

Annual General Meeting – 2002

Minutes

Of the Annual General Meeting of Members of the International Table Tennis Federation held on Thursday 5th April 2002, at the Opera Hotel, Zagreb, Croatia, at 09:00.

1. Welcome and President's Opening Address

Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed the Assembly to Zagreb and explained procedures. He said that the ITTF had been making many changes within a short period of time and many of the changes now were well accepted and an integral part of the game. He said the ITTF was initiating and implementing plans to the best of its ability in order to make the game as exciting as possible and to attract as many sponsors as possible. He congratulated the staff for their good work and thanked the ETTU and the Croatian Table Tennis Association for hosting the AGM during the European Championships.

The delegations from Lausanne, Switzerland and Shanghai, China presented visual and oral presentations in support of their bids for the 2005 World Championships followed by questions from the General Assembly. Mr. Adham Sharara explained that a delegation from Stockholm, Sweden would explain their motivations for presenting their bid in 2007 instead of 2005, after the deciding vote for 2005 had taken place under item 16.3.

2. Appointment of Chairman of Meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara was appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

3. Roll Call and Verification of Proxies

The President took the roll call and the Executive Director verified the proxies. A total number of 93 Associations were present and in addition there were 17 proxies for a total of 110 votes.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

Twelve (12) scrutineers were appointed (2 from each Continent).

5. Minutes of Previous General Meeting (26th April 2001, Osaka, Japan)

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Osaka, Japan on 26th April 2001 were approved and signed by the President as a true record of the meeting. There was no business arising from the Minutes.

6. Report of Standing Orders Committee (document A17)

Mr. Yuri Posevin, Standing Orders Chairman, wished the AGM success and assured the AGM that both the Swiss Association and the Chinese Association had excellent facilities and the necessary know-how to organise the 2005 World Championships.

7. Membership Applications

Two new applications were presented for approval. Monaco and the Solomon Islands were unanimously accepted as members of the ITTF bringing the total number of member associations to 188.

8. Executive Committee Reports

8.1 President - Adham Sharara (document A 1)
The report was accepted as presented.

8.2 Deputy President - Pierre Albertini (document A 2)
The report was accepted as presented.

8.3 Executive Vice President - George Segun (document A 3)
The report was accepted as presented.

- 8.4 **Executive Vice President – Nils Bergström (document A 4)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 8.5 **Executive Vice President – Yang Shuan (document A 5)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 8.6 **Executive Vice President (Finance) – Han Sang Kook (document A 6)**
The report was accepted as presented.
9. **Continental Vice-Presidents' reports**
- 9.1 **Africa (document A 7)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 9.2 **Asia (document A 8)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 9.3 **Europe (document A 9)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 9.4 **Latin America (document A 10)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- Mr. Alaor Azevedo congratulated Mr. Miguel Delgado on his presentation of accounts and said that all Continental Federations should, in the future, present detailed accounts of how the funds are used.
- 9.5 **North America (document A 11)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 9.6 **Oceania (document A 12)**
The report was accepted as presented.
10. **Executive Director's report (document A 13)**
The report was accepted as presented.
11. **Reports from Committees and Commissions**
- 11.1 **Equipment (document A 14)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 11.2 **Media (document A 15)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 11.3 **Ranking (document A 16)**
The report was accepted as presented.
Mr. André Damman requested all Associations to make every effort to inform the Ranking Committee of all results of Juniors in order to establish the new world ranking for Juniors.
- 11.4 **Rules (document A 17)**
The report was accepted as presented.
Mr. Colin Clemett reported that the International Referee and Umpire exams held in China had certified 9 very high quality candidates of whom 6 were women.
- 11.5 **Sports science (document A 18)**
The report was accepted as presented.
Mr. Alaor Azevedo requested that all publications of the Sports Science Congress should be made available to all on the ITTF web site.
- 11.6 **Technical (document A 20)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 11.7 **Athletes' (document A 21)**
The report was accepted as presented.

11.8 **Olympic Commission (document A 22)**

The report was accepted as presented.

11.9 **Umpires and Rules Commission (document A 23)**

The report was accepted as presented.

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked the Commission for the tremendous amount of work done in such a short time.

