

A.E.T.T.U.

ASSOCIATION OF
ENGLISH
TABLE TENNIS
UMPIRES

Issue 1

May 2005

Dear Colleague

As the season nears its end herewith is the latest update on Association matters. Geoff Taylor has kindly agreed to print and circulate it and for this I thank him.

We had our first committee meeting in Coventry on 12th March, which was attended by your full committee and agreement was reached on many important issues. The secretary will report on these. A draft Constitution was agreed and subject to any further comments from members will be put to the Annual General Meeting in July. Recruitment has continued and membership now stands at 54 members with a few more promised. I had doubts at one time that the ETTA had over fifty working umpires.

You will no doubt have heard about a change in the N.U.R.C. Chairmanship, with other changes possible. It may well be that the aims of the new committee will be similar to those of the Association and umpires will receive the recognition they deserve.

I hope you enjoy the first of our Association's bulletin and I look forward to meeting those of you who are at Kings Lynn, and to those who are not I wish you an enjoyable summer break and look forward to seeing you at the A.G.M.

With my very best wishes

George Tyler

Chairman

THE MAGAZINE

This is my first attempt at producing a magazine for our new Association. I would like your help to make it as interesting as possible. You can do this by contributing articles for it. They do not have to be just about umpiring, although they would be most welcome, even if some of them may cause a few discussions or arguments. Listening to members talking at tournaments there appears to be many items we find to talk about, most illuminating some of them to say the least. Also letters, jokes (only reasonably clean) any complaints you have which the Committee can help you with. As they used to say in WW2 "Your magazine needs you" so get writing.

Geoff Taylor

A.E.T.T.U. CONSTITUTION
To be ratified at the Annual General Meeting

1. NAME

This Association of English table tennis umpires shall be called Association of English Table Tennis Umpires (AETTU) (hereinafter called "the Association")

2. OBJECTS

The Association shall be conducted on the principles:

- (a) To promote the welfare of its members,
- (b) To improve the working conditions of its members.
- (c) To safeguard the interests of members.
- (d) To make representations to E.T.T.A. Ltd on any matters involving the Association or its members.
- (e) To assist informally in the recruitment and retention of umpires who shall be trained and qualified by E.T.T.A. Ltd.
- (f) To establish links with other National Table Tennis Umpiring Associations; to enable and exchange of views, information and agreements to attain standardisation for umpires.

3. OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting (AGM.) each year

4. MANAGEMENT

The affairs of the Association shall be controlled by a Management Committee (the Committee) consisting of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, together with four elected members of the Association to be elected by the Annual General Meeting each year (G.M).

Five members shall form a quorum two of whom must be elected members.

The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members with or without powers to vote.

The Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancies in the official posts, as they occur, but any members so appointed shall only hold office until the next A.G.M.

Every motion at a meeting of the Committee shall be determined by the majority of votes of members present and voting, every member having one vote. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

Subject to the approval of the Management Committee representation will be available to a member with a grievance.

When necessary the Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman, together with the Secretary and Treasurer will be empowered to act on behalf of the Association.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Only qualified ETTA umpires shall be eligible for full membership of the Association.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Annual General Meeting shall determine the initial registration fee and the annual membership fee. The annual membership fee shall be payable no later than 1st August of each year.

7. FINANCE

The Treasurer shall collect all monies due to the Association and shall keep a proper account of receipts and expenditure which must be submitted to the AGM.

The financial account year for the Association shall be from 1st July of each year to 30th June of the following year.

All monies received by the Association must be banked in the name of the Association.

The signature of two of the following officers, namely the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer, shall be necessary before a withdrawal can be made from the Association account(s).

An interim statement of accounts shall be placed before the committee.

The income and property of the Association shall be applied solely to the furtherance of its members and the sport of table tennis.

No member of the Association shall receive payment for his/her services to the Association.

In the event of the dissolution of the Association any income or property remaining shall be distributed amongst those fully paid up members at the date of dissolution.

The financial accounts of the Association shall be examined annually by an Auditor who shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting each year. An Auditor's report shall form part of the yearly accounts presented to the Annual General meeting.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

An Annual General Meeting will be held in July of each year to receive, and if approved, adopt the records and accounts, elect officers and transact any other business of which due notice has been given.

Nominations for official positions and any proposed amendments to the Constitution or motions for the AGM agenda must be submitted to the Secretary, in writing no later than 1st May of each year. Unless nominations for official positions are thus received the incumbent officers will if willing, be re-elected.

