

Leamington and District Table Tennis Association

Historical extracts from the minutes

This page gives some extracts from the minutes of the Association in its early years. They are chosen to try and give a flavour of the Association as it developed from 1951 to 1972. Comments are in italics. The rest of the text comes direct from the minutes of the time.

10.7.51. The Executive Committee met at 70 Warwick Street, Leamington Spa... *(although the Association dates back to 1946 as far as is known this is the earliest set of minutes still in existence).*

After discussion it was resolved: That League matches for the season 1951/52 commence on Monday the 1st October 1951...

The Secretary was instructed to write to the winners and runners up of the two Divisions, explaining that it is not financially possible at the moment to buy any prizes for the individual members but that they will receive them at the earliest possible moment.

26.7.51. The Hon secretary reported that an account had been received from the East Midlands Electricity Board for £7.19.6, and that there were insufficient funds to meet it. The Hon treasurer said the balance now stood at £3.14.7. To enable the Association to meet its commitments Milverton P.T.A. Table Tennis Section had offered the Association a loan of £5 which was accepted with gratitude.

Randolph Turpin Testimonial. After discussion it was resolved: that the Association do make a contribution of £1 5s which sum should be contributed by members of the Executive Committee. *(Randolph Turpin, the Leamington/Warwick boxer, won the world championship in 1951)*

On behalf of Milverton P.T.A. Table Tennis Section a cup was presented to be held annually by the winners of division 2.

12.11.51. That admission to the Inter-Town Match be by programme only, price 6d.

That the Hon Secretary be instructed to communicate with all Club secretaries asking for their co-operation in forwarding the match result Cards within the specified time.

17.1.52. That a Ladies Championship shall be inaugurated this season.

After further consideration of the selection of the team for the match against Rugby, it was resolved: That the following players shall represent Leamington: 3. J. Earles, Leamington Boys Club...

Inter-Town Badge. The Hon secretary was instructed to obtain quotations for shirt badges to be presented to those players who have played in three or more matches.

The Hon secretary was instructed to obtain quotations for the first Annual Dinner of the Association.

16.3.52. ... a letter had been received from the E.T.T.A, asking for financial assistance from all Clubs for the staging of the World Championships in England in 1954. The Hon secretary on behalf of the Executive Committee had guaranteed the sum of £15.15s...

29.5.52. That the Executive Committee recommend the adoption at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of the draft rules as shown in the Appendix. *(Some of the rules in the Appendix are the still in existence today).*

27.10.52 ...the Hon secretary said that the entry for the Wilmott Cup was unfortunately three days too late.

22.1.53 Leamington Championships and Handicap. After discussion it was resolved: (a) That the Championships shall consist of:- Mens singles, Ladies singles, Mens doubles, Mixed Doubles, Junior singles (mixed).....

(d) That all sets be the best of three games with the exception of the mens singles final which shall be the best of five games.

(e) That the events to be played on finals night shall be the semi final and final of the mens singles and the final of all other classes.

14.4.53 Coronation team handicap Competition. It was agreed by all present that a Coronation crested shield and 6 replicas should be purchased for the winners and runners-up of this competition.

The date for the social and presentation of prizes was agreed upon as Friday 18th May.

1.9.53 It was agreed by all present that certain blank weeks should be left during the season in which at least four rounds of the Coronation handicap should be played off.

3.12.53 ... a letter had been received from Tachbrook complaining of the late arrival of the Lockheed C team for a league match...

14.1.54. ... it was unanimously agreed that a vote of thanks be recorded in the minutes to Mr J. Earles who is entering Her Majesties Forces and to place on record the assistance which he has rendered to the Executive Committee and the Association as a whole during his term of office as a committee member.

Mr Friend proposed that a letter be sent to the local press asking them to give regular space for the purpose of publishing results and table of league matches during the season.

14.6.54. ...the Hon treasurer said that no money had yet been paid by Mr D Burton for football tickets. He had been written to by the Committee and had received at least two verbal reminders. It was unanimously agreed that the only alternative would be to write to his father informing him of the situation.

