



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Manchester United losing to Swansea at home, England winning the Test series after a disastrous start and Table Tennis about to reshape the way table tennis is controlled makes me wonder what changes there will be for umpires during the coming season.

The Technical Officials Committee (TOC) will be dealing with matters relating to all officials. The AETTU is the organisation specifically concerned with the well-being of Umpires, and your Committee would like to know if you have any problem or concern. Please let the Secretary know and it will be discussed by the Committee.

Officers and Committee members were elected at the AGM held at Wood Green Table Tennis Club. Barry Granger, who has been on the Committee since the association was formed, has resigned and several new members were co-opted to the Committee. My thanks to Barry for his support and I am pleased to welcome Harry Jutle, Trevor Vincent and John Stalker to the Committee.

I trust that members who were fortunate to officiate at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow enjoyed the event in spite of one or two problems. I look forward to hearing about your experiences.

After the School Games in September the season will begin and I hope to meet many of you 'on the circuit', (if selected!).

GEORGE TYLER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

In October 2004 27 umpires met in Derby to discuss the formation of an independent umpires' association. The umpires agreed with the recommendation and the Association of English Table Tennis Umpires (AETTU) was created. The AETTU has remained as an independent association concentrating on social and welfare issues but also helping with the with the training and mentoring of fellow umpires. In 2014 there are 127 members of the AETTU. It is an active Association helping its members and making links with umpires from other associations. A copy of the minutes from the first meeting is shown later in the magazine.

Congratulations to Harry Jutle", David Gough, Steve Smith, Alex Mercer, Josh Reynolds, Alan Thomas and Brian Jackson who recently qualified as IUs and to Nico Caltabiano who qualified as a National Umpire.

A number of our members attended the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. It was a great experience and we were well looked after. We worked with umpires from around the Commonwealth, gaining experience and learning from others.

Tom Purcell

**MINUTES OF AETTU ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WOOD GREEN TABLE TENNIS CENTRE
3.00 PM SUNDAY 6th JULY 2014**

In attendance: George Tyler (Chair), Derek Sherratt (V. Chair), Tony Chatwin (President), Steve Welch (Treasurer), Tom Purcell (Secretary), Stan Clarke (Ctte), Mike Payne (Ctte), Lilian Payne (Ctte), Inky Moss, Geoff Taylor, Dot MacFarlane, Dave Goulden, Harry Jutle, Dave Gough, Lynda Reid, Brian Watkins, Dave Cochrane

1. **Chairman's Welcome:** The Chairman, George Tyler, welcomed everyone to the 2014 AETTU AGM and thanked members for attending the DSE tournament and staying for the AGM
2. **Apologies:** Apologies received from 27 members
3. **Minutes from AGM 2013:** Proposed by Stan Clarke and seconded by Inky Moss the minutes be accepted as a true record. Carried
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a) **Disciplinary code to be prepared for the AETTU –TP/SC**
Secretary informed the meeting that the draft Code had not yet been prepared. Table Tennis England is re-writing the Articles and Regulations regarding discipline and it would make sense to wait until they had been agreed before the AETTU prepared its own Code.
Action a. Draft Discipline Code to be presented to next Committee meeting. – SC
 - b) **Pocket badges** – Ongoing awaiting decision on umpires' uniforms.
Action b. Action re pocket badges to be held until further notice.

5. Chairman's report

Chair the meeting that the Secretary would inform the meeting about the events and activities concerning the Association since the last AGM. He informed the AGM that November 2014 would be the 10th anniversary of the AETTU. It has grown from 40 members in 2004 to over 100 in 2014. Since the NURC had been replaced by TOC the AETTU is now the only specific organisation responsible for the welfare of umpires.

With the change from ETTA to Table Tennis England the coming year may be a good time to seek official recognition. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and reminded the meeting that the Association was seeking new committee members. The current committee meets about four times a year and travel at their own expense to support the AETTU.
Proposed. Dave Gough Seconded Harry Jutle - Carried

6 Secretary's Report

Secretary presented his report to the AGM. He highlighted three issues that had raised concern over the previous year.