The Secretary will send a notice to members convening the AGM accompanied by an agenda and details of any amendments or motions received at least 21 days before the date of the meeting.

Amendments to any item on the AGM agenda must be received by the Secretary in writing no later than seven days prior to the date of the meeting.

Ten members shall form a quorum.

The treasurer will submit a Statement of accounts, Balance sheet and an Auditor's Report for approval by the AGM.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A Special General Meeting (SGM) of the Association shall be held within 28 days of the receipt, by the Secretary, of a requisition, in writing, stating fully the reason for which the meeting is required and a copy of each resolution to be submitted to the meeting. Such a requisition must be ' signed by at least one third of the Association members.

The Secretary shall give at least seven days, written notice for the SGM.

No other business will be discussed at the SGM except with the unanimous consent of the members present.

10. ALTERATIONS TO RULES OR CONSTITUTION.

No alteration of, amendments to or recession of the rules of the Association can be made

except at an AGM or SGM expressly called for that purpose. Decisions made at an AGM or SGM shall be decided by a majority vote of members present and eligible to vote.

No proposal to amend the Constitution shall be adopted unless the proposal obtains at least two thirds of the votes cast by members present and eligible to vote.

11. PROCEDURE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be managed by the Chairman, or in his absence, the Vice Chairman or any other member agreed by those present.
- (b) With the exception of amendments to the Constitution which shall be conducted in accordance with the Rules of Debate the Chairman of the AGM may limit the number of times members may speak on any one proposal but the proposer of the motion shall, at all times, be given the right to reply before the motion is put to the vote.
- (c) A point of order may be raised at any time and shall take precedence over any other business.
- (d) The Chairman's decision on a point of order will be final.
- (e) All proposals shall have a mover and a seconder.
- (f) Voting on all matters shall be by a show of hands unless agreed otherwise by the meeting.
- (g) In all instances of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

12. GENERAL MATTERS

No agreement made with any other party shall be adopted until ratified by a meeting of the Management Committee. Agreements, when adopted, shall be binding on all members. The Chairman and Secretary shall be signatories for the Association to agreements made with any other party.

The Management Committee shall select, from the Committee, representation for meetings with other Bodies. Wherever possible such representation must include the Chairman and Secretary plus one or more Committee members. Total representation at a meeting with any other party shall not be less than that of the other party.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

As part of our ongoing process of establishing the Association with the E.T.T.A. we sought recognition as an Association in Good Standing and although not considered as being eligible by the Rules Committee we requested our application go before National Council. At the time of writing full details as to why our request was not approved by National Council are not available but I understand we do not comply with a relevant section of the rule covering Good Standing.

One of our aims is to achieve by way of discussion improvement in a number of areas currently of concern to members and it was agreed by your Committee that we seek a meeting with the ETTA Management Committee and we are currently awaiting a response to our request.

The meal allowance is one area of concern and having been voiced also by umpires at both Senior and Junior Nationals has resulted in the ETTA Chairman sending a letter to umpires on this subject pointing out their efforts to get this up to the princely sum of £36.50 along with an increase in mileage. Reference was also made to other financial initiatives to assist umpires both with meals and travel to overseas events. I still find it strange that volunteers

receive the same meal allowance as ETTA staff but not the same milage.

Your Committee also agreed a proposal for the membership fee to be an annual fee of £5.00 along with a £15.00 joining fee for new members to be reviewed annually by our AGM.

The full Committee were in attendance at our first meeting and agreed unanimously not to claim any expenses for attending. We are fortunate to have a committee of dedicated members willing to put the interests of the Association before their own and I would thank them on your behalf for their work and input.

We are holding our first AGM in late July or early August and full details will be circulated to all members. We look forward to seeing as many of you at the AGM as possible.

Ken Armson, MBE

Hon. Secretary AETTU

THE SON-IN-LAW

As a gesture to welcome him into the family, a successful businessman gave his new son-in-law a half share of the firm. "From now on," said the businessman, "we're equal partners. All you have to do is go down to the factory each day and learn the ropes." "I couldn't do that," said the son-in-law. "I hate factories. They're such noises places." "That's no problem," said the businessman, "we'll put you in the office. You can oversee the clerical side." "No way said!" the son-in-law. "I'm not being stuck behind a desk all day." Not surprisingly, the businessman was becoming irritated by this display of ingratitude. "I've just made you half-owner of this thriving company. First, I offer you a management position in the factory, but you don't want it; then I offer you a management post in the office, but you don't want that either? What am I going to do with you?" "You could always buy me out.