28 6 54. It was proposed ... that the team from Stratford-on-Avon be admitted to the League if they so desired.

Mr Broady was unanimously elected Press Correspondent for the Association.

4.10.54. The Chairman (Mr Marshall) suggested that the present players registration Fee of 2/- was too high for the Junior Division players. It was proposed by the Hon treasurer (Mr T M Evans) and seconded by Mr Churchill that the Junior Players Registration fee should be 1/- only. Carried unanimously.

10.1.55. The Executive Committee met at 17 Gaveston Road Leamington Spa.

12.12.56 and 27.12.56. Both of these Committee meetings being classed as emergency, other business was completely shelved and the Hungarian match was thoroughly discussed. The following details were settled:-

Price of admission £1.1s, 10/6, 5/- and 2/6. Lighting. Match lights from Flavels. Table Lockheed. Posters. Hammonds and Kennards. Interpreter to be arranged. M.C. Mr Sargent of the Leamington Courier assisted by a member of Flavels. Lucky number programme. Messrs Burgess and Colbourne supplying bat to be autographed. Umpires. Arrangements with Mr Goldstein. To include Mr T E Green. Publicity. All local papers and Coventry and Birmingham. Hotel Accommodation. Arranged through the Spa Manager. Programmes. Messrs Tomes Ltd.

This concluded the business and the Committee departed to their homes wondering whether they had bitten off more than they could chew.

10.7.57. Handbook. No change for advertisement charges. New photograph of the President to be taken.

24.3.58. It was unanimously decided to apply for election into the second division of the Midland Counties League.

5.5.58 After discussion it was agreed that a Junior team be put up for election to the Midland Counties League in addition to a Senior team.

30.6.58 It was decided that the association should present an individual award to the player in each division with the highest record.

8.9.58. It was agreed that a Premier Division should be formed.

2.12.58. The item for discussion was the bat being used by Mr E W Elliis of Lockheed. ... A letter should be sent to Mr Ellis pointing out that:-

1. The bat in question does not conform to the required specification as laid down by the ETTA.
2. It is not the intention of the Committee to take action at the moment.
3. To ask Mr Ellis to break in a new bat with a view to next season's League and representative matches.

27.5.59 Mr J R Earles raised the question of Press coverage and said that in his opinion we had received very poor publicity during the season. Replying Mr Broady (Press Officer) said that the committee must bear in mind that the Courier was only published once a week and it was impossible to guarantee space for table tennis in every edition.

8.7.59 Present: Mr G S Dingley (Chairman of the Association) in the chair. D., Billington, W S Gallagher, B Kitchener, Mrs H. Higgins, R A Stallard, J R Earles, Hon Treasurer, Hon secretary. (*First meeting recording the attendance of Hazel Higgins who is still on the Committee over 40 years later*).

30.11.59. Mayor's Refugee Fund. Trophies had been sent to the Mayor by Johnny Leach and the Rowe twins. It was decided that the Association should purchase them for the sum of £10.10s.

15.2.60. During a discussion on the programme for finals night Mr Gallagher proposed that the mens singles should be restricted to three games... carried. Mr J R Earles proposed that the ladies doubles be abandoned ... carried. Mrs Evans proposed that all events plus the Mens Singles semi finals should be played on finals night ... carried.

Mr Gallagher proposed that the cost of trophies could be cut down as he was of the opinion that they were not always valued by the persons that won them. Other members of the Committee strongly disagreed with this.

2.6.60. ... additions to the rules to be submitted to the Annual general meeting A badge shall be awarded to a player after 5 appearances with a senior team.

5.9.60. It was proposed ... that there should be no Premier Division this year, the matter coming under review at the beginning of next season.

24.11.60. It was agreed to record in the minutes the Committee's pleasure in the National ranking of Maurice Billington and his excellent Open Tournament results.

29.5.61. Midland Table Tennis League. It was decided to enter the following teams in the League subject to election: Mens 1 and 2, Intermediate, Junior and Ladies.

