seconded by AE Upton (Honorary Life Member). On being put to the vote the Motion was carried by 21 votes for, 7 against.

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13. **ELECTION OF PRESIDENT:**

- 13.1. The Chairman proposed the re-election of JA Leach MBE to the post of President for a further three years, seconded by MR Holt (Vice-Chairman (Marketing)). Agreed.

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 MR Holt (Vice-Chairman (Marketing)), to the election for a term of three years of A Sandford (Chief Executive, Manchester City Council) in recognition of the great support given by Manchester City Council over the last two years. Mr Sandford was not present to accept his badge, but had intimated his delight to accept.

15. **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND HONOURS:**

- 15.1. MR Holt (Vice-Chairman (Marketing)) paid tribute to the 17 year service of D Parker, who, whilst moving on to another career, would still be helpful to the ETTA. The President presented Mr Parker with some crystal glassware and shook hands to applause. Mr Parker thanked everyone for their friendship and help over the years.
- 15.2. Honorary Life Member  
MR Holt said that this award was not given lightly, and so it gave him much pleasure to call upon MWJ Lewis to accept this award in recognition of his work as:- ETTA Vice-President and Vice-Chairman (Development), Chairman and Organiser of the Womens/Veterans British League, the Woolwich Junior British League and for his work on the development programme, with particular emphasis on the Focus Sport Programme. In reply Mr Lewis voiced his appreciation of the honour and thanked all those who had helped him since his commencement in 1948. Applause.
- 15.3. Malcolm Scott Award  
This was awarded to MR Holt Vice-President and Vice-Chairman, (Marketing) and former Vice-Chairman (Administration), National Councillor and British League Chairman for his work as Director of ITTF Services at the 44th World Table Tennis Championships.
- 15.4. Ivor Montagu Award  
This was awarded to Mrs K Tonge for her role as North West Regional Chairman over a number of years and as Personnel Director at the 44th World Table Tennis Championships.
- 15.5. Victor Barna Award  
This was awarded to Matthew Syed for his performance at the recently held Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships in Glasgow and becoming Commonwealth Mens Singles Champion.
- 15.6. Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy  
This had been awarded to Cyril Whiting (Devonshire) for giving outstanding service as Devon County Match Secretary over many years and had been presented at the County Championships Annual Conference.
- 15.7. A.K. Vint OBE Staff Award  
This was awarded to the Chief Executive for his work at the 44th World Table Tennis Championships as a late replacement for the Tournament Director.
- 15.8. MR Holt said that finally he was saddened to report that RJ Stevens (Vice-President) was taking a much deserved retirement. He was a former Administrative Secretary and later Finance Officer.

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Over the last 20 years he had served on several committees as Secretary, and Minutes Secretary for National Council. The President presented Mr Stevens with a cut glass decanter set to applause. Mr Stevens thanked all his friends and colleagues for their companionship over the years, and wished everybody well.

16. **ELECTION OF AUDITORS:**

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

17. **ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:**

17.1. The Chairman expressed the Association's thanks for the work of the Standing Orders Committee. It was agreed that AJH Wickens, retiring member, be re-elected.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

18.1. None.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution, and declared the meeting closed at 5pm.