

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Of ITTF Annual General Meeting held in Doha, Qatar, **3 March 2004**, at 09:00 hours

1. Welcome and opening address

Sheikh Saud Bin Ali Al Thani and Mr. Abdulla Al Mulla of the Qatar Table Tennis Association welcomed all to Qatar and wished the ITTF a successful Meeting and a successful World Championship. Mr. Adham Sharara in turn thanked the Qatar Table Tennis Association for the wonderful hospitality, for the excellent presentation of our sport in the hall and a magnificent championship where the local media coverage was excellent. He reminded all present that this was a historic championship as it was the first time that the individual and team events were being staged separately on a permanent basis.

The ITTF President offered Mr. Khalil Al Mohannadi, President of the Qatar Table Tennis Association, a commemorative plaque and a gift as a token of thanks. Exceptionally, during the AGM, the Egypt Cup was also handed over by the President of the French Association to the President of the Egyptian Association who it turn handed it over to the President of the Qatar Association. Several other presentations were made, in particular to the Chilean Association for hosting the 1st Junior Championships and to all the Associations whose teams participated in the 1st Junior Championships. Mr. Adham Sharara thanked Mr. Tony Yue and his group for the excellent work done.

2. Appointment of Chairman of Meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara was appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

3. Roll call and verification of proxies

Roll call was taken and proxies verified. 112 Associations were present and 25 proxies had been announced by the due date for a total of 137 votes.

4. Appointment of Scrutineers

The President appointed Scrutineers (2 from each Continent) from nominations provided by the Continents.

5. Minutes of previous General Meeting (Paris, May 2003)

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held in Paris, in May 2003, were signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

6. Report of Nomination Committee (document A20)

Mr. Yuri Posevin wished all a successful meeting and reminded all of the proxy rule. He thanked members of his Committee for their collaboration and said that the Nomination Committee was trying hard to nominate more women to the ITTF Committees.

7. Membership applications

The membership application from the Cook Islands was accepted and the application from Montenegro to be a separate Association from Serbia was also accepted bringing the total number of ITTF member Associations to **197**.

8. 2007 World Championships

8.1 Procedures

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that out of the four initial applications two had withdrawn, USA and Korea Republic. Both countries said they hoped to re-bid for 2008. It was reported that Sweden would make their presentation first followed by Croatia.

8.2 Bid Presentations

Sweden represented by the Vice-Mayor of Stockholm and Croatia by the President of the NOC and former Prime Minister of Croatia made their presentations. Several questions were asked to both countries about visa facilities and other practical arrangements.

8.3 Selection

Final selection to be made under item 16.2.

9. Presentations

9.1 Merit Awards

There were no Merit Award nominees, however the President asked all present to nominate deserving individuals for the ITTF Merit Award whenever possible.

9.2 Athens 2004 Progress Report

It was reported that the test event had taken place successfully in January and that the table tennis venue was almost ready for the Games and that all ITTF requirements were being met by ATHOC.

9.3 2005 World Championships, Shanghai

A comprehensive and detailed report was made by representatives from Shanghai who said that all arrangements were being made according to schedule and that they were looking forward to a very exciting and successful championship. It was also reported that several training camps would be organised in China for anyone interested, before the championship.

10. Executive Committee Reports

10.1 President – A. Sharara (document A1)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.2 Deputy President – P. Albertini (document A2)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.3 Executive Vice-President – G. Segun (document A3)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.4 Executive Vice-President – N. Bergström (document A4)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.5 Executive Vice-President – Yang Shuan (document A5)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.6 Executive Vice-President – Judit Faragó (document A6)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.7 Executive Vice-President (Finance) – Han Sang Kook (document A7)

The report was accepted as presented.

11. Continental Vice-Presidents' Reports

11.1 Africa (document A8)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.2 Asia (document A9)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.3 Europe (document A10)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.4 North America (document A11)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.5 Latin America (document A12)

The report was accepted as presented.

11.6 Oceania (document A13)

The report was accepted as presented.

The President thanked the Executive Committee and the Continental Vice Presidents for their support and hard work.

12. Executive Director's Report (document A14)

The report was accepted as presented.