28.6.61. Present: B R Kitchener (Chairman of the Association) in the chair, Mr H E Bennett, Mrs Higgins, G Dingley, R Meredith, J Earles, R Broady, W Gallagher, Hon treasure, Hon Secretary. (*First meeting recording the attendance of Ray Meredith*).

A letter had been received from the Chairman of the Coventry Association in connection with the opening of Coventry Cathedral and the part which sport could play.

It was proposed by Mr Earles, seconded by Mr Cheshire and resolved that Life Members be instituted by the present Committee. The names of the President and Mr Marshall having been submitted they were elected unanimously. (*35 years later John Earles was himself made a Life member*).

30.8.61. It was agreed that arrangements for the Coventry Cathedral Festival Tournament be left to the Tournament Committee.

23.2.62. In reply to a question the Treasurer said that the use of Mr Gregory's car to transport the team was unfortunate but neither Mr Gallagher nor Mr Strasinskas were playing and Mr Graves car was not taxed. He doubted whether this situation would ever arise again.

7.5.62 It was agreed that a formal letter of apology be sent to Mr Bennett regarding the unfortunate matter of the Worcester match. After discussion it was agreed that A R Graves be suspended from representative matches for the first four weeks of the season.

28.11.62. The Hon Secretary told the meeting that a reply had been received from Mr Marshall regarding the trophy he had presented and that the Handicap was his choice for competition. All persons knocked out in the preliminary of first round would therefore be eligible to enter for the Marshall trophy. (*The Marshall Trophy is now awarded to the winner of the grade 4 competition in the Leamington Closed*).

15.7.63. It was agreed to ask the following to serve as Vice Presidents:- The Mayor of Warwick, Alderman Wallsgrove, Alderman Fryer, Councillor Gundry, Councillor Saunders, Alderman Lees, Alderman Mrs Lees, Messrs Fink, Frankl, D. Marshall and Palmer.

It was agreed that the plaques for the Midland League winners should be awarded to R A Stallard, J Anker, R Bryson and R Gregory.

The Chairman presented a Leamington badge to Mr Earles.

16.6.65. In order to accommodate the Stratford Divisions certain minor alterations to rules were agreed upon to present to the Annual General Meeting.

14.7.65. A letter of resignation was received from Mr Burbage. The voting at the Annual General Meeting having resulted in a tie between B Aston and J

Wood the vacancy was voted for by the Executive committee and resulted in a majority for J Wood.

The matter of consistently untidy dress was discussed and on a suggestion from Mr Ward it was agreed to give a prize for the best turned out team for the 1965-66 season.

25.8.66 It was proposed by Mr Gallagher and seconded by Mrs Evans that the new expedite rules should apply throughout the league. Carried by 6 votes to 3.

17.10.69 Town trials were held and proved popular. The feeling among the Committee and players was that they might be welcome as a regular event.

27.1.70. Annual Championships. Entry fees Mens singles 4/-, Mens doubles 3/-, ladies singles 4/-, Ladies doubles 3/-, Mixed doubles 3/-, Youth singles 3/-, Junior singles (*presumably boys*) 2/-, Under 15 1/-, Junior girls singles 2/- (*an earlier note in these minutes implies this is the first year junior girls singles was held*), Veteran singles 4/-, Handicap 3/-, MT (*not clear what this was – possibly mens team*) 2/-.

13.7.70. Silver Jubilee Dinner. ... It was finally agreed to hold it at the Regent Hotel

18.8.70. It was decided to refuse the entry of Radford Semele Boys Club owing to their very bad record both in conduct and administration. The general secretary to write to Radford informing them of the decision and return fees.

29.10.70. Tim Huc ... urged that more clubs should enter the Mackie Cup.

28.6.71. (AGM) Mr Teale asked if a team could be entered in a junior tournament next season namely the Carter Cup. The chairman agreed that this could be done.

19.7.71 Formation of sub committees ... Selection – B Aston, H Higgins, R Robinson.

11.5.72 Mr Teale had very kindly presented a trophy for the under 15 Championship Tournament

14.6.72 (AGM - *alteration to the rules*) "A total of 10 points will be awarded for a match, each set won counting as 1 point."