An umpire had made a formal complaint of verbal abuse by a player. The ETTA Discipline panel had dealt with the complaint and stated "*Umpires give their time voluntarily. They are entitled to courtesy and respect from players. It is essential that ETTA protects umpires from abuse to uphold the reputation of the sport. There is also a risk that if umpires are subject to abuse they will not be prepared to continue to act*". The player later apologised to the umpire. On behalf of members the Committee has raised concerns with the TOC about the manner in which complaints are made to Table Tennis England (ETTA). These observations are currently being considered by the TOC.

Members also had concerns about the fact that a meal allowance was not paid on the Friday evening in November 2013 before the National Cadet and Junior tournament at Preston. I raised the issue with the Referee and the tournament organiser and I am pleased to see that the ETTA agreed to pay the allowance retrospectively.

Some members were also concerned about the selection process used to select umpires for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. There were concerned that relatively inexperienced umpires were selected before

experienced umpires and that Referees, who seldom work as umpires, were selected as umpires for the tournament.

Members concerns were raised with the Chair of the TOC. He explained that the English umpires had been selected from a number of nominations by the NURC and the selected umpires included National Umpires in progress and Referees who needed experience at International events.

During the last 12 months it has been good to see a number of members have been successful in achieving their International Umpire's qualification and congratulations to Alex Mercer who has been selected to umpire at the Youth Olympics in China.

The 2014 AETTU Competition took place at Draycott TTC. A successful weekend of table tennis took place and 39 members and partners attended the evening dinner on the Saturday evening. The President of the AETTU, Tony Chatwin, presented prizes at the tournament.

I would like to thank members of the AETTU Committee for their help in running the Association but like other years there is a request for members to join the Management Committee.

Proposed – Mike Payne Seconded - Geoff Taylor - Carried unanimously

7-8 Treasurer's and Auditor's report

The Treasurer presented his annual Income and Expenditure report to the AGM which showed that the Association had a balance of £1802 at the end of the financial year. Treasurer advised that the AETTU tournament made a small profit and advised the meeting that the annual I&E had been examined and approved by the Auditor, John Mackey, but for domestic reasons he was unable to attend the AGM.

Based on the I&E the Treasurer recommended that membership fees for the 2014-15 financial year remain the same as 2012-13.

There was a discussion on the balance sheet. Geoff Taylor queried the expenditure for trophies for the 2013 umpires' competition. Treasurer re-examined the sheet and realised that the cost of the trophies and refreshments had been inadvertently swapped. The record sheet was amended and was accepted as a true and accurate record by the meeting.

Treasurer informed the meeting that the auditor, John Mackay, was unable to attend the meeting but he had audited the AETTU accounts and had certified them as being correct.

Proposed - Mike Payne Seconded – Brian Watkins Carried unanimously

9 -14 Election of Officers of AETTU, Committee members and auditor

Re-elected unopposed. John Stalker agreed to be co-opted to the committee

15. Table Tennis England

Secretary advised the meeting about the changes that were taking place in Table Tennis England. There was to be an increase in mileage rate from 31p-37p per mile for volunteers including umpires. There was a general discussion on the next structure of Table Tennis England and the role of the TOC.

Action 1. Secretary to establish who is now responsible for appointing members of the TOC.

16. Uniform

There was a general discussion on the subject of umpires' uniform. Members accepted that the appearance of umpires at tournaments was untidy with many different uniforms being worn. After further discussion it was agreed the AETTU would support a recommendation that umpires at National Tournaments (Seniors/Juniors/Cadets/11-14) should all wear the same navy blue uniform.