Mr. Alaor Azevedo (Brazil) remarked that there should be a standard form for the reports, with graphics and figures included.

It was reported that the ITTF's new headquarters building was now almost ready. It contained 3 distinct areas - offices, museum (to be completed in October) and a conference and documentation centre open to all. As soon as all these spaces were functioning all members of the ITTF would be informed and an open door policy implemented so that all who wished could visit. Mr. Sharara said that it was a symbol and legacy for all to be proud of.

13. Reports from Committees and Commissions

13.1 Equipment Committee (document A15)

The report was accepted as presented with the addition that there were now 72 types of ITTF approved glues. The Chairman of the Equipment Committee was requested to produce a leaflet regarding glues, their composition and use, for travel restrictions purposes.

13.2 Media (document A16)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Adham Sharara congratulated the local media for the attention they were giving the WTTC and table tennis.

13.3 Ranking (document A17)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Adham Sharara congratulated the Ranking Committee and all concerned for the different ranking lists that are now produced.

13.4 Rules (document A18)

The report was accepted as presented.

13.5 Sports Science (document A19)

The report was accepted as presented.

13.6 Technical (document A21)

The report was accepted as presented.

13.7 Umpires & Referees (document A22)

The report was accepted as presented.

13.8 Athletes' Commission (document A23)

The report was accepted as presented. Ms Claude Bergeret explained that on request from the Junior Commission 2 junior athletes would be co-opted to the Athletes' Commission (Marco Freitas and Zeina Shaban).

13.9 Junior Commission (document A24)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. M. C. Chowhan requested that the number of teams for the Junior Worlds should be increased and it was said that for 2005 there would be 16 teams but the recommendation would be taken into consideration for future years.

13.10 Olympic Commission (document A25)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Jordi Serra reported that Mr. Georgios Seliniotakis, Competition Manager in Athens, was recovering well and had resumed his functions once more. It was reported that there was a good chance that the team events would replace the double events in Beijing 2008.

14. Financial Statements

14.1 2003 Financial Statements

Mr. Jordi Serra reported that due to the early championships the audited financial statements would not be available and both 2003 and 2004 would be presented in Shanghai for approval. The audit would take place in March in Ottawa and in April in Lausanne. He recommended that PricewaterhouseCoopers should be re-appointed auditors for the 2004 audits. He said that the past year had been difficult as it was the last year of the Olympic cycle and the huge investment in real estate that had been made had generated some cash-flow restrictions. He also said that there was more and more equipment distribution and development programmes and that the ITTF publications were also improving in quality but at a higher cost.

Mr. Adham Sharara thanked Mr. Han Sang Kook for his supervisory role and TMS for increasing the income of the ITTF and the Executive Director for his control of the finances. He said that the creation of TMS had been a good move. He also said that due to the expansion of the activities of TMS, in Europe and China in particular, a concrete and legal agreement would soon be made between the ITTF and TMS.

14.2 Appoint Auditors for 2004

Price WaterhouseCoopers was appointed auditors for 2004.

14.3 Budget

A tentative budget for 2004 had been distributed in Paris and a tentative quadrennial budget was distributed to all the delegates before the 2004

AGM. Both budgets will be reviewed and updated once the final amount to be received from the IOC is known after the Athens Olympic Games.

15. Propositions and Resolutions (document A28)

Propositions 1 and 2 require a majority of 2/3 of votes cast

1. Proposed by the Executive Committee

Rule affected: Objects. 1.4

A new clause numbered 1.4.1.11 to be added and to read

To encourage players, coaches and officials to present the sport positively in the best ways so as to enhance its image

ACCEPTED.

2. Proposed by the Executive Committee and the Rules Committee

Rule affected: Eligibility for Office.

1.11.2.

To vote separately:

2.1 No more than 1 person from the same Association shall be nominated for the Executive Committee

ACCEPTED.

2.2 No one shall be nominated for more than 1 post of the Executive Committee.

ACCEPTED.

Propositions 3, 4 require a majority of 3/4 of votes cast

3. Proposed by the Chinese Table Tennis Association, the German Table Tennis Federation, the Executive Committee and the Rules Committee

Rule affected: Service rule. A Good Service

2.6.2

The server shall then project the ball from below the level of the shoulder near vertically upwards, without imparting spin; after leaving the palm of the free hand, the ball must rise above the server's head; it then must fall without touching anything before being struck.