12. **Global Youth Programme**

Mr. Tony Yue assisted by Mr. Mikael Andersson presented the Global Youth Programme "With the future in mind". Mr. Tony Yue said that the programme was aimed at giving all young table tennis players the incentive to compete. He gave a detailed explanation of the programme which would include a yearly Junior World Table Tennis Championship starting in 2003, an annual Junior circuit (with the finals taking place during the Pro Tour finals) and the World Cadet Challenge beginning in Hungary in June this year. Mr. Yue thanked the President for his support and encouragement, the Committee members for their dedicated work, the Ranking Committee and the host Associations specially Hungary who would be hosting the Cadet Challenge. It was reported that Austria, Chile and India were presenting bids to host the 2003 World Junior Championships and the final decision would be taken by the Board of Directors on 6th April 2002.

Mr. Mikael Andersson, the Co-ordinator of the programme provided the Assembly with a detailed visual description of the programme.

13. **Receive Audited Financial Statements and Financial Report**

Mr. Jordi Serra presented the Audited Financial Statements (*see annex 1*). The Financial report was based on the report prepared by Mr. Han Sang Kook and the Audited Financial reports.

Mr. Alan Ransome wished to know if it was possible to give more funds to Pro Tour organisers who still had difficulty balancing the budgets. Mr. Chérif Hajem suggested that it would be valuable to hold Marketing Seminars to improve knowledge in this field in some regions of the world. In answer to Mr. Berthe Bakhary's statement that African competitions were not receiving a sufficient proportion of marketing profits, Mr. Adham Sharara said that the ITTF was doing its best to make as many competitions as possible high visibility events in every part of the world.

14. **Propositions and Resolutions (document A 25)**

RESOLUTIONS FOR AGM (Simple majority required)

1. Proposed by the Executive Board

That the Umpires and Referees Commission become an official Committee of the ITTF and be called "Umpires & Referees Committee" with a Chairman to be appointed by the Board of Directors.

Note:

COMMITTEE - members elected

COMMISSION - members appointed

ACCEPTED.

2. Proposed by the Executive Board

That the World Junior Championships Working Group become an official Commission of the ITTF and be called "Junior Commission"

ACCEPTED.

3. Proposed by Italy

That at the 2004 Olympic Games an NOC be entitled to only one (1) doubles entry.

WITHDRAWN.

4. Proposed by Israel

That at the Olympic Games an NOC be entitled to only two (2) entries in the singles events.

DEFEATED by secret ballot (27 in favour, 79 against, 4 abstentions).

PROPOSITIONS TO THE AGM (Require a majority of 3/4 of votes cast)

A Proposed by Rules Committee 2.5.2 and 2.6.1

That service start from the moment at which the ball is projected from the server's hand.

This would make the definition of the start of service and "in play" consistent with the remainder of the service law.

DEFEATED. Item 2.6.1 to be modified for more consistency.

It was reported that a visual presentation would be produced and distributed to all National Associations within the next 8 weeks, which would visually make clear the intention and aim of the new service rule.

B Proposed by Rules Committee 2.6.2

That the ball must rise at least 30 cm after leaving the palm of the server's hand.

This would help the umpire to see that the ball is projected near vertically and that it is falling before it is struck.

DEFEATED.

C Proposed by Rules Committee and Finland 2.6.4 and 2.6.5

That from the time the BALL leaves the server's hand until it is struck it must be behind the server's end line and above the level of the playing surface, and it must not be hidden from the receiver by any part of the body or clothing of the server or his doubles partner.

This would enable the receiver to see the ball from the start of service until it is struck

ACCEPTED.

D Proposed by Luxembourg 2.6.5

That from the start of service until the ball is struck, the server's hand with the ball and his racket must be visible to the receiver.

This would require the racket, as well as the ball, to be visible to the receiver from the start of service until the ball is struck.

WITHDRAWN.

E Proposed by Luxembourg (if neither of Propositions C or D is accepted) 2.6.5

That the ball must be visible to the receiver from the moment at which it is falling.

WITHDRAWN.

F Proposed by Rules Committee 2.6.6.1

That the umpire can warn a player for a service of doubtful legality only when there is no assistant umpire.

