

MINUTES OF THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT ALFORD SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB
ON 18 MAY 2004, COMMENCING AT 7:30pm.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

PRESENT: Committee members: S Clarke (Chairman), J Rushton, D Goulden, K Armson MBE, M Ireland, T Meredith.

Local Leagues: Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Bury, East Lancs, Lancaster/ Morecambe, Liverpool, Liverpool Business Houses, Lytham, Manchester, Manchester Banks & Insurance, Oldham, Preston, Rochdale, Salford & Farnworth, Southport, Warrington.

APOLOGIES: D Wolstencroft, C Maule, E A Pentland, S Parr

MINUTES: The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated.

Proposed by A Knowlson, seconded by K Armson that they be signed as a true record.
Carried unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING: H Ross raised the issue over the notification of the rule change to 20.2 at the 2003 AGM – amend in line one as follows: after ‘changes’, insert “must be lodged with the general secretary not later than 31 March of the current year.” He had not been present at the AGM and believed that local Leagues had not been informed of the change. S Clarke replied that he believed that local Leagues had been informed and on checking last years AGM correspondence it did appear that the correspondence sent to the leagues had included the rule change.

PRESENTATIONS: S Clarke explained to the meeting that the Committee had decided to bring forward ‘Presentations’ on the Agenda, so that any junior players attending did not have to stay for the full duration of the meeting.

County Badges were awarded to Reena Ardesana, Samantha Helm & Sparkle Munroe, who were present, and in their absence, to Mark Ambrose, Michael Dolman & Barry Elliott. Awards for runner-ups in the County Championships Junior Division 3B and Veterans Division 3A were available but not presented since there were no players present at the meeting.

Tom Creevy, Liverpool, was also presented with his County Umpires badge.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: The report had been circulated on the night and was read to the meeting. There were no questions.

TREASURER’S REPORT: The Income & Expenditure account and balance sheet had been circulated to local League secretaries with the notice of the AGM. In the absence of the Treasurer (who had suffered a mild heart attack a few days previously), the Chairman, S Clarke, gave a brief summary of the Treasurer’s report. He brought to the meeting’s attention part of the reasons for the increase in County team expenses of £1000 over 2003. Junior transportation costs had increased over previous years, as the Junior team captain, Peter Aspin, had been unable to get the mini-bus hire at the cheap rates previously available to him. There had also been an extra cost for new County Badges and the costs of running the County trials.

E Kalinowski, Rochdale, asked whether it was necessary for the County to retain so much cash and could affiliation fees be reduced by reducing this money. S Clarke replied that the cash levels are at the lowest levels for a number of years and that the fees had not been raised for at least 2 years.

G Helm, Preston, asked whether savings could be made with the Juniors, if they hadn't got to travel to places like Grantham for matches. S Clarke replied that there wasn't a simple answer to this and that you may not save as much money as you would first think, since County expenses were worked out on a pooled expenses basis, i.e. all the teams travelling to a weekend event submitted their expenses based on a formula and these were then shared across all the teams. Teams travelling a distance would be entitled to a rebate, whilst local teams would have to pay more. There was some discussion on whether Lancashire could host a Junior County weekend/day, with S Clarke detailing some of the requisites that would be needed, including suitable venue, catering, accommodation for visiting teams etc.

Proposed by H Ross, seconded by K Armson that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

S Clarke stated that again we were unable to have the accounts audited, and asked the meeting if they knew of anybody able to audit the accounts to please let him know. He asked the meeting whether they wanted him to get the accounts professional audited? H Ross volunteered, if acceptable to the meeting, that he would be prepared to audit the accounts on our behalf. The Chairman thanked him for volunteering and the meeting accepted his offer.

COUNTY MATCH SECRETARY'S REPORT: This was circulated on the night and read out by Mrs J Rushton.

Proposed by B Johnson, seconded by G Rushton that the report be accepted. Carried unanimously.

There were no questions on the report.

ELECTIONS:

S Clarke told the AGM that there was no nomination for President or new Vice Presidents. Although the Executive Committee had discussed this topic, they did not know of any suitable candidates, particularly for President, following the legacy of the past two Presidents, Arthur Upton & George Yates. He asked the local Leagues to consider who they had within their ranks whom could be considered and to let the Committee know of any potential nominations.

