

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held at
23, Woodstock Rd., St. John's, Worcester,
on Saturday, June 7th., 1952.

Present were Mr. M.E. Scott, Chairman of the Staffordshire Table Tennis Association and a Midlands' representative on the National Executive Committee of the English Table Tennis Association, who took the chair, and the following League representatives:- Miss G.M. Lester [Secretary, Kidderminster League], and Messrs. C.E. Jarvis [Chairman, Kidderminster League], R. Holroyd [Secretary, Malvern League], A.K. Thomas [Chairman, Worcester League], D.J. Rowley [Secretary, Worcester League], D.J. Moss [Match Secretary, Worcester League] and I.R. Crickmer [Press and Publicity Secretary, Worcester League].

Apologies were received from Messrs. J. H. Kirkwood [Secretary, Bromsgrove Association] and D.W. Blackford [Secretary, Halesowen League].

Mr. Scott, in his opening remarks, outlined the growth of the County Association movement, and spoke of the numerous advantages to be gained from the formation of such bodies. He pointed out that Worcestershire was one of only eleven English counties now without a county administration, but commented favourably on the fact that, with a County League and such functions as the Worcester League's annual tournament in aid of the Royal Albert Orphanage already in existence, much had already been achieved, providing a sound basis on which to build.

Mr. Crickmer, who had been responsible for the convening of the meeting, stated that there were ten Leagues within the geographical county, three of which were already affiliated to existing County Associations - namely Dudley Temperance and Oldbury Leagues [Staffordshire] and Honeybourne League [Gloucestershire]. The two former Leagues wished to remain in membership of the Staffordshire Association, but indications were that Honeybourne League would transfer to Worcestershire if a county body was formed.

In the circumstances, the votes of five Leagues were necessary

before a Worcestershire Association could be legally constituted. Representatives of the Kidderminster, Malvern and Worcester Leagues gave their assent, and a letter was read from the Halesowen League in which approval was given. It was therefore proposed by Mr. Jarvis and seconded by Mr. Holroyd that a Worcestershire Table Tennis Association be formed subject to written approval being forthcoming from at least one other League in the County. As the formation of a County team was considered the first essential of an Association, it was decided to enter a Worcestershire team in the Midland Division of the National County Championships for the 1952-53 season. [Proposed - Mr. Jarvis: Seconded - Mr. Holroyd].

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officials for 1952-53, which resulted as follows:-

Chairman. Mr. C.E. Jarvis.

[Proposed - Mr. Moss: Seconded - Mr. Holroyd].

General Secretary. Mr. I.R. Crickmer.

[Proposed - Mr. Rowley: Seconded - Mr. Jarvis].

Treasurer. Mr. A.K. Thomas.

[Proposed - Mr. Moss: Seconded - Mr. Jarvis].

Assistant Secretary [County League]. Mr. R. Hall.

[Proposed - Mr. Jarvis: Seconded - Mr. Thomas].

Tournament and County Match Secretary. Mr. D.J. Moss.

[Proposed - Mr. Jarvis: Seconded - Mr. Thomas].

It was agreed that the Association's Executive Committee should consist of these five Officers, together with one representative nominated by each League in membership, and that the Committee should have power to co-opt no more than two additional members. The first meeting was then arranged for Saturday, September 6th., at a venue to be decided, commencing at 5.30 p.m. in order to allow ample travelling time for all delegates.

On the question of finance, it was resolved that a subscription of 1/- per team in the county should be charged, and that this should be payable through the League of which the team is a member. [Proposed - Mr. Jarvis: Seconded - Mr. Holroyd]. It was also decided that each League should deposit £1 with the Association as a guarantee of compliance with the Association's Rules and Regulations. [Proposed - Mr. Moss: Seconded - Mr. Jarvis].

Mr. Scott explained that this scheme had been adopted by the Staffordshire Association: the deposits were banked separately and there was no question of their being spent in any circumstances. Amongst grounds he put forward as justifying forfeiture of the whole or any part of the guarantee fee was failure to be represented by at least one representative at the Association's Annual General Meeting.

It was decided to incorporate these various points into the proposed Rules and Regulations of the Association, the drafting of which was delegated to a sub-committee consisting of the four Officers resident in Worcester, together with Mr. Rowley, who, it was understood, would be appointed as the Worcester League's representative on the Association's Executive Committee. The General Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the proposals to each member League, inviting criticisms and suggestions which would be reviewed at the meeting of September 6th.

The meeting closed with expressions of thanks to Mr. Scott for his invaluable assistance on numerous points and to Mr. and Mrs. Moss for the generous hospitality they had extended to the delegates.

C.E. Jarvis
Sept. 6, 1952

A.K. Thomas
Acting Chairman
Aug. 18, 1953