This would increase the distance passed by the ball after being projected significantly.

DEFEATED.

4. Proposed by the Finnish Table Tennis Association

Rule affected: Service rule. A Good Service

2.6.4

... as soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm shall be removed from the space between ~~the server's body~~ the ball and the net.

This would again reduce the relevant space from which the server's arm has to be removed.

WITHDRAWN.

16. Future World Championships

16.1 Update 2006 Bremen

The German Table Tennis Association made a comprehensive and detailed presentation and promised to do their best to make the event a successful one.

16.2 Selection for 2007

Following a secret ballot vote, Croatia (Zagreb) was selected to host the 2007 World Championships.

16.3 Bids for 2008

It was reported that the bid documents were now available at the ITTF.

17. Next AGM – Shanghai, May 2005

The next AGM will take place in May 2005 in Shanghai and the exact date will be communicated in due course.

18. Any other business

- Ms Judit Faragó invited all to attend the Women's Forum to be held the next day and gave some practical information.
- Mr. Rabee Al Turk requested the ITTF to check with the IOC if some ingredients used in Middle-Eastern food were not responsible for the increased number of doping infractions noted in the Arab region.
- Mr. Chérif Hajem thanked the Qatar Table Tennis Association for the successful organisation of the WTTC.
- The delegate from Azerbaijan also thanked the Qatar Association for their hospitality and for keeping the promises made regarding visas in particular. He also reiterated his request of having an anthem for the ITTF and organising a special tournament for the AGM delegates and officials.
- Mr. Adham Sharara thanked all present for their cooperation and in particular the Qatar Table Tennis Association, the Government of Qatar and the Qatar NOC for providing the human and financial resources and for setting a very high standard.
- Mr. Abdulla Al Mulla thanked all present in turn and hoped everyone had enjoyed their stay in Qatar and said he hoped to meet everyone again in Shanghai.
- Mr. Khalil Al Mohannadi thanked the AGM for the confidence vested in them and said it was important for the Middle East to be able to host such events.

19. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 15h30.

Meeting Chairman, Adham Sharara

ASSOCIATIONS PRESENT AT 2004 AGM (112)

Algeria	Iraq	Palestine
Australia	Ireland	Poland
Austria	Isle of Man	Portugal
Azerbaijan	Israel	Qatar
Bahrain	Italy	Romania
Barbados	Ivory Coast	Russia
Belarus	Japan	San Marino
Belgium	Jersey	Saudi Arabia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Jordan	Scotland
Brazil	Kazakhstan	Serbia
Bulgaria	Kenya	Singapore
Canada	Kosovo	Slovakia
Chile	Korea DPR	Slovenia
China	Korea R	Somalia
Chinese Taipei	Kuwait	South Africa
Colombia	Latvia	Spain
Congo	Lebanon	Sri Lanka
Costa Rica	Libya	Sudan
Croatia	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Cyprus	Lithuania	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	Syria
Denmark	Macao	Tajikistan
Egypt	Malaysia	Tanzania
England	Maldives	Thailand
Estonia	Malta	Tunisia
Fiji	Mauritius	Turkey
Finland	Mexico	Turkmenistan
France	Moldova	Uganda
Germany	Montenegro	Ukraine
Greece	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
Guatemala	Namibia	USA
Guernsey	Nepal	Uzbekistan
Hong Kong	Netherlands	Venezuela
Hungary	New Caledonia	Vietnam
Iceland	New Zealand	Wales
India	Nigeria	Yemen
Indonesia	Norway	
Iran IR	Pakistan	

PROXIES (25)

Albania	Honduras	Philippines
Burkina Faso	Kyrgyzstan	Puerto Rico
Cuba	Liberia	Rwanda
Dominican Republic	Macedonia	Senegal
El Salvador	Madagascar	St Vincent & the Grenadines
Gabon	Malawi	Zambia
Gambia	Monaco	Zimbabwe
Georgia	Paraguay	
Ghana	Peru	