There had been no new nominations for the Executive Committee, hence the current Committee members, who were willing to re-stand, were re-elected un-opposed.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGES: The proposed rule changes had been circulated with the Notice of the AGM. S Clarke read them out.

Rule 8.4.1 – after 'National Councillor', add "and Deputy National Councillor"

Proposed by Executive Committee, seconded by E Kalinowski that the change be accepted. Carried unanimously.

Rules 10.2, 14.3, 14.5, 18.2, 20.4 & 20.5 – after ‘writing’, in each of the above rules, add “(which may be by letter and/or email)”

The General Secretary stated that it was his intention to send out correspondence by email in preference to letter, whenever possible, if the proposed rule change was approved by the meeting.

Proposed by Executive Committee, seconded by E Kalinowski that the change be accepted. Carried unanimously.

There were no further discussions.

MOTION FOR ETTA AGM on Divergence in the Approved Laws in respect of events organised by Local Leagues or County Associations.

The motion was proposed by B Johnson, Oldham, and seconded by H Ross, Manchester. Discussion was opened by the proposer, B Johnson, who spoke in favour of the motion, which could be summarised as allowing local leagues & county associations the flexibility of choosing between 21up or 11up in local leagues. Others speaking in favour of the motion were H Ross, Manchester, A Burton, Manchester & B Fleet, Manchester Banks. Speaking against the motion were G Rushton, Salford & Farnworth & E Kalinowski, Rochdale.

Following B Johnson speaking for a second time in favour of the motion, K Armson moved that the meeting should now move to vote under standing order procedures.

A card vote was undertaken with 25 votes cast in favour of the motion and 29 votes cast against the motion.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Discussion on Propositions 19 & 20 at the ETTA AGM.

Proposition 19 deals with an amendment to Rule 20.1.3, which would give the County Representatives the votes of every local league in their Counties, who are entitled to vote under rule 20.1.2, except for those local leagues which have taken the option to exercise their own vote.

Proposition 20, proposed by Oldham & District TT League is to delete rule 20.1.3.

A discussion on these propositions was opened by B Johnson, Oldham, explaining why Oldham (and some of the other local leagues) is proposing that rule 20.1.3 should be deleted. The voting format had changed when the ETTA became a ‘Limited’ company in 2002. The National Council for each county association now had an equal number of votes to all the local leagues within that county. BJ’s view was that this was unfair, since the NC was now in a position to cancel out the votes of local leagues plus the NC was unable to split his vote to reflect the actual views of the local leagues.

Following further discussion, with contributions from a number of representatives from the local leagues and S Clarke (as NC for Lancashire), the Chairman brought the discussion to an end, without a vote.

S Clarke reminded local Leagues that if they did NOT intend attending the ETTA AGM, then they could appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf. Since he would be attending the AGM as Lancashire’s National Councillor, he would be prepared to act as proxy and vote

in accordance with the local league wishes. He did remind the leagues that he would only be able to vote in accordance with their instructions.

He also expressed his disappointment that having made the same offer at last years AGM, 6 local leagues had given their proxy vote to Karen Tonge (Cheshire).

Ken Armson told the meeting about the progress of the National Junior League, which for the North West covered the areas of Lancashire, Cheshire and Cumbria. He also thanked Ken Richardson, Lancaster/Morecambe, and Martin Ireland for all their assistance and help.

The National Junior League had been set up for juniors who were at the beginning of their table tennis careers. There were now 6 Divisions, 48 teams and approximately 150 players, who play on 4 Saturdays over the season.

Martin Ireland mentioned that the fees for the National Junior League had been reduced for the 2004/2005 season.

G Helm stated that Preston had two teams playing and now some 30 to 40 junior players mainly thanks to the competition that the National Junior League offered.

H Ross thanked the Chairman & Committee for their work through the past season.

The Chairman also thanked the General Secretary, County Match Secretary and County Umpires Secretary for their assistance through the season. There being no further business the Chairman thanked those present for their attendance, contribution and declared the meeting closed at approx. 9:00pm.