A further discussion took place about the long term view on umpires' uniform. Members present at the AGM acknowledged that the traditional blue blazer was being replaced by the navy blue blazer as new umpires were appointed. Members generally agreed that there should be an official move to

replacing the traditional blue blazer with the navy blue blazer but members agreed they would like to see some form of badge/recognition that they were English Umpires. The President pointed out that the ITTF uniform rules allowed for the wearing of a small Association Badge on the lapel of the blazer. There was disagreement about replacing the traditional blazer. After further discussion the Chair called for a vote on the subject.

Proposed by Derek Sherratt: Seconded by Lynda Reid. The AETTU should support the replacement of the traditional blue umpires' blazer with the navy blue blazer/uniform with a final cut-off date of July 2017.

For: 15

Against:1

Abstain: 0

Action 2: Secretary to contacted TOC with result of vote from the AETTU on uniforms.

17. Magazine

Secretary informed the meeting that three editions of the AETTU Magazine had been circulated during the last 12 months. Articles had been received from a number of contributors but more articles are always welcome. There was a general discussion about the circulation of the magazine. Members wished for hard copies of the magazine to be circulated but it was agreed that electronic copies would be circulated to Associate members and Full members who preferred e-copies.

18. AETTU Competition

Secretary informed the meeting that the 2014 AETTU competition had been a success. Twenty nine members had taken part in the competition and thirty nine members and guests had sat down to the tournament dinner. After further discussion it was agreed that the 2015 tournament should take place at Draycott TTC on the same weekend. The Chair thanked Brian Savage, Draycott TTC, Margaret Welch and Lilian Payne for supporting the tournament and making it a success.

19. A.O.B.

a) Honorary Life Membership

The Chair reminded the meeting that the AETTU Constitution allowed for the awarding of Honorary Life Membership to persons would had provided services to the AETTU. The Committee had discussed this award and recommended to the AGM that it be awarded to Geoff Taylor for his services to the Association. Geoff had been a founder member of the AETTU in 2004 and had taken on the role of Committee member and Editor for the magazine until he stood down in 2012. Although no longer a committee member Geoff has continued to be involved with the Association.

Proposed: Committee Seconded: Inky Moss Carried unanimously.

GT thanked the Committee and members at the AGM and was pleased to accept the Honorary Life Membership. He would continue to support the AETTU where possible.

b) Correspondence

Secretary informed the meeting that he had received correspondence from Derek Sidaway about a number of items. Most can be dealt with at Committee meetings but two items were raised for the attention of the AGM.

a) Derek was in favour of changing the umpires uniform to the Navy Blue blazer

b) Derek questioned the differences in the International Umpire's Exam between the standard test and the IU test for Young Umpires.

Action 3: Secretary to contact Chair of TOC to discover differences between the two tests.

20. Date of next Committee Meeting – October 2014 – TBA

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NEW UMPIRE SCHEME – 1950

The following is an article that appeared in the Liverpool League – Table Tennis magazine in October 1950

During the recent closed season the ETTA took one of its most important steps towards improving one side of Table Tennis which has unfortunately been somewhat neglected.

The object of the scheme is to improve the general standard of umpiring throughout the country and to have available for tournaments and international matches a large body of really competent umpires.

In order to do so the ETTA has prepared a question paper to be issued to all those desirous of participating in the scheme. The idea behind this question paper is to ensure that all the qualified umpires are fully conversant with the theoretical side of umpiring and able to deal with any position or knotty point that arises. A copy of this question paper is obtainable on request.

No applicant will be admitted to the scheme unless he or she first completes the paper. When filling it in you will be allowed the assistance of your friends and also to consult the rule book, but you must not copy the answers from another player.

There is also a practical test to find out whether you have the ability to control a match with firmness and tact and realise that you are performing a very important task in the way the particular match is presented to the audience.

When you have satisfied the adjudication board you will be eligible for a County Umpire's Badge which will be forwarded to you on payment of a registration fee of 2/6. This badge will remain the property of the ETTA and the fee paid shall be refunded should the badge be returned for any reason.