This would emphasise the player's responsibility to serve so that the legality of service can be clearly seen (2.6.6) but allow some relaxation where an umpire is officiating alone.

ACCEPTED.

G Proposed by the Netherlands 2.15.3

That if the expedite system is not introduced in a game which lasts over 10 minutes, it does not automatically come into operation at the start of the next game.

This would mean that the expedite system would not be applied at the start of a game unless it was introduced in the previous game of the match.

ACCEPTED.

15. Revised Constitution

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the survey carried out amongst the National Associations did not give a clear opinion on several items that needed to be changed or revised, mainly the following four:

- If Committee Chairmen should have a vote at the BOD?
(It was decided that Chairmen would continue to have the vote)
- If the number of votes necessary to change the Constitution should be 3/4 majority?
(It was decided that it would require a 2/3 majority).
- Should a 3/4 majority be maintained for changes to the laws of table tennis?
(It was decided that a 3/4 majority would be maintained for changes to the laws of table tennis).
- If the age of newly elected officials should be limited to 72 or less?
(It was decided not to limit the age of newly elected officials).

The Revised Constitution, including the above decisions, would be modified accordingly. It was **ACCEPTED** as presented. It was decided that the **implementation** date for the new Constitution should be the first day of the next AGM in **May 2003**.

16. Future World Championships

16.1 Update 2003

Mr. Nils Bergström reported that he had visited and inspected the facilities for the 2003 World Championship in Paris. He said the arena was excellent and apart from minor transport problems the conditions proposed were very good.

The President of the French Federation presented and officially launched the Paris 2003 web site.

16.2 Update 2004

It was reported that arrangements were moving according to plan.

16.3 Selection for 2005 (presentations and selection)

It was decided by secret ballot that the City of Shanghai, China would host the World Table Tennis Championships in 2005.

A delegation from the city of Stockholm, Sweden explained their motivations for withdrawing from the 2005 bid and explained that it would be better for organisation timeframes to postpone their bid to 2007. The Mayor of Stockholm assured the AGM that in 2007 Stockholm would be ready to stage an excellent event at the Globe Arena.

17. **Next AGM**
The next AGM will be held in Paris, May 2003. Exact dates to be communicated in due course.
18. **Any other business**
 - Mr. Alaor Azevedo said that Brazil was hoping to bid for the 2007 World Championships and also proposed Rio de Janeiro as the location for a Marketing Seminar.
 - The delegate from Azerbaijan suggested that it would be proper to have the ITTF flag flying during the AGM and to open the meeting with an anthem specially created for the occasion.
 - Mr. Rabie Al Turk expressed his thanks to the Executive Committee for their good work.
19. **Adjournment**
There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 17:00.

Adham Sharara, Meeting Chairman

Associations Present at AGM (93)

Albania	Hong Kong	Pakistan
Algeria	Hungary	Palestine
Angola	Iceland	Philippines
Armenia	India	Poland
Australia	Iran IR	Portugal
Austria	Iraq	Qatar
Azerbaijan	Ireland	Romania
Belarus	Israel	Russia
Belgium	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Benin	Ivory Coast	Scotland
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Singapore
Botswana	Jersey	Slovak Republic
Brazil	Jordan	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Kenya	South Africa
Burkina Faso	Korea DPR	Spain
Burundi	Korea R	Sri Lanka
Canada	Latvia	Sweden
Chile	Lebanon	Switzerland
China	Libya	Tunisia
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Turkey
Cyprus	Lithuania	Turkmenistan
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Uganda
Denmark	Malaysia	Ukraine
Egypt	Maldives	United Arab Emirates
England	Malta	USA
Estonia	Mexico	Wales
Finland	Moldova	Yugoslavia
France	Monaco	
Germany	Netherlands	
Ghana	New Caledonia	
Greece	New Zealand	
Guatemala	Nigeria	
Guernsey	Norway	

Proxies (17)

Bahrain	Kazhakstan	Syria
Bangladesh	Laos	Tajikistan
Bolivia	Macao	Tanzania
Central Africa	Morocco	Vietnam
El Salvador	Senegal	Yemen
Isle of Man	Sudan	