It is hoped a number of Merseyside enthusiasts will join the scheme as I can assure you that the position of the umpire, during a match, is of as much importance as that of the players.

Remember this; whenever you play a match you need an umpire. It is therefore your duty to do your bit in this direction and to lighten the load of those who are called upon so often to officiate.

There are many of us poor mortals who do not stand a chance of reaching the heights as a player but we can all become a first-class umpire if we just exert a little thought and effort and you will receive a great deal of pleasure from this most important side of the game. Who knows you may be the one to umpire the Men's Singles Final at Wembley Pool.

The words of our great wartime leader can convey more than any words of mine "Never was so much owed to by so many to so few". So join in and become one of the selected few.

A. Montgomery

The Native

As I am about to make my return to the magic world of umpiring, after five months, I thought a few words of reflection would not go amiss.

First may I thank all my colleagues who either shared my Birthday Celebration in April or sent their best wishes one way or another? Then there was the signed card from all at Doncaster which helped me to shake off my post operation miseries. Joyce might have a different opinion on the state of my mind?

Apart from dropping out of the above mentioned event, I also failed to get to Lilleshall as a spectator for the 6 Nations and have been absent for various admin thingies.

I was however, up and running for the Table Tennis England AGM and the 200 Club Dinner. I was also there, 'remote' in my hand, for that business in Glasgow. The BBC did a splendid job to cover so much and I believe I spotted all of you over the ten days of action. If anyone actually fell off the high chair, I did not see it. My de-briefings will be held shortly.

(Derek Sherratt not by Thomas Hardy)

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GLASGOW COMMONWEALTH GAMES

The 20th Commonwealth Games, held in Glasgow, was an opportunity for umpires to gain experience at a major international tournament, meet fellow umpires from around the Commonwealth, share experiences and work on television show courts for the first time.

The 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester was my first experience of a major tournament. I didn't know what to expect and was shocked to discover that I would have to use arm signals. I knew they existed but we rarely used them in England.

We had very good accommodation in Glasgow. We each had single en-suite rooms in university halls of residence and we had our breakfast, each day, in a school a short distance from the Halls. When we were working we had our lunch and evening meals at the TT venue and when we weren't working we had evening meals in local bars and restaurants in the West End which was a short walk from the Halls. In one of the bars, which was a converted library, there was a table tennis table which anyone could use.

On the third day we had to collect our uniforms. We each had a formal suit, for matches, and two leisure outfits. Unfortunately, the previous day, some of the bigger umpires from other sports had collected their outfits and there was a shortage of formal suits for some of the TT umpires. We did collect our suits the following day but without the formal CG badges on the jackets. One advantage for these suits is that they don't have the CG badge and the suits can be worn socially.

We had transport between the Halls and the venue each day. On the Wednesday the buses finished early as they prepared to transport athletes, officials and the public to the opening ceremony at Celtic Park, unfortunately they forgot to pick the umpires up from the TT venue and we were waiting for two hours in the boiling sun before taxis were arranged to take us back to the Halls.

Apart from these two issues the CG was a well-run tournament. We were well looked after and there was fabulous table tennis. We were able to support Team England and work with colleagues from around the Commonwealth.

In 2018 the Commonwealth Games are being held in the Gold Coast, Australia. Umpires have four years to plan for the Games. Time to become an IU and obtain international experience and hopefully be selected for the Games in Australia.

Tom Purcell

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HAND SIGNALS USED BY UMPIRES

The judgment of illegal services is one of the most challenging parts of umpiring because there are various kinds of illegal services which cannot be expressed by a single hand signal. Therefore the ITTF has decided it is necessary to create new hand signals to correspond to illegal services.

Details of these new hand signals can be found on URC page on the ITTF website and at;

http://www.ittf.com/URC/PDF/Hand_Signal_illegal_service.pdf

ITTF TABLE TENNIS LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The ITTF Laws and Regulation 2014-15 are also published on the URC page of the ITTF Website. There are a few minor changes. The Laws and Regulations can also be found at;

http://www.ittf.com/ittf_handbook/2014/2014_2015_ITTF_HB.pdf

My First Senior Moment.

I recently attended the British League play offs at Cippenham to Umpire the event. As usual it was well organised and Umpires were well looked after. Our accommodation was at the Travelodge in Slough. So as you do I proceeded there after the day's events, parked my car in the Multistory Car park opposite, and proceeded to book in, as usual with Travelodge my room was clean and quite adequate. I had a good night's sleep in the Chair as I do, had a good breakfast in the morning, then I booked out and proceeded to the car, up to Level 2 which was a long way given that I find it hard to walk long distances. When I got there to my horror my car was missing, imagine how I felt, devastated is one word, sick is another. Any way I went back to the hotel to report my car stolen, the receptionist was so good she called the Police and I gave them all the details, they said they would be with me as soon as possible. The receptionist said she would go and check the car park, 10 minutes later she returned and told me that my car was parked on Level 4 not Level 2. OOOOP's. Now imagine how I felt, relieved, stupid are a couple, so I asked the receptionist to thank and apologize to the Police. I thanked her, and went on my way, back to Cippenham for the 2nd days table tennis, When I arrived you can imagine the friendly banter I got from the other Umpires, but I didn't mind I was just relieved to have my Car back.

Some of you may be aware that I have just turned 65, a pensioner (at last) so I put it down to being my 1st Senior Moment. Let's just hope that there aren't too many more like that. So when we meet at the next event try not to remind me.

Alan White.

An Umpire's Story

My umpiring career (if you could call it that) started unofficially at the Cotswold 4* (unfortunately no longer going) where for years I used to make up the umpire numbers. As you are aware, umpires are a friendly bunch and one of them suggested that I should consider becoming an official umpire. For once I took notice of an umpire and started on my umpiring journey, first gaining my LU and in 2008 my CU.

So far so good, maybe too good as my first tournament the VBL at Hereford was a bit of a nightmare, getting off to a bad start and going downhill from there, not helped by the fact that I was totally unprepared - no cards or stop watch. So picture my first game, checked the bats, gave the players the ball and sat down. Spotted the mistake, well Karen had and she asked "aren't you going to do the toss up then?" Ah yes of course. As well as this faux pas there were several scoring mistakes and times when I knocked the score sheet onto the floor (lesson learnt, don't have the score sheet overhanging the table).

Things could only get better so onto my next tournament (only another 100 or so to go), the JBL. Here the word "tossler" was used by Tom and not knowing the umpiring derivation of the word I was a bit taken aback, until Tom showed me one when asking if I'd like to join the AETTU. Cannot remember any real disasters, but at my next tournament I ended up umpiring (if you could call it that) Chris Doran vs Gavin Rungay who both had boisterous support. Needless to say it went to 5 long sets with me cowering in the umpire's chair.

I persevered though and the more tournaments I did the more confident I became and so, with the encouragement of other umpires, I decided to go for the National qualification. In preparation for this I tested myself by redoing my old CU paper and was horrified to find 5 glaring mistakes on my CU paper. Proof again that only through experience does everything fall into place.

I still make mistakes (as does everyone), but they're now (hopefully) fewer and further between. One notable occasion though of a few months ago was witnessed by Graham when at the end of a game I got up to retrieve the ball and knocked over the umpire's table. So what to do, well I nonchalantly carried on to pick up the ball leaving others to sort out the mess. A good motto for an umpire.

At the start of my umpiring journey I never anticipated going beyond a CU, but now an NU it was suggested by David over a glass (or two) of red wine in a Sheffield pub that I couldn't stop there and the rest as they say is history.

So I'm now looking forward to the delights of places other than Doncaster. I want to thank all the umpires (some sadly no longer with us) who have been a great help to me on my umpiring journey. Blue Badge next, I think not, I've now reached my level of incompetence.

Alan Thomas – IU

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SYNOPSIS OF MEETING OF ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS UMPIRES HELD AT ROLLS ROYCE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, MOOR LANE, DERBY ON SUNDAY 17 OCTOBER 2004 COMMENCING AT 13:00HRS.

In Attendance were 27 umpires from 11 counties also in attendance were Tony Chatwin (Dy) and Richard Scruton (Y) Chairman of NURC attending in an observer capacity. Umpires: Ken Armson (La), Stan Clarke (La), Barry Granger (E), Steve Perry (La), Andy Seward (Wi), Dave Goulden (La), George Tyler (Mi), Bob Williamson (La), David Brown (Li), Peter Ryalls (Y), Keith Wilkinson (La), Bill Moran (Li), Geoff Taylor (Wa), Frank Stevens (Wa), Eric Pentland (La), Steve Welch (Li), Brian Watkins (St), John Lawton (Cv), John Hardcastle (Y), Ray Lavin (La), Derek Sherratt (St), Wilf Rhodes (Dy), Tom Purcell (La), John Mackey (Li), David Cochrane (La), Brian Rimmer (Ng), Dave Heanaghan (La).

Apologies had been received from a further 17 umpires and these were named to meeting and recorded.

Having been the person who had called the meeting and made the arrangements Ken Armson welcomed those attending and thanked them for supporting the meeting. He outlined in detail the reasons for his original decision to circulate a random selection of umpires seeking their views on the possibility of forming an association to represent ETTA qualified umpires. He had received almost a 100% response all of which were in favour of forming an association.

The NURC having circulated a correspondence to umpires referring to his first letter KA explained to the meeting the reasoning behind some of the comments in his exploratory letter.

A number of those present also aired their view as to why they considered the forming of an association would be beneficial to umpires opening up as it would a new avenue of representation that would be of benefit to umpires.

It was the general view that the meeting should now take a vote for such an association to be formed and voting took place on a show of hands. The vote was unanimous with the two observers abstaining. Time being 13:30hrs Sunday 17 October 2004.

In the event of the formation of an association being agreed KA had produced a discussion document to move matters forward and enable the first stage of a constitution to be agreed. This document covered name of association, election of officers, election of committee members and a number of aims. He stressed these were only suggestions and the wording of some may require amending and some may not be acceptable and were intended only to stimulate discussion and enable the way forward to be agreed. The meeting agreed that this be discussed and that elections take place.

Discussion then took place on four possible names no others having been suggested. These were ETTUA – English Table Tennis Umpire Association, AETTU – Association of English Table Tennis Umpires, ATTU – Association of Table Tennis Umpires and EATTU – English Association of Table Tennis Umpires. It was agreed selection would be by a show of hands and voting was No 1 - 6, No. 2. - 15, No 3. - 0, No 4. - 4. As No 2 had an overall majority KA declared this option as the new name and the association be known as ASSOCIATION of ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS UMPIRES or AETTU for short.

Discussion took place on the suggestion for a Treasurer only or alternatively a Treasurer and a Membership Secretary. After discussion it was agreed by a show of hands to have only a Treasurer

with the option of a Membership secretary to be considered at a later date should there be a need for the creation of such a post.

Discussion took place on the formation of Committee members and whether these should be on a geographical or non-geographical basis and how many. After discussion it was agreed by a show of hands that this be four members on a non-geographical basis with the option to co-opt additional members should the Management committee at any time deem this to be necessary. The meeting then agreed to carry out election of Officers and 4 Committee members.

Election of Chairman: George Tyler, Middlesex (now resident in Lincs) was proposed and seconded and there being no other nominee was elected unanimously as the first Chairman of the new Association. Those present warmly applauded George as he took over the Chairmanship of the meeting

As the first Chairman of the Association George thanked the meeting for the warmth of their support and pledged to work as he had always done in the best interests of English TT umpires and to ensure their welfare was his primary concern.

Election of Vice Chairman: Derek Sherratt, Staffordshire was proposed and seconded and there being no further nominations the Chairman put this to the vote and this was unanimous. Clearly being gifted with foresight Derek was already seated alongside the seat taken by the Chairman when he took over the chairmanship of the meeting.

Election of Secretary: Ken Armson, Lancashire was proposed and seconded and there being no further nominations the chairman put this to the vote which was again unanimous.

Election of Treasurer: Three members, Eric Pentland, Lancashire, Barry Granger, Essex and Steve Welch, Lincolnshire were proposed and seconded and on a show of hands a secret ballot was agreed. On the first count Barry Granger and Steve Welch had a tied vote with Eric Pentland in 3rd place. Eric Pentland was eliminated from this election a second ballot taking place. Second ballot result was Steve Welch 15, Barry Granger 11 and the chairman declared Steve Welch elected as Treasurer.

Election of 4 Committee Members: Proposed and seconded were Geoff Taylor-Warwickshire, Andy Seward-Wiltshire, Stan Clarke-Lancashire, John Lawton-Cleveland and Barry Granger-Essex. There were no further nominations and at that stage Andy Seward indicated his wish to withdraw from the election. This was accepted and there being no further nominations the Chairman put the vote to the meeting and these four were elected to serve as Committee members.

Membership Fee: Lengthy discussion took place on the subject of a membership fee and whether there be a joining fee, the year date for the association and a number of proposals in respect of the rate of membership fee. It was agreed there would only be an annual fee, a year date of 1st September to 31 August and a membership fee of £20. All being carried unanimously It being the view of the meeting that the association would need to have sufficient funding available in its first year to meet any eventuality and the membership fee be reviewed at its first AGM.

The meeting went on to discuss various aims and at that point the Chairman asked Richard Scruton if he wished to make a contribution and he indicated he would like to contribute at some stage and this would be an opportune time.

Addressing the meeting Richard expressed his concerns in respect of several aspects and did not consider having an NURC and also an Association would work as there would be a conflict of interest and he did not see how both could survive. He felt the aims of the Association would take over the work of the NURC and the ETTA would not want two similar organisations. He had always strived to improve conditions for umpires with the increasing demands on umpires and fewer umpires creating problems that were not easily resolved. He also covered a number of other points during a lengthy discussion and responded to a number of questions.

In response the Chairman made it clear that the main aims of the association would be to consider the welfare of umpires, improve their working conditions and to mediate to resolve umpire grievances. He went on to say the association was intended to be a stand-alone Association and not become or be seen as being a part of the ETTA and would not therefore conflict with or take over any of the duties carried out by the NURC who were required to work to terms of reference agreed by the ETTA Management Committee and National council.

Concluding, Richard Scruton extended an invitation for two representatives from the Association to attend the next meeting of the NURC to be held in London in early December and he would seek the agreement of the ETTA Management committee to cover their expenses. Accepting the invitation on behalf of the Association the Chairman thanked Richard for this and for his contribution and confirmed that the NURC secretary would be informed of the names of the representatives selected to represent the Association.

A number of other issues appertaining to the Constitution for the Association were discussed and it was agreed that a draft Constitution would be prepared and sent out to members for comment the final draft to be placed before the first AGM for amendment and adoption. The Secretary requested anyone in membership to let him have any suggestions they considered should form part of the Constitution. It was also agreed to approach similar Associations for other sports for details of their Constitution.

A number of other matters were discussed and the full Minutes of this meeting will be available for acceptance at the first AGM.

Tony Chatwin had to leave the meeting before it closed due to a prior appointment but indicated his wish to become a member and activated the Treasurer by paying his subscription before he left the meeting. Many of those attending also took out membership before leaving.

NOTE: Only 26 members took part in voting, Dave Heanaghan, Lancashire arriving after voting had taken place.

There being no further business the chairman thanked those present for attending and wished everyone a safe journey home and closed the meeting at 16:35hrs.

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